

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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The store will have 35 parking spots and 7,000 square feet of retail space. **Page 2**

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Before jumping into the garden willy-nilly, here are some logical steps to help prepare you for planting season. **Page 38**

Ambulance company suspended again

The Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company has been suspended and its county-paid personnel and ambulance have been reassigned to the Vigilant Hose Company.

The suspension also came with a board recommendation that the local ambulance company consider merging with the Vigilant Hose Company.

The county Board of Commissioners unanimously voted at their April 15 meeting to temporarily suspend the ambulance company until June. There will be a June 15 deadline for producing required documents, and a decision will be rendered at the June 19 meeting of the board.

The ambulance company was placed on suspension by the county's Board of Commissioners, on a recommendation the board received from the Frederick County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association (FCVFRA).

In an April 9 memorandum addressed to the county commissioners, County Attorney John Mathias stated, "The FCVFRA has submitted a recommendation to the board of county commissioners to immediately stop funding Emmitsburg Ambulance Company No. 26. Mathias' memorandum further stated that the FCVFRA further recommended, "Company 26 should no longer be dispatched or allowed to provide EMS (emergency medical services)."

As part of its review into the failures

of the ambulance company, FCVFRA requested the ambulance company submit a list of its "qualified responders." (A qualified responder is an individual who lives within five miles and has completed basic EMT training.) According to FCVFRA, the list submitted by the ambulance company included a Mount Airy resident, unqualified local university students, and Pennsylvania residents.

Eric Smothers, president of the FCVFRA, noted in an April 7 report to the County: "The [executive] board felt insulted that the ambulance company would not be truthful." In addition, the FCVFRA report noted that: the ambulance company has repeatedly turned away offers of help, had no qualified operational officers, and priorities of the company were "more about fund raisings (i.e. bingos) than operational matters (i.e. answering calls.)"

Until the suspension is lifted paid county staff and the county ambulance will be housed at the Vigilant Hose Company and will be the first due responder unit for the area.

The ambulance company will be permitted to retain more than \$67,000 provided to the company for fiscal year 2014 by the county, but state money distributed among all emergency response companies in the county will be held in abeyance, pending the outcome of the



Our Assistant Editor, Nicole Jones, is graduating from Mount St. Mary's University this month. She has been such a wonderful addition to our newspaper staff. Not often do you meet someone as kind, passionate, and driven as Nicole. She has made a huge impact on both our newspaper and the Mount community by being a mentor and role model to those around her. Nicole is exemplary of the type of students that Mount St. Mary's University produces—inspired individuals who use their skills and education to help make a difference in the world. Nicole will certainly be missed, but I know we will be hearing about many wonderful accomplishments from her in the future! Thank you for everything you've done for the *Emmitsburg News-Journal*, Nicole!

—Kathryn Franke, *Managing Editor*

suspension process.

Additionally, county ambulance company funding based on first due responses will now go to the county-paid crew now housed at the Vigilant Hose Company, and the allocation of subscription payments will be paid based on the period of time the Emmitsburg and county-paid staffs were serving as first due this year.

If the ambulance company fails to comply with the condition of suspension by June 15, "the next discussion [by the board of commissioners] would be to discontin-

ue all county funding."

County commissioners also stipulated that the ambulance company must begin talks with the Vigilant Hose Company on the potential of merging the ambulance company into the Vigilant Hose Company. The results of the talks must be reported back to county commissioners at their June 19 meeting.

FCVFRA's full report on the ambulance company is available on emmitsburg.net. For additional details on the "struggles" of the Emmitsburg ambulance company, see page 4.

Fairfield contemplates school tax increase

The Fairfield Area School District (FASD) Board of Directors will vote this month on the district's 2014-2015 budget.

Whatever decision the board makes regarding the pending budget will determine whether or not residents can look forward to another tax increase or get a break for the first time in nearly ten years.

The issue has pitted pro-spending advocates who believe there should be no limitations on the money invested in the educational system, against those who say they are just about tapped out as cost-of-living expenses and other taxes continue to increase.

The Battle of the Budgets began when the prior board voted to allow a draft budget that included up to a 2.6 percent tax increase, the maximum limit allowed under state law.

But some new board members pointed out that last year the district took in \$700,000 more than expected, and that the surplus needs to be taken into consideration before voting for another tax increase. One

school administrator believes that district may have as much as \$1,400,000 on hand.

Board member Chuck Hatter said, "It doesn't make sense that the district will have over \$1,000,000 left in surplus, and still be asking for a tax increase. These constant tax increases hurt the community and only provide a couple hundred thousand dollars extra revenue to the district. They are already sitting on over 5 times that amount now."

In the face of the possibility of a tax increase, Hatter pointed out declining enrollment, noting that in 2004 the district enrolled 1,327 students, down to a current number of 1,113, with an anticipated enrollment figure of 1070 this coming fall.

"We will have dropped 257 students over the past ten years, or a decrease of about 23 percent. The costs to teach fewer of our kids has risen over 18 percent just in the past 7 years," Hatter said, pointing out that the average pay for a Fairfield teacher is over \$40 an hour, and



Enrollment in the Fairfield Area School District has dropped from 1,327 in 2004 to 1,070 in 2014, raising questions about a possible tax increase.

there are 84 teachers on staff.

FASD board member Brad Rigler, who sits on FASD Finance Committee, said, "This is an emotional topic because it deals with our kids. Our committee been working hard to craft a budget that will continue to pro-

vide for our students, while avoiding an unnecessary tax increase."

The FASD Finance Committee will meet on May 5 at 7:00 p.m. to craft a number of potential budgets which the whole FASD Board will vote on at the next board meeting on May 19.

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NEWS

Maryland Storm contracts field

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners gave town staff a go-ahead to establish a contract with a baseball league to use a ball field in Community Park.

As a result of discussion that took place at the April 7 meeting of the board of commissioners, town staff will begin to prepare a one-year contract with the management of the Maryland Storm youth baseball league to use a town ball field.

The field in question is referred to as Community Park Field #1, currently a softball field not under contract with any other organizations, and thus basically considered "an open field."

In introducing the discussions, Commissioner Christopher Staiger said, "They (the Maryland Storm youth baseball league) would like to repurpose the field into a baseball (as opposed to softball) field to be used

as primary practice and home field." Rick Olesek, representing Maryland Storm, told the commissioners that enabling the team to use the Emmitsburg field was "a win-win-win."

"It's (using the local field) going to give us somewhere to practice, give us somewhere where we can hold scrimmages and games," he said. "We're going to bring other teams up to scrimmage us. They're going to use our local resources. They're going to go and see what our community can offer. It'll be a win for Emmitsburg baseball because we're holding the state championship here."

Some relatively minor changes proposed would entail where the base plugs would be located, and the creation of a pitcher's mound.

Bryan Devilbiss, former president of Emmitsburg Baseball, said, "I don't see any problem with what they're doing. I know Emmitsburg disagrees

with what they're doing. Their board does. They oppose it because they think we're taking kids away from them. We're not. We're actually trying to pull kids from other areas to come in here."

Olesek added, "We're not competing with the existing Emmitsburg rec baseball. We're here to augment. We're taking on the tournament play. We're going to build all year. We're going to do a higher level of competition than your typical rec ball."

"Town Manager David Haller said, "Physically the field can be converted. I personally, at the staff level, have no problem with it. I would suggest we do a one-year contract the first. At the staff level we're good."

"We have a process we will take care of it... We could have it (the contract) done in a week if there is no problem with the board," Haller said.

Gym schedule is in county's hands

Requests received by Emmitsburg to change the usage policy of the gymnasium located in the Community Center will have to go through the county channels, not local government.

The town offices were moved to the county-owned Community Center after vacating the town-owned offices formerly located at 22 East Main Street, and the gym is located within the center.

Commissioner Jennifer Mellor told the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners at their April 7 meeting, "I received an email about a group that wanted to use the gymnasium for soccer. [She] was told since she did not make a reservation for the gym use

six months in advance that it was not available to her."

Mellor said she was also approached by Catocin Lacrosse to use the gym and "they had been told the same thing by the town office."

The commissioner said she would "like to explore the possibility to open the gym up for people who want to use the gym in less than a six month notice" so that the facility could be used by a team that suddenly finds it cannot use an open field due to inclement weather, or other adverse factors.

However, Town Manager David Haller stated the six-month notification requirement was a county policy. "I would call the county commissioners and tell them you want to change

it. It came from their staff. I personally don't have a problem with whatever. I think you need a fixed policy."

Current policy requires applicants for the use of the gymnasium to have a six-month meeting and application process, according to most interpretations, but Commissioner Christopher Staiger said the policy appears to suggest that "somebody can call up and reserve the space if it is not already reserved on a first-come-first-served basis unless the party intends to reserve the gym for more than eight days."

Haller said, if the existing policy allows for short-term notice and use, "it's not going to happen



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

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Eric Glass, Taney Corporation
Dan Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass
Joshua Hochschild, Dean, Mount Saint Mary's
Bo and Jean Cadle, Former Publishers of the Emmitsburg Diptach

Executive Editor: Michael Hillman, editor@emmitsburg.com
Managing Editor: Kathryn Franke, *MSM Class of 2013*
Assistant Editor: Nicole Jones, *MSM Class of 2014*
News Editor: Rick Fulton, news@emmitsburg.com
English Editor: Megan Kinsella, *MSM Class of 2013*
Cold War Warriors Editor: Commander John Murphy, *USN Ret.*
Advertising: Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com
Graphic Design and Layout: Brian Barth, bbarthdesign.com

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Dollar General subdivision conditionally approved

Proponents of a proposed Dollar General store to be located in Emmitsburg received conditional subdivision approval at the February 31 meeting of the town Planning Commission March 31.

The board also granted approval during a to-be-continued site plan review to allow the store to create 33 parking spaces, five more than required by ordinance.

If the project is ultimately approved by the town, the Dollar General would be located at 501-503 East Main Street, a site presently owned by Francis V. Hobbs, Jr., in the B2 zoning district. Present at the March 31 planning

commissioner meeting to explain the plans for the Dollar General were developer Ty Davenport, director of business development for ACDH Maryland, LLC, and Ed Schreiber, project development for Frederick, Seibert & Associates, Inc.

Regarding the subdivision, plans for constructing the new Dollar General entailed reconfiguring lot lines within the 501-503 East Main Street, two-lot tract, the demolition of various structures, and the construction of a new building to house the proposed Dollar General.

The subdivision approved at the planning commission meeting plac-

es an existing resident and adjacent garage on one .23-acre lot, and two other existing structures, on the western portion of the land involved, on a second .97 acre lot. The structures on the second lot will be demolished to make way for the store and the new parking lot.

Conditions set by the commission included the receipt by the State Highway Administration of a conveyance plat to reflect land being given-over to the state, and an approval forestation plan.

The planning commission also commenced with a site plan review submitted for the project.

in one night. It comes here, they fill out a form, it's got to go to the county and be approved there."

Mayor Donald Briggs said he did not object if the commissioners wanted to approach the county to refine or clarify use scheduling for the gymnasium.

"This 'problem' is only two and

a half years old. We have over 200 kids using the gym now that never did two and a half years ago. We just want to make sure the residents are served," the mayor stated.

"We're up for anything. If it gets the youth off the streets and in here to do things we're 100 percent," Briggs said.



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Quarry operation granted conditional use

A Hamiltonban Township quarry operation was granted conditional approval for a conditional use permit by the township Board of Supervisors at their April 1 meeting.

The permit was granted to Specialty Granules Inc. (SGI), formerly ISP Minerals, by the board in a unanimous vote at a lightly attended meeting.

Board of supervisors Chairman Bob Gordon noted that SGI is seeking to use the land they acquired through a land exchange from the DCNR for continued operations in the future, and not as an expansion

of their current facility.

Quarrying on the land acquired from DCNR would not commence until the present quarry is exhausted.

The conditional use approval was granted with a number of attached conditions that would have to be met by SGI before the permit would be considered consummated.

These include, in the interest of brevity: 1) submission of an approved land development plan; 2) township pre-review of proposed state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permits; 3) com-

pletion of surveys and studies necessary to ensure protection of Columbia Gas lines, further defined in a set of measures to be taken; 4) compliance with DEP guidelines regarding stormwater runoff, notably with regards to Toms Creek and tributaries; 5) assurance of maintaining the water quality of Toms Creek through routine testing; 6) monitor drinking water wells on adjoining properties as per DEP specifications; 7) provide supplemental vegetation for buffers if required by the township; 8) adhere to any conditions placed on the project by the state Depart-

ment of Conservation and Natural Resources and Adams County agencies pursuant to the initial exchange of lands between SGI (then ISP) and the state; 9) filing of a reclamation plan with the township.

The granting of the conditional use permit paves the way for SGI to submit a land development plan, representing the final step in the approval process, as far as local government is concerned. There are still an array of county and state approvals that remain to be acquired.

Previously, the township Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve

a zoning change proposed by a local quarry operation amid a "packed house" of dozens of opponents and proponents at a special meeting held April 13. The zoning change allowed for a quarry to exist as a conditional use.

SGI quarries metabasalt deposits in Hamiltonban for use as granules in the manufacture of shingles. Metabasalt was initially lava that flowed from a prehistoric volcano more than 500 million years ago. Significant deposits of altered shale that occur in association with the metabasalt suggest the Hamiltonban volcano was located in proximity to a shallow sea when it erupted and produced massive lava flows.

Carroll Valley looking at \$2 million borough hall

The Carroll Valley Borough Mayor Ronald Harris briefed the council April 15 on the current recommendations regarding the replacement of the current borough office.

The borough office, located at 5685 Fairfield Road, serves as home to the borough administrators, police department, and also public meeting room.

The mayor serves as a member of the borough Building Steering Committee established by the council in October 2012 to evaluate options to address a deteriorating borough office plagued with roof leaks, flooding, wood rot, and

diminishing available office and storage space. Harris previously stated, "The building is falling apart."

The mayor told the council at their April meeting that the steering committee has narrowed their choice of options down to one, building an entirely new town office complex near the existing building in Carroll Commons.

The project is estimated to cost around \$2,180,978, several hundred thousands of dollars less than the cost projected for overhauling and upgrading the current facility (estimated at \$2,461,640).

Other options considered and ultimately rejected included construction a new office complex at 14 Ranch Trail (estimated cost \$3,403,900), and purchasing and renovating an existing structure located at 104 Sanders Road (estimated cost \$2,566,081).

Harris said another factor that contributed to the steering committee's decision is that the new building located in Carroll Commons could take advantage of existing water and sewer lines that would be vacated by demolishing the existing office.

The new office would also be more

of a multi-purpose building, and not serve solely as a town office and police headquarters.

The mayor said the project should not trigger and tax increase, and would be paid for by existing money in conjunction with grants. The next phase will entail hiring an architect, who will also serve as the project manager, and finalize funding.

Borough hall began its life as a snack bar in the 1960s, which had reportedly been constructed in association with a putt-putt golf course, according to Harris. Thus far, photographs of the old

snack bar, or even its name, have not surfaced.

The borough, which was incorporated in 1974, acquired the snack bar and made it their borough office in 1977. In 1987, the building was expanded to include the public meeting room. However, an initial expansion may have also occurred earlier and might have included the main hallway, bathrooms and the police squad room.

Harris has had a difficult time documenting the evolution of the present building, since all of the construction was apparently carried-out by volunteers.

Hearing slated for zoning changes

The Carroll Valley officials voted April 15 to schedule a public hearing May 13 to consider adoption of zoning changes that could pave the way for a multi-hundred unit housing development.

In a unanimous vote, the borough Council agreed to hold a public hearing on May 13 on changes to the zoning ordinance generated by representatives of Eluma, Inc. and the borough Planning Commission beginning in October 2012.

To proceed with their development, Eluma is requesting changes to the zoning ordinance primarily relative to cluster developments.

The approval by the council to proceed to a public hearing was based on the recommendation made by the borough Planning Commis-

sion to do so.

Consideration of the adoption of the proposed zoning changes was referred back to the planning commission by the council at their February meeting to obtain answers to questions and concerns that had been expressed by some council members.

Borough Planning Commission Chairman Edward Kaplan told the council at their April 15 meeting, "I think this thing has been fully exhausted (before the planning commission). (Now) it's your job to vote."

"Our job in the planning commission was to provide information necessary to vote," Kaplan stated. "I think you're ready now to move on to a public hearing."

The developer is seeking approv-

als that would ultimately allow them to construct the proposed multi-hundred housing unit development in phases consisting of a potential variety of housing types, depending on what types the housing market would support during each phase.

The build-out could would likely span an indeterminate number of years, and involve multiple contractors each working on different phases, or sections.

Eluma would, if the zoning changes are approved, proceed to the land development approval phase of municipal review, where it is expected they will seek approval of the project exclusive of locking the development into specific housing types.

The company has proposed to

overhaul the existing sewer plant, incorporating the connections at their expense, as part of the current development proposal.

However, borough solicitor Samuel Wisner said at the April meeting that the offer to overhaul the wastewater plant could not be used as a bargaining chip in processing the zoning change, as it would ap-

pear that the developer was offering something to the borough in exchange for the passage of favorable legislation.

Eluma already has a circa-2006 approved 107 single-family home development, and is further "armed" with a court order which mandates that the municipality provide the development with sewer service.

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NEWS

Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. has history of "struggles"

During the April 15 meeting of the county Board of Commissioners, the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company was once again taken to task for its shortcomings, and as a result was temporarily suspended.

Also, the board set a condition on the suspension that the company must sit down with Vigilant Hose and determine if there is a possibility the ambulance company could be merged with the fire company.

The company's future, as far as public funding goes, and potentially its autonomy are now apparently hanging in the balance and dependent upon the outcome of what they can do to address the county's concerns by mid-June.

It's not the first time the ambulance company has been admonished for a lackluster performance that spans years. Nor is it the first time it has been suggested the ambulance company "fold its cards" and allow Vigilant Hose to take over its operations.

Especially of concern to the county fire authorities and administrators has been the company's "fail

rate," the failure of a company to respond within eight minutes of the call.

The county considers a fail rate of ten percent or less reasonably acceptable. The Emmitsburg Ambulance Company has had fail rates as high as 35 percent. Rhonda Cunningham, Administrative Specialist with the Frederick County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association (FCVFRA), said the ambulance company had a fail rate of 32 percent last year.

The following is a time-line of more noteworthy issues affecting the ambulance company:

1998 – Frederick County temporarily provided a paid county ambulance staff to Emmitsburg to ensure acceptable medical response coverage. The action stemmed from complaints from other fire and ambulance companies that were forced to cover for Emmitsburg ambulance's fail rate.

2000 – Ambulance President Lowman Keeney was voted out of office. Company Chief Ann Marie Messner submitted her resignation.

2001 – The county threatened to suspend the ambulance company over billing issues. The company ceased the questioned practices.

2004 – County commissioners suspended the ambulance company, first due status for four months, during which the county crew would be first due. The county approved a new Emmitsburg area fire tax district for the benefit of aiding ambulances. A merger of the ambulance and fire companies was suggested.

2005 – The new county Emmitsburg area fire tax district went into effect. County-paid ambulance staff was relocated from the firehouse to the ambulance building. Discussions of a merger were again brought up for consideration.

2008 – A study that was initiated by the county commissioners in 2007 was finalized, recommending that the fire and ambulance companies merge. The ambulance company's new \$2.3 million headquarters on Creamery Road was dedicated.

2011 – Emmitsburg ambulance entered into a consent order with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



The groundbreaking of the then-proposed \$1.9 million, 25,895 square foot, two-story EVAC headquarters was held on June 3, 2006. As the company's "fail rate" continues to be a problem, there is talk of merging with Vigilant Hose. Bingo games and other fundraisers have apparently failed to provide the most essential ingredient to a successful operation—sufficient personnel who consistently respond to emergencies.

nia in which the company admitted to "repeatedly" soliciting charitable funds from Pennsylvania residents without being legally registered to do so. The company was ordered to "cease and desist," and assessed a \$2,000 penalty.

The ongoing issues culminating with the commissioners' April 15 suspension prompted Commissioner Kirby Delauter to offer the ambulance company the following ad-

vice: "We do have a stark contrast between the Vigilant Fire Company and the ambulance company. The model they [the Vigilant Hose Co.] use is a good model. It works. You might just examine that as well to determine what are you doing. It's hard to look at yourself and try to tell yourself what you are doing is not working."

The ambulance company has until June to do so.

Thurmont to postpone \$80,000 transformer

The Thurmont Board of Commissioners elected to postpone a decision at their April 8 meeting regarding the replacement of the Catoctin High School transformer.

According to Butch West, municipal superintendent for public works, concerns over the high school transformer actually arose as the result of a power issue at the school not directly related to the transformer.

West asked the board to approve a budgetary allocation to pay for a new transformer, and its relocation, as a "priority" consideration for the 2015 budget. The cost involved was estimated at \$80,000. "That needs to be taken care of," he said. "The transfer is 40 years old and it's a scary thought it could go anytime."

The superintendent told the board, "That transformer has to

be moved. It's a fire hazard where it is sitting. If that catches on fire it could catch the school on fire. We're planning on moving it in that grass pond at the tennis courts...and move it away from the school."

Commissioner Martin Burns immediately opposed any move to approve a budget allocation until other aspects could be considered, such as cost-sharing or having another agency pay for it.

Burns said, "So 40 years we've had no problem with it. They had one issue that they caused that had nothing to do with the transformer and now we're going. 'The sky is falling. Oh, we've got to fix it. Oh, it could catch the school on fire.'"

"They didn't say it could catch the school on fire when they placed it there 40 years ago," he said. "I don't buy it. We're playing the sky is falling at the rate

payers' expense of \$80,000...I've got a problem with that."

The commissioner said, "We took out a \$2 million loan to do infrastructure repairs to the electric utility, and we're going to take \$80,000 of that and do it for something because it might go bad?"

"It should be the school board, the county, and this municipality (paying for the replacement), a third, a third, and a third, to cover the expense of that, and not just the rate payers of the Thurmont municipal electric company," he said.

Burns said, "If it's determined it is the town property, then we'll pay for that. I got no problem paying 100 percent for that."

The board elected to await the gathering of additional information, and responses from the county school board and commissioners regarding financing, before deciding on how to address the issue in the pending budget.

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Bud Light Mix-A-Ritas

18 PK 8-Oz. Cans **\$16⁴⁹**

Special! Shock Top, Black Crown, Beck's, Beck's Sapphire

4 Pk 16 Oz. Cans **\$3⁹⁹**

Miller Fortune

12 PK Bottles **\$13⁹⁹**

6 Pk Bottles **\$7⁹⁹**

Miller High Life

18 PK 16 Oz. Cans **\$11⁹⁹**

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Monday-Thursday 9 am-10 pm, Friday & Saturday 9 am-11 pm, Sunday 11-8 pm

Miller Light Coors Light

18 PAK Bottles **\$13⁹⁹**

#1 Mom

One hundred years ago this month

May 1

New State Road

Tomorrow, Saturday, at noon there will be a public meeting of Elder's Hotel for the purpose of recording the sentiment of the Emmitsburg district in favor of bringing the state road from Taneytown to this place, rather than diverting it to another town as already under contemplation. At this meeting there will be present the delegation from Taneytown holding similar views with those in this community. The citizens of Taneytown are anxious to cooperate with the people of this district in an effort to establish the only logical route for the state road in this section-namely from Taneytown to Emmitsburg.

Narrow Escape

Mr. Emory Newcomer and Miss Watcher, of Union Bridge, had a thrilling experience in a narrow escape from drowning last Sunday when they attempted to cross Toms Creek at Wilhide's Ford. This is a dangerous ford at any time and the rain on Saturday had swollen the stream. As they drove into the creek the swift current carried the horse and carriage with its occupants about 200 feet down the stream. Their cries for help were heard by Mr. Wilhide, and he, was several other men threw a rope to the young lady and with this pulled her to the bank. Mr. Newcomer was smart enough to grab onto his trusty horse who swam to the bank and pulled the buggy, and its owner, up a 4 foot embankment to safety. Once again providing positive proof that transportation by horse is always safer than by Autocar.

May 8

Farm Improvements

The marked improvement to farm properties in the district this year is an indicator of greater improvement yet to come. New fences are noticeable everywhere, new buildings and additions to existing structures are observable in many places, and the free use of paint has beautified quite a number of dwellings and barns. The farmers are seemingly taking more pride

in their properties than ever before, a move decidedly commendable to the community in which they live.

A farm with substantial fences and well cared for buildings is a sight to see. These are indices of the character of the owner. A group of small houses-one house, in fact, carefully whitened, and with straight fences similarly treated is very picturesque in a setting of green, much more so, in fact, then a rundown dwelling out of repair and dilapidated fences.

Town Elections

The annual election for burgers and commissioners was held on Monday. There being but one ticket about 50% of the registered voters went to the polls. John Matthews was elected Burgess to serve for one year, and William Morrison for Commissioner to serve for three years.

Taneytown held its election on Monday also, electing Pierce Garner, Burgess and Edward Reindollar, Dr. Seiss, George Arnold, Judson Hill, and Edward Krimper, Commissioners.

Emmitsburg Electric Company

The first annual meeting of the stockholders of the Emmitsburg Electric Company was held at the offices of the Weekly Chronicle. There are 40 stockholders, 30 of them residing in Emmitsburg. The company reports 64 customers connected, including approximately 2,500 lamps and 13 hp of motors. Over 10% of the total earnings for the month of April were from power sold and is expected that with the increased use of fans, electric irons and washing machines and other small domestic labor savers, we will keep this end of the business growing for some time to come. About 60% of the total earnings are from private lighting.

May 15

Motorcycle Seen In Town

A motorcycle with a side attachment for the holding of one person was seen in Emmitsburg on Tuesday. This was the first motor of this character to arrive here.

Emmitsburg Coronet Band

The members of the Emmet Coronet Band expect to give a festival in the near future for the purpose of raising money for new uniforms, as the old ones are in very bad condition, having been used for six or seven years. The band has been very nearly "down and out" being reduced to six members. Now, fortunately, it has taken in eight new members. It took time to teach and instruct them and that is why it has not made its appearance in public as many wished. It is expected to give concerts on the Square at frequent intervals. If the weather proves favorable there will be a concert on the Square on Friday evening, May 15.



Before the automobile destroyed the pleasant nature of Town Square, the Emmet Coronet Band would set up next to the old fountain and put on concerts for the town's residents.

Former Former Boozers to Protest Suffragettes

Members of the Former Former Boozers Association have announced that they plan to protest outside the home of Mrs. Annan at the next meeting of the Suffragette Society. Members say they are tired of outside agitators coming into town and poisoning the minds of local women with foolish talk of equality with men. "If you give women the right to vote," said one avid supporter of John Barleycorn, "the next thing you know they will be asking a man to clean house or come home early from the pub. We have to stop this nonsense now before it gets out of hand." All likeminded men are encouraged to attend. Free beer will be provided by the society.

May 22

Former Former Boozers Protest Fizzles

The much-anticipated Former Former Boozers Association protest of the local Suffragette Society fell victim to too much advanced planning. Members began gathering at one in the afternoon in the Hotel Slagle's bar. By six, the hour of the appointed protest, most had forgotten why they had assembled, and those that did were in no condition to appear in public lest the run afoul of the ordinance against public intoxication. The ringleaders of the protest were unphased as they were the winning team at darts that night.

Emmitsburg Defeats Thurmont

Emmitsburg's Baseball Club took Thurmont to camp, on the local field, the final count being 6 to 3. The game was fast throughout and was not until the eighth inning that the victors clinched the contest. Rosensteel, who twirled for the locals, allowed only four scattered hits, and struck out 16 of the opposing basemen, everyone of whom fanned out more than once, except Ed Krieger, who refused to be fooled. For the visitors Ed Krieger pitched seven innings during which he fanned only seven Emmitsburg men.

A special feature of the game was the professional umpiring services rendered by Prof. Mike Thompson, that his decisions were satisfactory to everyone was evidence from a noticeable lack of any complaint whatsoever. This feature alone was his distinct pleasure, and the club is to be congratulated on securing this widely known arbitrator. It is hoped that the ego of Thurmont will survive the shellacking and that they may try again.

Carrier Pigeon

For several days there has been a stray carrier pigeon in Emmitsburg. The bird has a number of bands on his left leg and evidently became tired out during its scheduled flight. All attempts to capture the bird and help it on its way have failed. Chicken feed has been placed near where it has been seen in hopes to replenish its energy so as it came complete its mission.

May 29

Memorial Day, Thurmont

The Memorial Day service at Thurmont bids fair to be largely attended and should be particularly interesting to people of Emmitsburg given the merger of the local Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post with the GAR post in Thurmont. Music will be furnished by the Monocacy Valley and Yellow Springs bands. Not only will the graves of deceased soldiers be decorated, but each organization participating will decorate the graves of their deceased brothers.

Big Baseball Festival

On the evenings of Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6 a festival will be held on the porch of the New Hotel Slagle for the benefit of the Emmitsburg Baseball Team. Chicken and ham sandwiches, coffee, ice cream, strawberries, homemade cakes and candies and lemonade will be sold. Everyone should contribute to the support of this organization and all should patronize the festival. Baseball is a source of pleasure and recreation to those who attend the game, is the clean and manly sport for those who take part. A good baseball team is one of the best advertisements a town can have.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago This Month visit the Historical Society Section of emmitsburg.net.

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UNDER CONTRACT

FROM THE DESK OF . . .

State Senator David Brinkley

On Tuesday June 24, voters in the District 4 Republican state legislative races have some critically important choices facing them. First, in the race for the three Delegate seats, two outstanding candidates deserve your vote. Incumbent Delegate Kelly Schulz has distinguished herself as one of the most effective legislators in Annapolis, and certainly one of the most consequential members of the House of Delegates. Kelly is highly regarded among policy experts, and her work on behalf of Frederick families places her at the forefront. Former Mount Airy Council member Wendi Peters is also deserving of your consideration and vote. Wendi has already proven herself an ef-

fective steward of the public trust, a hard-working local elected official with a no-nonsense approach to conservative governance.

Why do I ask you to send these two people to Annapolis? It's quite simple: we need serious, committed legislators who can actually accomplish something meaningful in the General Assembly. As we have seen for the last four years, some of our representatives do important work that contributes to improved conditions in Frederick while others preen, posture and do almost nothing of value.

My opponent in the District 4 Senate race uses his lack of accomplishment as a badge of honor. He has consistently tried to convince

you that by voting no he is somehow adding value to your life, your children's education, your right to own and bear arms, your right to work and your ability to get to and from that job. In truth, his string of "no" votes is a badge of shame, a pathetic abdication of his responsibility to each of you. He says by voting against the state budget, he's protecting your interests. That's a cheap lie dressed up as a political stunt. He has indeed signed a pledge to vote against budgets that include taxes, but conveniently forgot to tell you he has also voted to increase fees that you have to pay. Lying to you by omission, my opponent is not nearly as protective of his constituents as he would

have you believe.

I have fought to reduce to state spending, proposing dozens of amendments each year to cut hundreds of millions of dollars in frivolous programs, projects and services. When it comes down to the final votes, though, I think about what you need. Quality education for your kids. Safe communities with sufficient police, fire and rescue services. Adequate funding to maintain our roads, bridges and highways. Parks and recreational opportunities to increase your quality of life. Adequate medical resources to keep you healthy. Economic opportunity to help create those 21st century jobs.

I understand what it takes to lead, and I also understand that politics can be a dirty business. My opponent knows how to dis-

tort my record, and has the money to do so. Therein lies the difference between us: he's done nothing but attack my record and make empty campaign promises to the people of northern Frederick County while for the last twelve years, I have been YOUR Senator. When you've called on me for help, I have answered your call. I have been endorsed by mayors and town councils throughout the area, because these fellow community leaders know they have always been able to count on me.

Now I need your help. All it takes is your vote on Tuesday, June 24 and your help to get as big of a turnout as possible. People deserve a government as good as they are, and with an army of voters who choose results over rhetoric WE can make that happen.

Wendi Peters, Candidate for Delegate District 4

"We are taxed enough!" is the common refrain I hear from voters as our campaign continues door-to-door throughout District 4. This response is followed by complaints about the overreaching by our state and federal governments and personal stories of disappointment and hardship experienced by businesses and families. It is very evident one-party rule in the General Assembly is failing Maryland. In the last eight years, we have seen over 40 tax in-

creases, expansion of government at a time when most Maryland families are tightening their belts, and a corresponding erosion of our constitutional rights. This has led to private sector job losses, a slower economic recovery and an unfortunate exodus of businesses and citizens from our great state.

Where Annapolis has failed, local governments have held the line and have responded to the needs of the people.

I was honored to serve for eight years on the Mount Airy Town Coun-

cil. Unlike in Washington and in Annapolis, we get things done at the local level. During my tenure on the Town Council, we implemented effective growth management policies, addressed infrastructure priorities and advanced policies to attract business investment in the Town. Just as important, we kept taxes low and balanced our budget every year.

I want to bring my experience from local government to Annapolis. If I am elected to the House of Del-

egates, I will work cooperatively with local leaders to empower our communities. I will ask the tough questions, bring vital issues to the forefront, and solve problems. I have the experience to get things done and a proven record of standing up for businesses and working families.

That is why I am honored to have the endorsements of many local government and business leaders in Frederick and Carroll County including, State Senator David Brinkley, Dele-

gate Kelly Schulz, Sheriff Chuck Jenkins, Council President Peter Helt, Mayor Randy McClement, and Mayor Wayne Creadick.

Maryland is a great state with a rich history, beautiful landscape and valuable natural resources. With the right leadership, we can restore opportunity and Maryland will be a place where families can afford to live, work, and retire and businesses will thrive.

To learn more about Wendi Peters visit her campaign website at www.wendipeters.com.

State Delegate Kelly Schulz

Now that the Maryland General Assembly has recessed for the year, I wanted to take the time to explain one of the most talked about issues in the legislature – marijuana. There are 3 major pieces of legislation that is being discussed this year: Medical Marijuana, Decriminalization, and Legalization. It seems as if there was a great deal of confusion about this issue because it was passed in the very last days of the Session.

I was asked by the Speaker of the House to sit on the Marijuana Task Force which consisted of 15 members of the House. Many of you are

aware of my position on the topic of drugs and my efforts to bring awareness to the issue within our community. The task force was helpful in allowing me to look at all 3 areas that are being discussed in a reasonable and unemotional way. Hearing from law enforcement, medical providers, and stakeholders from across the board, I was ultimately able to come to a resolution on my support (or not) of the proposals.

Medical: This bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor. I voted in favor of this bill. This is the one piece of the puzzle that I can support

because of the regulations that have been put in place as to who can prescribe, how it is being distributed and who receives it. This will be a strongly regulated substance that will only be distributed through the cooperating medical facilities.

The number of advocates with severe disabilities and debilitating illnesses was overwhelming. The medical studies prove that these lives, along with those of their loved ones, could be improved by the medical use of a controlled substance. When compared to many other controlled substances available for medical purposes, including opioids, the list of side effects is minimal.

I do plan to monitor this program closely as it is of major importance to so many people.

Decriminalization: This bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor, however I did not support. The testimony that I have heard does not support a proposal to decriminalize marijuana. In fact, when speaking with law enforcement, it may be more complicated in the long run and may not provide the results that some are looking for. The local State's Attorney offices are not in support of this bill for a few reasons, but the most important is that their goal already is to not prosecute individual users. The vast majority of users that are charged have the opportunity to do programs in lieu of facing criminal charges. I have worked closely with

this group and believe that should be our ultimate goal.

The bill, as passed, would make it legal to possess up to 10 grams of marijuana, but it would still be illegal to smoke it and to purchase it. The advocates of the bill were looking for a way to cut down on court costs and negative marks on a person's criminal record for possession which could hinder their opportunity to get a job, apply for college or even rent an apartment. Unfortunately, this bill will only add to the confusion within law enforcement and will do nothing to teach our children about the dangers of drug use.

Legalization: This bill did not pass the legislature this year. Maryland has a great opportunity to learn from other states that have already legalized this substance. Maryland does not need to act quickly without gathering information from these other states. We learned a valuable lesson when we acted quickly on the Health Care Exchange. That is a debacle and we would be wise to sit back to evaluate our options on how to move forward.

We were not provided any data on the outcome of Colorado and Washington's new laws. I believe it is prudent to gather as much information as possible in order to come to conclusions that won't come back to haunt us a later date. For me, this is not a revenue concern. This is a concern about our youth and the end results for them and their future.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of my positions on these issues, please feel free to contact me at kelly@delegateschulz.com or through my office at 301-304-0619.

Wendi PETERS FOR DELEGATE

"I am committed to working on comprehensive tax relief for all Marylanders."

Wendi Peters
Candidate for Delegate
District 4
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**Vote on Tuesday, June 24, 2014.
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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

Kirby Delauter (R), Candidate for County Council (Dis. 5)

Last month I wrote an article about “Paying it Forward”, a means of placing others needs ahead of your own. This month I will write about “Paying it Responsibly”. What I am writing about is what I’ve done as a member of the Frederick County Board of Commissioners. Over the past 3 1/2 years I have made many decisions on financial issues in the County. A few of these examples are some major purchases and some onerous regulations with associated taxes that I have brought to the Board with a recommendation for elimination.

We can start with some of the major purchasing items that were brought to the Board. First is the landfill compactor that was to be purchased for \$1.2 Million. After some research it was found that we currently had 2 similar machines, which were still in pretty good condition. This along with the push for waste to en-

ergy, the landfill was going to become a thing of the past, so my question started with, “why do we need this machine?”

After extensive debate with some staff that were recommending the purchase, it was agreed that we did not need the machine. Second is the infamous sewer camera truck. The machine was approximately \$450,000. After some research it was found that we had an existing sewer camera truck that was 20 years old with only 16,000 miles on it. This unit had been out of service for six months and it was anticipated that it would be another six months to get it back into service. So, my question was, if we haven’t used this unit for what would amount to a year, why have it at all? At this point I couldn’t see spending \$450,000 of taxpayer funds to purchase a new unit. I requested we place it out to bid and if the numbers came back favorable, outsource

this service. On an apples to apples comparison, based on one million linear feet of sewer line television, the savings was \$5.5 Million.

Third, I went to fleet management and requested we increase the useful life of county vehicles (with exception to Sheriff Deputy cars) in order to extend the life of the vehicles and push back the purchase dates. This, along with taking Deputy vehicles that would normally be placed on public auction and sold for \$3,000 - \$5,000, they are repainted and recycled back into the fleet for other county department use eliminating the need for new purchases. These items alone accounted for over \$3 Million in savings.

Although there are many more items we have made changes to within the County system, the last one I will point out is the highway fleet equipment. I did

an extensive review of the highway fleet, upon this review I discovered many items that were not allocated properly or being used to their fullest extent. After months of reviews with the Director of this department, it was agreed to do a pilot program to park a lot of the equipment and outsource some of these functions, such as tree trimming, roadside mowing, snow removal, and miscellaneous concrete work. The pilot will end in April 2014 with an estimated one time non-recurring savings of approximately \$10 Million on the dispersal of unnecessary and underutilized equipment. There will be recurring year over year savings as well since we will not have to fuel, insure, or maintain any of these vehicles as well.

I have said many times that we do not have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem and getting the spending in check allows us to reallocate funds

from areas that can do without to areas that seriously need the funding. Private business has done this forever, it’s time governments at all level reassess their spending and allocate funds where they’re needed most.

The days of everybody having everything are long gone and if we don’t adjust our mindset of how we work in government, a sad day of reconciliation will come. I can make a simple guarantee over my last term as a Commissioner and if the voters elect me in District 5 as the first member to represent them in the Frederick County Council, this reconciliation will not happen on my watch.

Pay it responsibly and Govern Like a Taxpayer Today.

To learn more about Kirby Delauter visit www.kirbydelauter.com.

Mark Long (D), Candidate for County Council (Dis. 5)

I love Frederick County. I was born Land raised here and my family has been here for many generations. I’ve lived for a few years in both Virginia and Pennsylvania, but have always returned to northern Frederick County because it’s a great place to live, work and raise a family. I want to ensure that our county continues to be a great place to live for future generations.

I stand for strong business and economic growth. As a small business owner I understand the importance of having a business friendly environment and a strong economy. We should support and reinforce the work of our Office of Economic Development to attract new businesses to our county, as well as support, retain and foster the growth of existing businesses. Job growth is a top priority.

I support our educators and our students. A quality education provides the foundation for a fulfilling life, and pre-

pare students for good paying jobs and rewarding careers. Good teachers are essential to preparing our students to face the challenges of an increasingly complex world and they should be compensated fairly and competitively. Maintenance of Effort funding is not sufficient to sustain a high quality education system. It’s crucial that the new County Council work in partnership with the Board of Education, in an atmosphere of mutual respect, to find solutions to funding challenges so we can ensure that our children obtain the best education possible. Our investment in education is the most important investment we can make for the future of our citizens and our community, and is key to our economic prosperity.

I support sustainable residential growth. Because Frederick County is such a wonderful place to live and work, it will continue to attract people that want to call this place home.

I make my living as a Home Inspector for people buying homes, so my business thrives when the real estate market thrives. As we grow, however, it’s essential that we manage our growth in a responsible and thoughtful way so that we preserve farms and green, open spaces, keep our roads from being overly congested, and have enough schools and enough space in our schools for students.

New development should take place near existing growth centers where infrastructure is already in place. The roll-out of developments should be timed with our ability to pay for schools, infrastructure and required services, and developers should pay their fair share for the required schools, roads and services. New residential developments should not create a new tax burden on citizens.

I support caring for our environment. I love eating crabs (doesn’t every-

one) and I believe it’s important that we protect the Chesapeake Bay and ensure that our streams and rivers leading to it remain clean. I am against building the Waste-To-Energy Incinerator. It would release tons of harmful material into our air and makes no economic sense.

I support our senior citizens and human service agencies. For many years our County has partnered with human service non-profits and supported human service organizations to help meet the needs of our citizens. This has been a valuable and cost effective partnership, and I believe it should continue. For 8 years in the early part of my life, I worked with developmentally disabled adults in a non-profit organization, and I understand the good work these organizations do and the challenges they face. My wife of 40 years, Jill, works as a Family Advocate for Head Start, YMCA of Frederick County and has helped me understand the value of

early childhood education.

I believe that we should continue our legacy of taking care of our elderly at Montevue Home and Citizens Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. It is a mistake to sell these facilities, especially at a substantial loss. I think that how a community cares for their most vulnerable citizens is a reflection of the true character of that community.

I believe in Frederick County and its people. I believe that we have a great and prosperous future ahead. When on the county council, I assure you that I will listen respectfully to all citizens of Frederick County, not just a few special interests. Working together we can develop creative solutions to the problems we face. Working together we can move Frederick County toward a better and brighter tomorrow.

To learn more about Mark Long visit www.marklong.us.

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

In May I will present 2014 -2015-town budget In second town meeting in April our outside auditor presented the results of the 2013-2014 audit. Property tax revenue decreased 14%, service charges decreased 18%, intergovernmental (from County (thank you county commissioners)) increased 79%, general government expense increased .004% and debt service decreased 84%. Still have an ongoing deficit from providing water. Overall for FY 2013 revenues were up \$16,026, expenditures down \$81,925 or for a total positive change in fund balance of \$97,952. Thank you staff!

The town will receive yet another grant this time through the Frederick County Tourism Council for an “Emmitsburg Visitors Services” kiosk with a map noting locations of things to see and do while in Emmitsburg. The kiosk is moveable but should be spending most time on the square. The cost is \$3,182. The grant is for \$1,150. The Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association graciously will contribute \$500 and the town will provide the balance of \$1,532.

I attended a land conservation conference recently where staff of the National Trust for Historic Preservation made a presentation on cultural resources. Emmitsburg is on the National Register Historic District and the key operative terms for historic buildings are significance (does it tell a story) and integrity (condition). A building in poor condition only corrected by expensive restorations cost limits its ability to tell its story. The town recently received a second Community Legacy Grant of \$50,000. Matched, a total \$200,000 of grants and private funds are at work downtown. We are already submitting for more grants so that the significance and integrity of our buildings can be further enhanced.

After 18 months of negotiations I signed the “Town and Emmitsburg ES Joint Use Agreement” for the use of the field behind the Community Center for community youth athletic events. Town manager Dave Haller, Commissioners O’Donnell, Sweeney, Blanchard and Mellon thank you for your efforts, fortitude and patience.

The town manager and I meet with State Highway and square revitalization design and funding solidification is moving along. Hope to have Letter of Intent signed by June.

Snow results: budget \$8,143. Actual \$16,764. Overtime: budget \$8,050. Actual \$6,946. Salt: bud-

get \$6,500. Actual \$700. The good news, the water table is up 9 feet only 3 feet below optimum. It was down 11 feet in January.

Want to have your 13-year or older refrigerator replaced for FREE? Frederick County Refrigerator Exchange Program has been launched to serve low and moderate-income households to install a free energy star refrigerator in ex-

change for fridge made in 2001 or earlier. The replaced refrigerators are then carefully and nearly completely recycled. Again, there is no cost to homeowner or property owner. Applications are on line at www.FrederickFridgeExchange.org or call Lisa Orr, Frederick County Sustainability Program Coordinator 301 600 6864 or pick up an application at the town office.



Kirby
DELAUTER

www.KirbyDelauter.com
for County Council District 5

GOVERN LIKE
A TAXPAYER
TODAY

By Authority Tina Delauter, Treasurer

FROM THE DESK OF . . .

Bud Otis (R), Candidate for County Council At Large

Born in Illinois and grew up as a farm boy in Indiana. Life lessons were learned from working the soil and caring for farm animals. This was long hours and hard work, but I found that those lessons have helped me throughout my life working with and for others. My second grade teacher taught me the joy of learning. She was the driving force to complete my degree in Business Management at Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Michigan).

Married my high school sweetheart Rose, 55 years ago, and we have been a team ever since. We were blessed with two wonderful children, Todd and Heidi, who also live in Frederick County. Todd and Heidi have

four children, Todd has a son Clay and Heidi has three children, Ryan, Heather and Eric.

Upon graduation from Andrews University, we moved to Maryland to begin a career in marketing and sales for the Review and Herald Publishing Company then located in Takoma Park. After a successful career as an area and regional sales director I was elected the youngest President of the Company at thirty-eight. Two years later I merged another publishing company with the Review and Herald and moved the new company to Hagerstown, Maryland. The company produced outstanding profits for the next eleven years.

During this time the Russian government sent the Chairman of the Counsel of Religious Affairs to visit the Review and Herald. The Chairman asked me to build a Religious Publishing House in Russia. I accepted the challenge and we left Hagerstown to devote my time to build this unique religious publishing house in Russia. Four years later it had its Grand Opening and still publishes religious literature.

After taking an early retirement Congressman Roscoe G. Bartlett invited to work with him, becoming the Congressman's Chief of Staff and handled all duties required. I took the cases dealing with business issues between

the Federal Government and Sixth District businesses. Much of my time involved travel throughout the district, meeting with folks in their businesses and also with numerous Veterans groups.

During this time I served as Chairman of the Major General Boyd C. Cook Foundation, created to help Wounded Warriors and now serve on the Board of Directors of Operation Second Chance, providing the same service to our wounded Troops returning from active military service. I am active in my church (Frederick Seventh Day Adventist) serving as the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

I am running for the County

Council at Large to use my expertise in handling legislative issues for Congress and my business experience to ensure that the County is fiscally sound — not to make headlines in the paper but to ensure a smooth running county government.

In next month's article Bud will share his thoughts and positions on key issues facing the county, such as: growth, education, economic development, the environment, senior citizens and the elderly, emergency services, and ethics in government.

In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about him, please visit his campaign website at www.budotis.com.

Richard Johnson (R), Candidate for County Council At Large

The new County Council has a unique opportunity to set the stage for the way Frederick County will be run in the years ahead. We need a group of council members that will work together to insure the vitality of our community.

No Growth vs. Pro-Growth has been the swing from Board to Board. In reality, the County continues to grow. It's time we brought Stability and Balance to the County. In 1975 the population was 95,557 today the current population is 240,336, an increase of 149%. As the County grows the demand for services grows with it. Kirby DeLauter and the current Board have

done a good job of reducing the size of government while maintaining services. We need to build upon what they started.

People are attracted to Frederick County because of the quality of life. The quality of life in Frederick is based on our top flight educational system, a vibrant downtown, our arts and entertainment, our concern for the elderly, as well as, our rural character and housing. Frederick is 663 square miles and is the largest of 24 counties in the state.

In order to maintain our quality of life, we need to create jobs and reduce taxes and fees. We have to continue to promote our business

friendly attitude, expand economic development, encourage and support our small businesses and attract new business. We need to continue to remove impediments to small business development. It's not rocket science. This is how we create jobs. We need to further streamline government and improve efficiency. By reducing taxes and fees, we put more disposable income in the hands of our citizens where it belongs. People are worried. We need to be pro-active and re-build confidence.

Part of the quality of life in Frederick County is our rural character. We need to work with the farming

community to help develop ways to make the farm a more viable business so that the children will want to build their future on the farm. We need to make it easy to build a family enclave on the farm and make it possible to keep the farm in the family for generations to come. At the same time we have to understand and respect their property rights.

Frederick County currently has approximately 37,000 seniors. This number is expected to grow to over 77,000 in the next 15 years. There will be more seniors than students in our school system. We need to tap this resource. We need to look

after and find ways to provide for our at-risk seniors. We need to promote aging-in-place with affordable housing, access to expert medical care, availability of transportation and outreach.

The current Board has made a good start in many of these areas. We need to do more. We have the opportunity to work together to make Frederick County a show place and earn a seat at the Governor's Table.

I am Dick Johnson, Candidate At Large. I am looking forward to working with Kirby and others to continue to make this County the best it can be.

Wayne Creadick (R), Candidate for County Council At Large

My decision to seek the people's vote for the 2014 Frederick County At-Large County Council seat did not come lightly. There are significant personal sacrifices, which unless you have served as an elected official, you would not understand or appreciate. My desire, at this stage in my life, is to capitalize on my current elected official experience, including both successes and failures, but most importantly my ability to serve the people and extend my time, talent and energy to serve a larger constituency.

I believe the following skills, successfully practiced for over 13 years as an elected official, should be accepted as strong qualifications to serve effectively in the At-Large County Council position: Four term Mayor, Frederick County Sheriff's Department Citizens Police Academy Graduate. Learned and practiced in the disciplines of: Structure of Government; Ethics; Open Meetings; Conducting Effective Public Meetings; Budgeting; Employment Issues; and Consensus and Team Building. Additionally, I've gained practical experience in Land Use and Comprehensive Land Use Planning; Communications; Legal and Liability Issues; Intergovernmental Relations; Finance; Economic Development and Tourism.

As a Frederick County Councilman my top three priorities would be:

First, establish and execute the infrastructure, policies, procedures, legislation and related tasks to successfully implement the new Charter form of government in Frederick County.

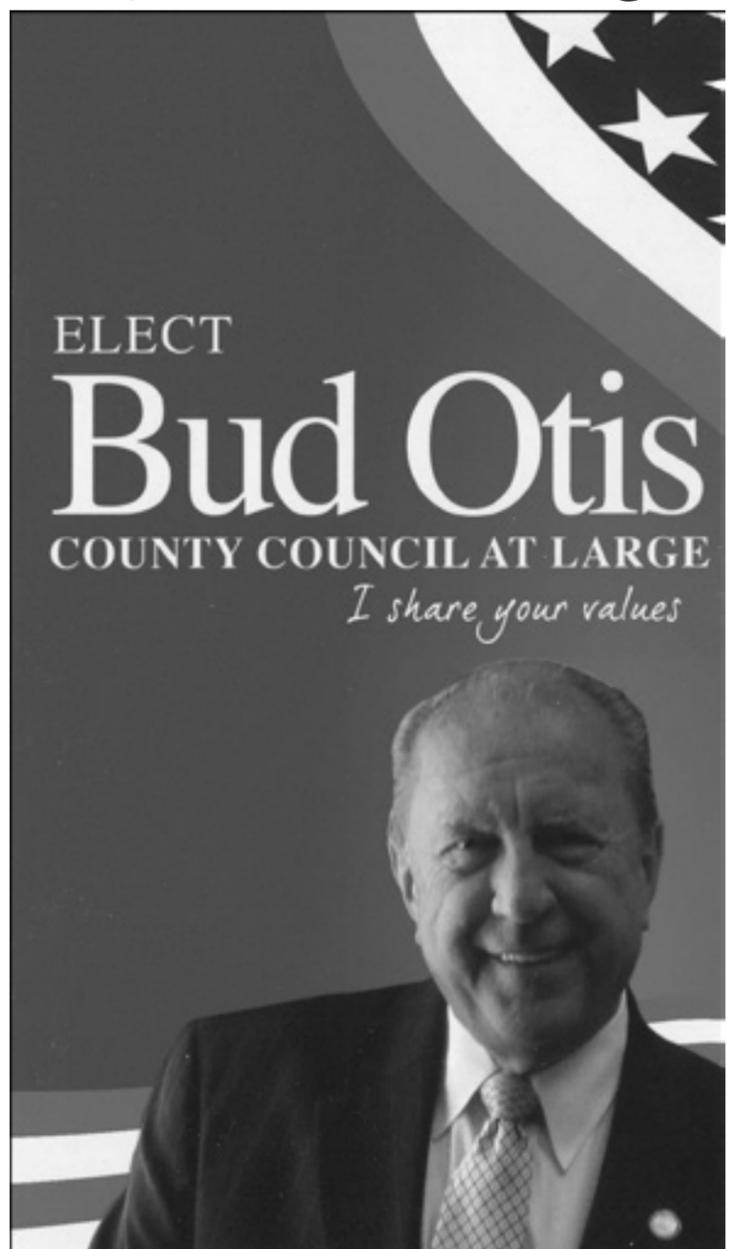
Second, quickly establish a productive legislative body of newly elected individuals and set the precedence for how the County Council will work together with the new County Executive in a manner and process that will best serve the needs of Frederick County's Citizens, first and foremost, and then the needs of others like, Business and Industry.

Third identify the issues of Frederick County's Citizens

which need addressed and not specifically what I believe the issues to be, then prioritize the people's issues — albeit many, and set a plan of action to address each with clear goals and objectives and a timeline for resolution under our new Charter form of Government.

I do understand, in the role of At-Large Councilman, the issues facing one district are equally as important as the issues in any other Council District. Interestingly, in my discussions with County residents regarding 'issues', the issues facing Frederick County residents are being manifested at a National, State and Local Government level. The issues are nu-

continued on next page



GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

Justin Kiska (R), Candidate for Frederick County Council At Large

One million dollars is a huge amount of money. Five hundred eighteen million dollars is enormous. Over a half a BILLION dollars – that is Frederick County's 2015 budget that was recently proposed by the current Board of County Commissioners.

I realize how difficult it is to write an article about budgeting and make it interesting. But I truly believe this is one of the most important issues facing the county in this year's election. Before you read any further, I want to apologize if this piece begins to sound too "dry" and policy-wonkish, but when it comes to the budget there are some important points that need to be made.

Here are some facts about the county budget process moving forward under the new Charter that many people don't know. The County Executive, whomever that will be, will draft and propose the budget. It will then be up to the Council to vote on that budget.

Under the Charter, the budget is required to be balanced, which automatically prevents more money being spent than received.

Council members will be able to make amendments to the budget. However, while the Council will be able to decrease spending in areas of the budget, or eliminate funding for a budget item altogether, it will not be able to increase spending. It's an interesting quirk of our Charter and something that should be examined in the not too distant future. Not allowing the Council to increase funding takes away part of the Council's role in the system of checks and balances.

I realize the danger in giving more people the power to spend tax payers' dollars and I do not advocate the unnecessary increase in spending as a matter of principle. Any increase from the Council, however, will need to be supported by a majority, and the mon-

ey will need to be taken from another area of the budget, so that it will remain balanced. There would need to be a consensus of the Council before more money could be spent on a line item. This would give the legislative arm of Frederick County's government more of a say in how resident's taxes are spent.

A government cannot be run like a business, even though that is what so many want to say during an election year. However, the same principles used to run a successful business can also be applied to government. Should we spend more money than we take in? No. Should we make sure we get the biggest bang for every tax dollar that is spent? Yes. In the perfect world, there would be enough money for every organization, agency, department, and service to receive as much money as they request. Sadly, the budget does not allow for this and some areas do not get the funding they deserve. So it will

be up to county leaders to make the tough decisions and determine where each dollar is best spent, whether it is the most popular decision or not.

How do we find more money so funding for important departments and agencies can increase in the coming years' budgets? As far as I am concerned, raising taxes should not be the first answer that comes to mind. Expanding the tax base is the way to go.

What do I mean by that? One of the jobs of the County Council should be to help attract new businesses to Frederick. Frederick County is a wonderful place to live and work and we need to let everyone know it. Bringing new businesses into the county translates to an expanded tax base. An expanded tax base equals a higher quality of services for residents. The county's Department of Economic Development should be given the resources and support to at-

tract new businesses to Frederick. We need to be working on attracting industries with high-quality jobs to Frederick. Economic development is the answer and is the kind of "development" Frederick County needs.

When our new County Council and Executive take office and begin work on the 2016 budget, they will need to decide where to spend the money the county has and how to get the biggest return for every single tax dollar spent. Difficult decisions will need to be made. Not just by those elected, but by the voters. Take the time to learn about the candidates and each of their approaches to handling the budget and fiscal matters. The topic may not be the most fascinating, but it does have an effect on every single person in the county.

To learn more about Justin Kiska visit www.justinkiska.com.

Susan Jessee (D), Candidate for Council At Large

Knowledge of Frederick County and real life experience directly relating to the issues facing Frederick County does matter! Frederick County has been my home my entire life and I want to give back to a community that has given me so much which I why I am running for Frederick County Council At Large.

My family has a long tradition of public service in Frederick County and I am deeply honored to be walking in the footsteps of my parents, Odette and Bruce Reeder who both served collectively 28 years in the county. Their example of the importance of public service encouraged me to run for this office at such an exciting time in the history of Frederick County with the new form of government.

I am a proud graduate of the Frederick County Public School system and received my bachelors degree and masters degree from Hood College. My professional background includes

working locally as a scientist at the start of her career and then spending the past 20 years on the business side of science in roles that included strategic planning, business development, marketing, financial analysis and budget preparation for small, large and not for profit organizations. I also have experience in economic development which helps greatly in understanding the complexity of business retention and recruitment while maintaining a diversified industrial base. My husband and I own a small business in the City of Frederick as well and truly understand the struggles small business owners face on a daily basis.

I decided to run because Frederick County residents deserve the opportunity to obtain family supporting jobs, a good education for their kids and grandkids, and during hard times assistance when they need it the most. Our most vulnerable residents, young children and the elderly deserve to be

taken care because that's what differentiates us from other counties. The overall quality of life in this county also deserves to be treated with respect by making growth accountable so that a proper balance is maintained.

Job Creation - I believe that business brings prosperity and Frederick County has always been blessed with a diverse industrial base that helps weather any downward economic storm. It takes a lot of foresight and planning to create jobs and if attention is not paid to creating and maintaining this base then this would in effect trickle down to jobs in all areas of the community. I have been part of an industry that has suffered through the recession so I know what it means to not have a job. I have helped friends and colleagues find jobs and I have been involved in a local business incubator to recruit companies to the area to grow jobs here.

Education - Assuring that our chil-

dren have the best possible leaning experience in the classroom is what I will advocate for as an alumnae of FCPS. My entire family including my parents, husband, my kids and brothers families are all graduates of this school system and I want to make sure our grandkids have the opportunity that we had for a great education in Frederick County.

Senior Care - It is our moral obligation to make sure seniors have access to programs to enhance their golden years. I am currently taking care of both of my parents and know first hand the struggles they face on a daily basis. I want to make sure that no senior in Frederick County ever has to worry about having a place to live or food to eat.

Responsible Growth - Allowing for growth that balances a great quality of life and is good to the environment is a balance that must be maintained. I will work closely in partnership with the citi-

zens and developers to make sure everyone has a voice in their community.

Frederick County is too important not to pay attention or plan for long term in the decision making process. We owe it to the founding fathers and generations to come. I was born here and embrace those that come here to enjoy the aspects of Frederick County that I have for years. I bring with me the ability to listen, and I want to bring that to the residents and businesses of Frederick County. That is why I decided to run for County Council At Large and if elected promise to serve with passion and respect and be a good steward of county tax dollars. I know were Frederick County has been and look forward to working with all communities to plan where it needs to go to benefit all residents in the future.

To learn more about Susan, visit her campaign website at www.susanreed-erjessee.com

continued from previous page

merous and change daily or become reprioritized based on the direct affect they have on the individual at any particular moment. However, the most common concern expressed to me is the ever increasing lacks of trust and faith,

individuals are holding for their elected representatives, even here in Frederick County.

The system is failing at all levels and politics is taking precedence over the people. Until change is made and the elected truly represent the people, the challenges will remain, if not worsen. I'm being

encouraged to not become that problem too, which I am ensuring everyone I will not. I trust the County Citizens at-large, would recognize my elected official experience, credentials, education and most importantly my leadership record, would best serve the needs of the County's Citizens.

I have been encouraged by a diverse group of everyday Citizens, to continue my unselfish service to represent the entire County, holistically addressing the needs and issues of the north, south, east and west regions of Frederick County with equal passion and conviction. As such, I want to do the

right thing without being asked. Engage with and commit to every community. Lead with integrity and character. And, make every day for Frederick County's Citizens inclusive, satisfactory and meaningful. I want to be "The People's Choice for the People's Voice."

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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

There are a number of holidays to celebrate in May. May 6th is National Teacher Day. It is a day Eleanor Roosevelt convinced Congress in 1953 to be set aside to recognize and honor the nation's teachers. The National Teacher Day provides an opportunity to recognize and show appreciation for the enormous impact teachers have made on our youth. This year the Adams County Police Memorial Services will be held on Friday, May 9th at the Oak Lawn Cemetery in Gettysburg. It is a remembrance performed by all Adams County Police Departments for their fallen officers. The Memorial Services begin at 10am.

May 11th is Mother's Day. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation recognizing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. Growing up on the streets of East Harlem in New York City, it was my mom who made sure that I understand good from bad, how to respect and help others even when it meant sacrifice. On this Mother's

Day we should all remember those "mom moments" that made us who we are today.

On Armed Force Day, May 17th, as a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, I do plan to salute all the men and women who are serving in all branches of the service protecting our country. On Sunday, May 18th the Fairfield and EMS, Adams County Company 2 will be holding their Open House event from Noon to 4 pm to celebrate EMS week. Hope to see you there. We all should recognize Memorial Day, May 26th. It is a day set aside to commemorate the men and women who have died in military service for their country. Through their sacrifice we are free.

I had the opportunity to attend the Fairfield Cub Scout Pack 76 Annual Blue and Gold Banquet on April 5th. The banquet was attend by over 80 scouts, friends and family. Seventeen Cub Scouts were advanced in Rank and were presented over 50 achievement

awards for their work over the past 6-8 weeks. Troop 76 had a delegation of Boy Scouts present to accept and honor 3 Cub Scouts that were bridged over from Cub Scout to the Boy Scouts. The scouts enjoyed a variety of Outdoor/Scouting entertainment stations that included perfecting your cast, nurgun shooting gallery, what to pack in your back pack, puzzle station for unscrambling your scouting principals, a knot tying station as well as a honey bee learning station with various bee keeping equipment. The banquet was enjoyed by all, establishing the outdoor themed desert contest. If interested in joining the Cub Scouts please email Jerry Holz at JerryHolz@allstate.com or call Alphonse Cisar at 717-794-5418. If you want to view the picture taken, go to ronpictures.net.

I was also invited to the Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg, MD where my granddaughter, Catarina, is attending kindergarten. Her class under the guidance of their

teacher, Connie Richwine, built a town. I was asked to talk about what a Mayor does and to perform the "Cutting Ribbon Ceremony" to officially open the "Red, White, and Blue Justice" town. Prior to cutting the ribbon, I presented the young town citizens a Certificate of Support & Recognition by Carroll Valley Borough, proposed a number of town ordinances which were reviewed and approved, and, finally, passed out a "Key to the Town" to each town builder. Again I thank them for the experience and honor.

If you haven't noticed, the old Carroll Valley Resort building is being demolished. Eric Flynn has reached out to those residents living on Country Club and Skyline Trails to see if they were interested in getting progress reports on the status of the work being accomplished as it affects their passage. A number of residents are taking advantage of the offer. The overall demolition will take roughly 3 to 4 weeks. All the building waste is being disposed of according to local codes and regulations. It should be noted that Liberty Mountain

will continue to operate with golf, banquet and wedding business throughout the summer and the duration of the renovation project. Liberty Mountain is going to try their best to clearly mark appropriate areas where there will be pedestrian and golf cart crossing. You are asked to watch carefully for resort guests crossing the street and making their way around the resort during the construction period.

The May Borough meetings are: Planning Commission (Monday – May 5th) Topic at the Commission meeting will be a review of the Southwest Comprehensive Plan. Borough Council (Tuesday – May 13th). A public hearing of the Zoning Amendment will be held prior to start of the council meeting; and Parks & Recreation Committee (Wednesday – May 28th). The Borough Office will be closed on Tuesday, May 20th and Monday, May 26th – Memorial Day. Please slow down while driving in the Valley and do not drink and drive. If you have any questions, contact me at mayor@carrollvalley.org or 301-606-2021.

State Senator Richard Alloway

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the *News-Journal* for the opportunity to write a monthly column.

My name is Richard Alloway II, and I have been serving in the PA Senate since 2008, representing the 33rd District. I replaced the late Terry Punt, following his retirement. Senator Punt served in the state legislature for three decades, and served as a mentor ear-

ly in my career, when I worked in his office.

I graduated from Chambersburg High School in the late 1980s, received my undergraduate degree from Shippensburg University, and then my Juris Doctorate from Widener Law School. Before taking office, I served as a district magistrate in Franklin County.

The 33rd District includes all

of Adams County, most of Franklin County, the Shippensburg area of Cumberland County, as well as Hanover, Penn Township, and West Manheim Township in York County.

Taxpayer dollars are very important to me. I currently have one of the smallest staffs in the entire Senate. Presently, I have three offices; one at the Capitol, and two district offices in Chambersburg

and Gettysburg.

My district offices offer a variety of constituent services. Staff is happy to assist with state government forms, as well as driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals. My offices also help with PennDOT paperwork, special registration plates, and more. We also help obtain copies of birth and death certificates; provide copies and analysis of state legislation; and facilitate access to all state tax forms.

My offices are open to the public. If you intend to stop at the Chambersburg or Gettysburg office, I recommend giving staff a call to ensure availability. You can reach the Chambersburg office at 717-264-6100, and the Gettysburg office at 717-334-4169. The Chambersburg branch is located at 37 South Main Street, Suite 200, Chambersburg, and the Gettysburg office is located at 16-A Deatrick Drive, Gettysburg, near Fairfield Road.

Additionally, I am holding a variety of programs in May that you may find interesting.

The first is a Concealed Carry Seminar in Franklin County to educate responsible gun owners about state laws. The event is being held Saturday, May 17 at Fayetteville Fire Department, from 9-11 a.m. and will feature several guest speakers.

The seminar is a great opportunity for local gun owners to learn more about concealed carry laws in Pennsylvania. We will provide an overview of state code, and outline the concealed carry application process. I have long been a supporter of Second Amendment rights, and this seminar is a way of reaching out to responsible gun owners. If you currently carry or plan to carry in the future, this event will provide you with all the information you need to know.

Fayetteville Fire Department is located at 101 West Main Street in Fayetteville, near Chambersburg. The event is free and open to the public, however reservations are required. Please RSVP at my website: www.senatoralloway.com. Due to the seating capacity of the fire department, it is important for all interested guests to register prior to the event.

Secondly, by the time you read this column, I will have co-hosted an important 'listening session' regarding the potential use of cannabis for medicinal purposes. The forum was scheduled for Thursday, May 1, at SAVES in Hanover, with PA State Rep. Dan Moul (R-91) and Rep. Will Tallman (R-91).

The potential legalization of cannabis for medical purposes has generated a wide range of strong opinions from local residents, and lawmakers have a responsibility to make sure that we separate fact from fiction in order to make a decision that is best for Pennsylvania. Any change in policy regarding cannabis would be a significant shift for the state, and it is important for the debate to be driven by facts, rather than rhetoric from each side of the debate.

In closing, I encourage everyone to visit my website, www.senatoralloway.com, for the latest news from the state government. Also, my Facebook page (Senator Richard Alloway II) is updated daily, as well as my Twitter account (@senatoralloway). Communication and transparency with my constituency is very important to me, and social media is a fantastic way to keep taxpayers involved in the process!

Again, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to write this column, and I look forward to reaching out to voters in Adams County every month.



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

On Friday, April 4, in the Adams County historic courtroom, Adams County state legislators and representatives from the Department of Community & Economic Development presented a ceremonial check for \$450,000 to the Adams County Commissioners for 150TH Gettysburg Anniversary Commemoration reimbursement. Pennsylvania State Senator Rich Alloway, State Representative Will Tallman and State Representative Dan Moul made the presentation to Adams County Commissioners Randy Phiel, Jim Martin & Marty Qually. The money was received by the county from the state and processed by the county treasury and finance departments for distribution to six county entities.

The receipt of the money by Adams County concludes a lengthy process that demonstrates what can happen when government officials at all levels work together to achieve a common goal for our residents. The level of cooperation and communication between this board of commissioners and our state legislators

is outstanding, noteworthy and very effective. Other recent examples are the \$3,250,000 award for the Adams County 911 Radio Project, a \$500,000 grant for the commerce park lot improvements and a \$1,000,000 award for demolition and lot preparation of the former REDDI and new Gettysburg Station project on North Stratton Street in Gettysburg.

At the commissioner's public meeting on Wednesday, April 16, the checks were presented by the Adams County Board of Commissioners to the six beneficiaries. The funding breaks down as follows. Gettysburg Borough \$112,159.34 Gettysburg Conventions & Visitors Bureau (Destination Gettysburg) \$99,411.28; County of Adams \$61,671.41; Cumberland Township \$43,247.73; Main Street Gettysburg \$55,000; Rabbit Transit (YATA) \$78,510.24.

This is a great conclusion for the residents of Adams County not only from a fiscal perspective, but also for showing that when public officials work together cooperatively - government can function

the way it is supposed to for the benefit of our residents.

Service to our veterans is a very important service that is overseen by the Board of Commissioners. With the recent retirement of the Adams County Veterans Affairs Director the position was advertised. It was also determined that in-house staff would be used to enhance reception service from 8-4:30 daily and that a current member of the Human Resources staff would also obtain veterans officer certification and training to also augment service.

Mr. Stan Clark has been selected and approved as the Director of Veterans Affairs for Adams County. He will begin his duties on Monday, April 28. Mr. Clark is a U.S. Marine, belongs to numerous veterans' organizations and has been extremely active as a volunteer in many veterans' programs in Adams County for the past 15 years. Mr. Clark coordinates the SGT MAC Memorial Scholarship, the National Wreath Project at Gettysburg & Quantico National Cemeteries, The Wounded Warrior Bike Road and

the Patriotic Area at the annual civil war reenactment as well as many other veterans' initiatives. The Board is confident that Stan Clark and Marianne Snyder will be the nucleus of a great Team for providing superior service to the veterans of Adams County. Welcome Stan Clark ... and thank you Marianne Snyder!

What is more important than professional, effective and timely EMS response to our community and to our families? Answer: Not much! With Well Span Gettysburg Hospital's announcement last fall that they would be phasing out Advanced Life Support Service, including Medic 28, I requested a face to face meeting with Gettysburg Hospital officials. From that meeting the Adams County BLS/ALS Steering Committee was formed. The steering committee includes myself and Adams County Emergency Management Director John Eline representing Adams County, Bob Gordon and Sharon Hamm representing Council of Governments, four members of ACVESA and the EMS Chief's from both Gettysburg & Hanover Hospitals.

There seems to be little disagreement that conditions are dictating some form of EMS regionalization must take place in our county in the near future. The committee has met numerous times in the past four months and we have had a variety of advisors and consultants participate in the process. Last month there was a general meeting to provide an update and survey questionnaire to all departments providing Basic Life, Advanced Life and Quick Response service. From the survey approximately six departments expressed an interest in participating in the consolidation and another six are requesting more information.

I would like to thank all the members of the steering committee for their professionalism, time and unselfish commitment to this endeavor. This is a very busy group of folks who understand the importance of this initiative to our community and are committing the time to make it happen. I would also like to thank the departments for their patience so the steering committee can get to a point to make a presentation of viable options that utilizes all of our valuable time most effectively. I will keep readers updated on this important work.

Representative Dan Moul

As an elected representative of the citizens of Pennsylvania's 91st Legislative District, I have never shied away from issues that are difficult or controversial. In fact, I usually take them head-on. When an issue has a direct impact on the quality of life of Pennsylvania citizens or is, quite frankly, a matter of life and death, I arm myself with the information necessary to help me arrive at a sound and reasoned position. Such is the case in the debate over medical cannabis, better known as medical marijuana.

There are plenty of issues at the state and federal level that are polarizing and the subject of significant public debate and this is one. In fact, Pennsylvania is one of more than 15 states with legislation or ballot measures now pending to legalize medical cannabis.

As one who grew up in the 1960s, I am familiar with the decades-old attempt to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes. I am light years away from supporting this. However, my own research and, more importantly, enlightening interactions with the families of chronically ill children - has caused me to re-think my position on the use of cannabis oil for medicinal purposes.

As a parent who was within a whisper of losing his own baby girl, I know that any parent facing the loss of a child or whose child is suffering would do anything to get the help they need. Matt and Angie Sharrer of Adams County face that battle every day. Since infancy, the Sharrers' 9-year-old daughter, Annie, has suffered from a debilitating form of epilepsy that causes convulsions during which she stops breathing for as long as three minutes. The seizures, and resulting oxygen deprivation, which occur 10 to 20 times each day, have left Annie both physically and intellectually challenged.

To make matters even worse, the more than 12 FDA-approved anti-seizure medications prescribed to control Annie's seizures have not responded well and have produced serious side effects including hallucinations, loss of bal-

ance and peripheral vision and impaired motor skills. One medication even landed her in Hershey Medical Center with pancreatitis. Understandably, the Sharrers are desperate for any relief for their child. They believe, as I now do, that the answer may lie in the oil of the cannabis plant.

Clearly, the stereotypes, misconceptions and general lack of understanding about this issue are interfering with our ability to effectively treat these children and provide needed relief to their fami-

lies. When we talk about medical cannabis, we are not talking about "pot" as most would understand it. The substance used to treat extreme seizure disorders in children is ingested, not smoked, and does not cause one to get high. In fact, the medicinal benefits are derived from cannabidiol, or CBD, the non-psychoactive component contained in the oil extracted from a specific strain of the cannabis plant.

The federal government still classifies marijuana as a Schedule I drug

- considered to have a high potential for abuse and with no accepted medical use. Yet, more than 19 states and the District of Columbia have adopted policies providing for its medicinal use. In Pennsylvania, legislation is pending that would permit people diagnosed with debilitating conditions,

such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma or a condition producing seizures or severe pain, to purchase medical cannabis from licensed dispensers. The bipartisan measure has the support of a growing number of medical professionals including the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association.

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Ukraine – who can you trust?

Shannon Bohrer

In July of 1990 a new parliament adopted a Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine. Just a month earlier, the Russian Parliament adopted a Declaration for State Sovereignty of Ukraine. Since both parties agreed, Ukraine moved forward and in 1991 they held their first presidential elections and adopted an Act of Independence, declaring Ukraine as an independent democratic state. The state of Ukraine included Crimea, where the Russians had military bases. Thirteen years later, what happened?

Ukrainian history is long and complicated. First settled over 44,000 years ago, the territory is known for being the center of Indo-European language. The country has a long history of conflicts with contested ownership and has been ruled and divided numerous times. Under Catherine the Great, Russia formally annexed Crimea in 1783 and it remained there until the Crimean War. The Crimean war occurred from 1853 until 1856 with an estimated 750,000 killed. The Crimean War was between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, Britain, France and Sardinia. Although Russia lost the war they held onto the Crimean port city of Sevastopol. In the early part

of the 20th century there was a Russian revolution, after which there was a war between Russia and Ukraine. That war established Russian control over Ukraine once again. Who can be trusted?

The dislike and hatred of the Ukrainians was both from the east and the west. In 1932 and 1933, Russia actively and publicly repressed the Ukrainian culture and language. The term Holodomor refers a Ukrainian genocide that included mass killings and deadly deportations and a created famine that killed millions. Under Stalin, there were executions and deportations that included political, religious and cultural leaders. It was documented and reported that in 1933, while Ukraine was under production of food quotas for Russia, the rural population was dying at a rate of 25,000 a day, half of them children.

The genocide really started in 1929 and continued well after 1933. Stalin wanted to teach the “Independent Farmers” a lesson because they resisted collectivization and they did not want to give up their land and livestock to the state. The Soviet Union exported enough grain from Ukraine to feed the entire population of Ukraine. To this day there are denials that the famine and resettlements existed. Howev-

er, there are monuments to the victims of Stalin’s great terror in the Bykivina mass graves, near Kiev.

And from the west, in late 1930 and before World War II, Hitler said he was concerned about the Sudetenland, which were area(s) in Czechoslovakia occupied by German speaking people. Hitler believed the German speaking people were being discriminated against. Sound familiar? To correct this injustice the Munich Pact was created, which allowed Germany to go into the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, for the protection of the Germans. Sound familiar again? The Prime Minister of England; Neville Chamberlain signed the Munich Pact agreeing to this, allowing Germany to enter Czechoslovakia.

After Neville Chamberlain signed the agreement he returned to England and was hailed a hero, since he preserved the peace. The following spring, in 1939, Hitler’s German army took over the whole Czechoslovakia country, which apparently was the plan before entering the Sudetenland. Neville Chamberlain status then changed from as leader that prevented war to someone who allowed an invasion of a sovereign nation.

As we all know Germany continued invading other countries during World War II and they occupied Ukraine. During the occupation a ho-

locast killed an estimated 3,000,000 Ukrainians and non-Jewish victims. The Nazi extermination policies also killed an estimated 875,000 Jews who also lived in Ukraine. And, another 2,000,000 Ukrainians were sent to Germany for slave labor. Hitler’s German plans were simple, kill and starve most of the population and then send the rest to Germany as slave labor. And then replace the populations with other ethnic groups and Germans. Germany probably used the Russian model for Ukraine - and just changed the names.

What may surprise some is that during World War II there existed a Ukrainian Insurgent Army that fought both the Germans and the Russians. During World War II, there were many small countries that picked a side, hoping the side they picked would win and if so after the war they would be left alone. Apparently that did not matter as many of the small countries were divided up by the victors as spoils of war. In many instances the countries were divided with agreements made before the war even ended. Who can you trust?

Winston Churchill is often cited, and rightful so, as a real leader in World War II, especially in comparison to Chamberlain. Chamberlain did misread Hitler’s intentions. But a case could be made that Churchill also misread Stalin. We know from Churchill’s writings that he mistrusted Stalin, but we also know that he signed off on the breakups of territories and states before the end of the war. The

spoils of war after World War II helped to create a buffer zone for the Soviet Union (Russia) and with the new territories and states we then had a cold war. Who can you trust?

Since the end of the Cold War, Russia has lost its buffer and apparently wants it back. Should the world allow this? What about Poland, Belarus, Moldova, Estonia, and Lithuania, just to name a few. Their history is very similar, and sometimes worse than Ukraine’s. How do these border counties view the incursion of Ukrainian? You’re a small country that borders or is close to Russia and you have a large population of Russian speaking people, what would you be thinking? Have you see any news coverage of these countries and how they feel?

The invasion of Crimea is not the old world order; it is a continuation of a world order where power prevails. Problems that were created in history and are hundreds of year old do not have easy solutions, and history does repeat itself. The surrounding and neighboring states are very interested and watching, to see what the world does. The quick solutions offered from talking heads and politicians may not be the answer, but then again, a solution that is the answer for all involved parties may not exist.

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Common Cents

Taiwan Strait ties

Ralph F. Murphy

Taiwan, or the Republic of China (ROC) as it has historically been known, is a “cast off” from its once venerated role as a United Nations Security Council member. Today it is recognized as a nation by only 21 of the United Nations’ 193 member countries. It is not recognized by the United Nations and the United States officially severed ties in 1979 in favor of the Peoples Republic of China (PRC or China). China took Taiwan’s UN Security Council seat and associated duties in 1971.

Protests in Taiwan recently erupted on 18 March in response to “fall-out from” an Economic Free Trade Deal (EFTD) with the People’s Republic of China (PRC) that the Democratic People’s Party (DPP), founded in September 1986. Taiwan has argued that this is a further step towards a territorial annexation by China. The protestors stormed the Taipei Parliament building, and appear to have had friends inside the Taipei government because they remain inside Parliament as of now.

The Kuomintang, or KMT, has ruled Taiwan since fleeing mainland China’s civil war in 1949. They are separated from the mainland by the formidable Taiwan Strait- an area that was never seriously threatened with military takeover by China. As an “aircraft carrier” against the Chinese Communists it was widely supported by the West as the legitimate government of China.

Taiwan even ascended to a UN Security Council seat in 1946 as the civil war was still raging on the mainland. The island continued in that capacity even after the Communist takeover of the mainland in 1949.

Chinese Communists were relatively insular compared to their Russian counterparts. They sought to consolidate their revolution at home, always claiming Taiwan to be their territorial possession, but with help of extensive trade ties with western powers- some of which still exist today. They never posed a serious danger to Taiwan militarily- other than to threaten the use of missiles against them.

The traditional Western defense relations with Taiwan, eroded dramatically as the nation fell from its leadership role at the UN to that of a political non-entity. Taiwan met multiple UN requirements for statehood, but was no longer considered as such by the vast majority of UN member nations.

China’s acquisition of Hong Kong and Macau from their colonial rulers were the result of long term treaty arrangements. Taiwan had understandings but was legally abandoned as a recognized nation by most of the world, to include the United States that severed diplomatic recognition with Taipei in favor of Beijing in 1979.

While legally abandoning the concept of Taiwan as a sovereign entity, the Americans continued to have considerable economic dealings with this capitalist area, especially as the Chinese

pro- market reforms in the post Mao Zedong era were embryonic and very slow-paced. Taipei had backers in the US government to include Congress, which passed the “Taiwan Relations Act” of 1979 to express solidarity with the people there despite the diplomatic barriers. The act allowed that the Americans “maintain the capacity of the US to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security or the social or economic system of the people of Taiwan.”

Taiwan was never subsequently attacked following passage of the bill, and they continued as a valuable ally in the region given their dynamic economy and pro Western orientation. That is until China’s economy became largely capitalist in the ensuing years. The Chinese government brutally suppressed an uprising at Tiananmen Square in June of 1989 that would have brought a conventional, relatively democratic government to power. The Communist leadership continues to this day, but serves capitalist, business interests in an unlikely alliance that is certain to fail. For now, the economy is working as it generated annual earnings of \$9.4 trillion in 2013. This is second only to the United States that earned an estimated \$17.4 trillion last year. Unfortunately, the American government’s national debt is also at about the level of the nation’s annual earnings, and China owns \$1.28 trillion of it in Treasury bills.

Since President Carter’s administration in the late ‘70s, the US has quietly drifted toward closer, economic ties with Beijing. This, despite a World

Bank finding that over 150 million Chinese live below the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day income. Subsidizing them is another source of apprehension for the Taiwanese who enjoyed a robust GDP of \$474 billion for a population of 23.3 million in 2013.

Despite Beijing and Taipei’s belligerent, rhetorical relationship, they have strengthened their ties in recent years. This, as traditional powers have lost interest in Taipei or have been crowded out by the Chinese. In December, 2008 shortly after winning the Taiwanese Presidential election, Ma Ying-Jeou called for “military confidence building measures” between Taiwan and China. His call was warmly received by Chinese President Xi Jintao who allowed for “engagement and exchange on military issues and exploratory discussions on establishing a mechanism of mutual trust for military security.”

The close military ties were followed in June, 2010 by the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA), signed in the southwest Chinese city of Chongqing. This pact boosted bilateral trade between the two areas, and was considered the “most significant agreement since the two sides split after the Chinese civil war in 1949.” 539 Taiwanese products enjoyed tariff reductions in China as a result of the agreement, while 267 goods were similarly treated in Taiwan. \$ 13.8 billion went to Taiwan, \$ 2.68 billion to China. Eleven service sectors in China were opened to the Taiwanese, while seven Chinese units gained access to Taiwan. The agreement covered primarily banking, securities, insurance, and hospital enterprises.

“Tens of thousands” immediately

protested in Taiwan against the agreement. It was, however, promoted by the hitherto stalwart, nationalist KMT leadership. The “Cross Strait Service Trade Agreement” (CSSTA) was a major follow up to the ECFA, and “further opened cross strait (economic) exchanges.” It was signed on 21 June, 2013 in Shanghai by representatives of the two regions.

If the Cross Strait Service Trade Agreement had been promoted by the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, it was unlikely to have had a chance. However, it benefited from dealings with the ruling Kuomintang- the only power structure to have retained Taiwanese leadership. The Democratic Progressive Party, espousing generally liberal issues as an opposition element called for protests against the measure, and created the “Sunflower Student Movement” made up of student and civic groups. They seized the Parliament in Taipei on 18 March and appear to have had friends within the police and military as the area is still occupied despite scuffles and arrests.

Taiwan’s position as a landmass without additional international legal status is unlikely to endure the apparent trend of the ruling Kuomintang towards rapprochement with Beijing. Taiwan has drifted from a pinnacle of international power as a Security Council member, to the status of a political, football that Beijing appears to control. Taiwan dropped the ball by failing to adapt to the changing times. China has recovered their fumble.

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Pure OnSense

Nothing to stand on

Scott Zuke

In the United States, most people would probably agree that media coverage of elections overwhelmingly focuses on day-to-day horserace politics, setting aside relatively little time to discuss the substance of candidates' platforms. If you're not sure that's true, just think of the knee-jerk headlines about the potential impact of Chelsea Clinton's pregnancy on her mother Hillary's prospects for winning the presidency in 2016. Clinton, of course, isn't even a declared candidate yet, so we're a ways off from having any platform to evaluate, but even when all the hats are in the ring, the attention will mainly be on campaign tactics rather than the issues forming the candidates' visions for the country's future.

The United States can function this way because it is secure, stable, and has a relatively tidy balance between two parties that are bigger than any individual candidate. That is, most voters can make a simple decision based on the historical platforms of the Democrat and Republican parties, without having to care that much about the person who is actually run-

ning for office. But what if this balance didn't exist?

The Middle East has had a flurry of elections recently, spanning from Algeria to Afghanistan. Some have been in the form of popular votes, like we are used to, while others have been parliamentary procedures to form new governments. What is similar across the board is that most candidates in these races don't really have policy platforms.

In Egypt, the frontrunner for president, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, has coyly withheld any specific details of his electoral platform, with some experts speculating he will not discuss it until he has already won.

Algeria's 77-year-old president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who can barely talk or move after a suffering a stroke last year, easily won re-election in April despite hardly running a campaign and rarely appearing in public. This wasn't due either to his popularity or even to vote rigging, but to the fact that the country doesn't have an established succession mechanism, and the main political factions haven't had time to line up viable alternatives.

Afghanistan's presidential election last month managed to attract the

same voter turnout as the last U.S. election (58%), an incredible accomplishment considering the Taliban had threatened terrorist attacks on polling stations. Here too, though, there's not really such thing as political platforms. Rather, citizens vote according to their ethnic identity.

In the midst of a civil war that has killed as many as 150,000 people and displaced millions, Syria's Bashar Al Assad recently announced a presidential election set for this June. An editorial by 'The National', asked: "On what platform does Mr Al Assad intend to stand? Stability? Law and order? Peace and prosperity? His regime has done more to destroy these things in Syria than any foreign enemy has ever managed." More likely his platform will continue to be "opposing extremists," which is as good as saying, "No Hope, No Change."

Other states, like Yemen and Libya, are so weak and fractured that political platforms are an unaffordable luxury. Instead there are caretaker transitional governments just struggling to hold things together and maintain some semblance of legitimacy. Both are attempting "national dialogues," an ongoing series of meetings and conferences aimed to bring people together to discuss a framework for future governance and contribute to the drafting of a new constitution.

Iraq, which held parliamentary

elections on April 30, is on the surface more unified under Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, although analysts are warning that without a change of leadership or policy to become more inclusive, a political fracturing may be imminent. Violence has been spiraling out of control for months, and sectarian tension is on the rise. As a result, says the Economist Intelligence Unit, campaigning has become mostly about sectarian affiliation, and policymaking has become ineffective.

The absence of campaign and political platforms throughout the Middle East paints a picture of a region just trying to hold itself together at the seams. Visionary leadership is sorely lacking, and those leaders who have been able to secure the tightest control have not been able to convert stability into growth or development.

Sisi, Egypt's presumptive next president, may receive a hero's welcome for his role in deposing Mohammed Morsi and preventing the Muslim Brotherhood from taking the country down a bad path, but without a stated vision for the next few years, there's little hope for accountability. You can't blame a leader for breaking campaign promises if he never makes any.

One exceptional case in the region has been Iran, where President Hassan Rouhani ran on a clear platform of improving relations with the West as a means to end crippling econom-

ic sanctions. Though it's still unclear how successful that strategy will be, the fact that he had a platform gave the Iranian people something meaningful to vote for. They voiced their will for the policy they wished their country to pursue, and now they will be able to observe it in action and determine whether they are happy with the result.

A vote for Sisi, on the other hand, is only a negative statement: that voters don't want to go the direction the Muslim Brotherhood was taking them. The positive side-the policies the country will pursue now instead-will be determined privately by Sisi.

He may end up leading well. For example, the president of Burma, Thein Sein, was put in power without any specific policy mandate, and he chose to pursue an aggressive process of political and democratic opening, unilaterally moving to end decades of oppression and isolation. Egypt's citizens would be incredibly fortunate to get a surprise like this from Sisi, although it would be better still for them to be allowed to choose that path for themselves, and then decide who is best suited to carry it out. In democracy, 'what you see is what you get' is far preferable to pleasant surprises.

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Down Under

A world of opportunity

Submitted by Lindsay!
Melbourne, Australia

"This strong seducer, opportunity."
—John Dryden, The conquest
of Granada, 1670

Many years ago I managed a reasonably large pathology supply company here in Australia, and took on the role of motivator to the sales staff. One of the slogans I used was: "The window of opportunity is always open. It's just that the blind is down." Well, that may be pretty ordinary these days, but the idea is still valid, and opportunity is to be found in most parts of the world, if you look hard enough. Whether it is individuals, companies, organisations or governments, if there's a gleam of light from behind that blind then someone, somewhere will get an idea and possibly create something worthwhile.

Most opportunities are so trite we never give them any heed – those involved in daily living, for instance – but some are so unique they come along very rarely. These require more than normal observation, more than common expertise, and a much more questioning mind to uncover, but result in significant change. The story of penicillin discovery is one such: When a young research scientist named Howard Florey saw that a yeast colony that had floated onto an uncovered petri dish had somehow produced a clear area in the bacterial growth on the agar, he took the opportunity to be curious. Most people would have tut-tutted, discarded the dish and gone

on to repeat the experiment, covering the dish so it could not be contaminated. Not Howard. All he did, really, was to ask 'why is that?', and lo, the greatest medical breakthrough in the 20th century was under way.

He was not given the opportunity to develop the subsequent processes involved in the commercialization of his penicillin, but he had lifted the blind on that wonderful window of antibiotics. It takes a particular kind of mind to do that, and many of these, notably from the mid 19th century onward, were in the United States. (Florey was Australian). Some remain household names today, and helped transform not just the landscape, but the very way the world runs. Our lives would be very different without names like Ford, Goodyear, Franklin, Hubble, Gates – the list goes on and on – and while we all partake of the discoveries or developments they made, a far more profound outcome resulted.

The U.S. Dollar became the currency to the world. This was not something any of the great innovators had set out to achieve, as it took many diverse minds in and out of politics to bring about, but just as the pound sterling had been the international currency in the 19th century, the 20th saw the greenback take line honours, and to stay there. This brought myriad opportunities in many spheres, but in the long run it became a matter of habit to think in U.S. Dollars no matter where you lived. Once the floating exchange rate became commonplace, the daily dollar comparison was a hot topic of conversation amongst traders,

merchants, and investors around the world.

This was perhaps the biggest single driver of American dominance, and coupled with the amazing production levels and high quality of the goods manufactured, earned you a place as the preeminent nation. This had nothing to do with 'normal' opportunity, that strong seducer quoted above, the seducer that can bring riches and poverty, comfort and wretchedness, slavery and liberty, but it did foster the worship of the dollar, enterprise free from control, big dreams and profits, and an unhealthy smugness.

It also ushered in the world of rapid change, a technological fantasy that today morphs faster than anyone can comprehend, one where opportunity is nerd dominated.

To us non-nerds all this seems to be a kind of witchcraft, but we are prepared to go along with it, for what else can we do? Our daily lives are bit-bound, @ has become the symbol, and we learn Greek as the numbers increase. Commerce still relies on experience, instinct, careful appraisal, and luck. And constant work. Nerds shall not prosper. (Ha!)

And we still trade in \$US. Well, most of the time, for the Euro has now got its share – but habits die hard, so we stay loyal. The trade with our biggest customer is still in greenbacks, but that's about to change forever. No, not the nerdy bitcoin, but the basic currency of the world's second biggest economy, the Yuan.

You may have missed the announcement, for here it appeared in small type on page something of the financial review, but this will change the world more than nerds ever could. The claws are unsheathing. China has just introduced the convertible Yuan, meaning we can trade with them



without the \$US in play. We can look at the price of an import or export and know exactly what we will pay, removing the fluctuating exchange rate between them, you, and us. We sell billions of dollars worth of Iron ore, coal and gas to China every month (they are now our biggest customer, just as you are of them), and although we will get paid in their currency, not yours, we can then use it to directly pay them for what we buy from them – and that's plenty.

New Zealand has already signed up, I believe we are soon to do so, and no doubt many others will follow suit. But not the United States, for yours is still the largest economy on earth – but China is catching up fast, largely thanks to you. The chase for the biggest sales margins, pioneered by Walmart, led to the rise and rise of Chinese manufacturing, middle class, pollution, and allowed vindication of their unique form of government, socialist capitalism.

It seems that no one is too worried, for the report went on to say that the G21 believed the world would simply have to accommodate them. With half of the world's population, that is some accommodation to face, but the power this will give them will alter the balance of trade. At least the idea of conflict has receded – for the present,

although trade wars will no doubt escalate.

I'm sure China has no desire to ruin the greenback, as they own so much of it, but this new venture will make it so much easier for the rest of the world to go direct to them, meaning the speculation that drives non-productive gain will be more in their hands – and they do not play by our rules, such as they are.

The opportunity emerged, and they have taken it. Their newfound militarism and global finance are no more than facets of a whole strategy that cares less for humanity and the environment than most others, one that is the opposite of the old isolation, but firmly rooted in ultimate control. They aim to be the world's banker, and it will be interesting to see the administration's take on this. Severe disquiet is in the wind.

The rise of an elite, of intellectual power, of willingness to deal, exploit, and demand is scary enough, but we do have to live with this tiger, claws and all, and things will be certainly different. Who knows, it might even be exciting. There's going to be plenty of opportunities.

Lindsay, from the safety of the living room down under.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

A mother's prayer

Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

Sunday May 11th is the day that we give honor to our mothers and the mothers in our lives. As I reflect upon that day, I realize the challenge of giving honor to those who deserve it. A challenge because I often feel as if the responsibility overshadows my ability to as the Bible tells us, "Give everyone what you owe... if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor" (Romans 13:7). Yet, I always feel like my words and my best intentions are never quite enough. My gifts

and tokens of appreciation could never express the worth of motherhood. So as I was reading Proverbs chapter 31 the other day, it dawned on me that praying from this chapter, praying God's Word over the most essential people in the life of our family, church, and community would be extremely beneficial both individually and corporately for our mothers. What better gift to include with my words and tokens of appreciation, than to offer up prayers to our Heavenly Father for the mothers in our lives.

You see, as I read Proverbs chapter 31, which contains a de-

scription of the honorable wife, I found that in a sense it could be quite intimidating to mothers. And I can relate to that feeling, because that's what runs through my mind when I read about the qualifications for elders in 1 Timothy and the qualifications for a good husband in Ephesians chapter five. It just doesn't seem possible that I could be all of those things all the time. And so in relation to Proverbs 31, I know that God doesn't want mothers to be intimidated when they read it, because "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man (or woman) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Therefore, I believe that God wants mothers to be challenged by this passage of Scripture and inspired to continue to grow in their quest to become godly women of faith. And that through the Word of God, like we find in Proverbs 31, that mothers would be prepared and equipped to face the issues of everyday life. It is for this reason, as I meditated on this passage that I began to see God's will more clearly; that the woman described here can be you (mom), your mother, and the other mothers you know. As I considered these words, three prayers surfaced that I would like to offer for my wife, my mother-in-law, daughter-in-law, my sisters, and every woman reading this.

First of all, Solomon begins in Proverbs 31:10, saying, "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies." My prayer birthed from that verse is that you (mom) would have a sense of self-worth, that you would develop a sense of confidence in who you are, and what God is doing through you. You see, we don't live in a perfect world, that guy who fathered your children isn't perfect, and he and your children may not rec-



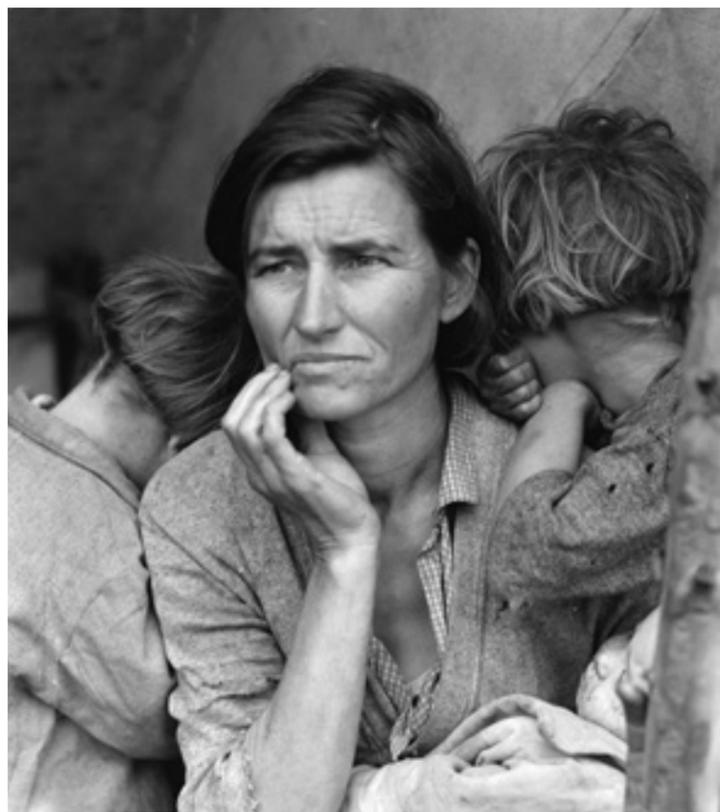
ognize your worth, much less acknowledge it. And so during those times when no one seems to notice all you do, I pray that you will have a sense of self-worth in who you are and what God is accomplishing through you.

My next prayer as I read this passage is that you can laugh at the days to come. That's exactly how Solomon phrased it. "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come" (Proverbs 31:25). The New Living Translation says, "She laughs with no fear of the future." This is what I pray for you mothers, that God will be at work in your life in such a way and to such an extent that you can look forward to tomorrow with joyful anticipation. Too many people live in fear of each day, because their life has become one problem, disaster, and crisis after another. But that's not the life that God envisions for you. My prayer is that you will have a sense of courage, your life would be sustained by the presence of God, and that you would face the future with optimism, even laughing at the days to come.

Then in verses 28-29, Solomon says "Her children arise and call her blessed. Her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all" (Proverbs 31). Moms, my third prayer is that your chil-

dren and your husband will do just that. That they would praise you and call you blessed, not just Mother's Day, but every day. It is my prayer that the contributions you make to your family, to your job, to your ministry, and to the community are seen in such a way that you receive the honor you deserve. And so that for generations to come people can see the difference you've made in the lives of the people you've known.

Honestly, this Mother's Day, we don't know if you'll receive the honor you deserve this side of heaven, but as Pope Paul VI once said this, "Every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land. She prepares a world she will not see." I love that, because I know that God both recognizes and appreciates everything you've done. And like Moses, you prepare a world that you will never see. It is your faith, love, and sacrifice that is preparing the way and making a difference in the lives of so many people. And with that in mind, one day a year, is hardly enough for us to adequately say thank you for everything you've done. Nevertheless, may we take this day to say "Thank you", to give you the honor you deserve, and to lift you up in prayer that in the coming days God's Spirit would do his work in your life, in our families, and nation. God bless you!



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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Machiavelli



Niccolò di Bernardo dei Machiavelli
5/3/1469 - 6/22/1527

What an unenviable immortality is that of Nicolas Machiavelli! Out of his surname has been coined a synonyme for treacherous craft. But like many other high coloured, popular beliefs, that of Machiavelli's unmitigated diabolism does not endure critical scrutiny.

Machiavelli was born, in Florence, in 1469, of an ancient, but not wealthy family. He received a liberal education, and in his 29th year he was appointed secretary to the Ten, or committee of foreign affairs for the Florentine Republic. His abilities and penetration they quickly discerned, and dispatched him from time to time on various and arduous diplomatic missions to the courts and camps of doubtful allies and often enemies.

The Florentines were rich and weak, and the envy of the poor and strong; and to save themselves from sack and ruin, they had to trim adroitly between France, Spain, Germany, and neighbouring Italian powers. Machiavelli proved an admirable instrument in such difficult business; and his dispatches to Florence, describing his own tactics and those of his opponents, are often as fascinating as a romance, while fur-

nishing authentic pictures of the remorseless cruelty and deceit of the statesmen of his age.

In 1512 the brothers Giuliano and Giovanni de Medici, with the help of Spanish soldiers, re-entered Florence, from which their family had been expelled in 1494, overthrew the government, and seized the reins of power. Machiavelli lost his place, and was shortly after thrown into prison, and tortured, on the charge of conspiring against the new regime. In the meanwhile Giovanni was elected Pope by the name of Leo X; and knowing the Medicean love of literature, Machiavelli addressed a sonnet from his dungeon to Giuliano, half sad, half humorous, relating his sufferings, his torture, his annoyance in hearing the screams of the other prisoners, and the threats he had of being hanged. In the end a pardon was sent from Rome by Leo X, to all concerned in the plot, but not until two of Machiavelli's comrades had been executed.

Machiavelli now retired for several years to his country-house at San Casciano, about eight miles from Florence, and spent his days in literary pursuits. His exile from public life was not willing, and he longed to be

useful to the Medici. Writing to his friend Vettori at Rome, on the 10th December, 1513, he says, 'I wish that these Signori Medici would employ me, were it only in rolling a stone. They ought not to doubt my fidelity. My poverty is a testimony to it.'

In order to prove to them 'that he had not spent the fifteen years in which he had studied the art of government in sleeping or playing,' he commenced writing *The Prince*, the book which has clothed his name with obloquy. It was not written for publication, but for the private study of the Medici, to commend himself to them by proving how thoroughly he was master of the art and craft of Italian statesmanship.

About 1519 the Medici received him into favour, and drew him out of his obscurity. Leo X employed him to draw up a new constitution for Florence, and his eminent diplomatic skill was brought into play in a variety of missions. Returning to Florence, after having acted as spy on the Emperor Charles Fifth's movements during his descent upon Italy, he took ill, and doctoring himself, grew worse, and died on the 22nd of June 1527, aged fifty-eight. He left five children, with little or no fortune. He was buried in the church of Santa Croce, where, in 1787, Earl Cowper erected a monument to his memory.

The Prince was not published until 1532, five years after Machiavelli's death, when it was printed at Rome with the sanction of Pope Clement VII; but some years later the Council of Trent pronounced it 'an accursed book.'

The Prince is a code of policy for one who rules in a State where he has many enemies; the case, for instance, of the Medici in Florence. In its elaboration, Machiavelli makes no account of morality, probably unconscious of the principles and scruples we designate by that name, and displays a deep and subtle acquaintance with human nature. He advises a sovereign to make himself feared, but not hated; and in cases of treason to punish with death rather than confiscation, 'for men will sooner forget the

execution of their father than the loss of their patrimony.'

There are two ways of ruling, one by the laws and the other by force: 'the first is for men, the second for beasts;' but as the first is not always sufficient, one must resort at times to the other, 'and adopt the ways of the lion and the fox.'

The chapter in which he discusses, 'in what manner ought a prince to keep faith?' has been most severely condemned. He begins by observing, that everybody knows how praiseworthy it is for a prince to keep his faith, and practice no deceit; but yet, he adds, we have seen in our own day how princes have prospered who have broken their faith, and artfully deceived their rivals. If all men were good, faith need never be broken; but as they are bad, and will cheat you, there is nothing left but to cheat them when necessary. He then cites the example of Pope Alexander VI as one who took in everybody by his promises, and broke them without hesitation when he thought they interfered with his ends.

It can hardly excite wonder, that a manual of statesmanship written in such a strain should have excited horror and indignation throughout Europe. Different theories have been put forth concerning *The Prince* by writers to whom the open profession of such deceitful tactics has seemed incredible. Some have imagined, that Machiavelli must have been writing in irony, or with the purpose of rendering the Medici hateful, or of luring them to destruction.

The simpler view is the true one: namely, that he wrote *The Prince* to prove to the Medici what a capable man was resting idly at their service. In holding this opinion, we must not think of Machiavelli as a sinner

above others. He did no more than transcribe the practice of the ablest statesmen of his time into luminous and forcible language. Our feelings of repugnance at his teaching would have been incomprehensible, idiotic, or laughable to them. If they saw any fault in Machiavelli's book, it would be in its free exposure of the secrets of statecraft.

Unquestionably, much of the odium which gathered round the name of Machiavelli arose from that cause. His posthumous treatise was conveniently denounced for its immorality by men whose true aversion to it sprang from its exposure of their arts. The Italians, refined and defenceless in the midst of barbarian covetousness and power, had many plausible excuses for Machiavellian policy; but every reader of history knows, that Spanish, German, French, and English statesmen never hesitated to act out the maxims of *The Prince* when occasion seemed expedient.

If Machiavelli differed from his contemporaries, it was for the better. Throughout *The Prince* there flows a hearty and enlightened zeal for civilization, and a patriotic interest in the welfare of Italy. He was clearly a man of benevolent and honourable aims, but without any adequate idea of the wrongfulness of compassing the best ends by evil means. The great truth, which our own age is only beginning to incorporate into statesmanship, that there is no policy, in the long run, like honesty, was far beyond the range of vision of the rulers and diplomatists of the 15th and 16th centuries.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers' *The Book of Days* visit www.thebookofdays.com.

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Little things

Bill Meredith

"Why not learn to enjoy the little things... there are so many of them!"

—Jimmy Byrnes, an Irish friend

"Happiness is the sum total of the small things."

—Norman Clegg, "Last of the Summer Wine"

Throughout most of my adult life, the semi-annual cleaning of the yard was a big thing with me. I raked and composted the leaves every fall and then when spring came I picked up the dead branches that winter storms had broken off the trees and raked the leaves that had blown in from the field just west of us. It was all very well planned and orderly, and it gave me a sense of accomplishment; but last fall I didn't get it done. The thought that I was

getting too old to maintain standards bothered me a bit, but after a while I decided maybe it wasn't that important after all, and forgot about it. But when the weather finally broke this spring, I had to face both my wife and last fall's residue, in addition to the usual winter detritus. So on the first nice day in April, I stood there with the mid-morning sun warming my back and surveyed the situation.

The trees we planted 20 years ago on the west side of the house have grown well above roof level and formed a canopy, so that part of the yard is completely shaded; there are plenty of leaves on the ground, but grass doesn't grow there any more. I rationalized that it would make good sense ecologically to just forget about the leaves in that area; they will enrich the soil and reduce erosion if I just let them stay where they are. Thus

what had been a big problem was converted into a little thing that could be either ignored or appreciated as my contribution to Earth Day.

My wife never goes into the side yard, so she didn't care if the leaves were not raked there, but she insisted that they must be cleaned up in front of the house. The first part of the job was the removal of a boxwood bush that had been mangled when snow and ice slid off the roof after one of the snowstorms last winter. In previous years I didn't rake out the leaves behind it; they were not visible from the front, and they decayed into a layer of soft, rich soil. But now, with the bush gone, they were unsightly, so I began raking off the upper layer. This exposed an intricate network of tunnels, which led eventually to the edge of the edge of the porch. As the last leaf was raked away, a very small head protruded from the tunnel. It sniffed in my direction with a pointed, pink nose that was surrounded with stiff white bristles, peered at me with eyes almost too tiny to notice, and then vanished back into its hole. My mind instantly flashed backward 59 years to the West Virginia University Field Biology station near White Sulphur Springs, where I began my graduate studies, and from the cloud of dusty litter inside my head there came the name: *Blarina brevicauda*, the short-tailed shrew.

You might think recalling a name like that from so many years ago is beyond the realm of probability, but in fact it happens all the time. That course on field biology in 1955 was both a formative experience and a jolt of reality, my first real encounter with biology beyond the scope of textbooks. The instructor was Dr. Frank Schwartz, who had just joined the WVU faculty and was destined to become my thesis director, mentor and life-long friend. He was a big man, jovial in manner, with enormous energy and always in a hurry. He took us on field trips every day in an old 2-ton army surplus truck, which



Let's face it. Most shrews are not that photogenic. The Tree Shrew, however, is rather cute.

he drove over the winding country roads as if it were a tank. He seemed to know all of the plants and animals we encountered, and he referred to everything by its scientific name. It was quickly apparent to us that if we wanted to convince him we were interested in zoology, we would use those names also. On the first day of class, we turned over a rotting log, and under it was a shrew, the first one I had ever seen. Dr. Schwartz first warned us to be careful with it because it was the only mammal that had a poisonous bite, and then told us its name. That name was tattooed in my brain in indelible ink.

Now, if you're looking for small things, shrews are for you; their family includes the smallest mammals in the world, and there are plenty of them. I was not surprised to see the shrew under my porch; they are common around here, and I find a dead one in the yard occasionally. They are often killed by prowling cats, but the cats seldom eat them. I have read that they have scent glands that some predators find repulsive. Owls, which eat a lot of them, have no ability to smell, so they aren't bothered by odors (they even eat skunks). A pair of barn owls used to nest in the bell tower of the Presbyterian Church, and I used to collect the pellets of bones and fur that they regurgitated to

show to my ecology labs. Those pellets contained the bones of a variety of small creatures the owls had eaten, and the skulls of shrews were easy to recognize. It was a good lesson to illustrate the complexity of the food web; the shrews are eaten by many kinds of predators, but in spite of their small size they are predators themselves. They are ferocious hunters, and their poison saliva enables them to kill mice that are larger than themselves. They eat earthworms, insects, bird eggs, mice, and even eat each other when hungry. And they are always hungry; some of them are known to consume more than their own weight every day.

Being retired, when I find something interesting I have license to stop and think about it, so I stood and watched the entry of the tunnel for a while; but the shrew did not reappear. Somewhere under the concrete porch steps it has a nest chamber where it can rest and keep warm; it may already have a litter of five or six young ones. The nest will be scrupulously clean; wastes from the adults and young will be deposited in a latrine chamber further down the tunnel. Near the nest will be a larder, a chamber where mushrooms, plant roots or paralyzed insects are stored in case the weather does not allow foraging outside.

We can learn a lot from small things. Life on that scale may be short and brutish, but it doesn't always have to be uncomfortable. Juncos, the small gray sparrows we sometimes call snowbirds, arrived at my feeder on November 2, and I watched them every morning until April 16 when they left for New England and Canada, where they will nest and raise their young. Chimney swifts left here at the end of August and flew all the way to Argentina; it was summer there, and when the southern summer ended they took wing again and arrived back here on April 22. Things like that are amazing, even when you understand them. They prove to you that although life is uncertain, it can be endured by those who have enough determination; and that can give you hope, even if you're old. Not a bad lesson, that.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Close encounters with wildlife

John Zuke
Naturalist

With pleasant spring weather comes more time outside and more chances for encountering the many local wild animals and their young. This is a busy time of year in the cycle of life, and there will be lots of new babies for the next several months. For the safety of people and the well being of the animals we may encounter, it is useful at this time of year to understand some realities about our local wildlife. So often when we collect a wild animal as a pet or "rescue" one we believe is in need, we are really unintentionally harming the animal or the environment.

Maybe most importantly, wild animals should not be raised as pets. That cute little animal you found and want to bring home will grow up. It will have specific needs to remain healthy, such as being fed a specialized diet (every half hour in some cases), vaccinations or medicine, and particular habitat require-

ments. Also it may live a lot longer than someone wishes to keep a pet. Its behavior will change as it matures. Some animals imprinted on people when they are young become aggressive as they grow up. And removing animals from the wild can have negative impacts on the population of native species.

Baby animals that have been kept in captivity even for relatively short periods of time should never be released back into the wild. Being captive, they never learn how to find food and avoid predators and other social skills of their species, or they lose those critical skills quickly when cared for by people. Well-meaning people who decide to free their animal back to the wild are usually dooming them to starvation or death by predation.

Additionally wild animals can carry diseases, some that can be carried without showing symptoms. Bringing a wild animal into your home exposes your whole family and your pets to potentially fatal diseases. In fact, it is against the law

to raise most types of wild animals in captivity. There are federal and state regulations that are intended to protect both people and our precious wildlife resources.

Often during spring and summer we can encounter baby animals that appear to be abandoned or orphaned and need rescue: a baby bird on the ground that can't yet fly, baby rabbits or squirrels or a fawn with no parent visible. We should only intervene when it is absolutely certain that the animal is orphaned, injured, or in danger. The best chance for the animal to mature and have a successful life cycle is for it to remain in the care of its parent.

When young birds are learning to use their wings for flight, they will often fall to the ground below their nest site. The parent is nearby and will continue to take care of the young. It may be a day or two or three before the baby can fly up into trees and bushes, but this is an important step in its development. What you can do that will help the most is keep cats away from the area. If the bird is feathered and can perch, place it in its nest or the nearest tree. If it can't perch, place it under a bush or a more protected area, but still accessible to the parents. If it is unfeathered, gently place it back into the nest. It is a myth that the parents will smell human on the baby and not take care of it. Most birds actually have a very poor sense of smell.

Owls and hawks are protected by federal law and should only be handled by licensed wildlife handlers. It can also be dangerous to try to rescue these birds of prey because the parents are very protective and have been known to injure people venturing near their young. They also have special dietary needs. Meat from the grocery store, no matter the quality, does not meet their needs, although they will eat it and appear none the worse for wear. A licensed raptor rehabilitator has the skills and knowledge to raise and re-



This young bluejay was on the ground and could not fly. It was feathered and could perch, so it was placed in a lilac bush where the parents continued to feed it.

lease these birds back into the wild where they belong.

Rabbits, squirrels, and other small mammals are often seen in yards when they are first exploring away from their nests. They usually don't need to be "rescued" even if the parents don't seem to be around to care for them. The parents avoid the nest during the day to avoid drawing attention to the young to protect them from predators. They are vulnerable during this time in their development. Keeping cats and dogs and kids away from them for a few days will give them a fighting chance to mature.

Many times people hiking or working in fields or along the forest edge come across fawns that are curled up on the ground with no parent to be seen anywhere nearby. They are usually not abandoned! This is the normal behavior of the deer during the day. The parent is not far off and is still taking care of the fawn. If it is in a safe spot, it is

best to leave it alone.

Many animals are "rescued" each year that would have been much better off if left in their natural environment. However there are some situations where rescue is necessary. Do rescue an animal that has visible injuries or that has been attacked by another animal, especially a cat. Rescue is necessary if the animal has been hit by a car or lawn mower, or if it is swarmed by flies or ants. Birds need rescue if they have flown into a window and remain stunned or unable to fly after an hour. Any animal tangled in netting, fishing line, or stuck on a glue trap needs rescue.

You can help protect many young animals by not letting your cat run free. Cats in the United States kill millions of wild birds, small mammals, and reptiles each year.

It takes a lot of skill and experience to be a wildlife rehabilitator. There are no days or even hours off when caring for injured wildlife. Rehabilitators are not funded by the government and rely on donations and their own funds for the food, medical supplies, veterinarian visits, cages and other equipment required to help wild animals in need.

The following websites have very useful information on wildlife rescue: Opossum Pike Vet Clinic and Animal Hospital opossumpikevet.com "Injured Wildlife"

Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg, MD scwc.org "Wildlife Rehabilitation" and "Rescue Guidelines"

This area of Maryland and Pennsylvania is home to many types of wildlife. They belong in the wild. Enjoy observing them and their young from a respectful distance as they grow and disperse, but remember that sometimes the most considerate thing we can do for wild animals is to not interfere in their lives.

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

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IN THE COUNTRY

Apple Blossom Festival celebrates spring

Mother Nature certainly has taken her good ol' time to let spring arrive. But finally the peepers are singing and daffodils and tulips have bloomed. Trees are starting to bud and their green hues are brightening up the mountain sides.

Another welcoming sign of spring is, of course, the apple blossoms! The fruit growers in the South Mountain Fruit Belt have been holding their breath this spring. The warm weather and then the chilly nights have caused growers to be slightly on edge, but we all know that Mother Nature will do what she wills. And we'll roll with it each year. The apple blossoms are in full bloom – usually around the end of April or early May – and that's all the more reason to celebrate and welcome spring!

There's no better way to wel-

come spring than coming to the 59th Annual Apple Blossom Festival at the South Mountain Fairgrounds on May 3rd & 4th!

We'll have hard cider and wine tastings from Adams County Winery, Big Hill Ciderworks, Good Intent Cider, Hauser Estate Winery and Reid's Orchard & Winery. Each cidery/winery will have hard ciders and wine available for purchase and for you to enjoy once you are home.

There are musical performances by Creekside Soul (variety), the Klinger McFry Band (bluegrass), Borderline (country) and Flashback (variety). We'll have hay bales laid out that you can rest on, but feel free to bring a blanket to spread out on the lawn or your own chairs. There is plenty of space and the kiddos can boogie to the musical tunes all day long! On Sunday there



The apple blossoms are in full bloom in Adams County, and there is no better place to experience them than at the 59th Annual Apple Blossom Festival at the South Mountain Fairgrounds.

will be performances in the auditorium by the Apple Core Band and the Biglerville Jazz Band. We'll have dance performances by the Carroll County Cloggers and the Gettysburg Dance Center.

There are plenty of apple treats for you to enjoy until your heart is content! Enjoy apple slushies, apple sundaes, apple crisp, apple dumplings, apple bread, cider donuts and, of course, apple pie! You can also enjoy refreshing apple cider, and try samples of apple butter or purchase a jar to take home. We'll also have crispy and juicy local apples available to sample and to take home.

The kids will have fun all day long with plenty of children's activities and entertainment. Bring them to the Kid's Health & Safety Tent (sponsored by Healthy Adams County) where they can plant seedlings, learn yoga, practice (or show off!) their hula hooping skills, and make a healthy snack.

We also have Crunch Quest which is a scavenger hunt through the fairgrounds and kids will learn about the growth of an apple from bud to fruit. There are prizes given out to each child who completes Crunch Quest, plus a grand prize!

New this year, we are having a

Coloring Contest. Submissions need to be turned in by noon on Sunday, and the winners will be announced at 3pm. Parents can go to www.AppleBlossomFestival.info to download the image, plus there's a coupon there too. We'll also have the Coloring Contest image available at the Kids' Health & Safety Tent.

We have pony rides, moon bounces, puppet shows and magic shows, 2 petting zoos, and a kiddie tractor pull on Sunday.

To really get into the heart of the South Mountain Fruit Belt, the family can enjoy an orchard tour with a fruit grower as their host. This is a wonderful opportunity to drive through the countryside, enjoy the scenery, and learn a bit about "Apple Country, USA!"

There's loads to do to make it a wonderful and memorable day for the entire family at the 59th Annual Apple Blossom Festival! Visit our website for a complete schedule, the Coloring Contest image, and coupons.

To learn more about the Annual Apple Blossom Festival visit www.AppleBlossomFestival.info.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Passing through an opossum

Jack Deatherage

"Says so in the scriptures."

—Sergeant Obadiah Hakeswill (via Bernard Cornwell's "Sharpe" novels)

The Scriptures (if I ever get around to writing them) will likely begin with, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men." —John Dalberg-Acton, 1st Baron Acton, 1834-1902). Of course, he was wrong.

Power attracts the corrupt and corruptible. Incorruptible people have no need of power outside of themselves and thus, do not seek it. Incorruptible people do rarely have outside power thrust upon them and may well use it for the brief time they serve. However, they shed power as soon as they are able.

The second entry to The Scriptures may be, "It helps if the seeds have passed through a 'possum before you try to sprout them." —an immigrant homesteading in Oklahoma, advising me on how to sprout America's "wild" persimmon seeds.

I was first discovered by the American persimmon as I tramped through Topper's wood with Middle Brother in the fall of 1964. We were living in Ike Kemper's old farmhouse at the end of a long dirt lane off Topper Road, which was, in those days, gravel on dirt. The Topper brothers, owners of the farm between Kemper's house and today's Orchard Road, were our cousins so trespassing didn't seem much a crime. Besides, little boys know no boundaries until taught them by adults. With no adults in sight, we were free to roam "the wild". (Other than a few brief stays at Grandfather Cool's little farm south of Emmitsburg,

we'd mostly been suburban children living on an Air Force base in Florida, or in a 'burb on the edge of Columbus Ohio so everything around Kemper's homestead was "the wild".)

Wiggling through a barbed wire fence, we exited the wood and found ourselves in Topper's cow pasture with two strange trees trying vainly to overshadow us. I can't describe the trees today other than they were leafless and dangling small yellow/orange fruits the like of which we'd not seen before. We picked a few of the fruits and ran back through the wood to ask Mom what they were. (Another entry in The Scriptures might be: A child, late getting home, will claim the excuse of having been lost, while the child needing something from a parent always knows which direction home is.) In those days, Mom knew just about everything worth knowing. (As I approach my 60th year, I realize she probably still does. Maybe she should write her own Scriptures?)

I'm sure Mom scolded us as we slammed through the kitchen door tracking mud, leaf mold and various "hitch hikers" from wood and field into the house she struggled to keep clean and orderly while it was occupied by six children under the age of 11, at least two of which were wilding boy kids. (Last Brother had been born that June so he was only able to make noise and noxious odors.) What I remember of that moment was Mom looking at the fruits we eagerly presented her. Her face lit with a smile. We'd, within seconds, learn it was her sly smile.

"Those are persimmons. They are very good to eat. Try them."

Oh woman, thy name is treachery!

I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised she'd set us up. After all, she was the parent who'd walked us hand in hand to school and abandoned us to the evil ones!

I learned what an implosion was that day. I didn't know the word yet, but I sure as hell knew what the physical manifestation of it felt like. The persimmons weren't ripe, as Mom well knew. She also knew what would happen when we bit into the tempting little fruits. It seemed our faces were being sucked into our mouths as the astringent flesh caused a puckering I hope to never experience again. We thought we'd been poisoned (not that Mom wouldn't have been justified then and certainly not a decade or so later, but still!) We couldn't even cry out for help so strongly did the tissues of our mouths react to those nasty little fruits! And to our horror, Mom cackled with laughter!

"You aren't going to die! It will wear off in a little bit." She managed to tell us through her tears of mirth as we sobbed in panic. It did wear off, just as the effects of a taste of alum eventually allowed my mouth to work properly when she offered it to me one day in Ohio when I was particularly vocal, or she'd reached the end of some rope she kept talking about.

Being boys, as soon as we were able to speak again we were daring each other to take another taste of persimmon. Mom suggested we toss out the fruits and wait another month until a couple hard frosts had kissed the nasty things and ripened them. Then we could go back and pick as many persimmons as we could reach and they'd be fit to eat.



She promised, and such were our attention spans we forgot her little joke and went back outside to do something we probably got spanked for later.

Life seemed to come in spurts in those years. While in Columbus Ohio, Mom baked bread almost every week and for one season she took to building delights from flour and butter as she came upon a series of recipes on puff pastries and such. Her extended run of dough building has left deeply laid memories that reveal today's commercial offerings of croissants, éclairs, doughnuts and fritters as sad, pale, flavorless pretenders by comparison. So too did the summer and fall of 1964 leave me jaded to commercial jellies and jams.

Gifted a bushel each of Grandfather Cool's Concord grapes and some variety of crab apple, Mom made jellies of them to accompany those she'd made earlier from the wild raspberries, blackberries and elderberries the three oldest Deatherage kids had gathered along the wood's edge. To those delights she added persimmon jelly, which quickly became a household favorite.

We moved before the next harvest of

persimmons was possible and I was in my twenties before another wild persimmon tree found me drunk along some back road over to Taneytown. It's fruits were tiny and mostly dried. I ate them anyhow.

The latest dried fruits (hazed with wild yeast beasts that love such fruit and are unlikely to have ever been touched by pesticides) were sent to me by the Oklahomans to start a sourdough and prove, once more, my inability to nurture wild yeast into a bread. Not that I'm concerned. I'll acquire the skill when life demands. Until then, I'm interested in sprouting, planting and growing persimmon trees.

The Oklahomans are also years ahead of me in experimenting with making fruit wine from American persimmons! The Okies are ahead of me in *everything* worth knowing and doing!

"Hurry little one." They call to me. "Life awaits and you have lagged so far behind!"

So it will say in The Scriptures, eventually.

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

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PETS LARGE & SMALL

All mothers' love

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

She's proud of her first litter of babies -- two tigers, one orange and one all black. She wishes she would have been able to find a better place to give birth, but the corner behind the dumpster is dry for now and she knows she can get food when the restaurant throws out the trash.

She's going to have to move her

family at some point, especially when the giant truck comes to empty the dumpster. She doesn't want to think about having to move them somewhere else, but this isn't really all that safe.

For now, though, she cleans up her kittens while they eat and tries to sleep a little.

As night falls and the city grows quiet around her, she allows herself to wonder what life would be like if she'd been lucky enough to be one of the special cats -- the

ones she would see in windows of homes as she wandered the streets. They looked happy and warm and satisfied and she remembers thinking how freeing that kind of a life must be.

A horn honks and a tire splashes through a puddles and she's jolted back to the here and now and she knows it's foolish to dream like that when the reality of her existence is so vastly different.

She worries that her babies cry too much. She tries to settle them down -- they're probably just picking up on her anxiety. Her oldest daughter has some powerful lungs, though, and her little voice tends to carry. The last thing she needs is for her family to be discovered.

Two days later, she wonders if thinking about it makes it come to pass because the dumpster's being moved -- not by the giant truck -- and she glances up to find a person looking down at her.

It's a young woman and she sounds really sweet and upset. She's saying things like *it'll be okay* and *let me get you some help*. And she's calling her mama.

She wants to believe her and the tone of her voice, so she doesn't struggle when the woman gathers up her family and takes them all to a place called the Animal Shelter.

There she meets more people with equally nice eyes and voices and she and her babies are set up in a warm place with a blanket and some food and water and a litterbox and for the first time in her life she thinks she might not have to worry about finding something to eat every day.

Sure enough, her bowl is kept full and there's fresh water each morning and her babies start to open their eyes and get playful and strong and healthy.

The people say she has four daughters and they name them Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha because they say they're sassy and feisty.



In the cold month of December, Maxine was brought to the Adams County SPCA with her baby, Mandy. Luckily, Mandy was adopted quickly but Maxine is still waiting for someone to notice her. She is a very slender and petite young lady and is a bit on the shy side. She loves to play, gets along well with most other cats, and is sweet and affectionate with people. She is dreaming of the day when her new family takes her to her forever home! To adopt Maxine, visit the Adams County SPCA/Meyers Animal Shelter at 11 Goldenville Rd., Gettysburg, PA. Or, you can visit www.adamscountypca.org or call 717-334-8876.

Her name remains mama.

When her babies are ten weeks old, a doctor comes in tells her in a kind voice that they're all going to have an operation. She doesn't like beings separated from her girls. She's gotten so used to having them with her, they're like a part of her.

She's seen how the shelter works, though, and she knows she's going to have to say goodbye. It's for the best. Her babies are going to find an actual home. With four walls and a soft bed and someone to love them.

As much as it hurts her heart, she knows she can't provide that. It's with a bittersweet pain in her chest that she lets her girls go.

At night, though, she can still hear her oldest daughter's voice in her mind.

The days pass quickly and she cuddles with the people at the shelter and eventually she has an operation, too, so she can't have any other babies and she's put in the adoption area and she sees all kinds of people.

She even gets to watch her daughters find their forever homes and it makes her feel good to know that two of them get adopted together.

She's spent so much time worrying about her girls that it doesn't even cross her mind that she could have an actual home until the day a woman looks at her in her cage and something ricochets between them -- a connection.

To her astonishment, she's adopted three days later by that very lady. Her new mom talks to her sweetly on the ride home and when they get there, it's a palace compared to the life she knew on the streets.

They both stand in the kitchen and she watches her mom draw a heart around the date on the calendar: May 11. It must mean something to her new mom, but she's not sure what.

Later, they're on the couch together watching a TV show about women looking for wedding dresses. As she curls up in her mom's lap, she thinks about her four little ones and hopes they're safe and loved.

She prays they found a place as special as she has. She tucks her tail under her legs and for the first time in her life, she purrs herself to sleep.

To all the moms in the world, of two-legged or four-legged babies: Happy Mother's Day.

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



Kermit is a special case. This 1-year-old lab mix came to us with fleas and mange, and he hadn't been fed properly. His hind legs also turn slightly out, likely due to poor nutrition, probably even in utero. He's been treated for the fleas and mange and is doing a little better with his hind legs. Kermit is not terribly socialized, so he can be shy at first and he doesn't walk well on a leash. We know that with some TLC, he will blossom into a wonderful companion. If you believe you can help this little guy, please come visit him!

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

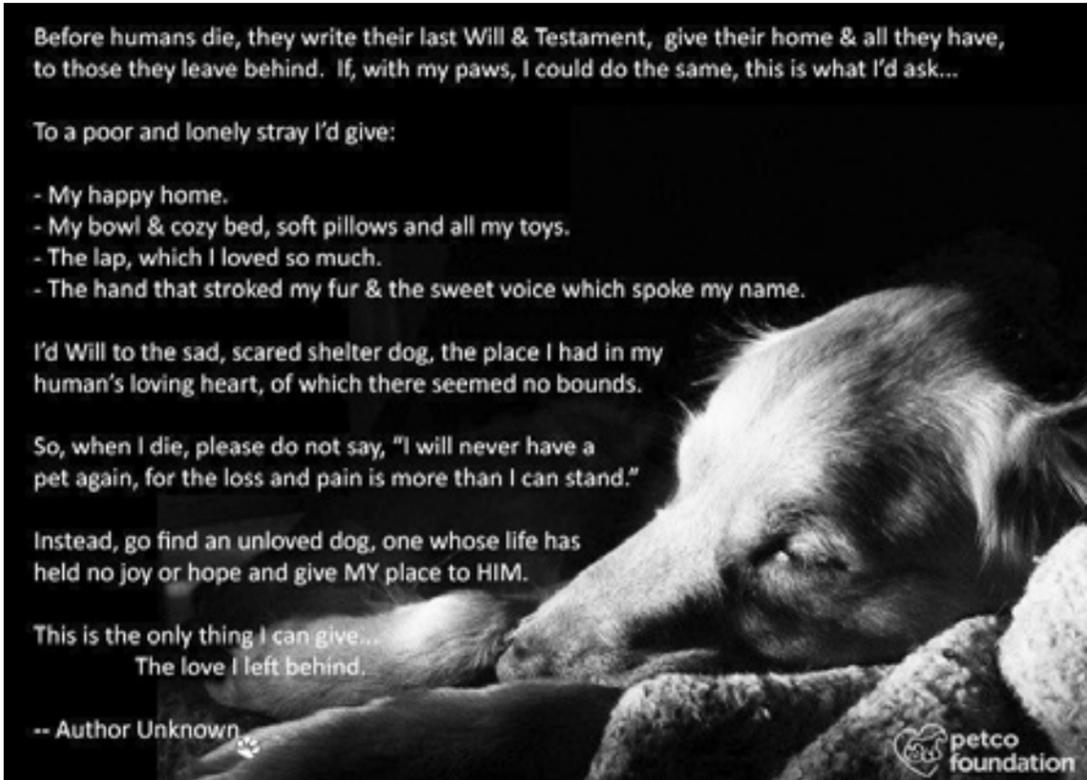
I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

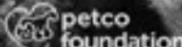
So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand."

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

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

-- Author Unknown





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PETS LARGE & SMALL

Patience

Kimberly Brokaw DVM
Walkersville Veterinary Clinic

At least once a week I end up having to tell a client that they need to give their horse some time off to recover from injury. Most of the time, the reason for the time off is a small laceration and they only have to give their horse several days off before resuming work. However, sometimes the injury is such that I'm telling my client that they are looking at 6 months of rest before they can start riding their horse again.

As I am explaining the rest and recovery process, I assure my clients that with a little patience their horse will recover quickly. I understand their frustration, as I frequently struggle to be patient when dealing with my own animals' injuries. A couple years ago one of my horses slightly injured a tendon. It seemed like an eternity went by while giving him a month of rest and then slowly starting him back into work with 5-10 min of walk every day for a couple weeks before introducing a few minutes of trot. Even though I had no competition goals for my horse, his two months of rehab still seemed to drag on. For my clients with competition goals, I'm sure time crawls.

Rachel was a relatively new client. She'd just finished grad school and moved to the area with her horse about a year ago. She and her horse were competing in low-level hunter/ jumpers. Kapot was a 6-year-old Dutch warmblood gelding who Rachel had been riding for the past two years. She had bought him as a 3 year old but school had prevented her from doing any serious riding until now and Kapot was still a little hot and spooky.

Rachel called me to come examine Kapot as a couple days ago he had jumped well in a lesson but now he was very lame. While she was hoping it was a foot abscess, the farrier hadn't found any sensitivity in the foot. Aside from the slight limp, Kapot was feeling fine and was his usual pushy but sweet self.

Upon examination, I agreed with Rachel that he was lame in his left front leg. I also pointed out an area

of swelling along the back of the leg where the tendons run. Kapot was tender to palpation of the tendons too. To further assure that the lameness was correctly located, a nerve block was performed. A nerve block involves infusing mepivacaine (a numbing agent) over the nerves to numb parts of the leg to see if the lameness goes away. I first blocked out Kapot's foot with no improvement, confirming that an abscess was not the cause. Kapot became sound following a "high four-point block". This block numbs the structures on the back of the cannon bone down to the hoof (flexor tendons, sesamoid bones, part of the suspensory ligament). Taking into account the swelling on the leg with resolution of lameness following the high four-point block, a tendon injury was most likely.

Rachel and I discussed several options for Kapot. Rachel had only recently finished school and so while she liked the idea of going to an equine referral hospital to have the tendon injected with stems cells, she was on a budget. I explained that with a high quality ultrasound machine one could monitor the severity and healing process of the injury. This too was out of her budget. Instead she was going to force Kapot to rest and let his tendon heal on its own. While we discussed just turning the gelding loose in the pasture for 6 months and then starting him back into work, Rachel was impatient (not that I blame her) and she wanted to try a shorter but stricter rehabilitation plan. Kapot was going to go under strict stall rest with no turn out and small amounts of hand walk-

ing each day. I cautioned Rachel that some horses hate being confined to a stall and could get very hard to handle. I also advised her that stall rest would be more challenging as she did not have a readily available trainer to help her with hand walking. She was to let me know if she needed sedation for Kapot in order to safely handle him.

Kapot quickly proved to be one of those horses that disliked stall rest and Rachel picked up some sedation she could put in his food. Injectable sedatives are also available, but Rachel preferred to avoid giving injections. A little over a month had gone by and it seemed like Kapot was healing well. The swelling in the leg had completely gone away and he seemed more comfortable. Rachel was leading him around for brief walks and we were discussing the next steps to his recovery process.

One day, despite being sedated, Kapot acted up on his walk. He reared up, knocked Rachel to the ground, and then proceeded to gallop about the farm. During his gallop he slipped on the asphalt driveway and cut his shoulder as well as gave himself a few abrasions on his legs. The shoulder required stitches and the legs were already starting to swell by the time I arrived on the farm to examine Kapot. Rachel was obviously very upset in addition to being bruised herself from being knocked to the ground. I told her it could be worse in that I know several people who broke bones when they got kicked by a horse on stall rest.

Unfortunately Kapot had re-injured his tendon during his escapades about the farm. Not only would the laceration need to heal, but Rachel would be starting all over again with resting the tendon. Our attempt at speeding the recovery through carefully managed



Hand grazing an injured horse is great mental therapy not only for the horse, but also for the rider. The quiet time spent together will become a lasting memory.

strict rest had failed due to an unwilling patient. Rachel agreed that perhaps the 6 months of field rest wasn't looking all that bad anymore.

Currently, Kapot's 6 months of field rest is over. His legs and shoulder all look good and no signs of lameness are present. Rachel has even started light riding at the walk and trot. While she is happy to be back on the horse, she admits that she wished she'd been a little more patient at the beginning and

just started out with pasture rest.

In veterinary medicine, we try to tailor our treatment plan to the owner and animal's situation. There are usually many ways to get healing. While one owner and animal may do best with a high tech, intensive rehab plan, sometimes pasture and a run in shed are the best answer.

To read past articles by Dr. Brokaw visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CIVIL WAR

The summer of retaliation and ransom

John Miller
Civil War Historian
Emmitsburg Historical Society

During the summer of 1864, one of the most famous Confederate campaigns was launched in Virginia and Maryland. This campaign resulted in the Confederate army marching all the way from Petersburg, Virginia, down the Shenandoah Valley into Maryland, and to the gates of Washington. The Nation's capital had not witnessed an enemy force at its gates since August 24, 1814. This was when British Major General Robert Ross occupied the capital, and then sat fire to all public buildings. Fifty years later, the Confederate army, led by Lieutenant General Jubal Early, would try to enter the city. But before Lt. Gen. Early could accomplish this, he would need to perform several maneuvers. The first was to clear the Shenandoah Valley of the Union forces under the command of Major General David Hunter.

Major General Hunter was sent into the Shenandoah Valley, and on June 5, 1864, he defeated a Confederate force under the command of Brigadier General William Jones at Piedmont, Virginia. The next day, Maj. Gen. Hunter would occupy Staunton, and from there disrupt daily activities in the valley. Major General Hunter would hit

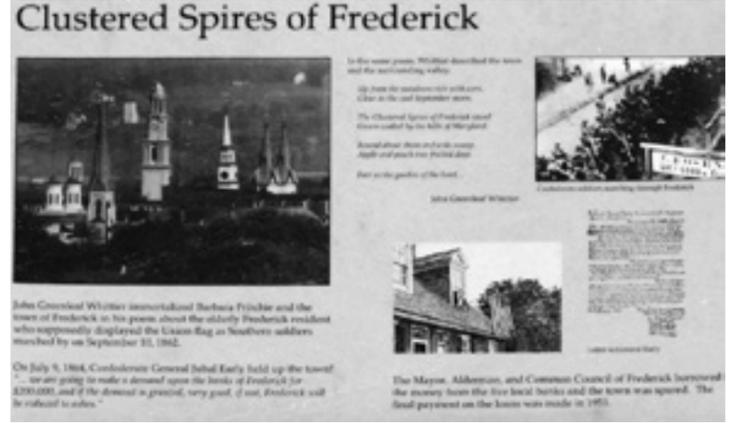
military targets, disrupting lines of communications, and supplies flowing through the valley. He also disrupted the agriculture economy and the railroads. By June 11, Maj. Gen. Hunter had burned the Virginia Military Institute, located at Lexington, as well as the home of former governor John Lecture. The burning of the V.M.I. was in response to the cadets fighting at New Market in May. The burning of John Lecture's home was for encouraging the people of Virginia to wage a guerrilla type warfare.

In response to the actions of Maj. Gen. Hunter, and the growing pressure of Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's armies at Petersburg, General Robert E. Lee ordered out Lt. Gen. Early's Corps. First, he was to protect Lynchburg and link up with Major General John C. Breckenridge's Army of South Western Virginia. Secondly, he was to clear the Shenandoah Valley. If these operations were successful, he was then to launch the campaign in Maryland. The Confederate army defeated Maj. Gen. Hunter at Lynchburg, and then moved north, clearing all threats in the valley. As the Confederate army approached Martinsburg, West Virginia, stores were emptied of supplies. The Confederate cavalry was detached and operated along the B&O Railroad, where portions of the railroad were tore up or destroyed.

By July 5, Lt. Gen. Early's army forded the Potomac River and concentrated itself at Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Confederate army was in need of supplies. The hard marching and campaigning had taken a toll on the men. Knowing that, Lt. Gen. Early issued orders to his men, as given to him by General Lee, that officers are the only personnel to make requisitions or assessments with the people of Maryland. However, this order was overlooked by many as they marched through Maryland. In retaliation of Maj. Gen. Hunter's destruction in the Shenandoah Valley, a series of ransoms would be ordered in Maryland.

On July 6, Lt. Gen. Early ordered Brigadier General John McCausland and his brigade of cavalry to Hagerstown, Maryland. By 1:00 p.m., the Union pickets were driven into Hagerstown, along the Sharpsburg Pike. Street fighting erupted, but when the eighty to ninety Union troopers saw the large Confederate force in the distance, they quickly began to fall back. Several of these men were captured by the Confederate cavalry.

Once Hagerstown was secured by the Confederates, Brig. Gen. McCausland called upon the city council for a meeting, and the ransom of \$20,000, plus the requisition of 1,500 suits of clothing was given. In reality, Brig. Gen. McCausland was to ran-



som Hagerstown for \$200,000. Due to an unknown error a zero was mistakenly dropped. Whether, Brig. Gen. McCausland misread the order, or the order was written incorrectly is undetermined.

Brigadier General McCausland and a regiment of cavalry were positioned at the courthouse. The town had about three hours to raise the money or the town was to be torched. The city officials pleaded with Brig. Gen. McCausland, but he did not listen to their pleas. However, McCausland would give the town two extra hours to levy the money.

Items of fabric and clothing were collected, and later taken to the courthouse. The \$20,000 was raised and collected by town officials. \$10,000 was given by the Hagerstown Bank, while the First National Bank, and the Williamsport Bank both contributed \$5,000 each. But be-

fore one penny was turned over to Brig. Gen. McCausland, the city officials wanted a guarantee for the safety of Hagerstown. By 1:00 a.m. on the morning of July 7, Brig. Gen. McCausland rode away toward Boonsboro.

Many towns along the National Road such as Boonsboro, and Middletown were forced to give rations to the Confederate soldiers. General stores were depleted of their stock. As July 8, came the Confederate army had penetrated through South Mountain into the Middletown Valley, and Middletown itself would be ransomed.

Middletown was asked to levy \$5,000. After some progress, Burgess William Irving promised he could secure \$1,500, and could gather the rest from the nearby farms. Lieutenant General Early agreed to allow Middletown to pay \$1,500, while the remainder of the balance would be raised from the election district.



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CIVIL WAR

Middletown had until 7:00 a.m. the following morning to pay, while the district itself had until 6:00 a.m.

Lieutenant General Early left a brigade of troops behind to make sure the ransom was collected. Mayor Braithwaite paid the ransom. This left Middletown in shambles with regard to their economy. For two days the Confederates had taken food, clothing, livestock and horses. Many communities in West Virginia and Maryland suffered similar experiences.

By the evening of July 8, Union Major General Lew Wallace left Frederick in order to prepare his defenses along the Monocacy River. This area of the river provided the best ground to make a stand for the protection of Washington. During this time, Frederick had about 8,000 residents, and also contained five large warehouses of military goods. With time running out, and a lack of wagons, Maj. Gen. Wallace was forced to leave these items behind.

Early in the morning, Confederate Major General Stephen D. Ramseur's division was the first to enter Frederick. By eight o'clock in the morning, Lt. Gen. Early and his staff entered the home Doctor Richard Hammand, a practicing physician. Doctor Hammand and his family were both slave holders and southern sympathizers. There, in

the Hammand home, Lt. Gen. Early wrote out the ransom of Frederick.

The city was to be levied for \$200,000, or \$50,000 each for commissary goods, medical goods, quartermaster goods, and ordinance. The ransom was signed by Colonel William T. Allen, Chief Ordinance, Major John A. Harman, Chief Quartermaster, Major J. Will Hawks, Chief Commissary, and Doctor Hunter McGuire, Surgeon and Medical Director. A separate demand was made by Major Hawks for commissary goods of 500 barrels of flour, 6,000 pounds of sugar, 3,000 pounds of coffee, 20,000 pounds of bacon, and 3,000 pounds of salt.

As the battle along the banks of the Monocacy was unfolding, Lt. Gen. Early moved his headquarters to the front, leaving behind Colonel Allen and other officers to complete the transaction. Mayor William G. Cole

negotiated with the Confederate officers and city council. Mayor Cole tried explaining that the city population of 8,000 equaled out to tax revenue of \$8,000. They even cited that Hagerstown had paid far less in ransom. The Confederate officers demanded the \$200,000 or the city would be torched.

As the day went on, Mayor Cole procrastinated with the fundraising, in order to see who would be victorious on the battlefield. Once it became clear in the early afternoon that the Confederates held the upper hand in the battle, Mayor Cole had no choice but to solicit the \$200,000. Five banking institutions put up the money. The Frederick Savings Institution put up \$64,000, the Central Bank \$44,000, Frederick County Bank \$33,000, Franklin Savings \$31,000, and Farmers & Mechanics contributed \$28,000. The money was brought in by wicker baskets, and the \$200,000

was handed over to Major J. R. Braithwaite. Major Braithwaite was the only bond quartermaster officer who received the payment. The Confederates had no idea about the stores of Federal supplies in Frederick.

The city of Frederick now owed the banks the money that was turned over to the Confederates. The last payment made by Frederick city to the banking industry was in 1951. Since 1864, a total of more than \$600,000 in interest that accrued, was finally paid, clearing its public debt. Before his death in 2010, Republican U.S. Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr. tried to have the Federal Government repay the city of Frederick from damages suffered, due to the ransoming by the Confederate army in 1864; he never won his fight.

After the Confederate army withdrew from the gates of Washington, D.C., they

marched to the Shenandoah Valley, via White's Ford. By July 30, Brig. Gen. McCausland, under orders from his commander, would launch a raid that entered into Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where yet another ransom was delivered. The Confederates demanded \$100,000 in gold, or \$500,000 in greenbacks to compensate those in the Shenandoah Valley for the loss of their homes during Maj. Gen. Hunter's path of destruction. The demand was not met, and the town of Chambersburg was torched, causing more than 1.2 million dollars in damages. Over five hundred buildings were destroyed, encompassing over eleven city blocks. If Hagerstown, Middletown, or Frederick would have refused, they may have shared the same fate.

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HISTORY

The history of Catoctin National Park

Edmund Wehrle

Early White Exploration and Settlement, continued from last month

Yet settlement was hampered by a bitter debate over the exact boundaries of Maryland. Pennsylvania claimed much of the land west of the Susquehanna (which, of course, would include the present-day park). Indeed, Maryland's interest in populating the area had everything to do with efforts to buttress its claims against Pennsylvania. Quickly the dispute turned violent and a bitter war broke out in the 1730s. English-born pioneer Thomas Cresap—a robust Daniel Boone-type character—was Maryland's chief defender. His wife, known to sport a gun, two pistols, a scalping knife, and a tomahawk, was no less committed to the cause. To Cresap, area farmers loyal to Pennsylvania were “poachers.” When captured by Pennsylvania authorities in 1736 and brought to Philadelphia to stand trial, Cresap infuriated his captors by declaring Penn's city, “one of the Prettyst [sic] Towns in Maryland.”

The bitter conflict slowed settlement of the Monocacy Valley region even as immigrants began passing through the region and noting its potential. Fleeing religious persecution and dwindling economic op-

portunity, Germans, especially from the Palatinate region of the Rhine, began migrating in large numbers to Pennsylvania in the 1730s. By 1750, the population of Pennsylvania was one half-German. Seeking inexpensive but fertile land, some Germans moved southwest from Pennsylvania, along the Monocacy Road or “Great Wagon Road.” Most likely an outgrowth of the old Indian trail through the region, the Monocacy route began in Pennsylvania on the west side of the Susquehanna at Wrightsville, then proceeded through York and Hanover counties to Taneytown, Maryland. From there, the road moved into the future Frederick County through the future Williamsport, then southwest across the Monocacy and Potomac. Germans traveling the road might have been tempted to join the smattering of settlers already in western Maryland, but, despite the promises of Maryland's leaders, they feared paying double taxes or getting caught in the violent cross fire between warring colonies. [30] Most, therefore, pressed onward to the Shenendoah Valley.

By the 1740s, the conflict had settled somewhat, although it would fester for another thirty years. By that time Benjamin Tasker's son-in-law, Daniel Dulany, was ready to take the initiative in settling the area. Acquiring his father-in-law's land in 1744,



Harbaugh Valley, viewed from Sunshine Trail Road near Sabillasville.

Dulany hired Thomas Cresap to conduct a survey of western Maryland. Cresap reported that land in the Monocacy Valley equaled if not surpassed “any in America for natural Advantages.” Encouraged, Dulany patented other land in the area, and subdivided Tasker's Chance, initially offering plots at bargain prices. Although a member of the Chesapeake gentry, Dulany actively sought to attract Germans to his holdings. With a reputation as solid, industrious farmers, Dulany thought them to be the

perfect pioneers to tame his land, and he offered them land sometimes at below cost.

Many Germans took up Dulaney's offer. The 7,000 acres that made up Tasker's original chancy purchase soon became the site of a thriving city named for Lord Baltimore's son, Frederick. Many others, having accumulated enough money to purchase land themselves, took up residence to the north of Tasker's Chance, along the Monocacy River, near the Catoctin Mountains. The area had real appeal to German immigrants. The attractions, according to historian Elizabeth Kessel, included a “large measure of civil and religious freedom and unprecedented opportunity of owning . . . and accumulating large amounts of land . . . for a simple fee and only a minor obligation of a quitrent (annual tax), and land could be passed on to heirs with full force of law.”

Settling Western Maryland

Who were these German and German-speaking Swiss immigrants? Most journeyed to the New World as a result of the religious, social, and economic chaos plaguing Germany in the decades following a costly series of religious-inspired wars. The War of Spanish Succession in 1701, in partic-

ular, ravaged the area along the Rhine known as the Palatinate, the homeland of many who later moved to the Monocacy and Catoctin region. Not yet a united country, Germany contained what one historian called a “myriad of petty principalities,” each with its own authoritarian leader, imposing his religion on his subjects. Protestant sects such as the Dunkards (German Baptists), the Mennonites, and the Moravians often suffered persecution, as could Lutherans or Catholics if they found themselves in the wrong municipality. Likewise, land had grown scarce and costly. A twelve-acre farm actually represented a substantial holding in eighteenth-century Germany.

There then existed compelling religious and economic “push” factors encouraging emigration. At the same time, honest men such as William Penn and less honest speculators and shippers, seeking to profit from the desperate population, aggressively advertised along the Rhine. The promise of land and help on the journey created powerful “pull” factors for already discontented Germans in the area. Not all the pull factors, however, proved quite to be all they were made out. Dishonest schemers lay in wait for the eager migrants, and some

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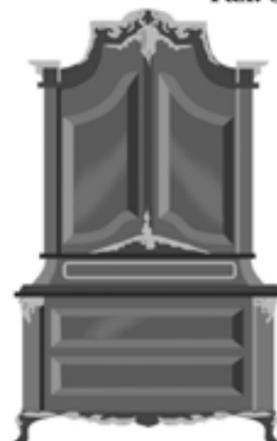
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were cheated out of their money. For most, even under the best of circumstances, the journey to the new world was expensive and difficult. Forty toll barriers sat along the Rhine. Authorities often slapped taxes on migrants, and Dutch officials in Rotterdam also sought their share of money from the pockets of immigrants. Some travelers might actually go broke en route and suffer the indignity of being sold into servitude in the New World in order to pay off passage, a process known as "redemption." But the allure of cheap land and religious freedom resonated for thousands of immigrants.

While often impoverished, the migrants did bring skills with them to America. Germans had the reputation of being particularly industrious farmers. Many had other skills as well. Philadelphia physician Benjamin Rush noted of the immigrants, "the principal of them were farmers; but there were many mechanics, who brought with them a knowledge of those arts which are necessary and useful in all countries. These mechanics were chiefly weavers, tailors, tanners, shoemakers, comb-makers, smiths of all kinds, butchers, paper makers, watch makers, and sugar bakers." It is little wonder that one of the future settlements of these German migrants was christened Mechanicstown.

German and Swiss migrants settled throughout the North American colonies. But the majority established themselves—at least temporarily—in Pennsylvania. By the late-seventeenth century, Penn's colony was home to over 100,000 Germans. In fact, the vast majority of Germans and Swiss who settled the Catocin region arrived in the early 1730s and initially settled in Pennsylvania before pressing on into western Maryland.

One of the earliest settlers in the Catocin area, Daniel Leaterman (also spelled Lederman or Letterman), a bishop in the Church of the German Baptist Brethren, emigrated from Germany in 1727. He briefly ministered to a church in Conewago, Pennsylvania before establishing himself in the 1740s on a farm he called Sandbergen (named for its sandy soil) southwest of the future Catocin Fur-

nace. Yost Harbaugh (at times spelled Herbeck) led his family from a village near Pfalz, Switzerland to Berks County and then York County, Pennsylvania. Yost's son George moved down the Great Wagon Trail to settle in what became known as Harbaugh's Valley in 1758 or 1759. The mountainous surroundings, it was said, reminded Harbaugh of his native land. In 1761 he married Catherine Willard, also originally from Switzerland. Later one of their daughters married a member of the Eyler family from Germany, who settled in the valley after having passed through Adams County in Pennsylvania.

Some of the families later settling in Western Maryland actually traveled to the New World on the same ship. Such was the case with twenty-four year old Lenhart Firohr, who, in 1731, crossed the ocean on a ship with the Devilbiss family. Firohr arrived in Philadelphia, moved to Adams County and later settled east of Catocin Mountain. Once in Maryland, the Firohrs found the Devilbiss family to be their neighbors to the south. In 1760, with area's population growing, the Firohr family acquired land for the construction of the Lutherans and Reformed Apple's Church. A descendent of the original Devilbiss family, Alexander Devilbiss owned a plot of mountain land (tract 215), later incorporated into Catocin Mountain Park.

While many of the early settlers were members of either the larger German Reformed or Lutheran strands of Protestantism, members of the smaller Moravian sect also arrived in the Catocin area. Among the more prominent Moravians in the area was the Harbaugh family. The Moravians also managed to attract converts. Jonhann Jacob Weller from Diedenshausen, Germany, in 1737 stepped off the Andrew Galley ship in Philadelphia, a member of the German Reformed Church. By the time he settled in Western Maryland in what became Mechanicstown, Weller had become an active Moravian. For a time, traveling Moravian min-

isters actually conducted services in Weller's home. His cousin, Johannes Weller, who also settled in what was later the Mechanicstown area, however, was associated with the Lutherans.

Other influential German families who settled in the area included the family of Lawrence Creager (Krueger), originally from a village northwest of the city of Marburg (roughly 50 miles north of Frankfurt) in Westphalia. Creager moved the family to York County, Pennsylvania in 1738, then to the Monocacy Valley in 1747. The Creagers later owned mountain land—a plot known as "Creagers' Surprise" (later tract 163). Friedrich Willheit (Willhides) and his wife Lucretia left their village near Sinsheim southeast of the Heidelberg in 1731. Their son Frederick Jr. bought land on the northeast side of Hunting Creek in 1752.

The Rouzers, originating, as did the Willhides, from the area near Sinsheim also firmly established themselves in the Catocin area. Unlike the others, the Rouzers, led by Gideon Rauscher, an elder in the Dunkard Church, settled first in New Jersey. Gideon's son, Martin Rouzer (1734-1777), then moved to the Rocky Ridge area.

His son Daniel settled in Mechanicstown, probably in the late eighteenth century, where he began a tanning business. Daniel married Sophia Shover, the daughter of Peter Shover, Revolutionary War veteran and another owner of land later incorporated into the Catocin Mountain Park. Yet another immigrant from Sinsheim was Georg Philip Dodderer, who migrated in 1724. Georg's grandson Conrad later owned a mountain lot optimistically entitled "Worth Something," which was part of the park acquisition tract 153.

Many of the founding families mentioned above probably owned land in the area that now encompasses the park and certainly the names of their decedents can be found throughout Catocin mountain land records. Early land records, however, for the Catocin area are incomplete. Along with the families and persons noted in census, tax, and church records, there were no doubt other records either lost or destroyed. Likewise, squatters, settling unofficially on land and avoiding taxation or other charges, also certainly occupied the mountain land.

One of the few original settlers who does show up in the limited

land records of the eighteenth century was Leonard Moser, a fascinating pioneer figure. Moser arrived in Philadelphia in September 1732 aboard a ship appropriately named "Adventure." Probably in his twenties, Moser traveled from Germany with his large family, who ranged in age from eight to forty. Very quickly, Moser became caught up in the Pennsylvania-Maryland dispute as an ally of Thomas Cresap. In 1735, Pennsylvania authorities captured Moser just south of Wrightsville. After a brief prison term, young Leonard retreated further south with Cresap and by 1736 settled in the Monocacy area. A close friend of Jacob Weller, Moser eventually joined the Moravian Church in Graceham. Moser was a weaver by trade, and, in 1751, he took on eleven-year old Michael Coker, a relative of his wife, as in apprentice. Moser also owned land along Great Hunting Creek, and in 1764 sold a thirty-acre tract on what was called Nolin Mountain (park acquisition tract 91) to a farmer named Mark Harmon. Moser's family remained very much an active part of life on and around the mountain—as the presence of Moser Road in Thurmont attests.

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

Putin the Great?

Commander John Murphy,
USN, Ret.

Russia is a nation that has been treated cruelly by their neighbors and history through the ages. It has been overrun, conquered and exploited by invading armies from the north, south, east and the west. Little wonder that the Russians seem paranoid and have developed a fortress (i.e. Kremlin) mentality. To the Russians, it must have seemed that they were just recovering from one foreign invader when the next was about to arrive. And when no foreign threat presented itself, they became their own worst enemy. So it was in 1993 when Boris Yeltsin was trying to guide Russia out of the morass of communism, a homegrown threat—the Russian oligarchs arrived. The New Russians! I was quick to learn that this was not a positive term to the man in the street— who was struggling to survive.

I was in St. Petersburg and Moscow about this time and we should have foreseen what was about to happen. It was 1917 in reverse. The transition from one major system (i.e. communism to capitalism) with all that entailed (e.g. privatization, state property transfer, market 'shock therapy', economy demilitarization, political control etc.). As it turned out, the biggest challenge was in controlling economic factors such as entrepreneurialism, workforce reallocation, and the transition from a police state to a market economy. What I saw in 1993, was a nation that was literally living in a power vacuum that was being run by old-style, communist-era bosses who were trying to act like businessmen. I thought of them as "the wild and crazy guys!"

For the most part, they lacked mentors that they could trust. Also, there was a sense of avarice everywhere and the Russians seemed to lack a basic sense of morality and ethics. It somehow was not a part of their genetic code. It was like our 19th century "Wild West" when everyone was out for themselves. The USSR had been driven out of business by the capitalists so now they would try to become just like them. How ironic— after feeding their people propaganda over the years about the evils of the cap-

italist system!

Now the most aggressive and unprincipled among them were becoming fat and rich with money hidden from the state in offshore bank accounts. No one was paying taxes and the legal system was dysfunctional. You can become an oligarch! Former top scientists and managers became lost and total alcoholics. By the mid '90s we could see the mortality rate for the Russians was climbing dramatically. There was little or no hope for them in the future. It was sad. I could see it in their eyes. They had their pride, but no real vision for the future. All they knew was the past. The old Russian dilemma of "What to do?" was back.

My impression of the new Russia was formed in the early 1990s— before the oligarchs appeared. I saw small, mobile kiosks on the streets of St. Petersburg where you could buy everything from water, Pepsi Cola and vodka, to cigarettes, Russian and foreign newspapers, a piece of sausage or bread, fresh fruit or top quality, scale models of the latest Soviet MIG fighter jets and nuclear submarines. "Hey Joe! You wanna buy 'Red October'? How about official KGB emblem?"

These kiosks were an initiative of their visionary Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak (1991-1996).. There were Marlboro and Pepsi Cola billboards everywhere. Large, bright and colorful ... "just like Broadway!" Soon "mom-and-pop" grocery stores began to replace the kiosks along Nevskiy Prospekt. In Moscow the woman were dressed in clothing from the best stores in Paris and London. People were walking fancy, pedigreed dogs that looked like they had just come from the Westminster Dog Show. Some Russians, were obviously making the transition from communism quite well.

Everything was moving at a very fast pace. I remember having lunch with "Vladimir", a former Soviet scientist, at the historic, Astoria Hotel in St. Petersburg. He noted "Hitler wanted to have lunch in this very room AFTER he had conquered Leningrad. He never made it!". Vladimir's wife was the Executive Assistant to Mayor Sobchak who was the first democratically elected Mayor of St. Petersburg. He also was the mentor of

future Russian Presidents Vladimir Putin and Dimitriy Medvedev. In the early 90s, Sobchak was the co-author of the new Constitution of the Russian Federation. A truly important and historic event.

Sobchak died unexpectedly of a "heart attack" in 2000 while on a trip to support Putin's Presidential campaign. Strangely, two of Sobchak's aides also died of heart attacks at the same time. Three men dying of heart attacks simultaneously? The names of two other men in the Sobchak party (who survived) have never been disclosed. Sobchak was on a path, to become one of the great men in Russian history. A visionary. So close, but now— a mere footnote in Russian history, like Alexander Kerensky in 1917.

Trends in Russian History

Modern Russia has its roots in Kiev in the 8th and 9th century. Before then, Russia was a land of wandering nomadic tribes. A world of mystical beliefs that were rooted in cults such as the Cult of Earth and Stone and the Cult of Trees and Plants. "Mother Russia" was ever present— looking out for you. You came from her soil and you would return to it— for eternity.

Kievan Rus'

In the 9th century the Princes of Kiev, such as Vladimir and Yaroslav the Wise, were creating a kingdom known as Kievan Rus'. The Northern Slavs were still under the influence of Rome. They had adopted Rome's Catholic religion and its Roman alphabet. The Princes of Kiev looked at the Polish experience and said to themselves "we are Slavs and we want to remain Slavs. We do not want the Bishop of Rome controlling our lives or our culture. We need our own religion and our own alphabet." They sent emissaries to the far corners of the earth studying their cultures— particularly their religions. When they were done, they decided that the Greek Orthodox Church in Constantinople was the best model for them. "We will create our church based on the Greek Orthodox model and we will call it the Russian Orthodox Church. Also, we will have our own alphabet with which we will record all important, religious and secular events. "



Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

Something that would be lost by the time the Mongols (the "Golden Horde") came rolling westward during the 13th century— destroying all in their path. The Mongols had already devastated China and now they turned their attention towards the riches of the West— beginning with the feudal state of Kievan Rus'. For all intents and purposes, the cradle of Russian culture was destroyed.

Moscow and Ivan the Terrible (15th and 16th centuries)

Kiev never fully recovered from the Mongols, and the Tatars controlled most of southern Russia. Meanwhile, a small, country crossroads known as Moscow (Moskva in Russian) began to take form. Their leader, Ivan the Great (Ivan III), claimed to be the true heir of Kievan Rus'. He stood up to the weakening, Mongol horde, and laid the foundation for the future Russian state. His work was continued by Ivan the Terrible (Ivan IV) in the 16th century.

Ivan was known for his paranoia and signs of mental illness. He is the first Russian to choose the name Caesar or Tsar as his title. His European counterparts were not pleased. They recognized that he was claiming to be an Emperor. Ivan IV didn't like the big government of his day. He had the good sense to realize that Russia had fallen behind the European monarchies. He set out to streamline his central government and tried to bring in many foreign specialists in the fields of medicine and business. A move that his European cousins opposed. They preferred that the Russians remained backward and vulnerable.

When Ivan's own nobility, the Boyar class, opposed his ideas, Ivan replaced them with a new nobility that was loyal to him. He conquered the regions of Kazan, Astrakhan and Siberia. This expansion transformed Russia into a multi-

ethnic state of over one million acres. Towards the end of his life, Ivan became so disgusted with his life in Russia, that he turned to his cousin— Elizabeth the Great of England for asylum. She refused his request and Ivan the Terrible died of a stroke while playing chess at the age of 53.

Peter the Great (1672-1725)

To me, Peter the Great was the greatest Russian leader of all time— thus far. The first, truly effective "Westernizer". Like Ivan the Terrible— he died at age 53, but he greatly expanded the Empire handed him by his predecessors. It was an empire that extended from the Baltic Sea in the west to the Pacific ocean in the east. He established Russian settlements in the Pacific in the mid-17th century. Also, he set out to bring Kiev back into the empire. In 1721 Tsar Peter went to war with Sweden in order to gain unfettered access to the Baltic. He won convincingly and he built a new capital on the Baltic, called St. Petersburg. It was his window "upon Europe". Then he completely reorganized his government based on European models. The Orthodox Church was brought into this administrative structure. When Peter the Great died in 1725, Russia had become a great power.

Soviet Era (1917-1991)

As good Cold War Warriors, we knew most of these latter day Russians all too well. Okay, so the Tsars weren't always that enlightened, but look at what we got as replacements? The Soviets created the world's first socialist state— based on a road map given them by Karl Marx in Germany.

Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov (Lenin) began as a Westernizer, because of his many years spent in exile in Europe before the 1917 Revolution. He was a strong supporter of the working class, but became known

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Peter the Great

for his excessive human rights abuses in the 1920s. A brutal program of torture and mass execution known as the Red Terror was conducted by the Soviet Secret Police led by Felix Dzerzhinsky. Lenin was the mold from which future Soviet leaders were cast- a total autocrat. His ideas had a strong impact on other communist revolutionaries such as Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro and Ho Chi Minh.

Joseph Stalin- A Slavophile from Georgia created a strong, centralized government that sent millions to the Soviet labor camps in Siberia. He took control of Soviet agriculture and created great famines in the Ukraine. He probably would have self-destructed had it not been for World War II that gave him- and Mother Russia a purpose. To survive the invasion by Hitler's armies in 1941. Russia emerged from World War II as one of the world's two superpowers. Russia and America were allies in World War II and Stalin paid us back by laying the groundwork for the Cold War.

Nikita Khrushchev picked up

where the 'Man of Steel' left off. This peasant from the Russian-Ukrainian border town of Kursk, took charge of the collectivization in the Ukrainian west after World War II and led the slaughter and deportation of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians between 1944 and 1952. His love affair with modern technology nearly sent the world up in smoke in the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. He desperately sought respect for the Soviet Union, but his bizarre and unpredictable, leadership style counterbalanced the good that he did (e.g. exposing Stalin's excesses and his "Cult of Personality").

Mikhail Gorbachev came out of nowhere and surprised us with his new ideas (e.g. glasnost' and perestroika). An attorney that was the product of the prestigious, Moscow State University who ran into an American, movie star turned President named Ronald Reagan. Reagan literally priced the Soviets out of the Cold War. Stalin's top down, centralized economy could not keep up with the western, military-industrial complex. With a lit-

tle help from Boris Yeltsin and the Soviet Army, Gorbachev turned over the keys to the Kremlin to Boris Yeltsin on New Year's Eve in 1991. The USSR was history!

Boris Yeltsin became Russia's first truly elected leader and President. He served from 1991 to 1999 and turned over the Russian Presidency to Vladimir Putin. Yeltsin's 1993 Constitution was the first real Constitution that the Russian people had ever known. Then he became lost in the transition from a communist state to a market economy. By 1997, it became brutally apparent that he was in over his head, and the oligarchs were taking over.

Vladimir Putin is now Russia's man of the moment. The western press loves to point out Putin's KGB background. Actually he was a relatively junior (16 years of service), KGB Lieutenant Colonel at the time of the abortive August 1991 coup attempt against Mikhail Gorbachev. The view from Putin's KGB Headquarters in Lyubyanka Square was not good. The KGB had a reputation for brutality, lying, cheating, propaganda and disinformation. This was the New Russia and the very word KGB was a pejorative term - synonymous with the failed, Soviet past.

A flourishing souvenir industry emerged in Moscow where you could buy authentic-looking KGB lapel emblems, KGB identification cards and hip looking KGB T-shirts. I know because I bought quite a few of them. Even the "Iron Felix" monument to Soviet Secret Service founder Felix Dzerzhinsky in Lyubyanka Square was torn down. The future in a KGB career was not good. Maybe it was time for a career change? Putin quickly found a staff position working for the dynamic, Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak in his hometown of St. Petersburg. A smart move at age 39. In five short years he would head to Moscow for a career enhancing position in President Boris Yeltsin's administration.

Like any sharp, young, political operative he would use the uncertainty and change going on in

Moscow as a way to quickly rise to the top. He has been the President of Russia for about 10 years (2000-2008 & 2012 to present) and is thought to be positioning himself for a third term. Putin showed great promise during his first term as President. The economy grew dramatically. Things are not looking so bright, as he approaches his third term. As current events unfold in Ukraine and Crimea, one wonders how his story will play out? Will he become Putin the Great?

Rating the Russian Greats

I have created my own rating system that includes such traits as Style (good and bad); Intelligence; Creativity, Attitude, Intuition, Communications, Inspiration and Legacy.

The Best Russian Leaders- I have four men on my short list of Great Russians- two Tsars and two Soviets.

- 1 Peter the Great - Visionary. Highly intelligent, creative, inspirational and left a legacy. Built an empire from West to East.
- 2 Kievan Rus' - Yaroslav the Wise and other Princes of Kiev (8th to 12th Centuries). Accepted western religion, but with caution. Readily accepted Western business practices. Valued literacy and enlightened scholarship.
- 3 Boris Yeltsin - Had the courage to dissolve the USSR. Created a real Constitution. Personally stood up to raw Soviet military power in the coup attempt of 1991. Set up real elections.
- 4 Mikhail Gorbachev - Had the guts to allow the USSR to be dissolved. Courageous and visionary. Highly intelligent.

The Worst Russian Leaders - All are flawed because they were authoritarian and left Russia worse off than when they found it. My candidates for the worst are all from the Soviet era. Revolutionaries at heart- that were total autocrats.

- 1 Stalin - Highly authoritarian.

Dishonest, no legacy, no delegation. Poor communications. Narcissistic, brutal, with a top-down management style.

- 2 Khrushchev - Risk taker. Narcissistic and unpredictable. Nearly destroyed the world in Cuban Missile crisis. The 20th Century's Ivan the Terrible.
- 3 Putin - Bright and dedicated but not forward thinking. Wants to take Russia back to its Soviet past ...at a time when Russia really NEEDS a Great, visionary leader.

The Next Great Russian?

Putin still has a chance to become one of the Greats of Russian history, but his magical moment is rapidly slipping away as he drifts into a morass in Ukraine and Crimea. He did restore pride to the Russian people during his first presidency. But, his current leadership is taking Russia backward... not forward. He could have become the solution to Russia's problems, but it now appears he is becoming a major part of the problem itself. The Russian people do not want to return to Communism and the USSR. He should look to his own history and treat Ukraine with the respect that it is due- as the cradle of Russian culture. He owes them that much.

Putin is the wrong man for the 21st century. His bullying, narcissistic and authoritarian style may appear to be working in the short run, but will lead to economic and political problems in the very near future.

What Russia needs now is a 21st-century leader who is of and for the times. Someone born after 1980 who only knows the Cold War from history books. A person with the vision of Peter the Great and the courage of Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin. One who has the ability to inspire the Russian people. Maybe the Russians should look to the east and China and see how they have become a 21st-century economic power- despite their communist underpinnings.

I believe in Russia's greatness. It just needs to find the right leader to take them there. I hope it happens soon.... for the world's sake.

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Kenneth Kerr (D)

On Common Core Confusion

Anyone with a Facebook page has no doubt seen postings of seemingly convoluted arithmetic examples that the poster claims are representative of the Common Core. These examples are so confounding and nonsensical that they make the Common Core look downright ridiculous and make anyone who supports the Core look foolish and out of touch. However, there are two big problems with these so-called Common Core math problems—they are out of context, and they are not actually part of the Common Core. What people refer to collectively as The Common Core is actually three separate components—The Core, a curriculum, and a standardized test (PARCC)—all separate and distinct.

Let's start with the Common

Core which is an education initiative that details what K-12 students should know and be able to do in English language arts and mathematics at the conclusion of each grade level. The Common Core is an attempt to establish consistent education standards among all the states and ensure that high school graduates are prepared for college or to enter the workforce. It is sponsored by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) with much of the additional support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Pearson Publishing Company, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation—and this is where most of the resistance comes from. The Common Core was developed almost exclusively by policy makers and business



and industry leaders with minimal inclusion of the teachers who are expected to make it work. It

is seen by many as yet another attempt by big business to privatize and profit from public education.

That rightfully has people upset and angry.

However, the Common Core is a set of standards—nothing more. It is not the curriculum, and it is not the test. The Common Core has no instructional content, no methodology, and no assessment. So these ridiculous-looking math problems cannot—by definition—be Common Core because they are part of a curriculum. For example, here is one of the Common Core Standards that indicates what a third grader should be able to do: “(CCSS.Math.Content.3.OA.C.7) Fluently multiply and divide within 100, using strategies such as the relationship between multiplication and division (e.g., knowing that $8 \times 5 = 40$, one knows $40 \div 5 = 8$) or properties of operations. By the end of Grade 3, know from memory all products of two one-digit numbers. Sample problem: $8 \times 9 = \underline{\quad}$.”

The objection to the Common Core is not essentially about what it is, but about how it came to be. The leader of Common Core opposition on a national level is Diane Ravitch, author of *Reign of Error* and historian of education and Research Professor of Education at New York University. Her chief complaint is not the Core itself—but how it was developed. Ravitch's main reason for opposition is, “They [Common Core Standards] were written in a manner that violates the nationally and international recognized process for writing standards. The process by which they were created was so fundamentally flawed that these ‘standards’ should have no legitimacy.”

Fair enough. But if not the Common Core, then what? No national standards? Start over? Even if we were to start over, I suspect we would end up with something that looks very much like the Common Core.

Kenneth Kerr is the Chairman of the English Department at Frederick Community College. To learn more about Ken visit www.kerr-4boe.com.

Part 2 next month

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SCHOOL NEWS

Michael Ferrell (R)

My name is Michael Ferrell and I am a candidate in the 2014 election for a seat on the Board of Education. My wife and I have lived in Frederick County since 2001 and have an eight year old daughter who attends Tuscarora Elementary School. I am a 37 year Air Force and Air National Guard veteran and will be retiring from active service in 2015. My military career has ingrained the core values of integrity, service before self and excellence which I will stand by if elected to the Board

of Education. It has been an honor and a privilege to have spent my entire adult life serving our country and I humbly ask for your support in continuing my service to our schools, teachers and Frederick County.

I would like to address the Red Apples which volunteers will be handing out during this year's elections. I think Frederick County voters should fully understand how those names get on the Red Apple and who puts them there. Shortly after I filed my application to run

for the Board of Education I was contacted by the president of the Frederick County Teachers Association and told that if I did not answer an intensive 15 question survey and participate in a closed door interview I would not be endorsed by the Frederick County Teachers Association.

I chose not to answer the Frederick County Teacher's Association's survey nor did I participate in their closed door interview in order to get their endorsement. I did not participate because while I have nothing against the teachers association I will not align myself with a certain side and quite frank-

ly the practice reeks of extortion. I firmly believe this practice is part of the problem which has reduced the Board of Education to a continuous stalemate and lost sight of the true objective which remains our children. To be an effective problem solver you must approach the issues at hand with an open and unbiased mind.

My E-mail is at the bottom and I would invite any teacher or Frederick County resident to send me their question. I would love to be invited to any school to speak openly with teachers and address their concerns. For four years this Board of Education has failed to make sig-

nificant progress on significant issues. My approach will be to find common ground and encourage teamwork to effectively address teacher, student and parental issues. Remember those listed on the Red Apple have already taken a side and come into this position heavily biased on many issues. I have spoken with many teachers who do not endorse those listed on the Red Apple and have stated they would vote for a candidate which would listen to their concerns and work in their behalf. I will do my best to answer your questions and I would be humbled by your vote for Board of Education.

Colleen Cusimano (R)

My name is Colleen Cusimano. I am a current member of the Board of Education, appointed in July 2013. It has been a great honor to serve.

I am a mom of 3 children, a PTA volunteer, a former Girl Scout leader, sports mom and community volunteer.

I know that there is no greater investment we can make than the education of our children -- the next generation that will lead our community, our country and (if we get it right) our world in innovation, exploration and prosperity.

Today, our school system is facing greater challenges than ever. For years, Frederick County has enjoyed a successful partnership with our state to lead the nation in education, gaining our county a great deal of recognition.

New politically-driven initiatives from the State and Federal level are threatening to rob districts of any local control of their schools. The goal is conformity among all school systems in the nation. While it is easy to see there could be benefits to a consistent measure, the resulting policy has school systems all over the country exhausting all resources trying to meet impossible goals.

There is much debate about the

quality of the "Common Core State Standards". The truth is that even if the standards were wonderful, 3 years to change everything we do and every way we do it is not reasonable. One year to develop a test that can reasonably measure every child's performance is not reasonable. Requiring every school to have very specific technology resources in order to participate in the new mandates is not reasonable.

It has gotten so unreasonable, that our State legislature has been considering multiple bills during this session that are designed to protect our local school districts from the monstrous demands of the state and federal agencies!

Since I have joined the Board, we

have begun more conversations with our delegation members from Washington and Annapolis; and they are beginning to have a positive impact. Today, legislators in Annapolis pursue input from our Board before making important decisions on bills that will impact education. This is an unprecedented effort in communication among our local leaders. Truly, all of our local elected leaders must work together for Frederick County.

We also must recognize that our economy continues to struggle. Funding for our schools has remained unchanged at the local level over the past 4 years. Funding at the Federal and State levels has actually been shrinking significantly over the past 4 years. This shrink has an even greater impact when measured in balance with the demands they are requiring of our schools. And new

demands are coming every day.

What our schools need are leaders who recognize the challenges we face today, and the ones ahead. We need leaders who are willing to question unsustainable demands. We need leaders who are willing to stand up for our teachers, knowing that the measure of a great teacher is not reflected in bureaucratic test results. We need leaders who can hear

Frederick County's children and families, and see Frederick County's needs.

We need leaders who can stand up for our schools and the community we share. It's what I've devoted myself to for years, and I plan to continue.

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- Standing up against unsustainable demands on our school system.**
- Working together with elected leaders locally, and at the State and Federal levels. - It's never been more important!**

Colleen Cusimano
* Current Board of Ed member

-24 year resident of Frederick County
-Mother of 3 children in FCPS
-Parent volunteer / PTA officer and volunteer / former Girl Scout leader

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

What's new at your library

Tara Leberz
Frederick County
Public Libraries

The month of May means many different things to many different people. In my world as a Frederick County children's librarian, May symbolizes the beginning of Summer Reading! Summer Reading is a fantastic, fun, and FREE program hosted by Frederick County Public Libraries that is open to any child or teen in Frederick County.

This year we begin on May 1st

and continue through August 9th. Why so early? Since we visit most of the schools in Frederick County to tell them about Summer Reading in May, we want to make sure that excited students are able to sign up for it as soon as they hear about it. We'd hate for them to be disappointed!

What is Summer Reading? It's a simple way to reward kids and teens for reading throughout the course of the summer. Kids and teens sign up at the library, either in person or online. Once you sign up, you pick up your gameboard and begin the pro-

gram. Kids complete simple reading tasks (e.g. read outside, read for "X" minutes, tell a librarian about a book) and receive prizes each time they complete a certain number of tasks.

The teen program is slightly different--teens keep track of their accomplishments online and they are entered into gift card drawings after each task they complete. For all ages, registering by August 9th enters you into the grand prize drawing as well as multiple smaller prize drawings. This year our prizes include a trip to Great Wolf Lodge, Kindle

Fires, a Sony Playstation4, gift certificates for movies and dinner out, and much, much more. I certainly hope you'll stop by the library to sign up after May 1st. See you there!

There is so much else happening this month! Here are just a few of your choice. If you need to register, you can do so online at www.fcpl.org or you can call and register over the phone at 301-600-6331.

Green Thumb Family Gardening Club - May 10, 10:30am-12pm. An Emmitsburg Community Garden and Library

Project, this club is intended for families with kids ages 4 and up who want to learn about growing food in a community garden. Everyone will get to plant, water and weed as well as make garden crafts, hear stories at the garden and much more. Visits to the garden are part of every meeting. Registration required.

Yoga Through the Animals - May 15, 6pm. An Americorp volunteer named Lillie is in our area for just a short period of time. She's a yoga and dance teacher and will be showing families some animal-oriented yoga moves on May 15. This is a special opportunity that you shouldn't miss! Registration required.

The FCPS strategic plan

Katie Groth
Frederick County School Board

At first glance, this does not sound like an exciting title for a monthly column. However, I hope to convince readers that, not only is a strategic plan exciting, it is also a critically important part of our Frederick County Public School system.

Issues that are "strategic" are important because they often determine

the direction of organizational transformation. Frederick County Public Schools is a large school system, an organization with great importance in the community it serves. It receives about half of the county budget, so it is very important that citizens understand and trust the way it operates. As members of the Board of Education, we are accountable to the citizens and taxpayers of Frederick County. We take that trust seri-

ously, so we are committed to making our organization the best it can be, not only for our students, but for the entire community. Our world is changing rapidly, and we must carefully plan how we will adapt to the changes we are experiencing. We are committed to being "strategic" about that change in the very best sense of the word. Having a strategy means having a plan. And we are going to develop a new plan for the school system.

To begin with, FCPS has hired a team of professionals to help us to de-

velop our strategic plan. It is a good idea to have someone from outside the system help us with this. The planning process will be a long range goal setting activity that should lead us to a good outcome for our school system. A good strategic plan should be a useful roadmap for our school system that will last for many years.

We will begin with an examination of the current state of our school system. We will have a steering committee made up of system stakeholders who will guide the initial phase of the process. During this time, we will

be examining our current system vision and mission statements and then begin to set goals. It is necessary to consider ways in which these documents need to be updated. As communities change, there are new expectations. Our schools must reflect the values and priorities of our community. A successful strategic planning process will guide us in making projections about our future by careful examination of the realities of our current environment. We expect to be able to clarify and update our system goals and then re-design priorities and programs to successfully meet the changing community expectations.

We will periodically report back to the community as to our progress in creating the new strategic plan. The process is expected to take about 6 months to complete, after which time a period of implementation will occur. There will be times along the way when community stakeholders will be asked for input. By incorporating community input, we hope we will succeed in creating a document, a strategic plan, to guide us into the future, one that everyone can support and one in which everyone can participate.

The Board of Education is excited to begin this new process. We face the future with positive outlook. Our excellent school system can be better. We look at the strategic planning process as a series of new opportunities as we evaluate the present, design our system goals, and chart a course to the future.

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SCHOOL NEWS

May is for Mother Seton School!

Lynn Tayler

If you've been near the school in the past few weeks, you've surely been treated to the boisterous noises come from the playground. Some days, it looks and sounds like the children have never seen sunshine before. As a parent, I'm grateful the warmer weather has allowed them to run outside in the fresh air—it ensures they're worn out by bedtime!

It's not only the spring weather teasing us with warm air and clear skies that has all the students, and not just a few of the adults, brimming with excitement. May is a special month for us at Mother Seton School. As the last full month of the school year, it's sort of the "last hurrah", and it's filled with activities. If you were to ask the students for their favorite part of the school year, I wager that at least 85% would name one of the many things we do in May.

This year, we begin with the His Place Car Show that takes place on May 3rd. This is the 5th annual show put on by Billy Kuhn, who owns His Place, Inc. just down the road from us. Billy is an alum of MSS, and over the years, he has helped support both us and the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center with the Car Show, which brings in some of the coolest vintage autos and sweetest hot rods you'll ever see. It's a labor of love for Billy, and just one example of how awesome our alumni are.

Next on the calendar is our Fine Arts Night, held May 5th at 7:00 p.m. This is when our students' creativity shines. It is such a treat to walk the halls and browse the various exhibits. It's not just fingerpainting and glitter, either; our art teacher, Karolyne Myers, does a fabulous job of teaching each grade to work in different mediums. There's sculpture, painting, graphic arts—a little something for everyone. There are even musical performances. You should stop by, not just to appreciate the fine artistic talents of the student body, but to see the pride in their eyes as they show off their projects. It also makes for an interesting and inexpensive date night!

In the Catholic Church, May is dedicated to Mary, the Blessed Mother. Parishes and Catholic schools throughout the world celebrate this devotion through a May Procession and Crowning, and we are a part of that tradition. On Friday, May 9th, at 10:45 a.m., we will hold our annual May Procession at school. The children, led by the Kindergarten class, proceed to our Marian altar and lay flowers at the feet of our statue of Mary. A crown is placed upon her head, signifying our belief in her as Queen of Heaven and Earth. I love this event because Mary holds a special place in my heart, and I love to see everyone honoring her this way. During difficulties in my life that I've experienced with my own mother, the devotion to the Holy Mother that I have has helped me find peace, and as a mother, I look to her example of love and patience. It warms my heart that children are encouraged to look to her in this way as part of everyday life.

The annual Walk-a-Thon is always a huge hit with the kids, and I like that



The always enjoyable His Place Car Show, held on the grounds of Mother Seton School, will take place on May 3rd.

it emphasizes the spirit of service that is part of our mission. The walk takes everyone on a two-mile loop around the grounds of the Basilica. The students collect pledged donations for each mile they walk, and that money is donated to a Daughters of Charity mission overseas. This year, the Walk-

a-Thon will benefit the Social Parish Home for Girls who are Poor in Rwanda. The kids have fun socializing and enjoying the fresh air, all while raising funds for a good cause. It's a win for everyone.

And of course, it just wouldn't be the same without the MSS Carnival! This year, the weeklong festivities will be from the 19th until the 24th. The carnival is a great time, and not just because of the rides, food, and games. (Although, there is nothing better than funnel cake from the carnival!) It's a chance for friends to reunite, for our alumni to visit their old alma mater and

say hello, and for our current students to spend time making memories they will carry with them when it's their time to leave us. It also gives us the opportunity to open our grounds and our arms up to the community at large. We love to see the faces of our neighbors and we enjoy meeting new acquaintances, so when you come, be sure to bring a friend!

Yes, May is a busy month. But it's the perfect way to segue into the lazy summer. I hope we'll get to see your smiling face at one or more of our celebrations. After all, it just wouldn't be May without Mother Seton!

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May 28 (Wed.) - "Moses" - Because May 7 is full this additional date is added. This is one of the epic stories of the Bible and should be seen by everyone. It comes to life on the stage of Sight & Sound. Lunch is included before the show. **Price \$104** Lv Frederick 9:00 AM; Thurmont 9:20 AM. Final Payment Due May 7. ETR 7:00 PM.

June 3 (Tues.) - "Steel Magnolias" - this play is the predecessor to a well-known and much loved 1980s film. Lunch is at Hickory Bridge Farm and the show at Totem Pole. **Price: \$88** Lv Frederick 10:00 AM; Thurmont 10:20 AM. Final Payment Due May 8. ETR 6:30 PM.

June 7 (Sat.) "Celtic Woman" is an all female Irish musical ensemble - described as Riverdance for the voice. Lunch is included and the show is at the American Musical Theatre. **Price: \$144** Lv Frederick 10:00 AM; Thurmont 10:20 AM. Final Payment Due May 9. ETR 7:00 PM.

July 1 (Tues.) "Ring of Fire" "The Music of Johnny Cash" This is a musical tribute to the man in black which features a superb group of country vocalists. **Price: \$90** Lv Frederick 10:00 AM; Thurmont 10:20 AM. Lunch at Hickory Bridge and show at Totem Pole. ETR 6:30 PM.

July 2 (Wed.) "Lion King" at the Kennedy Center. I have had requests for this show. The only date I could get for a group was on the main floor. To save expense I am not including any meals. I MUST HAVE AT LEAST 25. If not then all money will be refunded and trip will be cancelled. Lv Thurmont 11:00 AM; Show starts at 1:30 PM. **Price: \$143** Reply ASAP with \$25 Deposit. Final Payment Due May 20.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Freshman Year

Something about the Mount

Leeanne Leary
MSM Class of 2017

I keep asking myself and everyone around me how this year flew by so quickly. I still can't figure it out myself to be honest. Sure, I'm still only finished with one of four years, but the time that's passed now seems so much more meaningful than it did after my freshman year in high school. Finishing freshman year here means one step closer to becoming a sophomore, which is one step closer to being a junior and then a senior and then, a college graduate. This, by extension, means that I am one step closer to being an adult, a fact that is not even fathomable at this point.

I ask myself how this year flew by so quickly and how it is that I am already a quarter of the way through my time here at the Mount, and it doesn't make sense to me. It doesn't make sense until I run around the trail behind the ARCC

or walk to the basement of the library. It doesn't make sense until I get my Banana Berry Splash smoothie at the café or walk to PT at 6 o'clock in the morning. It doesn't make any sense at all until I stand in the grill line in Patriot, and they know exactly how I like my sandwich – and then it makes sense. I've made a home here; I've found my place. I've learned where it's most peaceful to run and where to relax. I've replaced my study spot at home with one in the library. I've adjusted and adapted in a way that I didn't realize was happening along the way. Looking back, it's much easier to see how it all happened, and how it is actually possible that a year has come and gone already.

Not to be too cliché, but it actually feels like just yesterday I was moving all my stuff into my room, sitting on my bed and thinking, "What next?" Then I started classes and learned – after far too many incredibly late nights

– how to study and when to study. I walked outside my room and met some of the best people. I started playing field hockey and learned what it's like to have fun playing a sport. I had to work harder than ever on papers for an English class where a 94 wasn't an A; I kept all of those papers. I did all of these things that stand out to me, and even more that seemed routine at the time but upon reflection were actually pretty special. I met my future roommates and went out to get ice cream with my friends. I cheered for my best friend in his first season of college basketball. I learned that nobody is going to tell me when to be home, and that I really can eat macaroni all the time no matter what. I had to write in a journal every day for my Veritas Symposium and discovered that everything becomes a little more important when you put it in writing. I've done so many things here at the Mount that I couldn't see myself getting to do anywhere else, and I discovered a place at Mount St. Mary's in which I fit perfectly.

The first semester seemed to take a little longer than the second because

this semester has been a whirlwind. I joined Army ROTC and after what seemed like an hour – but was actually a few months – I will be swearing in and accepting a contract at the end of April. I travelled to Robert Morris and had the time of my life watching the Mount win the NEC championship in men's basketball. I did Relay for Life and had the most incredible experience before having to work all day with zero hours of sleep. I got my very first speeding ticket and cried way too much about it. The Grotto held certain serenity for me that I couldn't find anywhere else, and I discovered that I indeed do have enough Mount Flex Dollars to get a smoothie every day. There is so much that went on in my individual experience of freshman year, it's almost impossible trying to fathom how amazing all the other freshmen experiences were. I don't think I could have had quite the same experience anywhere else, so after all the stress and confusion at the beginning of the year over not knowing where I should be, I do think that I found my place at the Mount. Now, I'm sad to see the year end.

As much as I hate to leave this year behind, I am excited to move in a little early this coming August as a Peer Mentor and help incoming freshman have as great and unique an experience as I did. I also can't wait to get back to the smoothies, but that is another story entirely. I know that when I come back in August I will feel like I'm returning to my second home. I've been told that before the Mount created their four pillars – Faith, Discovery, Leadership, and Community – many would say, "There's just something about the Mount." There is just something about the Mount and something about the experience I've had that I can't put into words. It's special and it's different than any other college experience I've heard about. I truly was immersed in a community that led me to faith, leadership, and discovery, but there is so much more that I will never be able to define with a single word. There is just something about the Mount, and I'm truly glad that I am here.

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

Sophomore Year

Beyond the dormer

Lydia Olsen
MSM Class of 2016

I moved in this year before everyone else since I was leading a Mountward Bound trip for the incoming freshmen. I picked up my keys at the public safety building and drove over to the Terrace, the oldest building on the campus. Entering through the front door I was immediately confused. The layout was a lot more difficult than my old residence hall, Pangborn, had been. I finally figured out where I was going and made it to my room. On the wooden door were shapes with my roommate's name and mine. I fumbled with the keys and was then finally able to unlock the door. I swung it open and looked at the room that I would live in during my sophomore year of college. My first thought: dormers.

When choosing to live on the fourth floor of the building I didn't give a single thought to the fact that it would mean having my window being a dormer. It was a complete shock when I opened my door to see slanted ceilings and at first I was very disappointed. I had been planning to loft my bed but that idea was clearly no longer an option. I moved

some of my stuff up into the room and began rearranging the furniture. The setup that the previous occupants had was very interesting. The first thing I noticed was that they had their two armoires in front of the window. While this made sense because it was hard to fit them anywhere else, it also made it completely impossible to see out the only window. Breaking out into a sweat, I pushed them aside and was amazed to find that I could fit my slightly raised bed in front of the window with about an inch of room to spare. This did, however, mean that I would have the slants of the ceiling protruding on either side of me. I decided it was something I could handle.

I finished moving in the rest of my stuff and started to organize everything and settle into my new home. The last thing I did was make my Twin XL bed. I put down the egg carton foam pad and stretched on my sheets before spreading my blue and white comforter on top. Lastly I put pillowcases onto my pillows and fluffed them up a bit before jumping up into my bed and lying down for a much needed break. I rested for a few minutes before realizing that the blind to the window was still down. I reached over toward the window and pulled the

blind down then let it go as it wound itself up. I was speechless.

Outside my window I could see for miles. The mountains in the distance made a perfect backdrop for those little farmhouses and the couple of red barns. Closer by I could see the solar farm and to the left was the ARCC. East campus was divided from the main campus by the highway. On west campus I could see the academic center, the auditorium, Patriot Hall, the library, as well as Delaplaine Fine Arts Center. The rest of Terrace unfolded to my left and to my right was the bell tower of the chapel. All I could do was think of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's quote from a plaque at the Grotto that reads, "We are halfway up in the sky; the height of our situation is incredible." She could not have been more accurate.

Every morning I wake up to the sunrise shining in through the crack underneath the blind. I lift the blind up and often put it behind my head, trying to limit the amount of light that gets into the room so as not to wake my sleeping roommate. I watch as the sun breaks the horizon behind the mountains and sends a straight ray of sunlight across the sky. I watch as it rises so quickly that within moments, all that had still been in the darkness of night becomes fully illuminated. Throughout the day I can see people go about their daily routines, rushing to get lunch and make it to class. I can hear the bell tower ring only feet away from me, signaling noon

mass. In the evenings I hear the groups of people leaving from dinner and can see people migrate towards the library to get their homework done for the days ahead while I sit in bed using the windowsill as a desk to complete the work that I have. The sun sets, and slowly the sky turns dark as the lights down University Way come on.

Through my window I could watch the trees up close and in the distance change into their fall colors of orange and red and then fall to the ground as winter rolled in. I watched the snow accumulating on the campus and on the surrounding area as it fell softly and often. There were days when I woke up and could no longer see out my window because the snow had built up so high on the roof, but when it began to melt I had the most spectacular view once again. I watched as the workmen repaired the bell tower from the fire that happened over the summer, and I remember hearing it ring from my room for the first time. When the endless winter finally seemed to be ending I was delighted by the sound of birds chirping on the roof and even had a few land close enough that I could have reached out and touched them. From my window I saw as the gardeners put pansies in the flowerpots and cleaned up the garden beds, and I still continue to be speechless at the beauty of the view.

From my window I've watched grey storm clouds roll in and take over the

sky followed by heavy downpours of rain. From my window I've seen the sun magically appear and form a rainbow more perfect than I could have ever imagined. They stretch across the whole sky in an arch that seems to reach the heavens, and I can see it all. In the darkness of night I have seen full moons glowing with orange tints. I have seen more stars than I could ever count. The view from this window is without a doubt painted by the hand of God.

My sophomore year is ending and so is my time living in this dorm room. In a strange way the view I have had this year has made all of the difference. It makes me feel as if I am part of something so much larger than myself. It constantly reminds me of the astonishing beauty in the world and in all of the things that surround us. The view from my window has kept me sane through the hectic parts of the year as I watch the traffic continuously on the highway and realize that I too must keep traveling on down the road in front of me. They say all good things must come to an end, but I will forever remember the sights I have seen. While it saddens me that I will have to give up the view from my window, it excites me that another pair of people will continually move in every year after me and have the opportunity to witness the sheer beauty that lies beyond the dormer.

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



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END OF YEAR MEMORIES

Junior Year

A sign of the times

Kyle Ott
MSM Class of 2015

It's been an amazing three years so far here at Mount St. Mary's. Maybe it's the fact that I've been busy with a million different things or working hard on my schoolwork and extra-curricular activities, but it still seems like it was only just yesterday when I began my adventure to the mountain beyond the horizon. While it's been a wonderful run, and I still have one more year left to squeeze all of the adventure I can out of the Mount, it's hard to look at the end of my junior year without a twinge of fear in my heart. You see, I've based my entire life around this campus. I know its ins and outs, its hidden secret places, and its funny little flaws. After three years I still consider Pangborn Hall my home away from home, and I've grown accustomed to interacting with my peers and the faculty here. The beauty of a place like this one is how much it can start to feel less like a school and more like a home. One of the amazing things about the Mount (and something that it shares with Emmitsburg) is that in a lot of ways, both places are small, tightly knit communities that depend and thrive on one another.

Now, with my journey almost at an end and on the cusp of another adventure, I wanted to think back on what brought me to Mount St. Mary's in the first place, what that taught me about the person that I wanted to become, and the people I wanted (and still want) to surround myself with.

Admittedly, Mount St. Mary's University was not my first choice for a college. I had grown up only 40 minutes away in Abbottstown, Pennsylvania, a small town most famous for the two family-owned restaurants that dominated our local economy. I had gone to Catholic elementary and high schools, spending most of my formative years learning the finer points of the Catholic faith alongside science, philosophy, and literature. I had even flirted with existence at the Mount in the form of weekend religious retreats like Mount 2000. However, no matter how much I liked the campus and no matter how much I enjoyed the years I spent in private school, I was convinced that my future belonged as far away from this area as humanly possible. It was familiar to me, and thus the antithesis of the things that I wanted to do with my life. I had great ambitions that I thought could only be satisfied if I went as far away as I could while

still getting the kind of education that I wanted. To that end, I found myself on a sojourn to Bronxville, New York, and a college called Sarah Lawrence.

While most people are familiar with Sarah Lawrence because of its appearance in the popular Shakespearean adaptation *Ten Things I Hate about You*, I was familiar with the school because of my love for the famous poet Thomas Lux, one of the college's prestigious alumni. As soon as I found out where he went I couldn't apply fast enough. I read all their emails, pored over every letter they sent me, and when I realized how expensive the school was going to be, my heart physically sank a little bit. To me, Sarah Lawrence represented everything that I wanted. It was thrust in the beating heart of New York City, which came with untold chances to explore a wild urban biosphere so different from my little country town. The curriculum was infused with a love for the bizarre; everything from the student-run productions to the way that class was taught had this alien air to it that I found both intimidating and yet undeniably attractive.

When I thought that I would not be able to attend I was crushed. However, almost in the same moment as I thought I was defeated, I got a letter from admissions saying that 90 percent of my tuition had been paid for. It was official; I was going to be a Griffin.

Or so it would have been, had I not decided to go on an overnight visit to Sarah Lawrence. It was an event that

I thought would herald my arrival. I would get the chance to sit in on actual classes, interact with the people I would go to school with, and finally experience something outside of the small town that I thought I wanted to leave. I was nervous but excited when we arrived on a Friday afternoon, my bags packed and my eyes wide. Then, a funny thing happened. It just didn't fit.

It wasn't that I didn't love the campus (it was gorgeous), that the classes weren't up to par (they were brilliant), or that the students weren't welcoming (the student body was incredible); there was just something off about the way I felt. I couldn't explain it if my proverbial life depended on it. Even though everything was going my way, it was just plain off. By the time the weekend was over, I felt even more dejected than when I thought I couldn't attend at all.

This is the part of the story where fate turns out to be a pretty funny thing. Originally, the Mount was supposed to be my last choice. There was absolutely no part of me that wanted to attend Mount St. Mary's University, so when I went for an orientation weekend at the Mount, I was hesitant. If my top pick had fallen through then would I ever really find a place where I wanted to belong? Thankfully, I could not have been more wrong if I had tried. Over the course of a few days I found that I loved everything about the campus. I made a fast group of friends that roamed around the Mount with me until the wee hours

of the morning, and I realized that the last place I wanted to be was in fact the only place I could see myself.

Over the past three years I've had the chance to prove to myself that I made the right decision a million times over. I've found mentors and friends, love and heartbreak, and so many new opportunities that I would need to take the entire newspaper to describe them to you. Despite it all, the fact that I wound up in the strangest of places serves to illustrate the biggest lesson that I learned in the last three years: never expect anything. Sure, you may think that you know exactly where you're headed right now, but the truth of the matter is that on any given day you could wind up in some strange city, surrounded by people you don't know, doing something you never thought you could: and you'll love every second of it. So, here's to three years of never knowing where I was going, and six semesters of just pretending like I had a clue about what my next move was. And here's to many more years of that. Whether you're leaving as a senior, starting your sophomore year, or thinking about exploring the lovely world around us, enjoy the fact that you have no idea where you're going. As a wise man once said, the path of least resistance never leads beyond your doorstep. I'm Kyle Ott. Won't you sit and read for a while?

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

Senior Year
Home away from home

Nicole Jones
MSM Class of 2014

I was wearing a Froot Loops t-shirt and denim shorts. I smiled proudly while posing in front of the large stone Mount St. Mary's University sign, my short hair just brushing my chin. It was move-in day August 2010, and I was beyond excited to start college. I wish I had known then just how quickly four years could fly by. I am now less than 11 days away from graduation and staring grad school in the face. Where did the time go?

For four years the Mount has been my home. I have lived and learned here, building friendships, exploring new interests, and contributing to the campus community. All four of those years I have been blessed to meet incredible people who I am fortunate enough to call my friends.

My first friend at the Mount was a girl named Olivia Gorman, Livie for short. We happened to meet briefly at Accepted Students' Day, a campus event that allows accepted students to explore what the university has to offer. At one point during my visit, I became separated from my parents. Forgetful me had left my cell phone at home, and I wanted to meet my parents for lunch before we left. Enter Olivia. She walks up to me in a pair of Chucks and a shirt sporting anime characters that I recognized and offers me her cell phone. Apparently I looked as lost as I felt. On move-in day I discovered that Olivia lived only three dorms down. I walked in, sat on her floor, and started chatting about the ka-

rate class we were both taking. The rest is history.

I remember when I first started writing for the campus paper, The Mountain Echo. It was my spring semester of freshman year, and I had no idea what to expect. My high school had never had a newspaper or magazine for students to produce. My only experience was working on the yearbook. I walked to the basement of the Academic Center where I found six upperclassmen who were surprised to see me. Apparently writers didn't usually come to the meetings, only editors. I sat down anyway.

At the same time, Olivia was having a bad experience with a teacher.

"I just don't know what he wants. He hates everything I write, and I don't want to fail this class. Am I as terrible of a writer as he says?"

"No," I told her and encouraged her to come to my next Echo meeting. I thought it might boost her spirits if other students and proficient writers gave her some positive critiques.

Sophomore year we continued to work for the Echo. We were heavily involved writers, showing up to every meeting, taking any assignment they had. I attended campus events, interviewed fellow students and even the executive vice president of the university. Then one day, Olivia came back to our dorm with news.

"They asked me to be an editor! There's another spot open. You should ask about it."

I was proud of her but not all that convinced that I wanted an editing job

as well. I asked Managing Editor Alyssa Huntley about the position anyway. The job? Assigning stories, editing articles, and laying out my section for print every Tuesday. The payment? A free meal and experience for my resume. When do I start?

Every Tuesday night since then, Olivia and I scurried down to the Echo office. We were roommates that year, so it was nice that I could come back from work at one in the morning and not have to worry about waking her up because she was right there with me.

Halfway through sophomore year I found a brochure on Olivia's desk with bold blue text telling me "How to become a Resident Assistant." I read about the application and interview process, the responsibilities and benefits of being an RA. It sounded like a good idea, and I wasn't sure why it had taken Olivia applying to provoke me to do it. Some small innate competitiveness I assume, but I was genuinely interested. Several months later, Olivia and I were sitting in our room doing homework when an email came through.

"Congratulations, we are happy to offer you a tentative Resident Assistant position for the 2012-13 academic year."

Junior year I not only had a new job as an RA but was also promoted to managing editor of the Echo and was offered my position with this paper. As RAs, Olivia and I had single dorms, which meant we couldn't be roommates anymore. It was also the first year I didn't have any classes with Olivia, but she was still my right hand. She helped me manage the Echo staff and taste-tested my experimental cooking as I broke in my new apartment kitchen. We enjoyed long nights on RA duty together watching Doctor Who marathons and eating ice cream till 2am.

Senior year was crazy. Olivia was placed in housing far away from mine, our schedules did not sync at all, and I really bonded with my new RA staff members. We barely saw each other at all during our fall semester except for those Tuesday night Echo sessions. Then we had a bit of a déjà vu moment. Olivia worked for the campus literary magazine *Lighted Corners*. When LC called for submissions, I submitted several poems and digital photographs, and I prayed something would be accepted. Another email came.

"We thank you for your submissions to *Lighted Corners*, but we regret to inform you that we cannot accept any of your poems at this time."

I was a little upset. I thought ending the year being a published author would be exciting, but Olivia found a way for my name to be in the latest edition of LC anyway.

"We have no idea how to work Adobe InDesign. Could you help us?"

Some intense reformatting of the magazine and several weeks later my name was published as the *Lighted Corners* Associate Editor. It wasn't a by-line, but I was still happy. More importantly I realized that just because my talents are different from what I want

them to be doesn't mean I'm talentless. It was the same lesson I had taught Olivia freshman year by involving her in the Echo. Funny how we had come full circle.

When I received my first acceptance letter to graduate school, Olivia was with me. We were in the theater prop room pulling some costumes out of storage for an upcoming play when I squealed.

"Ohmygosh! I got in! I got in!" We jumped and screamed and laughed like five year olds, and as we hugged I realized just how much I was going to miss her.

Now we're plotting our grad school paths, talking about financial aid, housing and campus visits. She's going north for school but hasn't settled on which program to accept, while I'm headed south to the University of Virginia for 7 semesters of studying speech-language pathology. It's silly, perhaps, but I feel a bit like a freshman again, standing in the hallway without a cellphone, not knowing my way around campus and all the unfamiliar faces. I can only hope there's another Olivia coming along to offer me her friendship.

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

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COMMUNITY NOTES

4-H therapeutic riding program

Volunteers are encouraged to sign-up for the Frederick County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program (FC4HTRP). Each year 78 students receive therapeutic riding lessons free-of-charge for seven weeks in the spring and seven weeks in the fall. The program, which was established in 1984 with 16 riders, maintains a waiting list of hopeful riders each year. The FC4HTRP Program's expansion is limited to the number of volunteers who are available to assist with riders and horses, as well as donations received. This year over 40 riders are waiting for the opportunity to participate in the program.

The FC4HTRP provides a recreational experience and therapeutic regimen to Frederick County citizens with medically certified mental, physical and emotional disabilities. Riders must submit physician, therapist and teacher information about their condition before beginning the program. FC4HTRP therapists and

instructors review the riders' medical history and develop a personalized program for each student in collaboration with his/her physician, therapist, teacher/employer, riding instructor and family members.

"We are very grateful for the volunteers that commit their time to our program," said Debbie Endlich, president of FC4HTRP. "Without them we would not be able to offer our riders weekly 45-minute rides during the spring and fall sessions. If more folks are able to join our volunteer program we would be able to serve more students."

Fee-based classes are also offered during the winter and summer on Saturday mornings as well as private therapeutic lessons to our students.

"Learning to balance on the horse, to steer, control and interact with a large animal not only improves muscle tone, balance and coordination for our riders, but it also improves their self-con-

fidence and encourages them to excel in other areas of life," said Endlich.

Each year riders are selected to compete in a horse show at the Frederick Fairgrounds during the Great Frederick Fair and to participate in Special Olympics.

One student, Kristofer Schrupf, was born with Autism and, frustrated with his inability to communicate, suffered emotional outbursts. He also exhibited deficiencies in fine and gross motor skills, making normal sport activities difficult.

As a FC4HTRP student, he learned that he had to control his anger when communicating with horses to get a positive response. And, he began to accept instructions from teachers and therapists without angry outbursts. Riding horses also improved Kristofer's hand-eye coordination and balance and he now participates and wins in statewide horse shows.

"He is now a college-bound, honors student at Urbana High School, is president of the Emerging Leaders Club, and speaks fluent German," said Nancy Schrupf. "Our family is most grateful to be part of the FC4HTRP family. We thank them and all the generous supporters from the community for improving the life of our son."

Volunteers Needed: To learn more about therapeutic horseback riding or to volunteer visit www.fc4htrp.org

Donations and Rider and Horse Sponsorships keep this program going. To Sponsor a Rider (\$500 half-year or \$1,000 full-year) or



Sponsor a Therapy Horse (\$1,000 yearly) please contact Debbie Endlich, FC4HTRP President, at 301-898-3587.

To make a donation, please send checks or money orders to 11515 Angleberger Road, Thurmont, MD 21788.

About Frederick County 4H Therapeutic Riding Program (FC4HTRP) is a non-profit ther-

apeutic riding program that was established in 1983 to provide horseback riding experiences to physically, emotionally, and mentally disabled Frederick County individuals. FC4HTRP exists only on donations from individuals, businesses, and civic-minded organizations. Donations are tax deductible under IRS Tax Code 501(c)3.



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Four years, one experience

Alexandra Tyminski
MSM Class of 2015

I remember when you first set foot on my grounds. You had that look on your face that all young freshmen have: eager, but nervous. Little did you know, I was smiling from ear to ear when you arrived. I knew that your accomplishments here would be immense.

I was going to watch you grow into someone even stronger than you are now. I would help you get where you had always dreamed of going. I was your very first friend, but by the end of your journey, I promise you we will be more like family.

Put the Freedom in Freshman

You wanted freedom here, and you most definitely found it. It wasn't just freedom, but rather choices. I watched as you wandered around the activity fair putting your name down on any list that interested you. When you saw clubs for outdoor adventures, student government, student diversity, social justice, campus ministry, and many more, you were overwhelmed by how much you could choose. Your choices seemed unlimited.

Over time, you made new friends on your hall. The other freshmen were nice to you. During the first few months, you were still finding the right group for you; you were looking for people who shared the same values as you. Like many in their first year of college, there were some letdowns with some of the friends you first made. Soon, the right ones came along, but of course it was after you learned how to have patience and make more of an effort.

So you had your friends and a social circle. Everything seemed like freshman year of college was looking good. You slowly started to believe that people are right when they say that college is the best four years of your life. They always said the social life would be fun, but no one ever warned you about the 6-page papers assigned in your first few weeks of classes. Your professors were pushing you like no one had ever before. You stayed up until 2 a.m., then 3 a.m., and slowly you found yourself up until 6 a.m. finishing a paper.

By the end of your freshmen year, you felt like you had conquered the ups and downs of being a first-year college student. You packed up your freshman dorm and reflected on the year: your new friends, your challenging classes, the social activities, and even yourself.

You discovered just a little bit more about who you were and what you wanted, not just out of college, but also what you expected from yourself. You saw that your own values come into play each and every day. Little did you know, that this was just the beginning.

Something More Sophomore

You arrived back at school with more confidence than the year before. You waved to everyone and got that feel-

ing that every student searches to find, that sense of community. The breeze on the hot August day was blowing through your hair and you could feel that this was the year for you.

All of your friends were in one place and some were even your roommates; at any moment they were just a few steps away. You were happy and excited to be somewhere that felt so familiar.

As the beginning of your sophomore year progressed, you found yourself seeking more than just friends, activities, and a major. You started to see that the purpose of coming to college is truly bigger than all of us. However, because you felt as if graduation were so far away, you dismissed those thoughts and promised yourself to focus on the present moment.

I helped you do this by constantly challenging you. I challenged you to make you better, but sometimes I noticed your frustration. I eventually opened your eyes to the beautiful chapels on campus. It was by the placement of God's hand that you were brought to this beautiful campus with so many inviting Catholic chapels. You can access them on your own time, at any time.

As the leaves started to change and the brisk fall air fell upon campus, you started to attend mass and see the importance of your Catholic faith in your life. This was the start of a new type of journey for you, but a prosperous one. This faith was something you had never understood completely until you started to attend mass regularly. As winter came and went, you saw that the beauty of God's love is only going to strengthen you throughout your lifetime.

When sophomore year came to another fast closing, you looked onwards to the summer, but looked back to how you had developed as a person. It wasn't just your year because you officially declared your major, but it was also the year that your personal growth became extremely important to you.

Jump on board the Junior Journey

You brought your car back to school and officially moved yourself in for your junior year of college. You couldn't believe that you were growing up so fast. Neither could I. I felt as if you had just gotten here.

You came back excited for your junior year, but a little more nervous than the year before. They weren't the same nerves you had when you first arrived. These were different. It was your third year in college, which meant more responsibility, greater expectations, and deeper thoughts about the future. It seemed all just a little bit more real.

You knew just about every student, professor, maintenance worker, and dining hall worker on campus. You even knew the President, the Provost, and the people in the Admissions Office by name, and they knew you too. It wasn't long before these



people were asking you to lead committees, be a part of a certain club, or help organize an event. They were asking you for your leadership.

The journey of your junior year was much like a sailboat. There were times when you weren't so busy, but then there were other times that seemed quite entangled with meetings. You waited for the winds to calm down, and they did for some short time. But, they picked right back up again and moved you more miles closer to the end.

I watched as you left me for a third time and headed home for the summer. I could see in your face that you had a bittersweet feeling. You were happy to be a senior, the person everyone turned towards, but you missed being a freshman and having all those years ahead of you.

See Through the Senior's Sight

You returned for your last time to my luscious green lawns, stone buildings, open space, and the life that you created here. It all seemed so surreal to you. You watched as young looking freshmen walked around with their matching key chains dangling from their necks. You smiled to yourself because you knew what they will experience as a freshman. That's exactly how I felt about you.

You kept a list on your dorm room wall that said in great detail all of the things you wanted to do, people you wanted to spend time with, and things you wanted to accomplish before you left. This became your best year yet. I saw you get your first official job offer. I saw how you nurtured young freshmen girls to strive to do their best in all aspects of life. You no longer focused on one thing, but rather you learned to master many things simultaneously. You became more of who you were called to be.

You saw things through a different lens. Things that may not have interested you when you first arrived here were now interesting. Activities that used to scare you were now fun. People you never expected became some of your closest friends. Classes you thought you could never pass, you did. And you learned more than you ever imagined along the way. When graduation seemed far away, it was actually the next step you took.

When you walked across the stage,

I hoped that you saw a family in me as I see in you. I wish you could read my dreams and hopes for you. I'm so proud of you.

I hope as you continue on your journey of growth, education, and experience that you always remember where you began it all. I only hope that during your time here, you have discovered more of yourself, seen the importance of your faith, developed your leadership skills, and felt like you are a part of a community.

I promised you when you first arrived that you would be like family. I didn't say college would be easy, but I did promise a lot of experiences that would challenge you to do your best. I see how you de-

sire to change the world. Please know that I wish you all the best, and I know you can do it.

You have been a blessing to many here, and this place is better because of you. I am going to miss you. I hope when you look back on your memories here, you can say that I did all I could to provide you with an experience and a journey that made you who you are today.

You are always welcomed here.

Yours Truly,
Mount St. Mary's University

To read past articles by Alexandra Tyminski visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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ARTS

Majestic Theater hosts “National Theatre Live”

Gettysburg College’s Majestic Theater is proud to announce that it has just signed a contract to be the exclusive Central PA outlet for the National Theatre Live in high definition digital cinema from London, England. National Theatre Live is an initiative by the National Theatre to broadcast live performances from London’s West End to cinema screens around the world to more than 1.75 million people.

“The National Theatre is the greatest producing theatre in the English-speaking world period, full stop,” exclaimed Jeffrey W. Gabel, the Majestic’s founding executive director.

It’s the home stage of the legendary actors of the 20th century including Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson, Judith Anderson and John Gielgud to the stars of today including Helen Mirren, Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi, and Benedict Cumberbatch. To make these brilliant productions available to theatre enthusiasts in the Central PA region is a real privilege for the Majestic.”

“Until recently, the telecasts were only available on a live feed which we couldn’t accommodate in our busy schedule, but they are now available for delayed broadcasts on HD digital cinema projection hard drives

which we can plug into our state of the art Christie Digital Cinema Projectors” explained Gabel. “Last year, the Majestic raised over \$160,000 from more than 300 local donors to convert both its 35mm cinemas to all digital becoming one of the very first small town independent theaters to make the conversion.”

The Majestic is joining the 2013-2014 season in progress with the following shows and will be adding titles as announced by the National Theatre Live: King Lear – Monday, June 2, 7 p.m. - Academy Award® winner Sam Mendes (Skyfall, American Beauty) returns to the National

Theatre to direct Simon Russell Beale (Timon of Athens, Collaborators) in the title role of Shakespeare’s tragedy. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – Monday, August 11, 7 p.m. Based on the acclaimed novel by Mark Haddon, directed by Marianne Elliott and winner of 7 Olivier Awards, including Best Play.

Medea – Monday, October 20, at 7 p.m. Helen McCrory (The Last of the Haussmans) returns to the National Theatre to take the title role in Euripides’ powerful tragedy, in a new version by Ben Power, directed by Carrie Cracknell.

Tickets are priced at Adults \$23,

Seniors \$21, Students \$21. To purchase tickets, call 717-337-8200, or stop by the Box Office, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. The Box Office is open Monday through Saturday from Noon until 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

For the show, we are offering Free Parking – Free Shuttle - Park in the Gettysburg College’s Constitutional Parking Lot. Shuttle starts one hour before the performance.

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

CCC Drama Group to stage Peter Pan and Wendy!

One of the most enduring shows of all time, Peter Pan and Wendy is the irresistible family story about the little boy who never wanted to grow up. Peter Pan meets Wendy Darling, and together they go on numerous adventures. We meet the lost boys who, never having a mother, take in Wendy who takes care of and loves them. Captain Hook, Peter Pan’s greatest nemesis, is intent upon destroying Peter and his little crew. You will be captivated by the sword play, darling love story and the humor in this production!

The show features the talent of Nathaniel Snyder, who portrays

Peter Pan with wonderful excitement, young charm, and a spirit of adventure. Zoe Ridenhour plays the part of Wendy Darling with such talent you will be wishing Wendy was your own mother. Captain Hook is played by the talented Jeffrey Weller. Jeffrey brings such a fierce talent in the role of the one-handed pirate captain. The other leads, Coby Fauble and Lucian Ridenhour play their role as Michael and John with such a darling innocence and fun.

The cast is completed with the talents of Sherri-lyn Weller, Evie Pecher, Kelsey Reed, Joshua Talcott, Emma Snyder, Sherri Bish,

Paige Fauble, Lilliana Griffiee, Sabrina Griffiee, Finian Ridenhour, and Ky Anderson. The play is directed by Clair Talcott. The assistant to the director is Karolyn Emery. Karolyn also reads for the ensemble in the production.

Clair Talcott created the CCC Drama Group with the purpose to give kids a safe and fun place to be after school. She strives to encourage the children’s talents while teaching them something new, and to give them the chance to explore the many different areas of the performing arts. In the next year, she hopes to grow the group so that more kids can have this



wonderful opportunity to learn and grow in a positive and uplifting atmosphere.

The play will be performed Sat-

urday May 17th at 7:00pm at the Emmitsburg Community center, 300 S. Seton Ave, Emmitsburg. The production is free for all ages!

Catoctin High School Drama Club

One of the most enduring shows of all time, Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is the irresistible family musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel’s favorite son. Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat

of many colors, this magical musical is full of unforgettable songs including “Those Canaan Days,” “Any Dream Will Do” and “Close Every Door To Me.”

The show features the talent of Randy Stull, a junior, who portrays Joseph with wonderful depth, a charming smile, and a rich bari-

tone voice. The part of the narrator is shared between junior Katelyn Claxton and sophomore Veronica Smaldone. The use of 2 narrators moves the story along quickly and gives many opportunities for the ladies to harmonize. The Pharaoh, performed in the style of Elvis, is senior Ethan Larsen. The other leads,

Potiphar and his evil wife are portrayed by our very talented juniors Dan Miller and Meredith Wilson.

The cast is completed with the talents of Cameron Hallock, Kylie Reed, Matt Ochs, Sarah Wolfe, Taylor Garner, Alyssa Imes, Emily Smallwood, Tyler McNally, Maddie Wahler, Justin Cissel, Colton Bennet, Anthony Robertson, Ashlee Leib, Josephine Isaacson, Lily Bean, Bryanna Grimes, Vic-

toria Hoke, Robbie Doyle, Whitney Grim.

The play is directed and choreographed by CHS Drama Director, Karen Stitely. The music director is Ben Zemostny. The student stage manager is Colleen Slotwinski. Asst Choreographers and Dance Captains are Meredith Wilson and Alyssa Imes.

The play will be performed Thurs-Sat, May 1-3 at 7pm and 2pm on May 3. All tickets are \$8. Please call 240-236-8141 for further information or to reserve tickets.

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Thurmont's Main Street Gallery Stroll

Caroline King
MSM Class of 2015

Spring is a time of new beginnings and fresh starts, so what better way to start the new season than emerging yourself in the local art scene? Starting at 6 p.m. and going until 9 p.m. on Friday May 2nd, Thurmont Main Street will once again be welcoming local artist Rebecca Pearl at the Timeless Trends Boutique during their "Take a Stroll Down Main Street" event. She will be debuting her latest painting, *The Last Trolley Ride*. But that's not all! Local merchants, musicians, and other artists will be accompanying Rebecca Pearl in this creative night out on Main Street (more detailed information can be found on www.thurmontfirst.com). As the weather gets nicer and nicer, this night out is perfect for adults and children alike. The event will have everything from wine to jewelry; every adult can be pleased and for the children, children's author Louis Noffsinger, author of "Ming & the Magic Kite," will be in attendance.

Rebecca Pearl is a Maryland artist well known around the area. Her portraits of animals showcase her ability to capture the animals' image and likeness completely, but she also works on historical and architectural work, focusing on regions past and present, and all the splendor they contain. For example, her paintings of The National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes are captivating in their beauty. Truly a master of the brush, Pearl manages to capture each image as it is, not only realistically to the reality of the image, but also through the emotions of the subject matter. She also, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, created the "Gettysburg Collection," inspired by the lives of Civil War generals and their horses. She maintains her works in The Rebecca Pearl Gallery, located in Emmitsburg. If you find yourself in the area, it is definitely worth checking out!

Raised by artistically talented parents, Rebecca Pearl learned to appreciate art all throughout her life, learning techniques in drawing and painting from her parents before her formal art education at Scheuler School of Fine Art, as well as the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. Starting at age 25, Pearl began her career as a portrait painter by accepting commissions for animals and architectural subjects as well as floral compositions and figures. She tends to use watercolor, pastels, and oil paints to portray her subjects in soft light, using her various paint mediums to create a masterpiece of pastel washes and rich colors. Pearl's portraits of animals set her apart as an expert of her mediums. Her work showcases her ability to capture the animal's soul and personality through the meticulous use of watercolors and other paints.

To give you a bio of her artistic accomplishments, Pearl's been a member of the well renowned Bal-

timore Watercolor Society since the 1980s and has been featured in exhibits and galleries all over the East coast, receiving many awards and recognitions. In the year 1988, she established and began the management of the Pearl Gallery in the Hamden community for five years. As of now, many of her paintings and works can be seen in art galleries and in corporate collections throughout the region, including in the University of Maryland at College Park and the Washington Country Museum of Fine Art. Both include her artwork in their permanent collections.

Pearl's art seems to be influenced by her fascination with horses, as we see her continually visit the subject. In some of her more recent works she was commissioned to create seven original pieces for a new equestrian themed Hampton Inn in Frederick. She also created 34 original illustrations for the book "Red Hat Wisdom," and in 2006 her original watercolor "Holiday Classics" was selected as the 2006 Holiday Poster for Frederick.

She also creates art for many important organizations. From Advocates for Homeless Families and Breast Cancer Awareness to The Festival of the Arts and the Washington County Hospital, she has made many original watercolors or limited edition prints for them all. She is currently focusing on her desire to preserve and portray the farms, bridges, and other historical areas around Emmitsburg and Thurmont (including many old churches Pearl finds architecturally and historically interesting).

She is a master of her medium and an amazing artist. If you find yourself with free time, I cannot recommend going to view her works enough. Who knows, if you pop by to see her works, you might just see something you recognize. Pearl teaches painting at her gallery in Emmitsburg, and conducts workshops. If you find yourself interested in her works, it might be a rare opportunity to study under an artist you admire as well as enjoy workshops outdoors, where Pearl like to take her students in the summer months. Perhaps Pearl's two German Shepherds, three cats, and two horses (Gilbert the police horse and Sonny the "red pony") help inspire her artwork and animal portraits. Either way, her ability to master watercolor and paints is visible through her focus on animals.



Rebecca Pearl's "The Last Trolley Ride" will be on display at the Timeless Trends Boutique during Thurmont's "Take a Stroll Down Main Street" event.

Pearl will not be the only artist featured at this event, though she is making a debut of a new painting. Many local artists, including John Nickerson, Nancy Houston, & Ronnie Packe will be filling the galleries as you stroll down Thurmont's Main Street.

John Nickerson aka Gnarly Artly. Gnarly Artly designs are funny, funky and true. They are all original and hand screened in-house on heavyweight 100% cotton garments, using permanent screenprinting inks. Some of them will crack you up! Also, illustrations, window painting, poster & magazine art, & public art are in Gnarly Arly's portfolio.

Nancy Houston creates custom pet portraits in acrylic on canvas from your favorite photos. All animals welcome! Nancy will also compose multiple pets in to one unique portrait. With over 25 years experience as an artist, Nancy guarantees your satisfaction. There is no finer tribute to your most beloved four-legged friend.

It is not only artists on display during this Main Street extravaganza. Local country music singer Harold Staley and local performer Paul Zelenka & Mary Guiles will also be performing and many merchants will be participating. Among them include: Browns Jewelers, Caroctin Furnace Historical Society, Gateway Flowers, Hobbs Hardware, Heart and Hands, Thurmont Kountry Kitchen, and of course, Timeless Trends Boutique.

To add to the festive nature, Ca-

roctin Breeze Vineyard & Detour Winery will be offering wine tasting and lite fare will be provided by Celebrations Catering, Catering by Cozy, the Shamrock, & Silver Bakery Catering.

With the new (and hopefully here to stay) spring weather, friends and family alike will be ready to stretch their legs and breath in the finally warm spring night air. Why not make a night of it and enjoy everything the area has to offer? "Take a Stroll Down Main Street" will be offering so many great artistic and communal opportunities

that you won't want to miss it! Rebecca Pearl's art stands very strongly on its own, but accompanied by the whole community, it is impossible to pass up! Come support local artists and enjoy the beautiful weather on May 2nd from 6pm-9pm. Family, friends, children and adults all are welcome for this night of fun and artistic expression.

For more information about "Take a Stroll Down Main Street," visit www.thurmontfirst.com or contact Vickie Grinder at 240-626-9980.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Is spring finally here?

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

I hope so! But before jumping into the garden willy-nilly, let's logically think through some steps as we prepare for our planting season.

1. Take a soil test before planting or adding fertilizer to the soil or turf. It's always good to know what you are starting out with before dumping lime or other nutrients into any garden. Excess nutrients can do more harm than good.

2. Compost can be spread in any garden. If it's a vegetable garden, work it into the soil. If it's a perennial or shrub garden, use it as a top dressing to help manage weeds.

3. Cool crops like broccoli, cabbage, lettuce and other greens should be in the ground. This year, peas could have been planted in late April. If you haven't yet planted these, it's not too late. Go ahead and get them in the ground now.

4. Although typically many gar-

den vegetables can be planted by now, don't be in too much of a rush with certain others. Warm crops like green beans, corn, cucumbers, melons, tomatoes and peppers that are susceptible to colder soils and frosts could be lost if planted now. Remember that Zone 6B, which includes all of Adams County and parts of surrounding counties, still has a chance of a frost as late as May 15. And who knows, this spring I wouldn't be surprised to see a frost well into late May! I can't tell you how many calls and questions I have received over the years concerning what to do with the garden plants that have been ruined by frost, or how many bean seeds have rotted in the ground because the soil was too cold. This year's crazy spring has us and our plants quite confused but we do need to learn self-control and wait until the soil and air are just right.

5. Indoor plants should not go outside until late May. Plants grown as houseplants are tropical and do

not tolerate colder temperatures, so even though the daytime may be getting to 75 – 80 degrees, the nights may still be going below 50.

6. Remember to pick the right plant for the right place. When we go to garden centers this time of year, staff is very busy. Often times, we neglect to ask the right questions. Plants always look so nice and can really get us excited about our future garden, but if we don't know if we have the right spot for it, we could be wasting our money.

7. Go native. Growing native plants that are adapted to your soils will give you success and pleasure. According to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), native plants are one which occurred within the state before settlement by Europeans. As we become more global, our native species of plants are becoming less present in our landscapes, and unfortunately in our natural habitat. As plants from other parts of the world come into our landscapes, things happen. For instance, barberry and burning bush – now found in our forests – are reducing the herbaceous material that typically grows in forested areas. No natural predators, no natural controls.

Why is this a problem? Here is an interesting fact: "In 2000, 5% of PA native plant species had been eliminated and another 25% were in danger of being eliminated." (DCNR, state.pa.us) Research shows that the decreased native plants have a direct effect on our native insects, amphibians, birds, and wildlife. We should be concerned because as our native insects decrease, so does our food supply. We need insects to pollinate our



One of the surest signs that spring has finally arrived is the appearance of the Grape Hyacinth in yards, fields, and gardens.

vegetable plants, like cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and beans.

Growth is expected, but the way we manage growth can be controlled. We can increase plant diversity and connect plant corridors with our neighbors. We can reduce turf grass by planting shrubs, trees and perennials. We can increase insect diversity, reduce pesticide usage by planting plants that attract these insects. Increasing pollination for our vegetable crops by introducing native perennials into our landscapes will attract these beneficial insects.

Imagine being an insect, amphibian or mammal in today's world. All in the name of growth, you have been limited to small, forested areas. Remember, our area has been reduced by 35% and counting. Traveling from one forested area to

another, we can see housing, streets, cars, grass, and water that are polluted with pesticides—lots and lots of open space. Survival rate for native insects, amphibians or mammals? Probably not so good.

Try plants like chokeberry, inkberry holly and winterberry holly. Chokeberries have red or black berries, depending on the species, and grow to about 4 – 5 feet. Inkberry holly is an evergreen shrub, with many cultivars reaching 3-4 feet, making it a great foundation plant selection. The winterberry holly has nice red berries in the fall with great fall color.

Add native perennials to your gardens, too. Not only will they grow well, but they will provide the needed food for our native insects and wildlife. Remember to plant single flowers as opposed to double. Hybridizing for better petal development often takes away the nectar needs for the insects. Try coneflowers, garden phlox, or bee balm for sunny areas. For shade, try ginger, ragwort, or native ferns. For wet spots, turtlehead and cardinal flower are a great choice.

If you're looking to plant some shade trees, look at the red maple or white oak. Stately trees for sure, and they grow well in our soils. If smaller growing trees are the need, check out river birch, serviceberry, and redbud. Interesting bark is the highlight of the river birch, and lovely spring flowers enhance your garden on the serviceberries and redbuds.

8. Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This is a term often thrown around, but it simply means know what your plants are, what your pests are, and manage them accordingly. Always get proper identification on any pests that may be attacking your plants. Often times we can manage our pests by simple pruning or moving the plant to the right location. For instance, if you have an azalea growing in full sun, that plant will inevitably be infested with lace bugs. Move it to the shade, and your problems will decrease by many. If a tomato has septoria leaf spot, prune out some of the leaves to provide good air circulation. Wa-

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener The ties that bind

Marianne Willburn

It may come as a shock to many amateur gardeners to find that once they have tilled, planted, weeded, watered and finally watched a flower miraculously appear, their job is not yet finished.

The higher that flower reaches, the more precarious her situation grows. All it takes is one rollicking thunderstorm – one gusty day in an otherwise fair week – and your fabulous flower is flat.

If you garden fairly seriously, staking is one of the necessary evils of life. You can put it off for awhile – just as you might the balancing of your checkbook – but sooner or later you're going to pay a price. With some fast talking and low-level groveling at the bank you may be able to extricate yourself from a sticky situation, but no amount of pleading will make your delphiniums stand up straight after they've floundered face-first into the mulch. Injuries may include, but are not limited to, crushing, tearing, breaking and yes, even amputation. Mother Nature takes no prisoners.

Staking plants is a tedious job; but this gardener finds it far more tedious to anticipate the striking contrast of Easter Egg Iris against Sensation Allium...only to find them all collapsed in a sorry heap of foliage and flower one short day after blooming.

Like it or not, the professionals don't fool around here. Next time you are mesmerized by the incredible border displays at the Huntington, or Longwood, or Sissinghurst for that matter, take a closer, impertinent look at the underwear on those beauties.

It may not be immediately noticeable – a skilled gardener can stake a stand of digitalis with such finesse that visitors' eyes skim right past without ever seeing it. With only two to four weeks of bloom from such favorites as Phlox, Peony, Alcea and Delphinium, every minute counts, and stems are often staked before they actually flower.

So, as stewards of our little Edens, we have two choices. Either grow dwarf varieties and proven winners in the Rigidity Sweepstakes (such as Leucanthemum suberbum "Becky" or Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus'); or learn how to stake our precious plants with maximum speed and minimal injury.

I choose the latter. But I do rely on favorite methods and tools. For individual blooms, I absolutely love the green coated metal stakes with a spiral end that allow the gardener to slot the stem of the plant in the spiral and do away with any thought of twine or ties. These are completely reusable and come in several sizes. If I haven't been diligent in my staking and am seeing a bloom start her journey towards the ground, I can quickly grab one of these stakes and

stave off disaster in a second.

Bamboo is a trusted favorite, but you must have twine or ties. I tend to use bamboo when I am staking foliage-heavy plants with blooms that pop just over the line of foliage. Individual staking is not called for in this case, so I put in about five bamboo stakes and create a spider web of twine within the plant's framework. If you do this early enough, the plant simply grows through its support system and looks incredibly natural.

Another way of supporting bushy plants that will flop over with the weight of their sizable blooms – such as peonies – is to 'corral' them from the get go with twine fastened around stakes inserted around the perimeter of the plant. These are also available to the gardener as pre-made metal hoops with stakes.

Twine is not your only choice. For tying up woody plants I often use loosely fastened zip-ties or Adj-A-Tye (a type of reusable chain lock that can be cut to measure). Less hardy plants get the kid-glove treatment with lightweight green tie ribbon.

However you decide to stake your plants, let tenderness guide you. If you tie a stem too close to a stake, the wind may not blow it down but it will certainly chafe against its support. Too tight with the twine and you will risk decapitation. Flowers are fragile and unforgiving.

Staking is that dirty little secret of gardening that doesn't often get talked about. Those in the know, do it. Others will always wonder why people grow things like Montauk Daisies, Asters and Delphinium, as they spend half their lives face down in the mud. The next time you are buying a plant, take a moment to look at the label for growth habit. Then decide whether or not you should put it back and look for a smaller cousin, or head over to hardware and buy a pack of stakes.

ter at the ground level and not on the leaves to avoid water splash and spread of the disease.

Don't use pesticides haphazardly. Use them as a last resort; try other types of control first. Understanding what the pest is, what it feeds on, and what feeds on it can help you to manage any crop or plant effectively and efficiently. When choosing a spray control, check out some of the organic products first. Things like the insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils often will do the trick. Always remember to read the label first before applying any kinds of pesticides.

9. And lastly, enjoy your garden. Learn as much as you can about

what you are growing. Take advantage of local growers who know and understand what they are growing. Support these local growers and garden centers instead of buying from the big box stores. Take advantage of your local extension offices, as Master Gardeners and educators can help you through some of your problems or questions. Take time out of your busy schedule to enjoy your work because as gardeners, we often just enjoy the work instead of the results. I know; I'm a gardener too.

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



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COOKING WITH LOVE

Margaritaville

Brooke Hagerty Lurie
The Food Chick

Cinco de Mayo is a celebration held on May 5 each and every year. While many think of it as the Mexican Independence Day that is not quite true. The original celebration started in Puebla, Mexico to honor the defeat of the French army even though they were outnumbered two to one. The celebration in the United States started in the South West and Western states by Mexican immigrants as a way to honor their culture. Cinco de Mayo celebrations are much more prevalent in the United States than they are in Mexico. In fact, on June 7, 2005 Congress called upon the President of the United States to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the U.S. to celebrate with appropriate activities and ceremonies.

This proclamation has become more of an informal holiday across all of the United States with adult beverage companies and bars pushing more and more each and every year to see who can do more, offer more and promote more. Many believe that in urban areas Cinco de Mayo celebrations are second only to St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

One thing that is for sure, Cinco de Mayo aside, Mexican food is definitely a fan favorite among citizens of the United States. Unfortunately,

many original thoughts on Mexican food have gone by the wayside and more of a fast food image has taken over. Some of my favorite recipes for Mexican style food offer the soon-to-be-traditional Food Chick twist. This month's recipes use fresh ingredients, offer healthy alternatives and pack some punch. So get ready readers for The Food Chick's idea of a great way to celebrate Cinco de Mayo! First up will be Jalapeno Poppers, then Fish Tacos and it would not be a Mexican celebration without a Margarita..... of course, all of these recipes come with a twist from what we have become accustomed.

Jalapeno Poppers

Ingredients

- 12 fresh jalapenos
- 1 – 8 ounce package cream cheese or Neufchatel, softened
- 1 tsp each ground cumin and ground coriander
- 12 slices thick sliced smoked bacon
- Extra Olive Oil (EVOO)

Directions

- Fire up the grill or for inside heating pull out your grill pan
- Spray jalapenos with EVOO and place on grill or grill pan for approximately 3 minutes per sides. Remove from grill and allow to cool to the touch
- While jalapenos are on the

grill pan fry bacon until just cooked, still pliable to be used for wrapping

- Mix cream cheese with cumin in coriander either by hand or with a hand mixer
- When jalapenos are cool to the touch peel off the outer layer of clear skin and cut a slit lengthwise from top to bottom. Depending on how much heat you want you can remove the seeds.
- Using a teaspoon fill the cream cheese mixture into the jalapeno and then wrap the bacon around the jalapeno
- Place the wrapped jalapeno on the grill and finish cooking the bacon, approximately two to three minutes per side
- Serve with a side of salsa either hot or room temperature

Fish Tacos

Ingredients

- 6" corn or flour tortillas
- 2 – 8 ounce pieces Catfish or Tilapia
- Cajun seasoning
- Vegetable or corn oil
- Fresh cilantro, to garnish
- Cole slaw – recipe to follow

Directions

- Slice fish into 1" thick by 3" long and generously dredge



- in Cajun seasoning
- Meanwhile, heat oil in skillet pan (1/4" deep of oil)
- When oil is hot (sprinkle a bit of water and if oil sizzles it is ready) and place fish in skillet for 2 minutes a side
- Remove from heat and place on paper towels (on an oven safe plate) to drain oil and wipe out skillet
- Wipe out the skillet and heat the tortillas for one minute per side OR wrap all of tortillas in a damp paper towel and microwave for 30 seconds
- Fill the tortillas with fish first and top with Cole Slaw
- Garnish with fresh cilantro to taste
- Cole Slaw recipe – combine 1/4 head green cabbage and red

cabbage with 1/4 red, yellow and orange pepper, 1/4 small red onion and 1 tsp each lemon pepper, cumin, coriander and 1/2 teaspoon salt and a pinch of crushed red pepper. In a separate bowl combine 1/2 cup each mayonnaise and sour cream with 1/4 cup pickle relish. Combine all ingredients; adding the liquid ingredients a small amount at a time to desired consistency.

Margarita

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 ounces each high quality gold or silver tequila, orange liqueur, sour mix and orange juice
- Kosher salt (spread on a plate surface large enough for the diameter of your glass), lime wheel and ice

Directions

- Rub rim of glass with lime and roll through the salt to create a salt rim and fill with glass
- Shake vigorously and pour into a glass with a salted rim using a bar strainer
- Garnish with lime wheel

Bonus Recipe

The Margranita from The Food Network Kitchen – this is a great "Adult" dessert

Ingredients and Recipe

- Boil 2 1/2 cups water and 1 cup sugar, stirring to dissolve the sugar, then remove from the heat and add 2/3 cup lime juice, 1/3 cup tequila, 5 tablespoons triple sec and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Let cool, then stir in 2 teaspoons grated lime zest and pour into a small glass baking dish; cover and freeze for about 4 hours before scraping with a fork. For the full effect, dip the rims of the serving bowls in equal parts sugar and kosher salt, and a pinch of lime zest. Garnish with lime slices.

As always, if you have an idea for an article or have any questions do not hesitate to contact me anytime at brooke@gunners-grille.com. You can reach me on Facebook under The Food Chick. And be on the lookout for our new website coming soon to a computer near you!



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MOUNT SPORTS

Men's Rugby

Bridgette Nitza-Buwala
MSM Class of 2015

Mount St. Mary's University is quite excited to see the Men's Rugby team finish out such a successful season. Faculty, students and staff of this university, along with many members of the Emmitsburg community, are all proud of these players and their outstanding achievements. Led by Head Coach Jay Myles and Assistant Coach Jim Bonner, the men have excelled both on and off the field this season.

When Myles speaks about the Mount St. Mary's University Men's Rugby team, he exudes passion and enthusiasm. He even referred to these players as a "brotherhood" and explained, "You need to trust your brother on the field. If the man on the left or right needs your help, they should know you are there for them." This "brotherhood" exemplifies Myles' statement, "The game is beautiful in itself. It's about family."

With five children and a wife who he describes as "the most incredible woman in the world," Myles is indeed a family man. Therefore, it comes from the heart when, referring to each of his rugby players, he says, "I love him as if he were my own son."

With the mantra, "None of us is stronger than all of us," Coach Myles and his team of university students work toward not only a notable season, but also an honest and positive image.

After winning games against Widener University (Sweet 16), and Loyola University New-Orleans (Elite Eight), the men competed again in late April as they took on New England College at the National Small College Rugby Organization "Final Four." This season has far exceeded any in the past. Mount St. Mary's University Men's Rugby had never even been in the Sweet 16 before this year.

Sophomore Brady Parson stated, "We are a team and a family that has

been given the opportunity to do something great, and with the continual hard work and dedication of our players and coaches, we want to bring back the national title to the Mount."

Along with Parson, Myles obviously hopes for a national title. However, he also expects that the team will learn "what it takes to push themselves through barriers and what it takes to be a leader" during this extraordinary experience in Glendale, Colorado.

Myles believes that it is crucial for all to remember that while "winning is important, the well-being of each player is also important." As the head coach, he makes it a point to "know what the rugby players are going through in life" outside of practice and every game. He has been "humbled by these young men, between the ages of 18 and 22 years old, growing beyond their years."

Myles also emphasized, "I believe in the Mount. The support of the University has been phenomenal. Kids from all over this country are interested in the Mount. They walk onto our campus, and think 'Wow. I really want to go here.'"

This being said, the rugby team thanks President Powell for his steadfast support. Such a unique "brotherhood" has recognized that they have a monumental responsibility to live up to, and they have accepted that challenge.

Parson shared a similar sentiment and acknowledged, "We have made it through our own hard work, the constant pushing of our coaches academically and physically, as well as the good fortune of others. We have had huge alumni support in our efforts and could not be where we are today if it were not for their good graces."

Though the Men's Rugby team is large, a substantial amount of players are graduating from the Mount on May 11. Myles would like to wish Team Captain (President) Matt Drumgoole, (Vice President)

Peter Sherwin, James Campbell, Dan Gary, David Harrison, Zach Hirschler, James Mahoney, Peter Martin, Ryan Teague, and Nate Van Wyk the following advice: "Keep moving forward. Be true to your heart. It will carry you through life." He acknowledges that, "these men have really taken over the program and changed the culture." The seniors are a very special part of the team and will without a doubt be missed by the coaches and by their teammates.

With this loss of players in mind, Coach Myles reflects on what he saw in this past year's newest members of Men's Rugby, those who will continue with the team for years to come. "They don't blink an eye. The commitment that they have to this 'brotherhood' is unsurpassed. They are open to and want to learn everything," he exclaimed.

"I have learned through just one year of playing what the sport of rugby is truly about," Parson added.

At first glance, people may not see what this sport entails in its entirety. Thus, the Mount St. Mary's University Men's team works to change the negative perception that Rugby has historically had. Specifically, Myles stressed that his ultimate goal is to expand the team's service work. He would like the players to fill the needs of the Emmitsburg community. While he recognizes that the town of Emmitsburg itself is very charitable, Myles wants to assure the community that he is working for the rugby team to be available as support.

He believes that his players have "hearts of gold" and he would like them to share such compassion with those who may need it.

The rugby men have already put a portion of this compassion to particularly good use. Parson shared, "Off the field, we had the humbling experience of visiting a children's hospital in Jacksonville, Florida." Through the funding of a benevolent Mount alum, the men took this opportunity to give patients not only smiles and good conversation, but also t-shirts and rugby balls.

Myles stated, "The game is beau-



tiful in itself. Rugby is all about the culture you create. Nothing but family and giving back."

Parson added, "This is the best team I have ever been a part of, and I can guarantee that if you ask anyone on the team, they will say this exact same thing."

The Mount Rugby men will have competed in Colorado on April 25 and 26. Myles will have coached the team using one of his favorite metaphors, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at

a time. The 'Final Four' games are the last two bites of this elephant." One thing is certain, Mount St. Mary's University will show unwavering pride in these men and their strive to be an extraordinary "brotherhood."

To obtain a full roster of the 2013-2014 Mount St. Mary's University Men's Rugby Team and any further material on the team, please visit <http://www.msmary.edu/student-life/recreation/club-sports/mens-rugby/>.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Springtime recipes

Renee Lehman

It is finally starting to consistently feel like springtime. Things are really growing, the animals and birds are giving “birth”, and there is more “activity” in nature. Isn’t it a great feeling spending more time outside and being active? I bet that many of you are cleaning up from winter, preparing your gardens, or just going for walks outside.

Spring is a time of beginnings and renewal, flourishing, enthusiasm and excitement, increasing light/brightness, and feeling the temperature rising. Overall, there is so much more activity, action, or movement happening this season when compared to this past long, cold winter. This burst of activity out from the stillness of winter is unmatched by any other season of the year!

The gifts that spring gives us include flexibility, clarity and vision, creativity, new possibilities, decision making and planning, and hope. Have you started a “To Do List” for projects over the next few months? Are you assessing things that need to

be completed by the fall, and creating a flexible plan to get them done?

The spring season in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is associated with the Wood Element, one of the Five Elements, and also the Liver and Gallbladder organs (see previous articles on the Five Elements within TCM). In TCM, foods are classified according to their energetic essences (or energetic qualities of temperature, taste, and ability to moisten and strengthen the body), and are supporting to us in many ways. During this time of year, consider eating foods that, based on the TCM perspective, are very nourishing to your Wood Element. Consider eating foods that have a sour taste. Eat foods like dark green lettuce and vegetables (zucchini), sprouts, and sprouted foods (like bread), and mung beans. Also, eat sour foods like lemons, limes, broccoli rabe, dandelion greens, eggplant, fennel, scallions, leeks, and high quality vinegary foods (like cucumber salads and dill pickles). Finally, spices, garlic and ginger have a warm essence that is very beneficial for Liver function and health.

Here are 3 wonderful recipes to help support the functioning of your Liver and Gallbladder this spring (from Nan Lu, OMD of the TCM World Foundation, at www.tcmworld.org).

Delectable Dandelion Pesto

Dandelion greens have been used for thousands of years in China for supporting and detoxifying the Liver. This pesto is great tossed with pasta and additional toasted pine nuts and roasted vegetables such as zucchini (for the Liver)! It can also be great spread on crunchy thin crust, topped with thinly sliced veggies and baked for a pesto pizza!

Ingredients:

- 12 ounces washed and cleaned dandelion leaves
- 1 cup olive oil
- 6 Tbsp pine nuts, lightly toasted
- 1 1/2 tsp sea salt
- 2 1/2 ounces Parmesan or Romano cheese, grated (optional)

Preparation:

Put one-third of the dandelion greens in a food processor or blend-

er with the olive oil and chop for a minute. Add the remaining dandelion greens in two batches until they’re finely chopped. Add the garlic, pine nuts, salt and Parmesan cheese, and process until everything is a smooth puree. Taste; add more salt if necessary. Thin with olive oil or water if needed.

The pesto can be refrigerated in a jar for up to 4 days or frozen for up to 2 months. To prevent the top from darkening pour a thin layer of olive oil on top.

Taoist Breakfast Cereal

Mung beans are a great detoxifier of the Liver.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of mung beans
- 5 cups of water

Preparation:

Rinse the mung beans well. Add 1 cup of mung beans to 5 cups of water. Allow the mung beans to gently boil for 30 minutes. Simmer until the mung beans are a consistency that you like (so it’s soft but not too mushy). Note: If you over-boil this recipe, the dish will become mushy. Try adding other ingredients to the cereal while cooking: raw peanuts,

dried cranberries, or scallions (for a savory cereal).

Zucchini and Walnuts

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup of walnuts, coarsely chopped
- 1 Tbsp walnut oil
- 6-8 small zucchini (about 1 pound)
- Salt and pepper

Preparation:

Toast walnuts in a frying skillet or wok for about 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and set the walnuts aside. Slice the zucchini into 3/4” pieces. Heat the skillet or wok. Add oil and heat. Add zucchini and stir-fry until they begin to soften. Toss the walnuts in with the zucchini and add salt and pepper to taste. Continue cooking until the zucchini is tender but not mushy.

Enjoy these nourishing recipes. I hope that you enjoy the Newness and hope of spring!

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

The Herbalist Dandelions

Amy Brodish

Oh, how misunderstood the Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is that many try so hard to eradicate. Yet, this plant is actually cultivated in China, France and Germany and has been a time-honored remedy by herbalists for centuries. Its name comes from old French, dent-de-lion, which means lion’s tooth, due to the deeply toothed leaves. It has been confused with Mouse-Ear Hawkweed or False Dandelion. An easy way to differentiate true Dandelion is by its hollow stem.

Dandelion is a nutritious herb, containing ample to rich stores of Vitamins A, B Complex, C and D plus Iron, Sil-

icon, Magnesium, Sodium, Potassium, Zinc, Manganese, Calcium, Copper, Phosphorous, Folic Acid, Boron, Sulfur and Choline, a liver specific nutrient, plus fiber. The cooked greens contain more Vitamin A than an equal portion of carrots.

The greens can be added to salads or cooked. The roots can be roasted and ground to make a coffee-like beverage without caffeine. Either can be made into a tea. The flowers provide food for bees and may be added to salads, made into wine or placed in batter and fried. The flowers contain the highest concentration of Vitamin D, plus exhibit antioxidant activity and their extracts are toxic to cancer cells, according to Japanese research.

Caution should be taken in ingesting the flowers for those allergic to plants in the Asteraceae family.

Historically, the latex in the stem has been applied topically to remove warts, pimples, sores and blisters. The leaves and roots have been used for anemia and to enrich breast milk. Dandelion greens have widely been used to support kidney issues, while the root has been used to support issues of the pancreas, spleen, liver and gallbladder. Dandelion also aids in muscle spasms, including those of the bile duct and leg cramps, rheumatism, inflammatory conditions, jaundice, heart burn, bone infections and has been beneficial for chronic sinus infections or allergies involving soreness of the sinuses and facial bones. It is considered a blood purifier and helps in cases of toxicity and joint issues that result, in addition to gout. It is a mild laxative, without causing diarrhea. Dandelion also increases digestion and assimilation by increasing bile flow and digestive juices and also helps to increase and feed healthy gut flora. Flatulence and bloating are also aided by this herb.

Dandelion is specifically indicated for issues involving heat rising to the skin, such as abscesses, boils, psoriasis and eczema-like conditions. It is cooling and drying, so it aids in issues where there is low simmering heat felt with dampness or in cases of a hot head with cold hands and feet. In cases where the tongue appears mapped (a coated



tongue with raw red patches where the coating appears worn off), Dandelion is the herb of choice. Furthermore, this herb tends to be very helpful for those who often feel anger, bitterness, resentment and other fiery emotions.

Dandelion greens act as a wonderful diuretic, helpful in cases of edema, as they contain potassium and other minerals that tend to be depleted with other diuretics. They are also supportive of PMS water retention and even the heated emotions associated with PMS that can often be attributed to extra water pressure around the cranium. The leaves have also been used to prevent kidney stones. The leaves are rich in Calcium and have more Potassium than the root. Combined with white oak, they have been used to re-calcify bones, including teeth.

In Europe, Dandelion is used as a weight loss aid. It also seems to help

those who crave oily foods and it can help regulate blood sugar, which can be of great assistance in losing weight. The root has been claimed to reduce cholesterol and also aids in proper metabolism and clearance of estrogen and steroidal hormones due to its ability to boost sluggish liver function and remove stagnation while toning the portal system.

Dandelion may be contraindicated in cases of obstructed bile ducts, gallbladder or intestines, or if taking other diuretics, certain antibiotic treatment or other prescriptions. Before gathering any plants, be certain that you have positively identified the correct plant with a field guide and gather from an area far from roads that have not been in contact with herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, synthetic fertilizers or other harmful substances, including vehicle exhaust fumes.

Amy Brodish, MH, CNHP, graduated from the American College of Health-care Sciences as a Master Herbalist, and is a Certified Natural Health Professional and owner of Herbal Reflections in Fairfield, Pennsylvania. She holds consultations with clients interested in improving their health naturally and is available for seminars. Amy also prepares personalized herbal formulations and flower essences for clients. For further information, contact 717-642-5000.



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New Patients Welcome

Keep Moving

Fighting cancer with a positive attitude

I believe everyone can relate to good things coming from a positive attitude and I'm sure you know you will feel better if you look at the positive side of a situation. I'm also sure if you hear the word mistletoe you think about Christmas but I don't think most people would think about fighting cancer with mistletoe, but that is exactly what alternative treatment is being used. The following is a personal account of the past few years of the life, struggles and fight of her life written by Stacy Hobbs. I hope this story will help anyone going through this in their own life to keep a positive attitude and never give up looking for a treatment that may help them, even with unusual alternatives.

My Story: Stacy Hobbs

Two years prior to my diagnosis my

youngest brother was diagnosed with Leukemia. He had a very difficult time during his treatment. He was vented at John Hopkins for 3 weeks. He had a rough journey but I'm happy to say he finally had his last treatment January 2014 and is doing well. I thought I could understand a little of what he was going through since I worked in oncology for 5 years. After my diagnosis, I soon realized I knew nothing of how he felt.

I was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer April 2012. A type of breast cancer that has a higher recurrence rate and is more difficult to treat. Treatment began with 16 rounds of chemo to shrink the tumor since it was near my chest wall. I then had two lumpectomies in October 2012. Once I was healed from surgery, I then had 33 radiation treatments. I finished

with everything December 28th, 2012. I was so excited for the new year and things to come. I even rushed to have my port removed in January.

I had a CT scan of my chest in June 2013 which came back clear. In August of 2013, during a self-exam, I felt something different. It wasn't like the first mass I found. I text my oncologist while at work that Monday morning and he scheduled me for an Ultrasound. Again, I didn't know what to think and found myself scared to death. It hadn't even been a year since I finished treatment. A good friend came along as support and was in the room with me during the Ultrasound. As the technician started the exam I could see my friend tear up and then I forgot all about me. I couldn't believe that this could be happening again! Or that my friends and family would have to suffer through this all over again! After the technician was done she had the radiologist come in and take a look. The radiologist explained that

what I was feeling was a hematoma, but beside it was a small mass. My excitement only lasted a second. She then called my surgeon to see if he could biopsy it that day. The radiologist ended up doing the biopsy that day. During the biopsy the mass fluttered and the technician said "did you see that?" They thought that maybe since the mass fluttered it would turn out to be old blood from the hematoma. I left there feeling good and with no worries. The very next morning I received a call from my surgeon asking me to come in to see him. This was not good; I knew the cancer was back. Accompanied by some amazing friends, I headed into the surgeons office where these feeling were confirmed. He told me I would need a mastectomy and wanted to know when I wanted it done. Of course, I told him to get it out of me as soon as possible!

The following Tuesday I went in for a single mastectomy. Then came the tests for staging. I was worried about

the bone scan because I was having a lot of pain in my right leg. Thankfully the scan came back clear. Unfortunately my chest CT showed some lung lesions. This was the first time in my life I was literally brought to my knees. So my Oncologist set me up for a PET scan. My worst fears were confirmed. I now have stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. I have 5 masses in my lungs and 7 lymph nodes involved. So I contacted John Hopkins to see what trials they had available. The day of my visit a surgical physician assistant I worked with sent me information of a trial they were going to do with mistletoe. I asked the physician about it and she just said they would only be accepting 20 patients and that they trial was not ready yet. Turns out they didn't have any trials that I qualified for. So I'm panicking because 3 weeks have gone by and nothing has been started. So my oncologist said we would start chemotherapy.

Part 2 next month

Fitness Matters

Expert answers to your health questions

George Puvel
Anytime Fitness Owner

Question: I hear that keeping a food journal might help me lose weight. Can you give me some tips on how to get started and the best way to journal?

Answer: Several studies have shown that people who keep food journals are more likely to be successful in losing weight. The simple act of food journaling is an excellent way to bring instant awareness to what, how much, and why you are eating. Journaling helps identify areas where changes might need to be made, whether it's recognizing a food allergy or sensitivity, or realizing that many of your daily calories are coming from mid-afternoon beverages and late-night snacks. Decide on what type of journal will work for you. You might choose a simple notebook and manually log or you could use a smart phone app (like Anytime Health) and track digitally. Next, start logging your food. It makes the most sense to log right after you eat, whenever possible. Be sure to include time of meal, food amount/portion size, and degree of hunger. Be as honest and thorough as you can. It's easy to forget the handful of M&M's at the office or that alfredo sauce on your lunchtime pasta. Review your journal weekly, either on your own or with a dietitian to determine eating patterns that are positive and those that need a change to help you move towards a healthier lifestyle.

Question: Can you please explain what Tabata is? I know it's a form of intense exercise, but what exactly do you do?

Answer: Tabata training is a specific type of high intensity interval training that is short in duration but extremely HIGH in intensity. Japanese scientist Dr. Izumi Tabata and his team of

researchers in Tokyo discovered Tabata Training. Tabata's research was done on two groups of athletes: one group training at moderate intensity (5 days a week for 6 weeks for one hour at a time) and the other at a much higher intensity (4 days a week for 6 weeks but for only 4 minutes at a time). The high intensity group showed a substantially larger increase in their aerobic system than group one, and increased their anaerobic system by 28 percent. In other words they literally got fitter faster! You can see how this is becoming a popular method of training. The Tabata protocol is only 4 minutes of exercise but within those 4 minutes, you perform 20 seconds of extremely high intensity

exercise followed by 10 seconds of recovery and repeat 8 times in a row. In order to get the results Tabata saw in his study, you need to workout as hard as you possibly can for each and every second of the intervals (to a place where you literally cannot say a word and do not feel like doing the work again). You can choose any exercise that allows you to achieve the intensity described. Tabata workouts are intense, but great if you are short on time, need to break through a plateau, or you are just looking to change up your exercise routine. You should always build in significant recovery after a Tabata workout (easier workouts the next day or two) and keep in mind that if you are doing Tabata training right, you will not want to go for very long!

About the author: George Puvel is the Club Owner. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.

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COMPUTER Q&A

Internet scams

Ayse Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

The majority of computer users are not experts thus leaving them more vulnerable to being scammed online. Even those who are wary of online scams have fallen victim to the increasingly clever scams. Now many scammers are using scare tactics to make people believe they are in big trouble if they don't act fast. Read on to learn more about some of the most common scams online right now and how you can prevent yourself from being another victim.

Ransomware Scams

This malware uses scare tactics as a means to extort money from unsuspecting targets. In exchange for your payment the ransomware promises to remove the warning (which is really a virus) that is preventing you from using your computer.

FBI Warning

The most recent and common type of ransomware is known as the FBI warning. When trying to access their computers, unsuspecting victims are told that they have performed illegal activity and must pay a \$200 fine to the FBI to avoid being arrested within 72 hours. With piracy (illegal downloading) and pornography on the rise many users feel they may have violated the law and agree to pay up not knowing the entire gig is a scam.

Fake Antivirus Software

For a while now viruses have been posing as fake antivirus software that looks almost identical to legitimate software. The software will prompt you that you have certain number of viruses, malware, or spyware and will prompt you to pay to have them removed. Victims who have paid to have the virus remove are surprised to have money from their bank accounts removed instead.

You can protect yourself from ransomware by asking yourself a few simple questions before giving away any personal or financial information.

Did I actually do something wrong to trigger a threat? Many times users have done absolutely nothing wrong but fear that they have!

Would a government or another official agency really use the internet to contact me?

Realistically if you were in trouble with the FBI they would knock on your door, write you a certified letter, or contact you another way, not through your computer screen!

Is there a phone number or a way to reach the threatening party?

Many times the contact information given will lead you to a disconnected number, an obvious scammer, or an automated email. This should be a red flag!

Have I researched the threat elsewhere online to see if it was legitimate or not? Always take the time to research something like this! You can always call your local computer shop, do a search on

Google, or ask a few friends! It only takes a few minutes!

Phishing Scams

Emails and other forms of online communication from seemingly reputable companies are used to send out claims of security breaches and/or requirements to update personal information. The claims are fraudulent and are instead an attempt to steal your password or personal information.

eBay

One popular phishing scam involves an email appearing to come from Ebay asking you to update your billing or personal information. Some emails even claim your account will be suspended if you do not comply with supplying your information. Links found in the email take you to another website that looks like eBay but

is not! Filling out the form located on the link's website would actually go to an unidentified third-party.

Paypal / banks

In this scam victims would receive an email stating that their information must be verified. Users are asked to click on a link and enter in their account or card information. The websites have been known to look convincingly similar to the real websites. Information entered into the fake websites are provided to an unknown third-party to use without your permission!

You can protect yourself from phishing scams by asking yourself a few simple questions before taking any action with the email or notices you receive.

What is the email address that the email came from? Many times the email address that

sent the email may be pretty obviously fake. For example a phishing email coming from "ebay" might come from support@ebay.info or billing@ebaytu.com they appear similar but are not coming directly from @ebay.com!

Are there any grammar/spelling errors in the email?

Many scammers know how to extort money but aren't spelling bee champs! Many times errors are

obvious and most of the time legitimate contact from big companies remains error free!

Do I even use the company or service that is contacting me? If you are getting an email from a company that you no longer use then you probably have no reason to update your information anyway. Many emails can be spam coming from companies you have never even heard of before!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2 & 3
The Country End Bay Open House. See add on page 17 for more details

May 3
His Place Car Show. Whether you're a "gearhead" or simply appreciate vintage autos, be sure to come on down to the annual His Place Car Show at Mother Seton School, sponsored by His Place, Inc. Registration for the show begins at 8 am, with the judging taking place from noon-2 p.m., and awards at 3 p.m. Free to attend, \$15 if regis-

tering for the show (\$12 in advance via bkuhn3@yahoo.com). Proceeds benefit Mother Seton School and Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center. Rain date is Saturday, May 10. For more information call Bill Kuhn at 1-800-529-5835.

May 3 & 4
9th Annual Apple Blossom Festival. See article on page 18 for more details

May 4
St. Anthony Shrine Yard Sale and Flea

Market. Location at the corner of U.S. 15 and St. Anthony Road, Emmitsburg, MD. \$10 per spot. For more information call 240-529-2737.

May 5
Mother Seton School Fine Arts Night. You're invited to come browse fine works of art, literature, and music created by our talented students, grades Pre-K through 8. For more information, contact us at 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

May 5 & 6
Lyrids Meteor Shower. See the Sky At Night article on page 44 for more details.

May 8
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's Primitive Skills workshop: Poplar Basket Making at the Preserve. Functional and durable baskets can be made from the bark and wood of many types of trees. This class will focus on producing baskets from poplar bark. For more in-

formation call 717-642-5840 or visit www.StrawberryHill.org.

May 9
Elias Lutheran Church's annual Spaghetti Dinner featuring: Pr Jon's famous Spaghetti Sauce, Garlic Bread, Salad Bar, Iced tea and Dessert. Elias is located at 100 W. North Ave., just one block up School Alley from fire dept. For more information call 301-447-6239

Elias Lutheran Church's Bluegrass Coffee House! The Home Comfort Band will play from followed by Emmitsburg's own Silver Lining Band! Bring a friend! For more information call 301-447-6239.

May 10
Calling all Dads and Kids! Mother's Day is coming soon and Hollabaugh Brothers has the perfect gift idea for Mom! Make Mom a Mother's Day planter! Paint a beautiful flower pot for Mom, then pick a pretty flower and

plant it in your pot, creating a special gift from Mom's favorite people! Fee: \$10. This event will be held at Hollabaugh Brothers Fruit Farm and Market, 545 Carlisle Road, Biglerville. For more information call 717-677-8412.

May 11
Strawberry Hill's Mother's Day Wildflower Walk - Treat Mom to an extra-special day with a guided hike through Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. You will enjoy the beauty of nature more deeply as you locate and learn about the local plants and wildflowers. This annual event is a popular follow-up to Mother's Day brunches (we suggest bringing a picnic to the preserve). For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.StrawberryHill.org.

The Majestic Theater presents Judy Collins. Celebrate Mother's Day with the legendary singer-songwriter, Judy Collins, who has thrilled audiences worldwide for more than 50 years with

Yard Sale
May 9th & 10th
10026 Longs Mill Rd Rocky Ridge
8am - 4pm
Youth clothing, toys, Harley Davidson items, Longaberger items, golf items, lots more

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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May 13
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's rain barrel building workshop. Join Master Carpenter Floyd Armstrong for a hands-on demonstration of how to build your own rain barrel and learn about the benefits of utilizing rain water. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.StrawberryHill.org.

May 14
St. Joseph's Ministries Community Wellness Event - You are invited to attend an afternoon of useful health information and fellowship presented by our knowledgeable speakers. St. Joseph's Ministries is fortunate to have experienced staff in the fields of nursing, dietary, rehab, community resources, mental health, and spirituality. These areas are beneficial in having a healthy lifestyle as our years continue. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information call 301-447-7000.

May 17
2014 Annual Camp Eder Benefit Golf Tournament - Proceeds will benefit the 2014 Children's Summer Camp Program of Camp Eder, a Christian Camp & Retreat Center in Fairfield. For additional Camp Eder details or more Golf Tournament information call 717-642-8256 or visit www.campeder.org.

Christ Community Church's Drama Group's free performance of Peter Pan and Wendy by the CCC Drama Group. They will be performing in the Gym of the Town Office Building. Bring your kids, family and friends for a FREE evening of fun!

May 18
St. Anthony Shrine Yard Sale and Flea Market. Location at the corner of U.S. 15 and St. Anthony Road, Emmitsburg, MD. \$10 per spot. For more information call 240-529-2737.

Elias Lutheran Church's Choir Festival featuring bells, organ, praise bands and choirs from our own Emmitsburg Churches. A free will offering will be collected to support the Council of Churches Mission to Kenya, and members of the Mission Team will be serving light refreshments after the concert. For more information call 301-447-6239.

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus annual Spring Concert at Apples Church (7908 Apples Church Road), Thurmont. The 2014 Spring Concert will feature songs of Disney and patriotism.

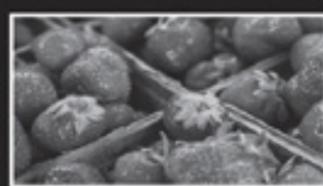
May 19 - 25
Mother Seton School Carnival. Rides, games, food, and entertainment available each night. An annual tradition in Emmitsburg. Come and join the fun! For more information visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

May 22 & 23
Saint Anthony Shrine Yard and Bake Sale. For more information call Helen Reaver at 301-447-6431 or the parish office at 301-447-2367.

May 26
147th Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies. The 147th Gettysburg Memorial Day parade and ceremony is one of the oldest continuing ceremonies in the country. The Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at 3pm at the Rostrum in the Soldiers' National Cemetery. For more information call 717-334-6274.



Adams County Farmers Markets




Wednesdays - Opening May 7th
Gettysburg Heritage Center, 297 Steinwehr Ave
Hours: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Fridays - Opening May 9th
The Outlet Shoppes at Gettysburg
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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Saturday, May 10th - 10am to 2pm

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- Decorate a flower pot for Mom & Jubilee will add the flower for a terrific gift!
- Decorate a Mother's Day picture frame and we'll take your picture to put in it!
- Decorate a Mother's Day card for Mom!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Mount Ensembles Concert

May 1, 4 p.m.

Terrace Gazebo near IC Chapel

Celebrate May Day with a short outdoor band concert! Experience music the way your grandparents did—a small band playing standards in a gazebo.

The Risk

May 1–3

Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center, 8–10 p.m.

An original one-act play, depicting the history of an unfortunate relationship between college students.

The production is directed by Martina Howard, C'14.

Admission is free.



Senior Class Art Show

May 1–10

Williams Art Gallery, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

Gallery Hours: Gallery Hours: M/W/F: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.;

T/Th: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.; or by appointment.

Call 301-447-5308

The senior class student art show is the thesis exhibition for graduating visual artists. The following Class of 2014 members will exhibit their works: Allison McCarron, Ashley Christie, Sarah Gawens, Kelly Blorstad, Jennifer McSparron, Anne Marie Battista

Baccalaureate

May 10, 4 p.m.

ARCC Fieldhouse

A celebration for all graduates and their families.

Commencement

May 11 (All Day)

ARCC Fieldhouse

Commencement includes a full Mass and ceremony to celebrate the great accomplishments of the Mount's graduating seniors. There will be LiveStream coverage of the Commencement Exercises beginning at 9 a.m. Please visit www.msmary.edu for more information.

Elizabeth DiNunzio MEMORIAL 5K FUN RUN/WALK REUNION WEEKEND • JUNE 7, 2014



Register today for the

ELIZABETH DINUNZIO MEMORIAL 5K FUN RUN/WALK

Saturday, June 7, 2014

Race Day Check-In: 7–7:45 a.m. The 5K will begin at 8 a.m.

Start and finish: Trailhead Plaza (near Tennis Courts), PNC Sports Complex

Registration Fee: \$25 Individual, \$10 Children 12 & Under

(All Proceeds Benefit the Elizabeth DiNunzio Memorial Trail)

Register at www.msmary.edu/race

Register by May 12 to receive a T-shirt.

Online registration closes on June 3, so be sure to register by then to receive a timing chip!

Timing chips will not be available for walk-in registrations.

Post-race refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Jeanne Hurley at 301-447-6872 or jhurley@msmary.edu