

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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East End Garage comes down

If you blink, you missed it. On Saturday, November 7, with the help of a gentle nudge of a construction backhoe, the shell of Emmitsburg's East End Garage came down. By Sunday morning, the 100-year-old structure had been reduced to a pile of rubble.

Preliminary demolition of the building began after the land was sold for a proposed Dollar General Store, which is slated for construction in early 2015. Before the building could actually be torn down, and its debris shipped to the county landfill, the building had to be gutted of all hazardous material and recyclable material such as copper wiring and metal.

The gutting of the building took over a month, according to owner Frank Hobbs. Throughout the gutting, Hobbs, a history buff, was on the lookout for long lost items of historical significance. "We found old bottles from both the Mathews Bottling and the Emmitsburg Bottling companies that date back to the 1930s in the walls, but nothing else."

East End Garage was the last of the original garages that sprang up in Emmitsburg in the early 1910s to serve the mechanical needs of owners of early automobiles, along with its peers, Wagerman's Garage at the end of West Main Street and the Emmitsburg Motors Car Company on Frederick St. (South Seton Ave.)

In the 1920s and 30s, the garage served as the local Chevrolet dealership. In 1949, Wilber Umbel acquired it and turned it into a full time garage. In 1958, Umbel sold the garage to Francis Hobbs. Over the next 33 years, Hobbs built the business into one of the larger independent car repair shops in the area. In 1991, Frank Hobbs bought the business from his father and continued to run it as garage.

The rapidly changing repair needs of today's computer-based automobiles soon outpaced the ability of the East End Garage mechanics to compete with modern repair centers. In 2010, the decision was made to close the business.



Old East End Garage was razed to make room for a new Dollar General Store, construction for which will begin in early 2015.

While for weeks many had anticipated the actual date the building would come down, the speed of its collapse surprised many. All day Sunday, old time Emmitsburgians gathered to watch as the rubble was sorted and piled. Stories were shared about time spent in the garage waiting room, the mechanics that worked in the garage, and long forgotten historical anecdotes about the building and its many owners.

In addition to the East End Ga-

rage, the old Gelwick's "Flying A" gas station will also be torn down to make room for the planned Dollar General parking lot. Gelwick's gas station is the last of the original gas stations in Emmitsburg. The property also once housed the old Emmitsburg Ice Plant, which was torn down in the 50s. Construction on the Dollar General should begin in early 2015, weather permitting. It is anticipated that the store will open by the summer of 2015.

Qually bids for second term

The lone Democrat County Commissioner, Marty Karsteter Qually, kicked off his campaign for re-election as Adams County Commissioner at the home of Kristin Rice and John Wolfe on November 7.

Qually, who grew up in Cumberland Township, spoke to a group of 50 family members and friends explaining that he is seeking another four-year term to "keep the county moving forward and follow through" on his previous commitments. "It has been a great pleasure to serve the citizens of Adams County for the last three years," said Qually. "Our goals have been to be a more responsive, open, and fiscally responsible county government." As well, Qually has consistently reached out to the citizens of Adams County to listen to their concerns — "no two problems are the same, but each voice is equally important," he said.

After listening to input from public meetings throughout the county, Qually has focused on providing solutions that have been instrumental in promoting responsible development for better jobs; reorganizing county offices to better serve its citizens; keeping taxes under control; and sustaining the county's strong credit rating. "I am not satisfied with doing the same thing over and over again," said Qually. "The last three years have been successful, so we need to move the bar higher." He says that some people think county officials often

dictate what municipalities do. "We certainly don't," Qually said.

The three-member board of commissioners has merged the county planning department, which has improved relationships. "We've had great communication with the municipalities, and continuing those partnerships are crucial to the success of Adams County," said Qually.

When asked about being the lone democrat on the board, Qually said, "While I am a Democrat and John Martin and Randy Phiel are both Republicans, we always strive to find agreement, and when disagreeing, make sure it is polite and professional. We really do want what's best for the citizens of Adams County."

His campaign will focus on three main areas, helping municipalities realize their economic development goals, being accessible to the public so that residents have a voice in County government, and continuing to improve the County's financial position. Qually currently serves on the Adams County Board of Economic Development Corporation and is the Commissioner liaison to the County Planning Commission. "Being connected to both planning and economic development puts me in a unique position to see development issues from multiple perspectives," said Qually. "With County involvement, projects are starting to move again. While we have no "mandate" to create a stronger economy, this Board has decided not to sit idly by as



Current County Commissioner, Marty Qually, is the first to throw his hat into the ring for next year's race in Adams County.

opportunities pass Adams County."

Before he began his first term as County Commissioner in 2012, Qually served as a County Auditor in 2011. With his background as Auditor, a major part of his focus as a Commissioner has been to promote projects that are both sustainable and fiscally responsible. With much of the County's success in improving its Bond Rating from A1 to aa3, the result of previous boards of commissioners, Qually believes that there is still room for improvement. Specifically, he helped to create a Financial Review Team of county staff dedicated to finding ways to reduce

expenses. Qually believes dedicated employees working for county government hold many of the answers. "Sometimes leadership isn't just dictating good ideas to staff, but instead is taking the time to learn from their expertise."

The Primary election will be held May 19. Voters will select two candidates from each party to move onto the general election held on November 3. With only two members from each party moving forward, neither party can win all three seats that are open, a state requirement designed to ensure minority representation on county commissioner boards.

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NEWS

Early Learning Center closes

The Emmitsburg Early Learning Center (EELC) closed its doors on October 31. The Early Learning Center had been in operation since 1996, by Poolsville Day Care Center, when it assumed operations from the Seton Day Care Center. The Seton Day Care Center has been operated by The Daughters of Charity since 1969, when it opened to meet the growing need of child-care. The Daughters of Charity's mission for the Seton Day Care Center was a non-profit organization that provided quality child-care. The EELC continued on with that mission.

Parents of children attending the EELC were given notice of the closing in a letter in early October. In the letter, the EELC pointed to economic reasons for their decision to close the center. "Unfortunately, the Center has not been immune to the economic pressures we have all faced in recent years. As a result of such pressures, as well as the expansion of programs in public and private schools, community groups and the curtailment of funding subsidies from organizations including the United Way and the Citizen Services of Frederick, the Center can no longer operate at the high level we require and you expect. After a great deal of thought and consideration, we made the difficult decision to close our doors."

Emmitsburg Mayor Briggs was informed about the closing of the EELC in October. He was told



The closing of the Emmitsburg Learning Center leaves the local area without an after school learning center.

that the student enrollment was down and economically the EELC could not continue with its operation. Mayor Briggs said, "The demand seems to have diminished to the point where it is not feasible to operate."


The EELC was housed in space leased from the Seton Center, Inc. The prefabricated structure was built in 1957 and originally served as the Mother Seton School until 1974 when classes were moved to the new school built on Creamery Road. The Thrift Shop and the Outreach Office, which are part of Seton Center Inc., are not closing. At this time, Seton Center, Inc. is not leasing the space that was once occupied by the Emmitsburg Early Learning Center.

The closing of the EELC will complicate the childcare options for parents who have children in

school that require before and after school child care close by. At this time there are only four in-home licensed day care providers in the Emmitsburg area. All four-day cares are at full capacity or close to full capacity.

The Emmitsburg Town Government also provides an after school program for children of town residents for free, but the program is recreational, as opposed too educational in nature. The Town's after school program is located in the lower level of the Community Center building and has a maximum capacity of 20 students. This program runs from the beginning October to the end of March. Operational hours are from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week.

Frederick County also oper-



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Emmitsburg News Briefs. . .

Code of conduct

In the future, a code of conduct may be adopted by the Board of Commissioners for the town of Emmitsburg. At the November 3 town meeting, the potential code sets guidelines for behavior for elected officials and staff was discussed. It would apply to the current and future commissioners and town staff. It states electronic devices will not be used, people will not interrupt or raise

voices, and they will provide reasoning behind their voting decisions, if they are asked. The code of conduct is supported by Mayor Briggs.

Town Commissioner, Joe Ritz, said he applauds the idea of the code. Ritz said "I would hope that everyone would conduct themselves as put forth by the policy." Board President Tim O'Donnell, and Town Commissioner, Glenn Blanchard,

however expressed reservations. O'Donnell said, "I feel like we are putting real limiters here." Blanchard wants members to be able to express (or not express) their opinions.

Mayor Briggs said in years past there have been occasions where there has been tension between town commissioners, and it caused a lot of disruption. He wants people to be able to come in and discuss their ideas. "I just

ates YMCA Head Start Center in the lower level of the Community Center building. It is an income based program and is open to students aged 3 – 5 years who reside in Northern Frederick County.

There are two sessions each day. The morning session is from 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. The afternoon session is from 12 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The Center is currently at full capacity.

want some protection for you all. If you're going to run for office here, you're going to be polite," said Briggs. After some back and forth at the meeting, the Board decided to table the item to give members time to review and make changes.

Report claims town staff underpaid

According to a report provided to the town, the town employees are underpaid by 15%. Town Manager, Dave Haller, said salaries haven't been changed in 10 years. Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA's) have been given some years, but not always. Haller said, "The thing that has been, for lack of a better term the downfall, is the fact that we didn't always honor the COLA's."

The author of the report noted that there are employees that have worked here a long time, and they are severely underpaid, while there are other employees that have not been here as long and are paid more.

Haller acknowledged this and said the staff in question has important knowledge learned through years of hard work, and they will be hard to replace if they leave. The town needs to make the best effort possible to pay them properly because "they are where the rubber meets the road."

The town is currently reviewing the report's recommendations, which includes a phased program to close the pay gap, and will decided at a later date on how to address the recommendations.

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Carroll Valley police officers receive unit citation

At the regular meeting of the Carroll Valley Borough Council on November 11, Mayor Ron Harris presented Detective Clifford Weikert and Chief Richard Hileman with unit citation awards in recognition of outstanding police work, performance, and cooperative effort exhibited by the Police Department as a whole, in the pursuit and apprehension of these felons, who preyed upon residents in Carroll Valley and others throughout Adams County.

The citation, presented on behalf of the council to Weikert and Hileman read: "The distinctive accom-

plishment of these officers reflect great credit upon themselves, the Carroll Valley Police Department, and the Borough of Carroll Valley."

From April to November 2013, a rash of burglaries that resulted in a significant loss to those affected plagued Carroll Valley and surrounding areas. The Carroll Valley Police Department was significantly involved in the investigation of these felonies and after months of investigation, officers were able to identify and charge four individuals responsible for these crimes. Those charged included Robert Voitek, Japheth Miles, Arik White, and Zach-

ary Hunt, all from the Gettysburg Borough.

Working with State Police, Liberty Township, Carroll County MD Sheriff's Office and the Adams County District Attorney's Office, the investigation solved seven burglaries in Carroll Valley, Liberty Township, and twelve others throughout Adams County. Carroll Valley Police made the arrests in those cases as well and provided evidence for two additional individuals' arrest pertaining to the stolen property.

Mayor Harris said, "I am very proud of the extensive, excellent investigative work performed by these

two officers that resulted in the arrest and conviction of four individuals. It should be noted that this investigation was carried over a number of months while they were still performing their normal daily police work in protecting the citizens of Carroll Valley and Fairfield. It is a job well done.

The investigation resulted in the conviction of all four individuals, who as well as receiving prison sentence, were required to pay \$130,000 in restitution to the victims. This ended the largest burglary ring operating in Adams County for the last decade.

Detective Weikert graduated from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Municipal Police Academy and began working for the Carroll Valley Police Department in 2001. Chief Hileman was named Chief of Police in 1997 after coming to Carroll Valley Police Department in 1992. Hileman was Valedictorian of his class at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Municipal Police Academy. Both officers have earned the respect of their peers and community by dedicating themselves to the safety and well being of those in and around their community.

Recreation Commission moves forward on park

The Hamiltonban Recreation Commission continues to move forward in a positive direction in the creation of its first community park. Many good ideas and feedback were presented and received by the commission and the residents on the November 18 meeting at the Fairfield Fire Hall. "We are excited about establishing this park for Hamiltonban. We want to create a happy, family space for our kids to enjoy," said Maggie Travis, from HRC.

The Commission wanted to openly communicate all of the aspects of its work and plans. Members, Maggie Travis and Terry Scrip-

ture, presented a short power point presentation to the Board and area residents detailing plans for a small playground, a pavilion, and a walking path. The newly built maintenance building and park layout has been completed. The next step is to apply for startup grants and for long-term, sustainable grants.

Autumn Arthur and Maggie Travis spoke about the different grant options and steps needed to achieve them successfully in 2015. The Adams County Green Space Grant is expected in time for conjunction with the DCNR Grant. The all-volunteers are very positive and hopeful that the community and area

businesses will also come together to help make the park a reality.

In the making since 2008, Township residents Dave Jones (chair), Lacy Hammett, Terry Scripture, Maggie Travis, and Autumn Arthur were all appointed by the Board of Supervisors. They have volunteered countless hours to bring the three-acre park of the Township Campus property at 4020 Bullfrog Road to life. The Board of Supervisors ultimately makes all decisions, and their plans have been well thought out and communicated effectively to the board and general public.

Many positive comments and concerns were heard from area resi-

dents. Former Township Supervisor, Dale Premo said "I commend you all on the hard work you've done."

He also asked if the commission had thought about security, vandalism and maintenance. "Are you prepared for the possible liabilities and costs?" Resident, Ed Fitzgerald was concerned about the retention pond and wet areas around the area. BOS, Eddie Deardoff suggested making Parks and Recreation a separate entity from the Township, citing concerns about possible vandalism and liability as well. Many residents suggested a fence for safety and liability issues. Also suggested was planting water friendly plants and trees

for problem areas. A walking path was a positive and most wanted suggestion.

The commission will begin the process of applying for available grants in 2015, talking with possible sponsors and local business that may support the creation of the park. They are also making sure that all board and public concerns are addressed and handled with open as well as transparent communication. If all goes as planned, the building could begin as soon as 2017. "It's a slow process, but we're being very careful, very methodical, and very positive. That's the best way," said Travis.

School Board promises more transparency

At the November 17 Fairfield Area School District's meeting, the newly formed Policy Committee laid out formal plans for the future appointments of new board members in an attempt to be more transparent to district residents. In recent weeks, the board has come under intense scrutiny following what some have called, the arbitrary appointment of Richard Matthews.

Mathews was appointed following the resignation of former board president, Mark Greathouse. A half-dozen names were submitted to fill that seat. While the Board chose Mathews using a point system, the lack of public comments raised concern among

some residents about the transparency of the selection process. The unexpected resignation of Brad Rigler, who assumed the Board's leadership after Greathouse's resignation on November 3, offered the Board the opportunity to address the issue of member replacement in a more systemic process.

"We're not perfect," said Chuck Hatter, who is acting board president until a replacement is found for Rigler. "We really didn't know how to attack this, how to handle this, we went by the same procedure that was used previously," Hatter said. To date, the position for board president remains open. The board has 30 days to appoint a replacement to fill the seat vacated by

Rigler. The next school board meeting is set for December 1.

With the inception of the newly formed policy committee, the board is hoping to avoid a repeat of what has been seen as arbitrary appointments. The members of the newly formed committee are Lonny Whitcomb (Chair), Pam Mikesell, Bruce LeFeber, and Richard Matthews. "The board realizes that this has been a subject of discontent. They want to do a better job of explaining that process so everyone is familiar with it," said Bill Chain.








The new policy for any vacant board seat will require residents to submit their application packages which include a letter of interest, resume, and board appli-

cation to the Board Secretary. Candidates will have the opportunity to address the board and answer two predetermined questions. More than eighteen residents signed up to speak at the November 17 meeting. The majority addressed their comments in support of school Board Superintendent Bill Chain whose contract is coming up for renewal. A petition in support of the renewal of Chain's contract is being circulated.

Sally Thomas said "Mr. Chain always displays professional behavior with the board and members of the school, there is always a harmonious atmosphere of collaboration. Mr. Chain shines here folks, he really shines." Retired

Fairfield Principal, Jack Inskip, spoke of the tremendous unity in the community, helped in part by Mr. Chain." Jeanie Hanks said, "When I went to school, I didn't even know who our superintendent was, it's not like that here. Every kid that goes to school here knows Bill Chain. He makes a point to know every student; they flock around him when they see him. You don't find that at many schools."

In other business, the Fairfield Area Alumni Association presented Chain with a check for \$2,500 for the upgrading of the schools' sound systems. "We want to give special thanks to Mr. Chain for all of his support," said Robyn Brown of the Alumni Association. The next FASD meeting will be held on December 1 at 7pm.

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NEWS

Advance Auto Parts set to open

The new Advance Auto Parts store in Thurmont, which has been under construction since May, is expected to open on December 19. The 6,900 square foot facility will employ at least 14 people.

Lou Perez, the District Manager for Advanced Auto Parts in the local regional area, said he was looking forward to the opening. "I've never been so excited about a store as I am about the Thurmont store," Perez said. "We are looking forward to being part of the greater Thurmont area. We not only hope to serve the needs of local 'do it your self auto enthusiasts' in northern Frederick and Southern Adams County, but we are also looking forward to adding value to the wonderful community that is Thurmont. It is our hope that when you walk into the new store you'll see faces behind the counter you know and can trust."

"Advance Auto Parts is committed to bringing our promise—service is our best part—to life not only for our customers, but also in the communities where our customers and team members live," continued Perez.

Perez said it became clear to Advanced Auto Parts that there was a need for a store in Thurmont after analyzing, through the use of zip codes, where customers for its current Frederick and Taneytown stores came from. "We were surprised to see residents in Emmitsburg and Thurmont were almost split equally between choosing the Frederick and Taneytown stores. By placing the store in Thurmont, we could cut the driving time down for them, as well as the residents in Fairfield and Carroll Valley."

The location of the shop in Thurmont, just one block off of Route 15

adjacent to the Mountain Gate restaurant, was chosen, according to Perez, because "It's convenient to residents throughout the Northern part of the county. You can get in and out and back to work on your car quickly." Delivery is also available for local commercial customers such as mechanics and garages.

The new Thurmont store will not only serve the "do it your self auto enthusiasts," but also local garages and residents who might need just a little help getting something minor fixed such as, installing wiper blades—free services that have made Advance Auto Parts customer service second-to-none in the auto parts industry.

With a focus on the environment, the new store will also offer free oil and battery recycling. Residents who bring in old batteries will receive a \$5 store gift card for each battery re-



Thurmont's newest edition, Advance Auto Parts is set to open December 20th

cycled. The store will offer a wide range of parts and recognized national brands, as well as several free services, including complimentary electrical charging system and battery checks. Installation of new batteries is offered free of charge on most models. In addition, the store staff will assist customers with check engine light issues by offering free computer code reading.

The Thurmont store will be the

fourth Advance Auto Parts location in the local driving area, joining the two stores in Frederick (1003 West Patrick Street and Routes 26 and 15) and the Taneytown store on Route 140 on the east end of Taneytown.

The new Thurmont store, which will hold a formal ribbon-cutting opening on Friday, December 20, will be open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Purchase of park land finalized

The Thurmont Board of Commissioners came together at their November 11 town meeting and one of the topics on the agenda was the purchase of a piece of land that would allow the town to expand the community park.

This is not the first time this topic has been discussed. According to the commissioners this was the second parcel of land they have tried to purchase. During the September 9 town meeting, the council voted to pur-

chase the land. The land was thought to be owned by the town, but it was later found that the town did not in fact own it.

The piece of land is located on the south side of Honey Creek near the rear of the park. The land was separated from the rest of the park by a stream.

At the September 9 meeting the commissioners agreed to pay the owner of the land \$6,000 for the piece of property.

At the November 11 meeting, however, there was a motion to purchase the land for \$16,900. The offer was made to the current owner verbally and was unanimously approved by the commissioners. The reason behind the change of cost was not discussed.

The land is .571 acres and is located in the west backside of the park near 214 West Main Street.

The motion was approved but before that the floor was open to the members of the board to comment.

Commissioner Martin Burns gave some background on the property: "For those who don't know, if you walked back through the park you would never know that the property was not ours."

Neither the town nor the legal owners were aware that the property was not owned by the town. It wasn't until the town went to do some work on the property that they found that the property was not theirs.

Once the town knew this, Burns re-

called that they decided to see if it was possible to get grant money to purchase the land. "Can we get some grant money to buy that so maybe we won't have to use tax payers' money, except for the money you pay into the state?" he asked.

Once the grant was approved, they took it to the owner and made an offer. It was made clear at the meeting, after Burns gave the background story, that this was a finalization of the purchase of the property. He assured viewers that there would not be some "new big piece;" it has always been there. Now the town legally owns the property.

Thurmont News Briefs...

Veterans Day commemorated

This year's Veterans Day celebration, organized by Helen DeLuca, took the form of a novel afternoon workshop filled with information about veteran benefits provided by professionals in their field. Veterans and spouses were invited to explore and sign up for benefit options they were entitled to.

Country music entertainer Chuck Fisher provided a genre of music including a segment of patriotic songs sung by all. Rocky's Pizza donated the food, Stauffers Funeral Home provided food and drinks, the Civitans provided home baked desserts, while

Food Lion donated a patriotic sheet cake. Everything was served by the Thurmont Lions Club.

Flags also made their debut Veterans Day, and adorned the Main Street area for Veterans Day week. Commissioner Wes Hamerick suggested the flags a few months ago to show support for our freedom, veterans, and country. The lineup of American Flags will henceforth wave proudly on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day.

Lions Club historical Christmas gifts

Just in time for Christmas the Thur-

mont Lions Club are offering prints of the murals depicting scenes that celebrate the beautiful and inspiring history of Thurmont.

The murals feature the Roddy Road and Loy's Station covered bridges, Cunningham Falls, Camp David, Main Street Thurmont, Catoctin Furnace Iron Works, and "Thurmont's Rail History."

In addition, the Lions Club is also selling two Christmas tree ornaments, one with "Thurmont Established in 1751" etched in glass and the other with the Thurmont Rail history mural etched in glass.

The prints and the collector's book

can be purchased at Timeless Trends Boutique. Ornaments can be purchased at Brown's Jewelry Store, Gateway Farm Market, Catoctin Mountain Orchard, Springfield Manor Winery, and Catoctin Mountain Trains.

The prints and ornaments will also be available during the town's Christmas tree lighting on December 6. For further information, contact Joann Miller at 301-271-3913 or Nancy Dutterer at 301-271-6965.

Thurmont Pinktober a success

Thurmont's October Think Pink campaign Gateway To The Cure

was herald as an overwelling success raising \$5,287 for the Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Memorial Hospital. Throughout the month, business in Thurmont ran promotions and donated the promotion discounts to the cause. In addition, residents painted the town pink by purchasing pink light bulbs at the town office with all the proceeds from the bulb sales donated as well. At the presenting of the check at the Thurmont Town meeting on November 8th, organizer Vickie Grinder said: "we had no idea the total would be that phenomenal the first year. This is clearly an example of a community coming together for a cause that touches all of our lives in form or another. Look out 2015!"

<p>NEW! 18 PAK Bottles \$20⁹⁹</p>	<p>HO! HO! HO! Happy Holidays * 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!</p>			<p><i>We Have A * Wide Selection Of Winter & Christmas Beers In House Now!</i></p>
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One hundred years ago this month

December 4

Cattle Disease About Over

Indications are that the foot-and-mouth disease in the county has nearly run its course. No new cases have been reported for several days, and those engaged in the fight have been busy slaughtering and burning the herds of infected animals, which have been found in the county. To date there have been 25 infected herds which have been slaughtered, comprising a total of 842 animals, including 680 cattle, 88 she, and 146 hogs, which are collectively valued at \$33,246.

Hunting Accidents Claim 27

Figures gathered by wardens from the state game commission showed that 27 deaths occurred in hunting accident in Pennsylvania during the 1914 season. The majority are shown to have been rabbit hunters, some of whom were killed by the discharge of their own guns while climbing fences. The report also noted that all 27 were carrying, or smelled of liquor, at the time of their accidents.

Majority Against Women Voting

In her letter to President Wilson contending that the majority of women do not want to vote, Mrs. Arthur Dodge, President of the National Association Opposed to Women's Suffrage declares that the national membership of suffrage associations is less than 200,000, which is less than 1% of the 24 million "Mature women of America." Her letter then goes on to state that popular majorities against women's suffrage in the last three years have greatly increased, and that it is a waste of time to continue the movement in the face of the good common sense demonstrated by male voters across the country.

Knitting Mills Gets Contract

The Union Manufacturing Company of Emmitsburg, has received a United States Army contract for 25,000 pairs of lightweight woolen stockings. This contract insures ten solid weeks of employment for the girls in the factory. In many cases these girls are the support of their family. Only those who are connected with the mills and are employed there know the vital importance of this contract. The contract was awarded largely on the efficiency of the mill.

Drunks in Emmitsburg

A number of young men, strangers to Emmitsburg, made their way into town last Friday night and behaved in a most disgraceful manner on the streets. No arrests were made. On Monday morning a drunken man staggered around the streets of Emmitsburg and made himself generally offensive until taken in tow by Deputy Sheriff Adlesburger.

Record Hog Weights

Mr. Robert Eyerl killed four hogs

on Monday whose total weight was 1,601 pounds. The porkers were weighted separately and their weights were as follows: 435, 413, 398 and 355. Mr. Eyerl lives on the Patterson Farm about one quarter of a mile from this place and so far the weight has not been surpassed the season.

December 11

Wives Cut Boozer's Meeting Short

The weekly meeting of the Emmitsburg Chapter of the Former Former Boozers Association in the Hotel Slagel's bar was cut short when Mrs. Shorb interrupted the meeting and cuffed her husband's ear and drug him home to finish his cores.

The boozers had just passed a motion thanking Mrs. Dodges, President of the National Association Opposed to Women's Suffrage, for her well reasoned proclamation to the President that women don't have the facilities to vote correctly and should instead confine their interest to keeping their houses clean and cooking for their husbands.

Laughter faded quickly when Dr. Glass's wife appeared and cuffed his ear also. The remaining members dispersed quickly lest their wife's should make an appearance and ruin their God given right to drink.

Winter Has Arrived

Saturday marked the real beginning of winter weather. Early in the afternoon it began to rain, followed by a slight fall of snow. Continuously for the next few days snow rain and sleet fell. Winter is here.

Moving Pictures Tonight

The moving pictures to be shown at St. Euphemia's Hall tonight, promise to be particularly interesting and instructive. The reel dealing with the religious subjects will include the remarkable film, "Samson and Delilah". Under travel will be shown "The Pink Granite and State Industry." The natural science reel will exhibit "Jean and Her Family", "Study of Kittens", and "Bud, Leaves, and Flower, the Culture of Bulbous Flowers." The performance will begin eight o'clock sharp.

December 18

Eight Tons Sent to Belgians

The official appeal on the part of Maryland in behalf of the Belgians was received in Emmitsburg on November 27. Twenty-four hours afterwards actions in this district were commenced. On Sunday, November 28, every pastor in this community told their flocks in what matter practical help could be rendered, some making the Belgian cause the subject of their sermons.

Nothing further was necessary - the simple presentation of condi-

tions in that war devastated country was enough for the sympathetic, bighearted and charitably disposed people of Emmitsburg. The response was immediate, liberal and general. Everybody wanted to help, everybody did help, with the results that last Thursday eight tons - 1,600 pounds - of flour, meal, corn, potatoes, canned goods, salt, meat and clothing left the community for Baltimore where they will be loaded on a ship to Belgium.

Every cent of money contributed here, was spent in Emmitsburg. Everything was bought here, and each barrel, box and bag of flour, provisions, and apparel contain the label "From Emmitsburg Maryland, Belgian War Relief Donation." In flower alone, the cargo included 50 full barrels.

Robbery in Thurmont

A burglar who entered the confectionery store and bowling alleys of Wisotzkey Brothers, East Main St., Thurmont, Saturday night, made his getaway with a fair hall of old coin, but little cash. Among the coins, which he took, were some of the first pennies used in this country, together with other relics, which the proprietors consider valuable. There is no clue to the identity of the robbers.

Christmas Pageants

The pupils of St. Euphemia's School will present their Christmas play on Tuesday afternoon. Tom's Creek public school will hold their Christmas exercise Monday, December 21. All are cordially invited to attend. The Civic League has asked that all the residents leave their shades up on Christmas Evening so the town will look bright and cheerful.

Ice Harvesting Beginning

With temperatures holding in the single digits since Monday, ice harvesters were out in force on local streams. All day Friday wagons filled with ice made their way through Emmitsburg. While some of the ice will be used in Christmas celebrations, a vast majority will be stored in icehouses in the bottom of barns where it will sit until retrieved in the heat of the summer.



Wilbur Umbel, Francis Hobbs, and Joe Geiselman in front of the East End Garage back in the early 1950s. Prior to being a garage, the building once housed a Chevrolet dealership, and in the early 1920s, it served as a depot for coal to heat homes.

December 25

Beautiful Christmas Custom

Those who attended midnight mass at St. Anthony's early this morning had the opportunity of hearing Larry Dielman carrying out his beautiful custom of playing before the service at the graves of his parents in the old churchyard. When asked the other day if he was going up the hill if it rained, Mr. Dielman made this reply: "Rain or snow will not stop me. For 31 years I have been playing the flute on Christmas morn at my parent's grave and I shall do so as long as I am able."

Since 1883 Larry has been following this custom, and to former students at Mount St. Mary's College, and to thousands who have visited the "Old Mountain," the name of Larry Dielman is familiar. Indeed, the story of the loan Mount musician has spread throughout the world.

Three Unfortunate Accidents

Mr. Ledlie Gloninger, of Valley View Farm, slipped on the ice Wednesday morning and sustained a fracture of the leg. This is one of three accidents that occurred that same day. The second was a coasting mishap as a result of which Mr. Charles Gillelan is suffering from

a badly lacerated face. In the evening, as Mrs. James Helman was leaving the library, she slipped on the icy step and was thrown against it. The shock from the fall was very painful and in consequence of it she is confined to her house.

Important Road Improvements

Work is about to begin on the road from Emmitsburg to Gettysburg. The improvements of this link have been in contemplation for several years. Pennsylvania will do her part. The completion of improvements of these two important parts of this much used thoroughfare will make an ideal highway from Frederick and points below that city, to the famous national Battlefield.

Fire Caused By Upsetting Lantern

The upsetting of a lantern by a child caused a \$150 fire in the stable of Charles Wastler, near Thurmont. Mr. Wastler, who is a carpenter, was in Thurmont working for Mr. Creager at the time of the fire. Unfortunately, Mr. Wastler, who bought the place about a year ago carried insurance on his house and furniture, but not on the stable.

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



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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

County Councilman Kirby Delauter

I would like to thank all of my supporters during this grueling nine month long campaign cycle. I've had a lot of help from good people all over the County, but most of all I would like to thank my wife Tina and our children Maureen, William, Emily and Sam for enduring this election with me.

Elections take a toll on a family, but to come through a lot of the negativity and attacks on your character your entire family has to be grounded with a strong

faith in God and a strong belief that deep down you know where you came from and also where you are going.

This next four years will certainly be different than the last four. During the last four years we had 4/5 of the board with the same goals, in the next four years we have four Republicans on the Council which gives us a simple majority. This will allow the correct check and balance between the Council and the Executive but will still be challenging

to achieve our goals of fiscal responsibility and business friendly measures in place.

We've done well over the last four years to place the County in a strong financial position with the highest bond rating in County history, and I will work hard to keep it that way. I signed a taxpayer pledge to vote against any measures to increase taxes, you can be assured I will not fold on that pledge.

I will do my best to work through issues in a civil and pro-

fessional manner but I only hope the opposition does not mistake this as a weakness. They will need to understand that I can and will compromise on certain issues but I will not vote to raise taxes, fees, or any other form of revenue. I will remain fiscally responsible and work to keep the County living within its means just as you do in your household.

As we get sworn in December 1st, this will start a new page in County history, the start of Charter government. Some people like

this form of government, some people dislike it, my opinion is this, it really doesn't matter what form it's in, what matters is the leadership qualities of the people you elect.

We have to remember that it's not the governments job to take care of you from cradle to grave, it's job is to provide basic core functions and to stay out of the way of the job creators so that simple supply and demand economics can provide commerce which provides taxation which provides the means for the basic government services, and that is how I will govern.

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

A tradition restored from much earlier times, the town Christmas tree lighting on the Square will fall on Monday, December 1st. Holiday music will begin at 5:00 pm with caroling by Silver Lining and the Mother Seton School chorus beginning at 5:45 pm. The tree lighting will be at 6:00 pm. Then a visit by a very, very, special guest at 6:15 pm.

At the close of the festivities on

the Square it is down to the Evening of Christmas Spirit at the Carriage House Inn for one on one with Santa, entertainment, free hotdogs and hot chocolate, hay rides and more.

Also on December 1st Reese Fryer from the town office and Libby and I will start the morning off reading with Emmitsburg Elementary School kindergarten and 1st grade students. December 11th

I will make a presentation to the Mother Seton School 4th grade as I did in November at the elementary school. These presentations are very special. It's the trusting anticipation in their eyes, the arms waving and the overwhelming uptick of a collective enthusiastic pulse to participate and ask questions. We have a bright future ahead of us with them, IF we assure them, it is for them...

With The annual Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA) awards dinner on December 5th, it's a good time to extend some tribute. What better example of the sentiment the holiday season brings than the quiet continued service of the EBPA. The "Change for Food" program EBPA started 6 years ago has raised

over \$36,000 for the Emmitsburg Food Bank. The EBPA scholarship fund has raised over \$21,000. In addition to sponsoring the Community Day fireworks, recently the EBPA donated \$1,000 for a tourist kiosk located on the square. Thank you to EBPA members for the continued community support and reminder that things can get done.

November brings with it many activities that for me activates all emotions. Starting with the Mount Athletic Committee meeting where results of outgoing student athletic exit interviews were reviewed. The concern that the school administration has for a positive student experience is remarkable. The student comes first. It is something of ten lost at larger schools.

Then the somber emotions

that the Veteran's Day ceremony of our local honor guard bring. On the 11th day at 11 am during the 11th month every year the observance of a three volley twenty-one gun salute followed by the bugler playing taps takes place and is repeated at all the cemeteries in honor of those who gave so much for us.

I was out of town and missed the annual Emmitsburg Wattle Waddle on Thanksgiving morning. An annual event started in 2009 by the Weigelt family, participation has steadily grown each year. A wonderful way to sooth your conscience before sitting down for the big meal. This year's proceeds went to support the Seton Center.

In November the town received an early Christmas present, an award from the Maryland Energy Administration for its success and leadership in the Maryland Smart Energy Communities program. Quite an accomplishment. Congratulations to the staff for the hard work. To us their efforts translate into a less expensive government.

Finally if you want to give your family the best and most lasting gift of the year, clean out your medicine cabinet of unused prescription drugs. Bring them to the town office where the sheriff's drop box is located. Much of our heroin addiction starts with left over prescription drugs.

From my family and from the town staff, "Merry Christmas."

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

State Delegate Kelly Schulz

Expectations and Transitions

It is a new day in Maryland! As you know, Maryland voters elected a Republican Governor on November 4th and the transition from the previous administration has begun. For the first time in years, there is a feeling of optimism throughout the state.

In addition to a newly elected Governor, there were 7 additional Republicans elected to the House of Delegates and one additional State Senator. Logistically, this allows for one additional member to be added to 4 committees and 2 additional members assigned to 2 of the House committees.

Why is this important to you? Honestly, it has nothing to do with one individual Party. It does have everything to do with Maryland moving slightly away from a 1 Party system of control. Having a slightly higher number of Republicans creates an opportunity for a more balanced approach to governing, which I believe the voters are demanding.

The voters were very clear about their vision for Maryland's future. They saw the state's economic and business forecasts as being subpar to the rest of our neighboring states. They expect more from Maryland considering the fact that we have some very impressive qualities – a highly educated work force being at the top of that list.

I have, over the past three weeks, been actively discussing policy issues with members of the Hogan/Rutherford Transition Team. I can honestly say that they 'get it' when it comes to actively and strategically working with all stakeholders to propose substantive changes. However, they also understand that it will take some time to correct the mistakes that have occurred over the past 8 years of over spending and increased taxes. My advice to anyone beginning to analyze this process is 'proceed with caution'.

The first reaction of most people that applauded Hogan's victory was that tax increases would be repealed, gun laws would revert back to pre-2012, and our overly zealous environmental programs would be put on hold. While many of these items are priorities for the new conservatives in town, it is extremely important to remember that whatever your wish list, it will take some time to garner the support to see them through. Remember, the conservatives are still in the minority in the legislature. We need help from our colleagues to make this happen.

The unfortunate truth is that Hogan has inherited a \$400 million deficit (and that may grow!). The anticipated tax revenues that the previous administration projected are not coming to fruition. Thus, the new

budget needs to reflect an immediate reduction in spending just to remain solvent. Hogan has reportedly said that this won't affect his plan to immediately reduce some taxes, but we will have to wait to see the proposed budget in January.


There will also be some conversations in the areas of the environment and agriculture that are well overdue. Those discussions have already begun to occur with the goal of finding a way to satisfy the need to remain good environmental stewards without continuing to hinder the efforts of our farming community. The rural areas of the state, like Frederick County, have experienced the brunt of environmental regulations that have been questionable as to their overall efficacy. Our newly elected Governor has promised to review these regulations to make sure that our small farms are not driven out of business by the new standards.

It will be a very different experience in Annapolis over the next four years, but a balance of powers at any level of government is a positive thing. I remember the promise 8 years ago that we would become One Maryland. That is a very nice thought, but it didn't happen. Our state became divided very quickly and many parts of the state felt ignored when it came to their unique needs. It is my goal to help to turn that around. I know that it is Governor-elect Hogan's goal, as well. I believe that he knows that he has a limited amount of time to make some very important changes, but keeping expectations realistic will be a key part of our success. Maryland did not get to this spot overnight, and we won't see the change overnight. BUT, we will see it....I have absolutely no doubt that we will!




Joe Ritz II takes his oath of office from Mayor Don Briggs to become the newest Emmitsburg Town Commissioner. Ritz's wife, Jamie, and son, Edwin, look on while Garrett, Ritz's other son, celebrates.

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Thurmont Business Bucks
It don't get any easier than this!

Thurmont Historical Society invites you to visit the Creeger House at 11 North Church Street to obtain your copy of the Thurmont Documentary-Almost Blue Mountain City on Dec. 6th Christmas in Thurmont, & Dec. 13, 9am-5pm for Museums by Candlelight. The price is \$25 which includes tax.

FROM THE DESK OF . . .

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

On Tuesday, November 11th, the Borough Council met and approved the advertisement of the proposed 2015 Budget. This action made the proposed 2015 Budget available for residents review prior to its final adoption at the December 9th Council meeting. The 2015 Budget is the end-product of a three step review process over a three month period. The first review is performed by the Borough Manager when analyzing the Borough Department submissions. The second review is performed by the Finance Committee. The third review is performed by the Borough Council during their Budget Workshop.

At the November meeting, the public was given the opportunity to review the proposed budget. The tentative budget is based on a millage rate of 2.45 mills that is 24.5 cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation which means there will be no Carroll Valley Borough tax increase for 2015. However, you need to realize that while the Borough and County are remaining at the same level as last year. It is too early to know

what the school district will do with their millage rate.

The school district's 2015 fiscal year runs from July through June. Their preliminary budget is reviewed and approved in May 2015 and final budget approved in June. The Borough tax is only a small portion of the total Property Taxes paid by you. The distribution of the total tax paid breaks down as follows: Carroll Valley is 15%, Adams County is 24% and Fairfield School District is 61%. If interested, a copy of the preliminary budget can be reviewed at the Borough office. You can also go to the Carroll Valley Borough website at www.carrollvalley.org for the online version. Be sure to read the 2015 Budget Message prepared by our Borough Manager, Dave Hazlett.

The holiday season is upon us and many of us will awake on Christmas morning to the joy of finding presents under the tree. Some families in our Fairfield zip code area will not be as fortunate. For many reasons, those families will not have presents to open on Christmas Day. Because of this, Toys for Tots was created. The

Toys for Tots program is an annual toy drive sponsored by the United States Marine Corp. The goal of this program is to make sure every child has a present on Christmas morning. If you want to help to bring a smile to a child, please consider donating a new unwrapped toy. You can place your gift in the Toys for Tots Donation Box in the lobby of the Carroll Valley Borough Office. The distribution date will be on Sunday, December 14th at the Fairfield Fire Hall. If you have any questions, please call Gayle Marthers at 717-752-0063. You also can go to the website: www.toysfortots.org I would like to thank those in our community for their support of the Toys for Tots Program.

At the November Borough Council meeting, I had the pleasure of presenting a Unit Citation Award to Chief Richard L. Hileman II and Corporal Clifford J. Weikert for the outstanding investigative work that resulted in the arrest and conviction of four individuals. These criminals were responsible for committing 19 residential burglaries between April and November of 2013, seven

of which occurred in Carroll Valley. This action executed by our officers put an end to one of the largest burglary rings in Adams County in the last 10 years. It is a job "Well Done". I hope this also sends the message to those who do not want to follow the law, "Don't come and play in Our Neighborhood."

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association is partnering with the Fairfield Fire and EMS to hold their Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 6th from 8 am to 11 am. I have been told by an air traffic controller that Santa plans to arrive at 9 am. If you plan to attend and bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program, you will eat for free. As always, there will be lots of fun for the kids.

Borough meetings December are: Planning Commission (Dec 1st), Public Safety Committee (Dec 8th), Borough Council (Dec 9th), and Parks/Recreation Committee (Dec 17th). The Borough Office will be closed on Dec 25th and Dec 26th. Please reduce your speed to make sure you, your loved ones, your friends and neighbors will be safe.

If you have any questions call me at 301-606-2021 or email at Mayor-RonHarris@comcast.net. Happy Holidays and I wish you and your family good health and happiness topped with loads of good fortune in 2015. Happy New Year!

On the evening before – December 5th, a Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held behind the Carroll Valley Borough Office at 6:30 pm. Come and join your neighbors by experiencing the lighting of the tree, singing some Christmas carols and drinking hot chocolate. I want to thank the Carroll Valley Municipal Services for decorating the tree and park area. They always do a great job. The CVCA Holiday Gala is plan for Saturday, December 19th at 6:30 pm at the Carriage House Inn in Emmitsburg. If you interested in purchasing dinner tickets, call Charles Dalton at 717-642-5844.

State Representative Dan Moul

When the newly-elected governor takes office on January 20, and the state legislature begins its new Legislative Session, it remains to be seen how well our governor — who hails from the mid-state and is a seasoned businessman — will work with a legislature that has been on a solid track of attracting businesses and jobs to Pennsylvania. It is certainly my hope that our new governor will join with us to put our citizens to

work and encourage continued economic growth and stability.

Clearly, there are some pressing issues facing the new administration and our Legislature that must soon be addressed. To do so, it will be essential for all sides to work together to find common ground and accomplish those things that will move Pennsylvania forward.

The greatest threat to our commonwealth's economy and citizens is

the looming pension crisis. The State Employees' Retirement System and the Public School Employees' Retirement System are carrying a \$50 billion unfunded liability that is growing at an alarming rate of \$11 million per day. This unfunded liability accounts for a sizable portion of the local property and school taxes paid by Pennsylvania citizens. While there is

no silver bullet that will fix the pension problem overnight, lawmakers have drafted a sensible pension reform plan that will reverse the present course and, over time, correct the inequities in the current pension systems. We are hopeful the new governor will work with us to achieve this.

In the new term, the governor-elect and state Legislature must also

work together on labor reform bills that will make Pennsylvania attractive to businesses and industry and will bring family-sustaining jobs here. All Pennsylvanians deserve a right to work and should not be hampered by project labor agreements that hamper fair and competitive bidding on construction projects.

I am hopeful that, as a businessman, our new governor will work with the General Assembly to make the changes needed to entice businesses to relocate here and further improve Pennsylvania's job climate. Several acquaintances from central Pennsylvania have told me that the governor-elect is a good listener and willing to work across the aisle. His experience as the owner of a successful, non-unionized company also demonstrates his understanding of today's business world. I am hopeful that he will keep every man, woman and child in mind when he takes office as our governor in January.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioner Jim Martin

At the end of 2013 the Board of Adams County Commissioners pledged to follow a straight and defined fiscal course. We were true to that pledge and are glad to be able to share some of the accomplishments of that pledge.

Based upon our tentative 2015 county budget, the Board is pleased to report there is no need to raise county taxes to balance the 2015 budget. The next bit of good news is, no funds are required to be pulled from the county's general fund reserve accounts to balance the budget. It should be noted that our substantial reserve funds contributed to our upgraded bond rating. Also the Board anticipates a 2015 budget contingency of more than \$550,000 – the largest contingency of our administration. This is a major step forward when compared to the 2014 budget contingency of only \$55,775.

The above fiscal good news did not come by accident or willing it to be so, but occurred through collective efforts of administration, management, and employees. Finding cost savings, whether great or small, was the focus of a special employee task force

know at the Finance Review Team. This team recommended numerous ideas that proved to be prudent measures for reducing costs. I would like to add, that the 2015 budget is the first entire budget that truly reflects the hand print of this Board's making.

A major contributing factor for maintaining a balanced budget, requiring no tax increase, was how we dealt with our health care provider's 14% increase in renewal premiums. Rather than accept those terms, we were confident that we could find a better option than to be at the mercy of uncontrolled premiums. Through the combined efforts of our County Manager, Insurance Consultant, and the HR Department a cost effective program was developed to give us cost control now and in the future. This is definitely a case that supports the value of using consultants, especially when their expertise results in major cost containment. It is interesting that less than two weeks ago we discovered that one of the county's largest employers looked favorably at an 11% premium increase. I say this to the credit of our team whose diligent efforts and resolve were able to con-

tain our insurance premiums increases well below 11%. The control that we now have over our program will allow us to steer clear of the impending "Cadillac Policy" tax under the Affordable Care Act.

As a Board we must keep in mind that we have the responsibility to provide for the general welfare of our citizen through the services we provide, while being fiscally responsible. To that end, county services have not suffered as a result of maintaining a definite fiscal course. Periodically I have noticed that in certain municipalities, they reduced funding to emergency services and/or law enforcement to balance their budgets. This is not to their discredit; it is the reality of making difficult choices in a struggling economy. We are very grateful that we are not in that situation, but for the past two years our 911 funding (from the state) has been cut \$400,000/year. That funding loss has been covered in our budgets for the past two years, not an easy task. We have regularly been in contact with our legislators to ensure that 911 funding restoration will be a priority of the new legislature. Basically new legislation is needed to

address the huge loss of land-line telephone generated revenue.

In the face of a struggling economy we continue to make cost saving improvements to county operations. This generally requires the ability to fund large and longer term projects. We have been afforded the opportunity to make improvements through favorable credit terms and lower interest rates. This was achieved as a result of our county bond rating being upgraded to AA3. Refinancing county debt under this upgraded rating provided us more favorable terms and interest. This opportunity alone reduced our annual interest payments by \$70,000.

The \$70,000 savings generated was much needed toward replacement and upgrade of essential computer equipment and programs that are antiquated, not efficiently handling data files, and at risk of become inoperable. The new computer system will also provide substantial reductions in electricity use. Additional funding for this project and the replacement of aging vehicles came through a favorable line of credit that was again leveraged

by our upgraded bond rating.

During the past three years there were substantial maintenance and repair costs for county vehicles that were hard to justify, other than we could not afford to buy numerous replacement vehicles. With the favorable line of credit it was financially feasible to replace vehicles. Now that we are steadily acquiring replacement vehicles, there is an amazing reduction in repair and maintenance costs.

The examples cited above show that we are on a path to realize long-term savings. This is a huge plus considering our tax base has only seen minimal increases for generating tax revenue. Based upon economic projections there will likely continue to be a sluggish economy for several more years, resulting in near stagnant increases in tax revenue. Given the cost saving that we are achieving, we have positioned ourselves to deal with the challenges of a struggling economy. When the economy does improve the prospects of an even stronger county financial position appear bright.

The board hopes that all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and we wish our deer hunters much success and safe hunting. May you all enjoy the blessings of the Christmas season.

State Senator Richard Alloway

Economic development and infrastructure enhancements have been priorities during my six years as your state senator representing the 33rd district. The state Senate and House recently passed a comprehensive transportation bill to fix our crumbling infrastructure and I supported Act 89, because investing in our roads and bridges is a core function of government and it had to be done.

Pennsylvania is currently among the worst states in the nation when it comes to the conditions of our roads and bridges. Report after report cites the pressing need to upgrade our infrastructure. Pennsylvania leads the nation with 6,500 structurally deficient bridges. Approximately 36 percent of Pennsylvania's major roads are rated in poor or mediocre condition.

As part of the package, the transportation fund is budgeted for \$97 million this year, and it increases annually to \$144 million in 2018. I would like to especially thank PennDOT Secretary Barry Schoch for his vision and commitment to this area. Schoch, a Big-

lerville High graduate, toured the 33rd district with State Rep. Dan Moul and myself back in February, where he got a first-hand look at our transportation needs.

I'm pleased to announce that, as a result of Act 89, six transportation projects in the 33rd district are receiving more than \$5.7 million from PennDOT. These grants underscore the diverse transportation needs throughout the region, and I'm very pleased to see these projects move forward with financial support from the Commonwealth. The grant money awarded will not only improve public safety with much-needed infrastructure upgrades, but it will also help spur increased economic activity by opening up new areas for development.

As part of the \$5.7 million allocation, the shortfall in the Steinhilber Avenue streetscape project in Gettysburg has been eliminated. The Borough of Gettysburg is receiving \$495,192 to relocate utility poles, install light fixtures, street furniture, a bus shelter, and landscaping.

This is good news for the business owners along the pedestrian

corridor. Further, in light of increased suburban growth in Adams County, these improvements are a critical step to address the challenge of new residential and commercial development, while preserving the historic, small-town charm of Gettysburg.

Washington Township in Franklin County is receiving \$2 million to fund the construction of 3.13 miles of the Washington Township Blvd, from PA 997 to Old Forge Road (Route 2007). By opening up an alternative route through Waynesboro, the Washington Township Boulevard will allow for a quicker and efficient flow of goods from Interstate and rail locations to the Roushville Commercial District. The Waynesboro/Washington Township area is an emerging leader in economic growth; attracting numerous business and employers to the area and the Boulevard will

only further serve to encourage additional growth in the area.

The Iron Springs Plaza project in Fairfield received \$700,000 from the fund to upgrade Fairfield Road and Iron Springs Road for increased vehicular traffic expected with the construction of a new commercial shopping center. This project is expected to bring more than 100 jobs to the area over the next 10 years.

These projects will certainly have a positive impact in terms of improving traffic flow, reducing congestion, bolstering public safety, and highlighting some of the best aspects of our communities. The grants were awarded as part of the Multimodal Transportation Fund Program. A total of 86 projects received funding totaling \$84 million statewide.

The state legislature adopted Act 89 in 2013, which is a five-year \$2.3 billion plan that allo-

ates money for highways and bridge projects. Additionally, the transportation package directs funding toward a multi-modal transportation fund to underwrite aviation, freight and passenger train, ports, waterways, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

I encourage municipal officials and planners to continue to work with your county-wide Transportation Planning Organizations to ensure that your projects are ready for the next steps.

Every community in the state has unique transportation challenges in terms of dealing with traffic congestion, dangerous intersections, and highway and bridge repair. Thankfully, as the grant allocations indicate, the state recognizes the importance of infrastructure and economic development in the 33rd district.

For more information about Act 89 and how it helps Pennsylvanians, I encourage you to visit my website: www.senatoralloway.com

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

A time to be thankful – for some of us

Shannon Bohrer

Its fall, the holidays are here, the election is over, and somebody won. I do not live in Syria or the Middle East, or Ukraine, Ebola has not infected anyone in Emmitsburg and yes, life can be good. As my mother used to say, be thankful for what you have, not what you think you should have. Sometimes we get wrapped up with so many things like which one of the 200 television channels should I watch. We can forget what is good and even more so what is important. I have good health, I enjoy my family, I live in a great country, I eat well, and I have great friends and neighbors.

However, not everyone feels the way I do. I was recently in the company of a friend and he began to complain about my optimism, he complained about the economy, the wars in the Middle East, the cost of everything, taxes and the federal government. After he was finished, I said that during this festive holiday season, he must have something for which to be thankful for. He thought for a while, but said nothing. I then said that some people would complain even if you hung them with a new rope. His expression told me that he did not think it was funny. I somewhat apologized for the remark and he then went on a rant about the fed-

eral government being too large with too many give away programs, one being Obama care. He basically did not think it is right that his tax dollars were subsidizing someone's health care. I thought about asking how his thanksgiving went – but then thought better of it, maybe it would be too much rope.

Believe it or not, I did feel sorry for him. Like me, he is semi-retired, he has a retirement income, a good family and neighbors, and he has good health insurance. He has a good life and you would think he would be happy. After a moment of thought, I had a good argument about one of his complaints. I mentioned that he, just like me, also enjoyed subsidized health care, as we are both retired government workers. We both receive the subsidies when working and even in retirement, which means that other tax payers are subsidizing our health care. I also added that he and I do not pay any taxes on the subsidies, in that way it's like an extra pay check. The argument did not work, he said that our situation was different, it was not a government hand-out and we worked for it, so we deserved it. He then went on to say how the government has doubled in size since Obama became president and that was the real problem. Too much rope.....spoiled, too invested in his

position, won't admit that one can be wrong, all thoughts with logic - from my perspective. I guess how you view it depends upon your perspective. I did say that I agreed with him that the government is too large. But I added that I would not like any reductions in government that would affect me and/or the services I am receiving. Either I annoyed him or he was having a medical problem, as his face became flushed and started to twitch, he appeared physically stressed.

After a few more words, we parted company and I thought about how two people with similar backgrounds could have such diverse opinions about the same subject. I also thought about what I had heard, especially during the elections, how Obama had increased the size of government. I knew the government had grown, but I did not think it doubled. So - I thought that before I see my friend again I would do a little research, you know, so I could be prepared.

What I found surprised me. In 2013, the federal work force had 2,723,000 employees. (The numbers are for civilian employees and they do not include the military). Of course that's just a number, but when I did some more research what I found was not what I expected. THE 2,723,000 IS THE LOWEST NUMBER SINCE 1966, when the federal gov-

ernment employed 2,721,000. The current federal workforce is 2 percent of the individuals that are employed. In 1966, the government work force was 4.3 percent of the people with jobs. The federal work force has shrunk, and we now have a 48 year low.

I was surprised, a little confused and happy all at the same time. I have heard about our bloated and oversized government for so long that I believed it. You hear statements on the talk/news shows on a regular basis that would lead anyone to believe that the government is too large and it's growing. While I was surprised, I was also a little happy. I thought about the next meeting with my friend and how I would bring this information up in a conversation. And then I thought; he would not believe it. No matter what the facts are – some people just won't believe them.

When I looked closer, I found some more surprising results. President Jimmy Carter left office with 8,000 fewer employees than he started with. President Regan inherited a work force of 2,875,000 and when he left the work force was 3,113,000, an increase of 238,000. At the end of President George H. Bush's presidency, the federal work force was reduced by 30,000. President Clinton started with a federal work force of 3,083,000 and when he left the work force was 2,703,000, which is a minus of 380,000, the largest reduction since the end of World War II. When President George W. Bush left office the federal work force had in-

creased by 53,000. And, as we already know, President Obama has decreased the federal work force by 33,000. If we examine the U.S. Military we find that in 1966 we had 3,129,000 service members and in 2012 (the last year I found the numbers for), we had 2,697,000 service members. Another reduction...

I started my research with a statement that I found by Paul Ryan, the chairman of the House Budget Committee. On a web site he made a statement that the federal government has doubled in size under Obama. PolitiFact.com rated his comments as "pants on fire." You have to question why this information is not the headline news you would think it would be. The information is available from multiple sites. Also, why do the republicans keep saying they are the conservative party when their party is responsible for all of the increases in the last 40 years?

"Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclination, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence" John Adams (1735-1826)

I would hope my friend would agree with me that if you look around the world, I think we have the best government on earth. Yes, it can be improved, we can complain about it, write about it and offer suggestions for change, and that is a large part of why it is so great.

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

Common Cents

Philae, the little probe that could

Ralph Murphy

The landing of the Philae space probe on a 2.5 mile wide comet over 300 million miles from earth was a major achievement for the little heralded European Space Agency (ESA). It proved the event was possible on such a distant and rapidly moving object, and unleashed euphoria among participant national providers which might be harnessed for more worldly endeavors.

Philae also has important scientific application as organic microorganisms were detected on the surface of the comet following a ten-year flight from earth. Additional data couldn't be transmitted as it lost battery power, but might be forthcoming and revealing should the craft's solar panels restore power. It is hoped that the comet can help unlock secrets specific to the origin of the earth and universe not available to our planet's land or space based optics.

Space probes and related technologies were a twentieth century phenomenon founded initially in defense related objectives of the former Soviet Union. The Soviets had a history of achievement in the field with a number of historic firsts including the first Intercontinental Ballistic Missile launch and Sputnik – the first satellite in space. What appears to have begun as a hegemonic defense effort, exploded into a propaganda coup when Yuri Gagarin became the first human to pierce earth's orbit in April 1961.

The Americans were shocked at the Soviet success. As a result, the National Space Administration Agency (NASA) program, begun in the 1958 Eisenhower administration, suddenly gained national attention when President Kennedy promised a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

As the Americans struggled to get their space program off the ground, the Soviets scored propaganda coup after propaganda coup, being the firsts to send a woman in space, first to send an unmanned lander to the moon, first to put a space station in space, and the first to launch an interplanetary probe. Again and again, the world was spellbound with Soviet technology, and with it, the Soviet way of life.

That all ended when Neal Armstrong stepped onto the moon in 1969's successful Apollo 11 mission. Estimates have been that over half the world watched that first step, and with it, the world's perception of American changed almost overnight. Suddenly we were the country everyone wanted to live in. We were the country everyone looked up to.

The Soviets were never able to match the technology required of the complex manned lunar landing and return, and while their space program continued right up to the demise of the Soviet Union, it exploits rarely, if ever, made news outside the Soviet Union. While the U.S. and Soviet Union monopolized the press coverage, they were

not alone in seeking out the benefits of space exploration.

The European Space Agency, founded in 1975 and headquartered in Paris, is composed of 20 member states. The mission of the ESA is focused on unmanned missions such as exploration of moon & planets, earth observation, and science telecommunication among other venues.

The Indian Space Research Organization was launched less than a month after Apollo 11 captivated the world's attention with the successful lunar landing in 1969. In 1975, the Indians sent their first satellite into space. Due to funding shortfalls, the India program struggled, but it found its feet again in September 2014 when it successfully put an orbiter around Mars, a source of real pride for a nation so wracked in poverty issues.

China did not become active in the "space game" until 2003 with Yang Liwei's successful flight to the earth orbit aboard the Shenzhou 5. In December 2014, they successfully placed rover Yulu on the moon. Those endeavors were a source of real national pride.

However, where the world's space programs proceed from the present is difficult to predict. NASA's has shifted its focus away from the International Space Station to more scientific oriented efforts, such as the Mars Rover, deep space science probes to Jupiter and Saturn, and a multitude of deep space telescopes focused on unraveling the mysteries of the formation of the universe.

China has a Space Station on its



drawing board for 2020 as well as manned expeditions to the moon and Mars. India may be in "over its head," but like the Chinese's program, it's a great source of pride for the country

The Russian space program however has been relegated to serving as a taxi service shuttling astronauts to and from the International Space station. Even that role will soon come to an end as commercial launch providers in the U.S. will soon be stepping forward to fill that role. For Russia, the high profile successes of the early days of the Soviet space industry, which held the world in awe, are now but a distant memory. While the Russians appear to want to regain that lost glory, they lack an effective means to do so, having failed to invest in space infrastructure.

Sadly, Russia has apparently opted to try to regain the awe of the world by displaying military might, and in doing so, setting the stage for what some have called a second cold war. Unlike the first cold war however, this cold war is not about a battle of ideologies or ideas – for the Russians have none this

time around. For them, it's about brute force, and brute force alone.

Unfortunately, for the Russians, they are up against avarices who are overflowing with good ideas. These are ideas that can rally whole people across national boundaries to one case. History has shown that while military might prevail in the short term, it has never prevailed against ideas that better the lives of people.

All of Russia's military is unable to put a dent into the awe that the world holds for a 175 pound probe that did the impossible. Philae may very well be our David to today's Russian Goliath. And our David has already proved it has a good aim!

There is an old saying – "A dying animal bites its own wounds." As long as the West keeps looking for ways to advance all mankind, Russia will fall further and further behind, and one day it will be relegated to history's dustbin.

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

Pure OnSense

In search of a foreign policy win

Scott Zuke

The passing of November's mid-term election marks the unofficial start of the next presidential election cycle. It is also traditionally the time in a two-term president's tenure that he sees the finish line ahead and begins to be more concerned with his legacy. Like his recent predecessors, President Obama has struggled with low approval ratings as his second term winds down, and the prospects for adding any major new pieces of legislation to his list of accomplishments in his remaining two years diminished further as Republicans have regained control of the Senate in the next Congress.

As a candidate and in his first few years in office Obama was focused mainly on domestic policy. This was partly out of necessity, as the financial crisis demanded a swift and robust response, and then out of convenience, as a Democrat majority in the House and Senate allowed the 111th Congress to be the most productive in decades, with landmark (albeit controversial) legislation including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Affordable Care Act, among others.

Then the wheels came off with

the 112th Congress and the rise of the Tea Party movement and its calls for limited federal government and fiscal austerity. It wasn't all that long ago that we were all talking about "fiscal cliffs," sequestration, and the debt ceiling. The issues under debate have moved on since then, but that period established the prevailing Republican strategy of taking every possible measure to prevent President Obama from adding further accomplishments to his legacy.

So what is a president to do as he finds himself on the home stretch, facing lame duck status, and with a hostile Congress? One option is to circumvent Congress, as he is attempting to do with his executive orders on immigration. Another is to shift more of his attention to policy areas that don't require as much cooperation from the legislative branch, namely foreign policy.

President Obama has a very mixed record in this arena. A year or two ago we might have credited him with ending the Iraq war and committing to end the U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan. But now Iraq has effectively ceased to exist as a state and we're learning that America's combat role in Afghanistan is being extended into its fourteenth year. The U.S. and

international mission to remove Muammar al-Qaddafi in Libya was hailed as a model intervention at the time, but the power vacuum that followed consumed the state, leaving behind an ungoverned space filled with warring militias.

The collapse of Libya influenced Obama's approach to Syria, not only in that it served as yet another reminder of the risks of hasty regime change, but also because it set the authoritarian governments in Russia and China on edge and ensured that the U.N. Security Council would no longer cooperate with humanitarian interventions against brutal dictators. This gave Obama limited options for dealing with Bashar Al-Assad, who is now responsible for over 200,000 civilian deaths in Syria's tragic civil war.

President Obama misguidedly threatened military intervention if Assad crossed the "red line" of using chemical weapons. Then when the line was crossed, he waited for Russia to bail him out of having to follow through on that threat by offering to dispose of the weapons. This effectively gave Assad a pass on using conventional arms, which have been perfectly capable of killing hundreds of thousands of civilians. At the same time he decided against shipping U.S. weapons to moderate Syrian opposition forces fighting against the Assad regime, which allowed space for the rise of the extrem-

ist opposition, including the Syrian branch of Al Qaeda, Jabhat al-Nusra, and the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, among others.

American influence has waned in Egypt, where the uncertain U.S. response to the revolution and multiple coups has left the people suspicious of its commitment to their well-being, or even to its own professed values. And despite the very strong, genuine efforts of Secretary of State John Kerry to restart peace talks in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, this summer's flare-up in Gaza torpedoed hopes of finding a peace deal anytime soon and also demonstrated the limits of America's influence with Israel, its closest ally in the region. The Israeli government has paid no heed to U.S. protests against its continued settlements in the West Bank. Why would it, when there are no real consequences attached to those complaints?

What was intended by the Obama administration as a cautious approach to foreign entanglements has created a problem of credibility. This is not to say that all the decisions themselves were wrong, but the rhetoric preceding them forced the administration into corners that it was not prepared to fight its way out of.

Time is running out for President Obama to add significant achievements to his legacy, but opportunities remain. Most no-

table is the prospect of reaching a deal with Iran on its nuclear aspirations. According to reports at the time of this writing, a deal has remained elusive and the talks will need to be extended once again beyond their deadline. This is just the latest sign that the negotiations may be faltering, but no one is in a hurry to abandon them altogether. The deal isn't just about preventing the arrival of a new nuclear-armed nation (and one with a history of saber-rattling), but about thawing a 35-year-old conflict that vastly complicates regional affairs. A nuclear settlement would only be the first step in a long process, but it would affirm the more moderate tone that Iran has tried since shifting away from the tactics practiced by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the inflammatory former president.

President Obama doesn't have free reign over foreign policy by any means, and Congress could still throw a wrench into the administration's efforts, but so far in his terms most of his wounds have been self-inflicted. As his predecessor found with his lauded AIDS relief efforts for Africa, though, one big victory in foreign policy can absorb a lot of the heat from failures when it comes to the bullet-point summary of his legacy.

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

Behind the Sound Bites

Time for a 28th Amendment?

Tom Toth

The Elections to decide who will control Congressional majorities in the House and Senate are now history, and now that some semblance of calm has returned maybe now is good a time over as any to analyze the state our government's most powerful branch—the people's Congress.

Specifically, why exactly do we have two chambers that are elected the same way, with one being less accountable to the people and yet more powerful than the other?

For perspective, let's back up for a moment. A little over 101 years ago the United States added a 17th Amendment to the Constitution that changed how the 100 members of the Senate would be selected. The 17th Amendment changed the appointment process to the direct elections we have today, replacing the Constitution's original design of appointment directly by state legislatures.

One can rightly assume that the republic's founders Constitutionally designed the legislative branch intentionally. But why the pre-1913 design? One reason was foundational to the nation's establishment, yet less understood in today's political climate: states' rights. Simply put, Congress was to consist of representation from each state legislature,

equally, as to legitimize the affairs of every state government in the workings of federal lawmaking.

Each state was to give a voice, small states equal with the large.

The people were also, similarly, to have a voice in the second half of the legislature, proportioned directly from districts drawn by population.

The unintended consequences of the 17th amendment, however, have rendered each of those principles antiquated, at best — irrelevant, at worst.

State governing has long become an irrelevant enterprise in the national political sphere. Having surrendered its influence over the Senate, states are, for all intents and purposes, now little more than minor league clubs for political aspirants and test labs for public policy. Hardly a governing body worth the power of the 10th Amendment, even in its current limited existence.

As for the people, why should a voter living in Wyoming (with a population of under 600,000) have so much more direct voting power over the national legislative process than one from, say, California (with a population of over 37,000,000)? It's silly.

The 17th Amendment destroyed the practical purpose of interpersonal voting equality across the nation, highlighted especially by the lack of national concern for state issues in

exchange for the goings-on of an ever-growing federal government.

As a result, one could conclude there is no good reason for there to be second Congressional chamber with an inordinate amount of power, no term restrictions, and a relative unaccountability to electorates of widely disparate vicarious influence.

The existence of the Senate as a second chamber of Congress was the great Constitutional compromise for small states who would have been rendered powerless to the political wills of the larger states in the union. The 17th Amendment ended this compromise.

Direct elections shift the political motivation of the individual Senator from representing the interests of his or her state to representing the same electorate as the House of Representatives, using the same device of election, changing the purpose and makeup of the Senate as a legislative body.

As with any change in the law, Constitutional amendments have consequences. If the 17th Amendment were removed and Senators were representing the states, members of the Senate would be intimately familiar in the civil affairs of their states and there would conceivably be no unfunded mandates allowed to be imposed upon states from the federal government. Further, local elections would have tangible ramifications over the nation-

al political landscape resulting in greater individual civic engagement.

Thomas Jefferson, who was serving as a Minister in France during the Constitutional Convention, inquired of George Washington why the delegates to the convention had created the Senate. Washington responded famously, "Why did you pour that tea into your saucer?" "To cool it," said Jefferson. "Even so," responded Washington, "we pour legislation into the senatorial saucer to cool it."

The 17th Amendment isn't without its intelligent devotees, of course. No finer defender of the amendment exists than David Schleicher, a professor at George Mason University School of Law, who has written extensively for the historical and continuing defense of the amendment. Mr. Schleicher's — highly abridged — argument for the amendment, and likely a major contributing factor in the amendment's creation, is that given the nation's present state of political bipolarity, state elections, rather than driving individual concern for state and local concerns, would virtually all boil down to secondary elections for senators anyway, carrying over uniquely national concerns into state politics.

The original design of the federal government's most important branch was irrevocably compromised for little more than political convenience — a simple response

to the unfortunate realities of a two-party political system. And the 17th amendment has, in retrospect, failed even to accomplish its stated goal of separating federal and state politics, as argued by the likes of Schleicher.

The Senate was also designed, in part, to be the cooling plate of the legislature, true, and it continues to serve that purpose to a certain degree. But it was always more than that. The Senate was the single legitimate voice of the states on the national political stage.

No more.

State governments today exist in a practical state of irrelevance and Congress continues to operate clumsily, as it has for a century.

Therefore, before you complain again about disregarded states' rights and wonder why your Senator should be able to act for himself or herself with near impunity for 4 years at a time before running a state-wide election in your state's two largest metropolitan areas, consider why the founders designed the legislative branch differently.

Any elementary social studies student can tell you that the Senate is the "legislative cooling saucer" and the voice of the smaller, less powerful states. Now compromised on both fronts, this observer repeats Jefferson's query: What exactly is the purpose of the Senate?

Perhaps they would argue that a 28th amendment is in order.

To read past editions of Behind the Sound Bites visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

I won't forget!

**Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church,
Emmitsburg**

"A date which will live in infamy." That's the way President Roosevelt described the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. On that day, over 2,000 people lost their lives and over 1,000 were wounded. On that day, it seemed as though Americans would never forget what happened. And for many that's true, but for the vast majority of Americans today, December 7th has no more significance than any other day.

Thirteen years ago, on September 11th, another attack took place that in many ways, became a new "day of infamy" for America. Terrorists linked to the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda hijacked four jet airliners and intentionally crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center in New York City, a third airliner into the Pentagon near Washington, D.C., and the fourth

aircraft crashed into a field in rural Somerset County, Pennsylvania. There were nearly 3,000 fatalities, and on that day, once again America mourned, and many said they'd never forget what happened. Now over a decade later, although this event has certainly left its scars, for many, the significance of this attack has greatly diminished.

Over two thousand years ago, at just the right time and just the right place, the Bible in Luke's Gospel tells us: "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, be-

cause there was no room for them in the inn.

"There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:1-12).

"...And that's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown," said Linus in "A Charlie Brown Christmas." I won't forget, not just because I grew up watching this program first aired in 1965, but because on that day, a baby was born in a manger. And not just a baby, but a Champion, a Savior, a child was born to save the world from its sin. Jesus, the Son of God, who grew in wisdom, who walked with us, yet never walked in sin. Who was fully man, yet remained fully God in the flesh (John 1:14). Jesus who lived to die for us; so that we could live and never die.

Now many have forgotten December 7th, some have forgotten September 11th, but let us never forget that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). I won't forget... we can't forget... because He is everything we need. "Salvation is found in no one else... there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). And on that day, the angels said, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). Jesus is not only the "reason for the season" but the name that should be on our lips every day. You see if there is no manger scene... if there is no Jesus... then there is no hope of heaven. And that's why we can't afford to leave out Jesus this Christmas. His Name is where our hope is!

As a matter of fact, centuries before His birth, God wanted peo-



ple to know who this child was, so he spoke to us through the prophet Isaiah. And it's one of those verses of Scripture that always pops in my mind as we draw close to Christmas. I just can't forget the wonderful names of Jesus found in the prophecy of Isaiah. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Jesus Christ is the one who can offer advice when facing a difficult situation. He is the one who has the answers when dealing with a rebellious teenager, an aging parent, a sick child, or an impossible job situation. He is the "Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace." What great hope comes from knowing that although we may suffer for a while; we have a God, a Heavenly Father, who dwells in eternity? That there

is so much more to life than what we see around us. In a culture of road rage, long lines, and short fuses; who isn't starving for deeper and more-lasting peace? A peace that surpasses our understanding? Who doesn't need more of the Prince of Peace and His peace in their lives?

This Christmas, be watching for people who need to know Jesus for who He is. Make it a point today to look and listen to the people around you. Pray for greater opportunities to share Christ's love with others. Pay careful attention to the voice of the Spirit and don't forget... God so loved the world that He sent His Son. The very least we can do is to tell others of what He has done!

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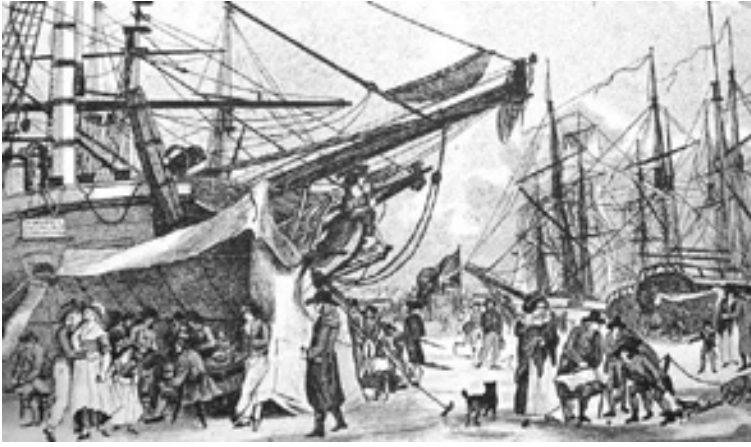
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The severe Christmas of 1860



On November 25, 1788, England faced a great freeze that lasted for seven weeks. The Thames River in London was completely frozen over, allowing Londoners to walk between the frozen-in ships.

The severe Christmas of 1860

The Christmas of 1860 is believed to have been the severest ever experienced in Britain. At nine o'clock in the morning of Christmas-day in that year, the thermometer, at the Royal Humane Society's Receiving House, in London, marked 15° Fahrenheit, or 17° below the freezing-point, but this was a mild temperature compared with what was prevalent in many parts of the country during the preceding night.

Other observations recorded throughout England correspond with this account of the intensity of the cold, by which, at a nearly uniform rate, the three days from the 24th to the 26th December were characterized. The severity of that time must still be fresh in the memory of our readers. In the letter of Mr. Lowe speaks of having: 'just seen a horse pass with icicles at his nose three inches in length, and as thick as three fingers.'

Those who then wore mustaches must remember how that appendage to the upper-lip became, through the congelation of the vapour of the breath, almost instantaneously stiff and matted together, as soon as the wearer put his head out of doors.

What made this severity of cold the more remarkable, was the circumstance that for many years previously the inhabitants of the British Islands had experienced a succession of generally mild winters, and the present generation had almost come to regard as legendary the accounts which their fathers related to them of the hard frosts and terrible winters of former times. Here, therefore, was an instance of a reduction of temperature unparalleled, not only in the recollection of the oldest person living, but likewise in any trustworthy record of the past.

During the three days referred to, the damage inflicted on vegetation of all kinds was enormous. The following account of the effects of the frost in a single garden, in a well-wooded part of the county of Suffolk, may serve as a specimen of the general damage occasioned throughout England.

The garden referred to is bounded on the west by a box-hedge, and on the south by a low wall, within which was a strip of shrubbery consisting of laurels, Portugal laurels, laurustinus, red cedar, arbor vitae, phillyrea, &c. Besides these, there stood in the garden some evergreen oaks, five healthy trees of some forty years' growth, two yews (which were of unknown age, but had been large trees beyond the memory of man), and a few younger ones be-

tween thirty and forty years old. All these, with the exception of the young yew-trees, the red cedars, the box, some of the arbor vitae and some little evergreen oaks, were either killed outright, or else so injured that it became necessary to cut them down.

Nor was this done hastily without waiting to see whether they would recover themselves; ample time was given for discovering whether it was only a temporary check from which the trees and shrubs were suffering, or whether it was an utter destruction of that part of them which was above ground. In some cases, it was found that the root was still alive, and this afterwards sent forth fresh shoots, but in other cases it turned out to be a destruction literally 'root and branch.' Some of the trees, indeed, after having been cut down level with the ground, made a desperate attempt to revive, and sent up apparently healthy shoots; but the attempt was unsuccessful, and the shoots withered.

Nor was the damage confined to the evergreens: fruit-trees suffered also; for instance, apple-trees put forth leaves and flowers, which looked well enough for a time, but, before the summer was over, these withered, as if they had been burned; while one large walnut-tree, half a century old, not only had its young last year's shoots killed, but lost some of its largest branches.

Beyond the limits of the garden referred to, the effects of this frost were no less remarkable. Elm-trees were great sufferers; they, along with the very oaks, had many of their outer twigs killed; and a magnificent, perhaps unique, avenue of cedars of Lebanon, which must have been among the oldest of their kind in the kingdom was almost entirely ruined.

Intense cold and its effects

Notwithstanding this unexampled descent of temperature, the nadir, as it may be termed, of cold yet experienced in Britain, the period during which it continued to prevail was of such short duration that there was no time for it to effect those wonderful results which we read of in former times as occasioned by a severe and unusually protracted frost. From a periodical work we extract the following notice of similar instances which occurred chiefly on the continent of Europe in past ages.

In the winter of 1848-1849, the public journals recorded that the mercury, on one occasion, froze in the

thermometers at Aggershuus, in Sweden. Now, as mercury freezes at 39° below zero, marked scientifically as -39°, that is, 71° below the freezing-point, we know that the temperature must have been at least as low as this—perhaps several degrees lower.

Such narratives excite a curiosity to know how such intense cold can be borne by the human frame. All the accounts obtainable tend to shew that food, clothing, activity, and cheerfulness, are the four chief requisites.

Dr. E. D. Clarke, the celebrated traveler, told Dr. Whiting that he was once nearly frozen to death—not in any remote polar region, but in the very matter-of-fact county of Cambridge. After performing divine service at a church near Cambridge, one cold Sunday afternoon in 1818, he mounted his horse to return home. Sleepiness came

upon him, and he dismounted, walking by the head of his horse; the torpor increased, the reins dropped from his hand, and he was just about sinking probably never again to rise—when a passing traveler rescued him. This torpor is one of the most perilous accompaniments of extreme cold.

In reference to the torpor produced by extreme cold, Dr. Kane further remarks:

'Sleepiness is not the sensation. Have you ever received the shocks of a magneto-electric machine, and had the peculiar benumbing sensation of "Can't let go," extending up to your elbow joints? Deprive this of its paroxysmal character; subdue, but diffuse it over every part of the system—and you have the so-called pleasurable feelings of incipient freezing.' One day he walked himself into 'a comfortable perspiration, with the

thermometer seventy degrees below the freezing-point. A breeze sprang up, and instantly the sensation of cold was intense. His beard, coated before with icicles, seemed to bristle with increased stiffness; and an unfortunate hole in the back of his mitten 'stung like a burning coal. 'On the next day, while walking, his beard and moustache became one solid mass of ice. I inadvertently put out my tongue, and it instantly froze fast to my lip. This being nothing new, costing only a smart pull and a bleeding afterwards, I put up my mittened hands to "blow hot," and thaw the unruly member from its imprisonment. Instead of succeeding, my mitten was itself a mass of ice in a moment; it fastened on the upper side of my tongue, and flattened it out like a batter-cake between the two disks of a hot griddle. It required all my care with the bare hands to release it, and then not without laceration.'

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Old, unhappy, far-off things

Bill Meredith

"Will no one tell me what she sings?

Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow

For old, unhappy, far-off things,

And battles long ago."

—William Wordsworth, "The Solitary Reaper"

December 17, 1975, was a significant point in my education, for it was on that date that Public TV showed the first episode of "Rumpole of the Bailey." Horace Rumpole was a barrister (British word for trial lawyer) who spent most of his career defending petty criminals, and every episode would have a scene where he was walking to work in the rain, wearing an old black hat and carrying an ancient briefcase and a broken umbrella. He would be puffing a cheap cigar, and in the background you would hear his rumbling, Shakespearean voice mixing lines from poems with the problems of his domineering wife or the ironies of his profession. There's nothing that good on TV any more, so I watch the re-runs whenever I find them.

A couple of weeks ago, as Rumpole shuffled across my television screen he muttered a phrase about "old, unhappy, far-off things." The phrase fit my mood of the moment, and it stuck in my mind, so later I looked it up. It was from a poem written about 200 years ago by Wordsworth. He had been walking along a country road and saw a girl cutting wheat with a sickle, as they used to do on small farms in England. She was

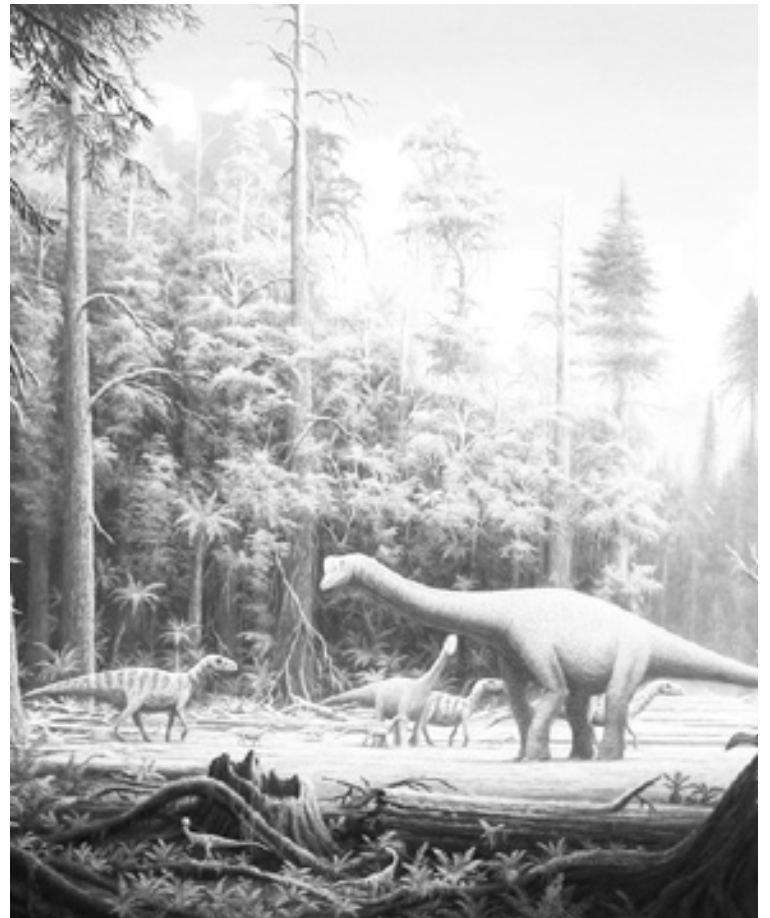
alone, and he could hear her singing, but he was not close enough to distinguish the words; and as he walked on he tried to imagine what she sang about... hence, the verse quoted above. It resonates with me; as I grow older I seem to be spending more time thinking of old, far-off things. Sometimes my memories fit the line as Wordsworth wrote it, but more often my mind inserts "familiar" or "forgotten" in place of "unhappy." And sometimes the verse is triggered by memories of an event that was unhappy at the time, but has mellowed over the years.

When I was in college, all biology majors were required to take a course in Historical Geology. That was in 1953... long ago enough to qualify as an old time... and it was an unhappy time at first, because I did not see why I needed to take it. But it came to be a very important part of my education. It dealt with the history of life on earth, and when "Doc" Roberts walked in to teach it the first day, I thought he looked like he was old enough to have lived through most of it. But he sat down and began to talk in a conversational tone, and I was mesmerized. He was a great story-teller, and he made it come alive. He would get up occasionally to scrawl the names of geologic periods on the blackboard... big, mouth-filling words like Precambrian and Ordovician, that I had never heard of... and then he would tell us what the climate was like back then, hundreds of million years ago... more time than I had ever imagined could exist... and when each major group of plants and animals appeared in the fossil record. He told us that

from time to time conditions on earth had changed and thousands of plants and animals became extinct. At that time, no one knew why.

Since that time, scientists have learned a lot. New fossils have been discovered, filling in gaps in the family trees of many forms of life. We now know that in the past 500 million years, there have been at least five times when major extinctions took place; in some of them, more than 75% of all the animals and plants on earth died out. We have learned the causes of the two most recent extinctions. At one time, all of the world's land masses were jammed together into one enormous supercontinent called Pangaea, which began to break apart about 230 million years ago. North and South America broke off from Europe and Africa and began drifting apart. This was accompanied by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and vast changes of climate, and thousands of species became extinct. After that, dinosaurs appeared in the fossil record, and multiplied to become dominant. Then, about 65 million years ago a comet or asteroid struck the earth near what is now the Yucatan region, just south of the Caribbean Sea, and caused such changes in the atmosphere that as many as 90% of all animals were killed. The dinosaurs disappeared, and mammals gradually took their place as the dominant animals. Those indeed were old, unhappy, far-off times.

I am presently reading a book called *The Sixth Extinction*, which was published earlier this year. The title is based on geologic history, and it reviews all that material "Doc" Roberts taught me, as well as what has been discovered in the 61 years since then. The author, Elizabeth Kolbert, propos-



A new study suggests that just before a large asteroid slammed into the Earth 66 million years ago, the diversity of plant-eating dinosaur species declined slightly. That minor shift may have been enough to doom all dinosaurs.

es that irreversible changes which were beginning even before I was first learned about the earth have started us on the path toward the end of our present geologic age. She reviews evidence from many places, from tropical rain forests to coral reefs, that show many species of plants and animals are declining rapidly in numbers because of warming and drying of the climate, acidification of the air and water, and habitat destruction by the exploding human population. Some have already become extinct in the wild and exist only in zoos and botanical gardens. At the rate things are changing, thousands of species will no longer exist by the end of this century.

2014 has gone by quickly; if you're counting, only 8% of it is left. My daily records show that here in Emmitsburg the temperatures were lower than average for the first 11 months, and toward the end of November they got even colder. The local temperature fell into the teens for the first time since March, and the evening news reported that six feet of snow fell in New York. It is hard to convince the public who live in local areas like Emmitsburg or Buffalo that global warming is a real problem; but meteorological records show that on a world-wide basis, 2014 is on record as the warmest year since accurate measurements began. For those who will be here in another 40 years, it is a bleak future to contemplate.

Sometimes now it feels as if age is gradually erasing those beautiful details of science that I enjoyed learning so much, and replacing them with poetry. Folks like Wordsworth continue to remind me of those old connections; but W. B. Yeats keeps slipping in to replace him:

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,

And nodding by the fire, take down this book,

And slowly read, and dream...

More and more, that's what I do. Perhaps in the next few weeks my friends Claire and Shane will come to visit, and bring their new baby brother to sit on my lap in front of the fire while they decorate my Christmas tree. The New Year will come... let's enjoy it. And think. There are still those who believe there may still be time to prevent, or at least delay, that sixth extinction. We should at least make the effort.

To read past editions of the Retired Ecologist visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net

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Bringing field and stream together

George Hammond
Strawberry Hill
Nature Preserve

I am an avid hunter and fly fisherman. The season for all around small game came in last weekend. I got up on Monday morning and put my 12 gauge double barrel over and under shotgun, hunting license and safety gear in my truck, and headed over to the state game lands. The sun was just starting to peek over the horizon and there was a nip in the air. The mountain had exploded in its autumn colors. It was a perfect day for hunting small game in Pennsylvania. When I arrived at the parking lot, there was a gentleman preparing to take his spaniel out to the field. He called his bouncing dog, headed up the road, and BLAM, he had one bird in the bag. I hoped that I would be so lucky.

Shortly after passing the game lands gate, I met another gentleman who had his limit of two pheasants already. He was kind enough to offer his dog's assistance in my quest. Of course, after what I had just seen, I accepted. The dog happily bounced back and forth, up and down searching for birds in front of us. We slowly covered a 200 yard long strip of habitat, but found no birds. When we were finished, we stopped and conversed awhile about why we were out that day. His reason was working his dog. Mine was stretching my legs, exercise, and increasing my supply of fly tying material prior to the big tying season approaching with winter. As the day progressed my luck didn't change. I heard birds cackle, but they ran before they flew. Later I ran into a buddy of mine in possession of one cock bird that he didn't want. That gave me one male in my bag. I continued to hunt, walking from one side of the preserve to the other, and found nothing, so I decided to pack up. I unloaded my Stoeger, put it away, and started home. Two miles up the road, a hen pheasant flew out in front of me. I now had one of each in my bag, and no shots fired. What an awesome day.

It is essential to use as much of the game as possible, no matter what that game might be. It can be fried, baked, stewed, roasted, broiled, flambéed, or sautéed. The important thing is to use it up. When my wife got home from work, she found me pawing over pheasant skins and plucking feathers. She just gave me a kiss and asked what she could do to help. I have an awesome fly fishing wife, by the way. We started at the neck and worked our way down the body to the wings plucking from small to large and putting the feathers in labeled bags. When we were done harvesting our booty of fluff, I pulled the breasts out of their bodies and put them in the fridge for dinner the next night.

It is imperative when preparing wild game that it is fully cooked. A little over done is better than not quite done and sick with food poisoning. I set the oven for 400 degrees and the timer for 40 minutes. I peeled the breast meat from the bone and coated it with homemade shake and bake



Fly fishermen need to know how to read a stream in order to figure out where the fish are hiding and what they are eating.

mix. I put the breasts on a foil covered cookie sheet and laid strips of bacon across them. I had sliced up some potatoes, added some season salt, and laid strips of bacon over them as well. When the oven dinged, I feasted. When dinner was finished, I used the feathers that had kept it warm and aloft just 48 hours ago, to tie wet flies that I used in Yellow Creek later in the week fly fishing with my Brother.

I am a professional fly fisherman. I tie all of my own flies and really enjoy collecting my own materials from nature. Fly fishing is a game between the caster and the fish. It is the caster's job to figure out where the fish are hiding and upon what they are feeding. That's the easy part. The fish and Mother Nature gives the caster lots of clues to solve that riddle. The hard part is getting the fly correct. The color and size of the bug doesn't have to be exact, however, it does have to be very close. That's where the expertise of the fly tier comes in. I dye and blend my own hair and fur for my flies. This practice is a very big part of the sport for me. It is impossible to tie a buck tail streamer without buck tail, or a pheasant tail nymph without the tail feathers of a pheasant. In keeping with a long tradition of conservation, the game is not just an obvious food source. One pheasant cock yields

hundreds of feathers for making legs, wing cases, and wings on flies; and normally 4 or 5 good tail feathers for making bodies and tails. A hen's coloration and softness of feather lends to collars on wet flies. Almost every furry, hairy, or feathered animal can be used in fly tying in one way or another. Even the family pets get plucked from time to time.

My business, Custom-Tied Flies and Guide Service, teaches fly casting and fly tying at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve several times during the year. During these courses the participant learns about aquatic insects and conservation of the stream. They learn what to look for when they go to the stream by themselves. They learn how to match what they find in the stream to what they have in their fly box. They can also learn how to tie what they don't have in their fly box for themselves. During the course they learn how to read the stream and figure out where the fish are hiding and what they are eating. They learn how to present the fly in such a way that it is believable when it hits the water. This is a skill that takes practice once the basics are learned. This course shows the basics and is available either through Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve or www.custom-tied.com. When the winter weather al-

lows it, I go fly fishing. I usually go to creeks that have a spring water influence in them. The spring water keeps the stream from freezing. Normally, however, I tend to spend the winter months tying bugs in preparation for the next season.

The next time I go afield in search of my illusive prey, I will do so with a spring in my step and a smile on my face. I know that I may fail to sack the game which I pursue, but I may meet new people and make new friends. I may have a unique meal, and I may

add to my collection of fur and feathers. I could stock my freezer with grocery bill saving game and the handle of my fly rod may quiver again with the weight of a fat trout, which I will release to catch again someday. I won't know until the next opportunity comes, but, I can't wait.

George Hammond is a part-time Naturalist at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. Visit www.strawberryhill.org for more information.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Oh, Christmas Tree?

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

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

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

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



Let it grow, let it grow. Ever wonder what your small Christmas tree would look like if you planted it? 35 years ago someone did ... and it now stands 51ft tall and is a haven for birds of every shape and size!

fer needles have less surface area and retain water better than leaves because of a waxy coating and smaller pores, which can allow for year round photosynthesis.

Conifer, or evergreen, trees have a higher density of foliage, which during winter means snow and ice accumulates faster on them. This makes them more susceptible to breakage,

especially with the addition of high winds. To offset this problem conifers tend to be more flexible and the cone shape of the tree helps to shed snow easier. The dense foliage also makes them more attractive to animals. Birds, deer, mice, and more eat the foliage and fruit that these trees produce during the winter months. Mice, rabbits, and a few others chew

bark for the nutrients stored within.

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

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

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

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

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

Natural trees take about 7 years of growing before they reach maturity and are ready to be harvested. During this time they produce oxygen and provide great habitat for wildlife. After Christmas however they are often thrown away. Better ways to reduce impact while celebrating the Christmas season is to ensure that you properly recycle your tree. Many counties, including Frederick, have designated drop off locations and will turn trees into mulch for parks, gardens, public space, and trails. A new idea rising in popularity is to use living trees as a Christmas tree. Select or purchase a small tree, ball the roots, and then set it in a pot inside. After the Christmas holiday is over you can plant your tree in your yard or another location and it can still provide habitat and other positive environmental contributions to the ecosystem.

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

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

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~Raspberry Filled Brie Baked en Croute~
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 RESTAURANT & CATERING

Christmas Craft Bazaar

On Saturday, November 22, St. Joseph's Ministries held its 2nd Annual Christmas Craft Bazaar located in its lower lobby. Last year, it was held on the first Saturday in December, but this year it was prior to Thanksgiving. Beth Gilbert, the organizer of the event, said that "it might be nice for the residents to be able to do their Christmas shopping early."

There were 28 vendors at the craft bazaar, and the vendor costs go towards the resident benevolence fund. This fund is used for resident activities and needs. Most of the vendors are from last year, but some are also found on Craigslist. The vendors are mainly local businesses from the Emmitsburg area which include items such as jewelry, soaps, bath gift baskets, decorative bags, candles, and more.

One vendor said, "it gives the residents something fun to do" while another vendor said, "seeing residents enjoying it makes me want to come back again, and this is going towards a good cause." This craft bazaar allows for a fostered community brought right to the residents. One resident whom was shopping said, "This is a very nice idea, and it brings people together. It promotes community, and I enjoy looking at the things." This was a very enjoyable event and one which both the residents and the vendors look forward to. As Gilbert said, this brings "Christmas stores and shopping at their front door."

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

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory.

John 1:14

Christmas Blessings
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IN THE COUNTRY

Camp Eder's Christmas Tree Festival

A celebration of the birth of Christ

Lori Jackson

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

In response to the growing busyness of the holiday season, Camp Eder, a Christian Camp & Retreat Center in Fairfield, is hosting their Fourth Annual Christmas Tree Festival on December 12th - 14th from 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Designed as a "Celebration of the Birth of Christ" the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival offers a place where families and individuals can experience an evening of refuge from the many things that pull our attention away from the true reason for the season. The festivities will include a tree decorating contest, indoor & outdoor lighting displays, luminaries, refreshments, live music, nativity collections, a candlelight service, and alternative giving options. Visitors will enjoy all this as a wonderful evening out with family, friends, and neighbors.

This new tradition began in 2011 with an idea to offer Christmas trees for folks to decorate and display in Geigley Lodge at Camp Eder. Each tree is sponsored by an organization, group, or individual which they can decorate with a theme of their choice. Attendees can vote on their favorite tree by purchasing tickets for one dollar each. Every vote counts, so be sure to make your favorite known when you view these creatively adorned trees. Funds received from the ticket sales for the tree decorating contest benefit the variety of programs happening throughout the year at Camp Eder.

Food and refreshments are plentiful as the Camp Eder staff and volunteers offer free cookies, punch, and warm drinks as an a la carte food court provides menu options for those wishing to purchase an affordable meal. If Christmas preparations provide no time to sit and eat, a bake sale table will be selling delicious, homemade Christmas Cookies. Keep in mind that certain someone who would love to receive a gift of beautifully boxed yummys from the Camp Eder kitchen!

Live music, dozens of nativity scenes, a featured model trail display, decorated walking paths, and cozy fires set the stage for an evening of reflection as commercialism is tuned out and the simplicity of the Nativity story comes into the spotlight for this event. Camp Eder's bell tolls each evening at 8:00 pm, announcing the beginning of a peaceful candlelight service with a small live nativity to be held in the Heckman Pavilion. Everyone is invited to blend your voices in singing Christmas carols, followed by

the reading of the Nativity story taken directly from the scriptures. The service closes with the acapella singing of Silent Night, Holy Night. Nearby, the beautiful sound of Middle Creek as it gently flows past the pavilion and the lights shining throughout the forest create a serene atmosphere of reflection as we ponder the true meaning of Christmas.

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

In addition to offering a place for celebration and reflection, the

Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival also offers a place where we can work together to make a difference in the lives of those around us. As an outreach to our community, the Camp will be collecting new or gently used children's clothing for infants through age six and donating them to God's Closet, a clothing pantry run by Children's Aid Society of New Oxford, PA. Canned food that is collected will be directed to the Fairfield Food Pantry at the Fairfield Mennonite Church for distribution. Children's clothing and canned goods can be delivered at any time during the Christmas Tree Festival (December 12th - 14th, 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm) or arrangements can be made at the Camp office to drop off items at any other time.



Designed as a "Celebration of the Birth of Christ," the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival offers everyone an opportunity to experience an evening of the true reason for the season.

Who started Christmas?

A woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable. And after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year. Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry we already crucified him."

For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be.

Throughout the year, Camp Eder offers a number of events that welcome the local community: the Spring Golf Tournament; the Summer Camp Program; the Fall Festival; and now The Winter Christmas Tree Festival. Each event has specific elements that make that particular one very special. However, it seems that even as new as the Christmas Tree Festival is, it is stealing hearts and becoming a favorite event for the Camp Eder staff and those who visit during this majestic time of the year.

If you're looking for a way to find

the true meaning of Christmas this year with your loved ones, consider stopping by Camp Eder during evening hours (5 pm - 8:30 pm) on December 12th, 13th, or 14th.

Camp Eder is found at 914 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, additional information can be obtained from www.campeder.org or you may reach the Camp Eder office at 717-642-8256, Tuesdays - Saturdays. 9 am - 4 pm. Experience the joy, peace, and hope that can be found in remembering that Christmas is a birthday party for a very special Baby Boy.

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A PRICELESS CHRISTMAS GIFT...

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

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



Avery and Addie (pictured above and below) arrived at the shelter together. They are about a year old now. Both sisters are friendly and very outgoing with a lot of energy. While it would be wonderful if they would be adopted together, it's not necessary. They are young terriers so they will need someone who can train them properly and also burn off all the energy they have. Can you help these sweet girls out of a kennel and into a home?

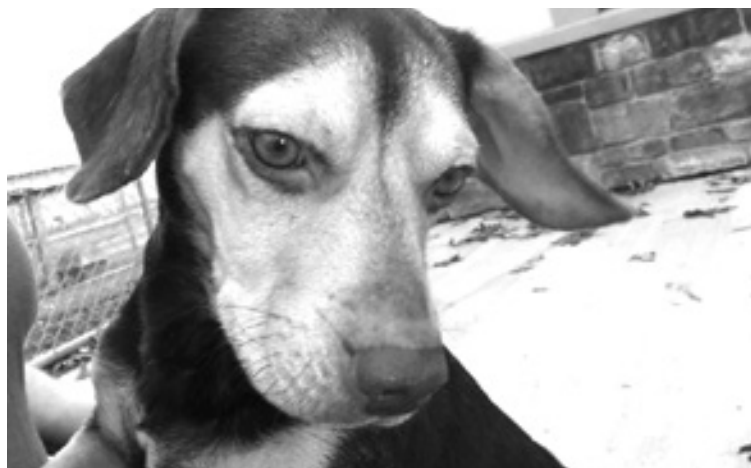


Bud the Beagle is a 5-year-old fellow who has a typical, happy beagle personality. He is a bit chunky, weighing 43 pounds when he came in and could use a bit of a weight-loss plan. If you are a beagle fan then you should come in and meet Bud today!



Chipper is an 11-month-old Lab/terrier mix who was surrendered to the shelter because his family didn't take the time to exercise him properly or get him neutered and he kept running away from them. Chipper is now neutered and looking for a new family who will provide him exercise, care and love. He does know a few commands like sit and shake and is a real sweet boy. Can you give him a second chance?

Cinnamon is a very happy, stout 4-year-old girl. We're guessing she's a boxer/pitbull mix. On her temperament test, it states, "Cinnamon did very well on her test. A happy and easy going dog. She does get a little excited if another dog is acting up." Indeed, Cinnamon can become so happy she smiles, which you can see from the photo.



Rocco is a former resident of CVAS. He came into us as a puppy and now he's back at a year old. Since he originally came to us as a stray, we don't really know his breed, but his previous owner's paperwork from the vet indicates he's a boxer mix. Rocco's former family did have children in the home but it would be highly recommended that any children in Rocco's new home have experience being around large dogs. Rocco does know a couple of commands. He has been pretty out-going and friendly but during his temperament test, he became a little timid when a "stranger knocked on the door." Rocco is a large, happy boy who will make a wonderful companion.

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.

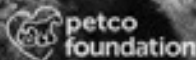
I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

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



Woodstock was left at our doorstep so we don't know what his previous life was like other than he appears to have some untreated skin issues. We believe he is a Beagle/ Dachshund cross who is about 3-years-old. Knowledge of the two breeds would be a help for potential adopters. Woodstock can be a bit vocal at times and we are treating him for a skin infection and a yeast infection in his ears.

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Cressida is a 3-year-old, unique-looking tabby girl who has really beautiful markings. Cressida is used to living with other cats but may need a chance to adjust to her new living arrangements. She's currently at our Shippensburg Thrift Store in an effort to get more folks to see her and the staff there just loves her. You have to meet this sweet girl.



Tracie. Tracie is a small 2-year-old brown tabby with white. This petite girl has been in a cage since February 2014. We're not sure why she's getting overlooked. She's a real sweetheart and will make a wonderful friend for a lucky person.



Ralph is a very handsome orange tabby who came into us as a stray. Because of that, we don't have a lot of information on his history. We're guessing he's about 2 years old. This sweet boy needs to know what life is like in a home. Are you ready for some orange tabby fun? Come meet Ralph!



Pyrite (left) gets his name for his beautiful grey color. This handsome, 5-year-old boy is a laid back kind of fellow who just wants out of a cage and onto a snuggly bed or couch or blanket. Do you have the right spot for Pyrite?



Lettie (left) Poor little Lettie was found as a sick kitty and she now has a permanent cloudy eye from her struggles as a stray. Lettie can be a little shy (no wonder!), but if you go slowly and show her you won't hurt her, she'll cuddle up against you. We're thinking the shyness comes from being partially blind. This pretty brown tabby was born in May 2013 and needs someone who understands her special situation to love her forever.



Matthew (left) Are you looking for the Mathew McConaughey of cats? Then do we have the fellow for you! Jack is a 4-year-old grey tabby with white who has the feline equivalent of Mathew McConaughey's personality. Suave, flirtatious and fun. Good times!

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Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

The Birdwoman of Fairfield

Watching birds in the winter is enjoyable and fun to do. During dreary days, we can lift our spirits by watching the little creatures flitting around the feeders and seed heads of perennials, and in and out of evergreen trees and shrubs. Our feeders are located outside our living space and we can watch the activity for quite a long time as the birds visit different feeders. Having a field guide close by helps when wondering what those little birds are – identifying them is half the fun.

Many types of birds visit in any given period of time. Red-bellied and downy woodpeckers, chickadees, juncos, white-throated sparrows, house finches, cardinals and tufted titmice grace us with their presence. An assort-

ment of feeders and feed will attract a larger variety of our flying friends.

Supplemental Food: We can supplement the natural food source by providing seed through bird feeders. Many styles of feeders are available, from tubes and platforms to nets and hoppers. The more variety of feeders you provide, the more variety of visitors you will have. Tube feeders typically attract finches, while the platform feeders will attract larger birds like cardinals and blue jays and the netting can be filled with suet for the woodpeckers.

Probably the most versatile feeder is the hopper. At our hopper, we have finches, juncos, titmice and chickadees visiting daily. We keep it full of black oil sunflower seed. Another feeder that we use is a suet feeder. This feeder allows the birds to feed on the underside as the holes are below the suet cake. Mostly

woodpeckers hang out at this feeder, literally. It's really enjoyable to watch them!

We also have a net that we fill with suet or a peanut butter mixture that includes sunflower seeds. This attracts the woodpeckers, but we get flickers and jays flitting around as well. A piece of a wooden post with holes that we spread the peanut butter/sunflower mixture provides cardinals and blue jays as well as finches and titmice a feast to partake. Gold finches love the tube feeders. The gold finches will feed upside down, making this an interesting watch.

Just as there is a variety of feeders, so goes the types of feed. Millet, sunflowers, corn and peanut butter can all be a food source for birds. The most versatile seed is the black oil sunflower seed. This seed can be mixed with peanut butter and put into the suet feeders, and it can be used in hoppers as well as platform feeders for the cardinals, chickadees and titmice.

The least useful type of feed is millet. Typically when buying a bird feed mix, the millet is what the birds will scratch to the ground and discard. It's mostly just a filler to add weight for the bag. Niger (thisle seed) is used in the tube feeders for the gold, purple and house finches. These are tiny seeds and are typically on the pricier side, but the finches just love it! Peanuts, whether in the shell or shelled, broken or whole, will attract birds like blue jays, chickadees, titmice and woodpeckers.

A Christmas tradition in our family is to smear peanut butter onto pinecones and hang them on the trees. We also use orange and apple slices, string them together and have an outdoor Christmas tree for the birds! Even at 21, our oldest daughter still enjoys this winter tradition.

Feeder Location: When locating the feeders, whatever type you choose, remember one important element: shelter. The birds need



Different kinds of feeders and bird foods attract different kinds of birds. To attract the greatest variety of birds to your yard, it's best to provide several different feeder types and offer a variety of foods. The hanging tray feeder in this photo offers a smorgasbord of treats that will attract just about every bird in the neighborhood!

to feel protected and have a quick get-away from any potential hunters, like hawks and cats. Be sure to locate the feeders near evergreen trees or near brush or plants that they can quickly fly to when danger is in their midst. Our feeder on our deck has evergreen trees to one side and a dense, deciduous tree to the other. This allows them cover from potential predators.

Water: For best bird activity and bird health, not only should you provide a food source (whether with plants or store-bought bird feed) and shelter, but you should also provide water. A heated bird-bath can provide that. There are many types of bird baths and heaters on the market. Small fish

ponds, or just a clean dish of shallow water set out each morning can provide this source of water as well.

Plant Life: Take advantage of the winter months to plan for a bird habitat. Research the sizes of shrubs and trees, study the best locations to plant bird attracting shrubs, trees and perennials. Understand and see the beauty of a less than tidy garden, as the dead stems and thick brush are the reason bird activity will happen in any given area. Keep in mind the visibility of the feeders from inside your house so you can properly locate the plants for your view of the bird activity.

When planning for winter visitors, plant things that have seed heads that can remain through the winter months. Common perennials such as black-eyed susans, coneflowers, and asters will provide seeds. Evergreen shrubs and trees, like inkberry holly, American holly and white pines will provide shelter for the birds. Deciduous shrubs like viburnums, winterberry holly and sumac provide berries. Allow old, dead trees to remain standing if safety is not an issue. These will provide nesting holes in the summer, but also the woodpeckers and other birds like blue jays love to use the trees to break open seeds and nuts.

As we watch the birds on our deck, we observe the woodpecker taking a sunflower seed, flying to the deck railing and cracking it open. We watch the bluejays bully the chickadees and snatch up a lot of the food, and see the titmice grab a seed and fly to the nearby tree to eat it.



Access to water is a vital necessity for birds in the winter. Heaters ensure that no matter how cold the weather is outside, the water still remains unfrozen.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener Eating cheaply, eating well

Marianne Wilburn

Recently, I was fortunate to participate in a panel discussion about eating well on a tight budget. Though I love good, wholesome food and beautiful things, I am, and have always been, a self-proclaimed cheapskate. Compliment me on my brushed camel coat and a demure smile is the last thing to settle upon my lips. Instead I will tell you that I paid the incredible sum of \$14 for it, describe the thrift store where this [almost criminal] transaction took place, and how excited I am to have participated. By this point, my husband will have left the room blushing forty shades of red and wondering why he couldn't have married a nice girl with a department store addiction.

It is a game to me – but a very serious one that has allowed my family to live on one income since our children were born. But as much as I love to practice the joys of extreme tight-waddery, my next favorite occupation is preaching this lifestyle to others who know there must be another way out of our consumer culture, but are still searching for the maze's elusive exit.

It's not easy. Over the last fifty years or so, marketers have made it their business to change our eating and lifestyle habits, and this goes well beyond accepting processed, sweetened and extruded corn product as an expected (and expensive) way of feeding our children in the mornings.

One cannot garden without the right gadgets, cook without the right ingredients or decorate without the right shade of sage green. For the average Jane or Joe, this spells disaster. None of us have the staff or adequate budget necessary to create the kind of gardens, dinners and rooms that are deemed successful by your average magazine or lifestyle show.

And, when our garden looks scruffy, our dinner cost a fortune; or, after four changes of color, our walls are still not quite Drizzled Honey or Bottled Beetroot, we feel like failures and give up. How can we feed our families with high quality ingredients if we can't afford organic, boneless chicken breasts? Why should we grow nutritious vegetables when we've almost killed ourselves trying to keep our gardens looking gorgeous? Sadly we never realize that our expectations have been ever-so-subtly changed by decades-worth of marketing genius.

Those marketers have drilled into us the inability to cook dinner unless it involves a boneless, skinless (flavorless) chicken breast; and given those of us who have moral difficulties with the short brutal life of such

an animal, an organic, free-range option at an organic, out-of-range price. It no longer occurs to us that we might not need the chicken breast in the first place and that cutting up a whole, organic chicken from a nearby farm and remembering what chicken actually tastes like could be a life changing experience – and the start of a beautiful friendship with our grandmother's cookbooks.

And so it is with the garden. I meet a lot of people who are disappointed with their vegetable gardens, prefacing their descriptions of a highly productive plot with "It looks pretty horrible." When I delve deeper I find it was a banner year for tomatoes or that the Swiss chard exceeded all expectations. Yet their garden was disappointing enough to have them question the point of doing it all again next year. Why? Because it wasn't pretty and it's tough to find a garden on TV that isn't.

"Pretty" is for gardeners that not only adore the produce, but adore the punishing process. If your garden is feeding your family and cutting your food bill, take a minute and pat yourself on the back for a superb achievement. If you wish to take it to the next level of design and dementia, by all means do so, but never let the quest for perfection interfere with the basic goal of production.

Production is the key. When we become active producers in our own home economies instead of mindless consumers of what we are fed, we gain an incredible sense of empowerment and achievement – and a few more dollars in the bank account.

We don't need boneless, skinless chicken breasts any more than we need a grafted tomato plant. Alter your expectations. Break the habits that have been carefully crafted for you. Make it a game and you'll find yourself winning far more than a \$14 camel hair coat at a thrift store – you'll win a new perspective, a lot more pennies, and perhaps even a new purpose.

Marianne is a Master Gardener who writes from Lovettsville, VA. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com or follow The Small Town Gardener on Facebook.

I remember, not long ago, thinking that bird watching was for old geezers. In the early days of dating my husband, I can remember visiting him in San Francisco. At the time, he was working with the US Dept. of Interior, researching waterfowl in the bay area. As an avid bird watcher at 26, not typical in my box of pictures of birdwatchers, but he was cute and awesome, so what the heck.

What I have come to find out is that birdwatching is for all ages, especially backyard birding. Classes are offered at local community colleges, and folks of all ages attend – a clear indication that my box of pictures is far outdated. Many folks, including myself, find this hobby worth the time. Just check out the local supermarkets and box stores and see how much merchandise and space is given to this hobby we call "feeding the birds".

Look into acquiring field guides to help you identify the birds visiting your feeders in the winter. Some guides you may want to look at are Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America and Sibley Guide to Birds. A website to check out is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds (www.allaboutbirds.org).

My guess is when spring comes, you'll be more aware of the bird activity around you and checking out that guide even more frequently than you have during the winter. Enjoy the quiet of the winter and the flurry of bird activity. When we get "snowed-in" again this winter season, remember to take the time to relax and watch the birds.

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

Scatter Out Your Crumbs

Alfred Crowquill

*Amidst the freezing sleet and snow,
The timid robin comes;
In pity drive him not away,
But scatter out your crumbs.*

*And leave your door upon the latch
For whosoever comes;
The poorer they, more welcome give,
And scatter out your crumbs.*

*All have to spare, none are too poor,
When want with winter comes;
The loaf is never all your own,
Then scatter out the crumbs.*

*Soon winter falls upon your life,
The day of reckoning comes:
Against your sins, by high decree,
Are weighed those scattered crumbs.*

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HISTORY

The Christmas truce of 1914

John Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society

By the summer of 1914, Europe was thrown into World War One. As the war progressed, and battle lines stalled, trench warfare, supported by barbed wire became a way of life. In some places the trenches between the Allies and the Axis were thirty to forty yards apart. By December 1, it looked as if the war would not be over by Christmas. On December 7, Pope Benedict XV had asked the warring governments for a truce, but neither would have it. There would be no official truce on Christmas.

The wet weather leading up to Christmas had made the trenches a muddy and soggy mess. Water was everywhere, and conditions in the trenches were harsh. As battles were fought near Christmas,

the bodies of the deceased still laid upon the ground. But as Christmas approached, there were a few informal truces that took place, which included the fraternization of soldiers. As Christmas Eve night approached, temperatures began to dive and a heavy layer of frost formed on the ground. What happened next was a truly remarkable historic event.

It seems that the first area of the Christmas Truce began at Ypres, Belgium. German soldiers began decorating their line of trenches with candles and singing Christmas carols. The British soldiers on the other side responded by singing carols of their own. Some of the songs were sung in German and English. Then shouting matches of season's greetings and general greeting took place.

One British soldier recalled, "On Christmas Eve at about 4



German and British troops mingling in No Man's Land on Christmas Day, December 25, 1914.

p.m. we were in a line of advance trenches waiting to be relieved when we heard singing and shouting coming from the other trenches at right angles to us which line a hedge of the same field. Then the news filtered down. German and English officers had exchanged compliments and agreed on a truce and then started giving one another a concert. We all sang every song we could think of, a bonfire was lit and everyone walked about as though it were a picnic."

One British soldier recalled that during the night, "It was a beautiful moonlit night, frost on the ground, white almost everywhere; and about seven or eight in the evening there was a lot of commotion in the German trenches and there were these lights - I don't know what they were. And they sang 'Silent Night' - 'Stille Nacht'. I shall never forget it; it was one of the highlights of my life. I thought, what a beautiful tune."

Alfred Kornitzke, who was a German cook, was preparing a festive confection for his company, who were facing the Alger-

ians. As the Algerians kept up the gunfire, Kornitzke, still wearing his baker's hat, got fed up with all of the shooting at the Germans, as Christmas Eve was not celebrated by those of the Islam faith. Soon, he jumped out of the trench with a Christmas tree and began moving toward the Algerians line in No Man's Land. "He did not stop until he was halfway between the lines. There he sat the tree down carefully, calmly took some matches...he had intended to use for his petroleum stove, and in the frosty star-filled night, lit the candles, one by one...Now, you blockheads, now you know what's going on! Merry Christmas!" His Christmas greeting must have worked because with that, the Algerians ceased firing.

As Christmas morning came, many of the men began yelling out "Merry Christmas." It wasn't long before white flags were seen coming from the trenches and soldiers gathered in the middle of No Man's Land. Captain Josef Sewald, of the 17th Bavarian remembered when he yelled over to his enemy from his trench: "We didn't wish to

shoot and that we make a Christmas truce. First there was silence, then I shouted once more, invited them, and the British shouted 'No shooting!' Then a man came out of the trenches and I on my side did the same and so we came together and we shook hands."

British Captain Robert Miles recalled "We are having the most extraordinary Christmas Day imaginable. A sort of unarranged and quite unauthorized but perfectly understood and scrupulously observed truce exists between us and our friends in front. A regular soldiers' peace!" As the soldiers came out of their trenches and began to mingle, they exchanged small gifts of food, tobacco and alcohol. Uniform buttons were also traded. One English soldier recalled, "In my mouth is a pipe presented by the Princess Mary. In the pipe is tobacco. Of course, you say. But wait. In the pipe is German tobacco. Haha, you say, from a prisoner or found in a captured trench. Oh dear, no! From a German soldier. Yes a live German soldier from his own trench."

The Jenaer Volksblatt, a German paper, had a very witty piece written about the Christmas Truce. "Yesterday about four o'clock in the afternoon there was a fierce and terrible onslaught of Christmas packages onto our trenches. No man was spared. However, not a single package fell into the hands of the French. In the confusion, one soldier suffered the paling of a salami two inches in diameter straight into his stomach...Another had two large raisins from an exploding pastry fly directly into his eyes...A third man had a great misfortune of having a full bottle of cognac fly into his mouth."

Details were sent out into No Man's Land to recover the corpses of fallen soldiers for a proper burial. Church services were also held. It was reported that soccer and football were played. It seemed as if those once considered enemies had become the best of friends. The men talked about their homes and their families, girlfriends and wives.



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HISTORY / OBITUARIES



A German soldier lights a cigarette for a British soldier during the Christmas truce of 1914.

However, military strictness was observed with regard to positions and trench layout. According to Lance Corporal George Ashurst, 2 Lancashire Fusiliers, one German soldier came out of his trench bearing a flag of truce. He was met by another British soldier and escorted to the British trench, but since he was not blind folded “he had to be made a prisoner of war.” The German soldier protested and was upset. Other soldiers took the opportunity to view the enemy’s machine gun emplacements on the trenches.

There were at least five documented Americans serving in the French Foreign Legion that participated in the Christmas Truce, Eugene Jacobs of Pawtucket, R. I., Victor Chapman, a Harvard man from New York, Phil Rad-

er, George Unard, and African American cook from Galveston Texas, and John Street from St. Louis. John Street was killed the day after Christmas by a German bullet. Phil wrote a letter about the Christmas Truce that was published in several American newspapers. He recalled, “For 20 days we had faced that strip of land, 45 feet wide between our trench and that of the Germans—that terrible no-man’s land, dotted with dead bodies, crisscrossed by tangled mazes of barbed wire. That little strip of land was as wide and as deep and as full of death as the Atlantic Ocean, as uncrossable as the spaces between the stars, as terrible as human hate. Christmas morning fell on it as brightly as if it were a lover’s lane or the aisle

in some grand cathedral.”

By dusk, this remarkable event was, for the most part, over. Never again in history would there be a truce such as the one observed by the men in 1914. Soldiers quickly wrote letters home about what had happened. Phil Rader recalled, “Shouts filled the air. What miracle had happened? Men laughed and cheered. There was a Christmas light in our eyes and I know there were Christmas tears in mine. There were smiles, smiles, smiles, where for days there had been only rifle barrels. The terror of no-man’s land fell away. The sounds of happy voices filled the air. We were all unhumanly happy for that one glorious instant, in which we all—English, Portugese, Americans and even Nadem, the Turk, and that savages, as we had been, cave men as we were, the awfulness of war had not filled the corners of our hearts, where love and Christmas live.” Indeed it was a miracle, a Christmas miracle.

As army censorships read mail from the participating soldiers that was being sent back home, it was revealed that an unofficial truce had taken place. The events that unfolded during Christmas were treasonous in the eyes of the high command in all of the armies. Their leaders were furious. However, there were several sectors of the battlefield where Christmas did not stop the war and fighting continued. Then again, there were certain areas of the battlefield where the Christmas Truce lasted until after the New Year of 1915. But in those areas, where the truce was observed, would leave a lasting memory on those who participated in the Christmas Truce. Phil Rader recalled the day after Christmas, “The sun was shining down again on a world gone mad.”

To read other history articles visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

Roddy McNair

Mr. Rodney L. McNair, 74, of Emmitsburg, passed away on Thursday, November 6. He was the beloved husband of Sarah McNair for 57 years. Born April 20, 1940 in Frederick, he was the son of the late Scott and Frances (Shriner) McNair. In earlier years, Rodney worked on his father’s farm, Freeman Shoe Factory, Moore Business Forms, D.R. Thomas Construction, and Warthen, Inc. In 1984, Rodney started his own business, along with his wife and son, R. L. McNair and Son, a trucking company located in Emmitsburg. Through the years, this

local family business grew and expanded with great pride and success with the help and hard work from his grandson, family members and close friends. Rodney was a hard worker, loving husband and wonderful father. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Theresa Wantz; son, Terry McNair and wife, Rosemary; grandchildren, Terry McNair, Jr., Misti Stepler, Kayne Wantz, and Robert Wantz, Jr. Pallbearers were Terry McNair, Jr., Robert Wantz, Kayne Wantz, Paul Brown III, Connor Leckemby and Derek Hurley

Rita Priest

Rita Maria Norris Remavege Priest, 98, loving daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, teacher, and friend to all, passed away peacefully Friday morning, November 7. Born on October 31, 1916, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Professor Thomas J. Norris and Margaret (O’Donoghue) Norris. She was preceded in death by her two husbands, Edward Remavege and Cecil “Bob” Priest. Rita attended St. Joseph’s Academy High School. Upon graduation from high school, she continued her education at St. Joseph’s College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she received her Bachelor Degree in Home Economics in 1939. She furthered her education at St. Mary’s Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, earning her Dietician’s Degree there. Before marriage, she was head dietician at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She taught Home Economics at Emmitsburg High School until she retired. There she ran the school newspaper and organized many events, particularly May Day. Rita and her husband, Bob,

traveled extensively, their favorite place being Ireland. She cherished her home and family gatherings. Rita was a member of St. Anthony’s Shrine Parish. Rita is survived by her three daughters, Rita Ford of Westminster, Eileen Welly of Belchertown, Massachusetts, and Maureen McKinney and her husband, Michael, of Maxeys, Georgia; her two sons, Edward “Ned” Remavege and his wife, Patricia, of Hagerstown and Thomas Remavege and his wife, Denise, of Ashville, North Carolina; her daughter-in-law, Joy Remavege; her eight grandchildren; her three great-grandchildren; and her sister, Eileen McClean of Richmond, Virginia. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by her son, Robert Remavege; her sisters Kathleen and May Rosa; her brothers Emmet, Lumen, and Thomas. A memorial mass was held November 20 at St. Anthony’s Shrine Parish. Internment was in the Saint Anthony’s Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or Dove House.

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WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

A most disastrous year abroad

Everything else that happened abroad during the year is completely overshadowed by the disastrous war, which has overtaken Europe.

Since that memorable day, July 23, 1914, when Austria made demands upon Serbia for reparations for the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife and for their anti-Austrian agitation, to which Serbia consented with but one exception, the world has been kept on edge by one big shock after another. After Serbia's reply proved unsatisfactory to Austria, Germany declared her intention of supporting Austria.

On July 28 Austria declared war on its little neighbor. Quickly thereafter the Kaiser proclaimed martial law throughout the German Empire. On August 1 Germany declared war on Russia, and France ordered mobilization.

Then followed a terrible period of suspension, which was to show the way the other powers would act. Europe has been divided into groups for the purpose of maintaining their balance of power. Germany, Austria and Italy for the Triple Alliance on one side, while Russia, France and England were pledged in a Triple Entente on the other.

Italy Backs Out

Italy showed her disinclination to be brought into the fight and announce that the alliance called for defense entirely. France and Russia were as tightly bound as Germany and Austria, but England had more freedom of choice. She hesitated only five days and then declared war on Germany, announcing it would be for the protection of Belgium's neutrality, which had been violated after permission for German troops to cross into Belgium to attack France had been rejected. About this time the battle of historic city of Liege began, which withstood the German host so bravely until the giant guns were used.

Montenegro allied herself with Ser-

bia, and Japan declared war against Germany and Austria and set out to capture the Tsingtao, the German port in China. Germany entered Brussels without any resistance on her way towards Paris, and the Belgian government fled to Antwerp.

Belgium Left in Ruin

By forced marches the Germans advanced into Belgium, leaving ruin and desolation in their wake. Historic city after historic city fell quickly. So quickly came the Germans, that the Allied armies were unable to muster their forces in sufficient numbers to make any appreciable stand against them.

The hastily organized British forces which had been landed in France, found it necessary to retreat, and the German Army entered upon French territory, where it was met by another German detachment, which had entered through Luxembourg, another neutral state. This combined strength crept forward until, a month after the war was declared, it was almost at the gates of Paris. The city, bustling with life and activity, was thrown into turmoil. The French government fled to Bordeaux, which became the capital.

Suddenly the Germans wavered, and then began to retreat, and for about 12 days, they showed their heels to the enemy. The German forces again collected for battle when the river Aisne was reached, and from then to now the famous method of warfare of digging deep trenches began.

Zeppelin Attacks Antwerp

Surprised as the Belgians were by the giant German siege engines, they were as greatly astounded by the early-morning attack upon Antwerp by a Zeppelin airship, bombs from which destroyed houses and killed citizens. Zeppelins have since then bombed cities occupied by noncombatants all across Europe. The streetlights of Paris are often extinguish at midnight to



In 1914, there were five basic theaters of battle: the Western front between England, France, Belgium, and Germany, the North Eastern front between Germany and Russia, the South Eastern front between Austria and Russia, the Serbian front between Austria and Serbia, and the Caucasus between Russia and the Ottoman Empire.

prevent Zeppelin's heading in the direction of the city to find it easily.

The Germans followed upon the success of the Zeppelins by providing pilots of aeroplanes with bombs, which they throw out of their cockpit as they fly over cities with little regard for the citizens below.

The world has seen the first battle in the air, between a zeppelin dirigible and aeroplanes. The zeppelin maneuvered clumsily and was unable to make use of her explosives. Bullets from the aeroplane found the balloons bellows which crumpled up. But in spite of all the shooting, the occupants of both the zeppelin and the aeroplanes returned to their bases.

That could not be said for the fighting on the ground.

With the fall of Antwerp, the German desire to control the coastline of Belgian and northern France became evident, it being conceded that they needed the command of the coast be-

fore they can commence an invasion of England with airships and troops.

The Russians on the German and Austrian frontier advanced more rapidly than was thought possible for their army. Galicia, the Polish province of Austria, quickly fell to the Tsar's men. Austria's defeat being almost decisive. Germany sent troops into Russian territory, but soon retreated towards home ground, and Russian troops pushed into Eastern Prussia. But they in turn had to flee before German reinforcements. The Russians once more organized and pressed back the Germans to their own country. Then came the memorable second march of the Germans towards Warsaw.

The Germans, benefiting from inside lines of communications and excellent railways, constantly shifted troops between the Western and Eastern front. No sooner had the Kaisers' troops been pulled from the Western

front and thrown against the Russians on the Eastern front, then the Allies on the Western Front would go on the attack. Once the Germans had sent the Russians running, their troops were sent back to the Western front where they sent the Allies running. Only to be sent back again to the Eastern front to fight off the next Russian Offensive.

It was a great sea-saw battle where territory gained or lost in the West was measured in feet, while whole states changed hands in the East on almost a weekly basis, causing many residents in the East to have sets of both flags, ready to swap at a moments notice.

In the meantime the Austrians had captured Belgrade, the Serbian capital. Serbia asked Russia's permission to conclude peace with Austria, but before they got an answer, Austria was compelled to evacuate the city, and any thought of surrender ended.

The loss of several Austrian armies and the impending invasion by Rus-



WWI is synonymous with trench warfare, where hundreds of thousands of soldiers died in brutal combat for often only yards of territory.

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO THIS MONTH



WWI was fought with one foot in the past and one in the future—the horse, the backbone of armies since the dawn of recorded time, would soon be replaced by trucks and tanks, and the airplane would soon rule the skies.

sian into their heartland, led to informal offers for peace with Russia from the Austrians. But the Germans would have none of this, and assumed command of the Austrian armies and drove the Russians back, and any thought of peace between the two old monarchies ended.

The Austrians introduced a new remarkable engine of war for the first time. The machine, constructed on the principles of the ancient Roman catapult, throws barrels filled with stones and explosives at a high trajectory into the enemy's positions with terrible effect, the stones being split up into thousands of pieces and hurled over a wide area, killing hundreds with a single barrel.

After finishing off the Germans in Asia, Japan sent troops to both the Western as well as the Eastern fronts. The Japanese, known for their precision, have proved invaluable to the Russians as artillerymen, manning some of the big guns in the Russian artillery sections. Japanese troops made their way to the Eastern front by the way of the trans-Siberian Railway.

The entrance of the Turkish government into the war created indignation among Christians, and soon after Turkey's attack on Russian shipping on the Black Sea she declared a holy war.

Constantinople's troops soon arrived at the Egyptian border with the claim that an uprising of Mohammendan Tribes would overthrow British rule.

Closer to home however, Constantinople was facing British and French warships, with a fleet of troop ships, which were menacing the western entrance of the Dardanelles, with the conquest of Constantinople their object.

Submarine Surprise

On the sea the biggest surprise of the war was the work of the submarine. When the world was appraised of the sinking of the British cruisers Cressy, Aboukit, Hogue, and the Pathfinder, by the German submarine C-9, nearly all aboard drowning, it stood aghast at the possibilities of the little craft.

The Turkish battleship Messudieh was torpedoed by British submarine B-11, which entered the Dardanelles, and in spite of the strong current dived under five rows of mine and torpedoed the battleship. The B-11 return safely after being submerged, on one occasion, for nine hours.

Great Britain also lost the cruiser Hawke in a like manner, while the blowing up of the Dreadnought Audacious off the Irish coast was due to a mine. The British ship Bulwark also

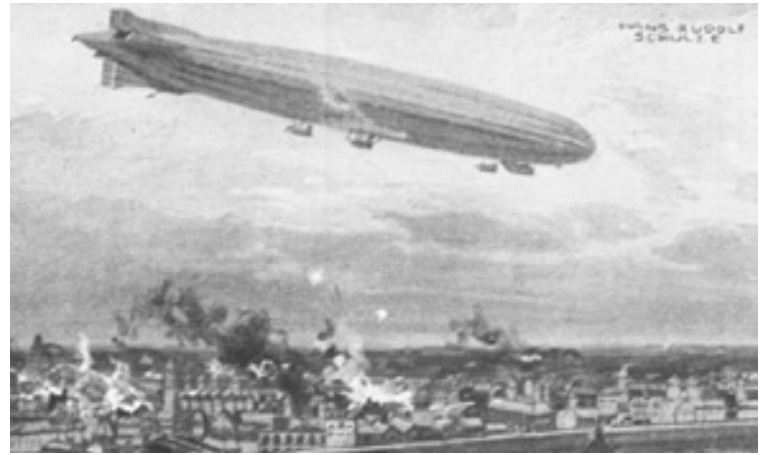
came in contact with a mine near the mouth of the Thames not far from London.

The German and British fleets met at the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic. The battle was inconclusive. The British failed to prevent the German fleet from scattering and raiding allied shipping in the South Atlantic.

Meanwhile a German fleet slipped through the British defenses in the Channel, which had made the coast of England inviolate for centuries and bombarded cities on the Northeast coast. It was the most daring and successful exploit the German Navy has performed in war. England was much alarmed and excited over the possibility of invasion. All the German ships which took part in the raid, escaped in the fog, dropping mines behind them for pursuing ships.

A fleet of British warships met an assembled fleet of German ships off the coast of Chile and gave battle. The British were defeated, losing two ships with all their men. The Germans suffered little damage. To avenge this England sent out a stronger fleet, which sank four German vessels, taking with them 2,000 men, off the south Atlantic coast of South America.

A short time before this battle the



Like the submarine, the Zeppelin brought a whole new element to warfare. For the first time the enemy could easily strike behind the lines. Unfortunately, civilians often bore the brunt of their attacks.

German cruiser Emden was destroyed by an Australian cruiser, thereby freeing the Indian Ocean of what would have proved to be a most disastrous enemy to the Allied shipping.

The American Governor of the Panama Canal has requested the Navy sent destroyers to help enforce neutrality in the waters of the Canal Zone, which have recently been the scene of naval battles between the German and combined Japanese and British fleets.

Death Toll to Date

The war so far has claimed over 800,000 Germans since the beginning of the war this summer. Travelers declared that the supplies with which the German armies were equipped for war are becoming exhausted. This is particularly true of petrol. Germany has issued a decree limiting the use of petrol and advising the use of alcohol instead.

The Swiss have the names of 90,000 French prisoners in Germany. The total losses of the French army is estimated to be 590,000 men since the begin-

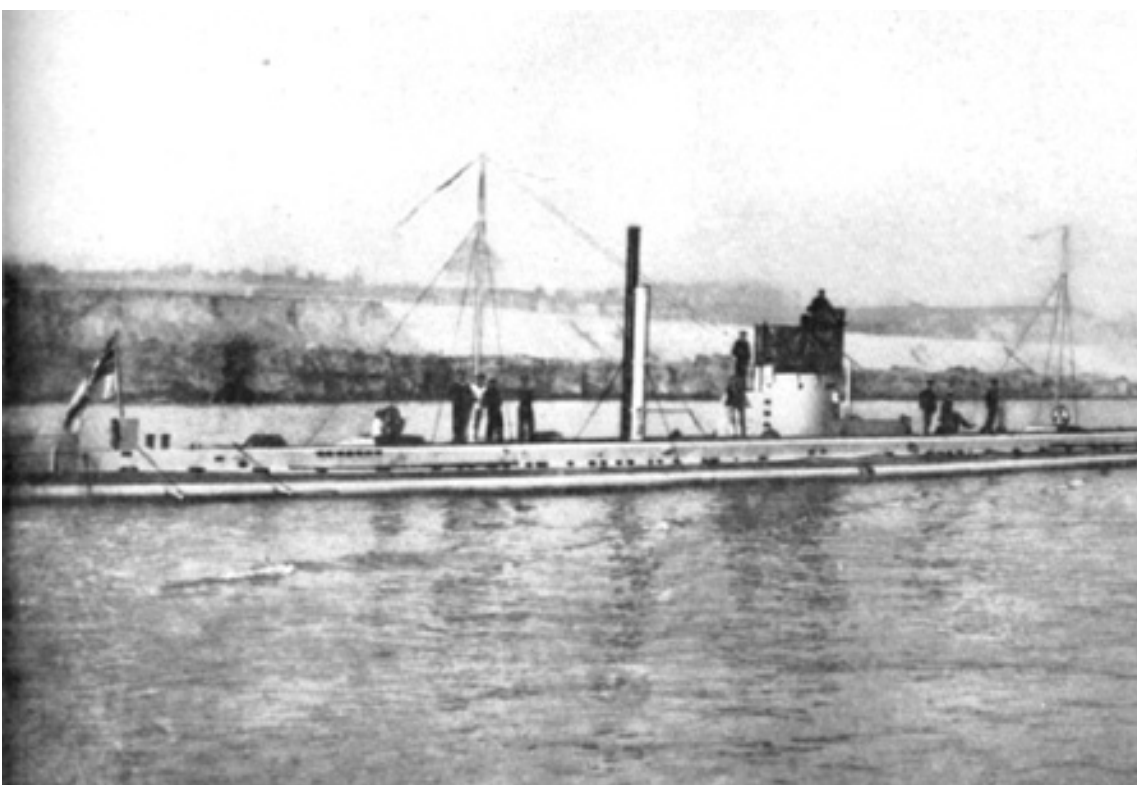
ning of hostilities. The British have admitted to at least 200,000 casualties to date. Russian casualties are unknown, but are estimated to top 1 million.

The final news dispatch of the year sums up the year in general: In the Western arena of the war the Allies continue to claim slow progress in some parts of the front, and the Germans success in others. The territory gained in most cases is the distance between opposing trenches.


On the Eastern front the Russians are advancing on the Austrians and retreating from the Germans. The troops of the Ottoman Empire are running in circles, and no more a threat than gnats on a hot summer night.

The only thing that can be predicted for sure in 1915, is that once beautiful fields across Europe will be strewn with the dead and the dying.

To read prior news reports on WWI visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.




The British submarine known as the B-11 was the first submarine to sink a battleship.



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HISTORY

History of Catoctin Mtn. Park

Continued from last month
Part 6

Rumsey's Steamboat

Operating on a system of credit and counter credit, the primary product sold by the tavern was whiskey, and secondarily brandy. A product of the abundant wheat grown in the area, whiskey offered obvious advantages. In an area like the Catoctin mountains—with no nearby source of water transportation, and railroads still many years off—whiskey could be shipped at a significantly lower cost than wheat. The nation, in the early nineteenth century, had an insatiable thirst for alcohol, leading one historian to dub the new country the “alcoholic republic.” While it is impossible to determine the amount of alcohol consumed by local farmers, they did purchase a great deal of whiskey and brandy from the local tavern. Some of the whiskey, no doubt, was resold. Some may even have been used in place of hard-to-come-by currency. Whatever the case, Wolfe’s Tavern sold close to one hundred gallons of whiskey on a monthly basis. In the month of November 1820, for instance, local farmer John Wiant purchased six gallons of whiskey, one gallon of brandy, and a half bushel of salt from the tavern. In return, he appears to have sold the tavern one twenty-three pound hide.

Two farmers who owned mountain tracts, later incorporated into the park, appear with some regularity in the records of the tavern. Yost Wiant, whose name or whose son’s name appears on early maps of the region as owner of a significant plot of mountain-top land, was a colorful character, who, according to local legend, kept wild hogs on a portion of his holdings. It was that area that became known as “Hog’s Rock.” Wi-

ant mainly purchased alcohol from the tavern, occasionally selling a hide or calfskin in return. His purchases for the first several months of 1821 appear in the Wolfe’s Tavern ledger as follows:

Another prominent farmer whose family played a major role in the development of the area and later acquisition of the park was Archibald McAfee. Settling on a large tract surrounding Cunningham Falls, McAfee’s descendants retained ownership of the land until they sold it to the government in the 1930s. Like Wiant, McAfee (whose name is spelled Archibald Mackffe in the tavern ledger) used the local tavern primarily to purchase and trade for whiskey.

In return for the alcohol, McAfee appears to have paid cash and traded horse shoes.

Compared to the rapid development of industry in western Maryland and throughout the country, agriculture saw few advances and the beginnings of some setbacks. Observers noted the first signs of soil exhaustion and lower yields. The Hessian fly, a costly remnant of the Revolutionary War, also ravaged crops. Although roads improved and new efforts to build canals and railroads generated excitement, transportation networks generally remained primitive in the area. It was thus industry rather than agriculture that generated the great changes of the times.

Catoctin Furnace from the Top Down

During the late eighteenth century, the iron furnace at Catoctin prospered as one of the many business interests under the ownership of the Johnson family. In 1787, the brothers rebuilt the furnace entirely, moving it roughly three quarters of a mile up Little Hunting Creek to its pres-

ent site (See Appendix 1). The new furnace continued to operate with one stack, producing an estimated 900 tons of iron per annum. That same year the Johnsons also added another furnace located at the mouth of the Monocacy to their growing domain.

By the early 1790s, the diverse interests of the Johnson family were proving too extensive to be jointly managed by the four brothers. In 1793, the Johnsons, therefore, divided up their jointly-held enterprises. The Catoctin furnace, which previously had been under the supervision of James Johnson, now shifted to the former governor, Thomas, and his younger brother Baker (1749-1811). It was Baker who took the greatest interest in Catoctin. The younger Johnson acquired his brother’s half share in 1802, becoming sole owner of the furnace.

Around 1805, Baker constructed for himself a handsome home, slightly west of the furnace, which he called “Auburn.” Apparently not an iron master himself, Johnson leased the land to Benjamin Blackford of New Jersey, who operated the furnace for almost a decade. During the Blackford period, Baker Johnson continued to improve upon his industrial holding.

When Baker died in 1811, Catoctin Furnace went up for public sale, as instructed in his will. Newspapers from around the country carried lengthy announcements, advertising the merits of the furnace. Promising a public auction if the property failed to generate a private buyer, the site was advertised as “consisting of a large blast furnace—the stack, wheel and bellows, and all the buildings of the furnace are built in the best manner are in complete order.” A considerable amount of land, about 4,611 acres, accompanied the furnace. Between 600 and 700 acres consisted



James Rumsey first tested his steamboat near this spot on the Potomac River by Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

of “arable land, and about 60 acres sat as meadow, a great part is well set with timothy.” The land, the newspaper ads explained, “is well covered with wood and young timber, and is deemed sufficient to furnish coal wood for the furnace for many years.” Iron ore found near the furnace “is easily raised and the Bank apparently inexhaustible.” Likewise a “limestone quarry is also very convenient not more than 200 yards from the furnace bank.” Other attractions included the master’s house, a large two-story stone building, with “necessary out-houses,” fountain pump at the kitchen door, and two store houses. Also included was a chopping mill, a stone blacksmith shop, barns, stables, and corn houses. The Catoctin Furnace apparently had taken on something of a company-town look, and a successful buyer would also acquire “from 15 to 20 houses for the accommodation of workmen, all in good order” (see Appendix 2 and 3)

The executors of Johnson’s will eventually sold the furnace to Thomas and Wiloughby Mayberry of Philadelphia. The Johnson family, however, remained an active presence in the area. Baker Johnson, Jr., contin-

ued to live at Auburn House, for several decades.

The Mayberry brothers enjoyed initial success with their new investment. With the United States desperately trying to avoid involvement in a war between France and Britain, President Thomas Jefferson declared a trade embargo against both belligerents. Spurred by the cut-off of foreign competition, American industry thrived. The subsequent War of 1812, although disruptive, especially in Washington and Baltimore, led to an economic boom in areas less affected by the war. But with the cessation of hostilities in 1815, British iron again flowed into the country. The Panic of 1819—the most severe economic downturn in the history of the young country—then virtually decimated the iron production business, and the Mayberrys went bankrupt.

At a sheriff’s auction on May 2, 1820, Colonel John McPherson, Jr., and his business partner and brother-in-law John Brien, who together already owned an iron furnace in Annetiam, purchased Catoctin. By the 1820 sale the Catoctin Furnace land holdings had expanded somewhat to include 5,000 acres on which sat

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HISTORY



This type of sled was used by timber cutters to haul logs that were made into charcoal to fuel the Catoctin Iron Furnace.

Brien and McPherson were dedicated to their investment. They added some 3,000 acres to the furnace holdings, built a grist mill, enlarged the furnace stack, and increased capacity. The furnace began to cast ten-plate stoves, capable of burning full-length cord wood, which carried the inscription "McPherson and Brien, Catoctin Furnace." Meanwhile, as the railroad revolution began to take hold, the demand for iron rose.

The mid-1820s also brought something of an educational turn to the furnace area. In 1825, Baker Johnson, Jr., son of the former furnace owner, "at the solicitation of several of the citizens of Frederick and the vicinity . . . consented to open his large and commodious house at Auburn for the receivership of boys to be instructed in all those branches of education necessary to prepare them for the higher classes of col-

lege." The boarding school, called Auburn Academy, consisted of 20 students, instructed by a Mr. Peers,"a gentlemen in every respect." Advertisements for the school, stressed the mountain atmosphere (rather than the nearby burning iron furnace operated by slaves): "a high and healthy situation, commending all the advantages of pure air and fine water."

Continued next month

"a blast furnace with a commodious casting-house and pot-houses, sufficiently large for sixteen moulders, built of stone, office and store houses, coal house, two blacksmith's shops, a large ware house, and stables for four teams; chopping, stamping and saw-mills, all in complete order." Twenty-two houses "for workmen" now adorned the property, as did the two-story, stone master's house, a large stone smoke house, a milk house, and an ice house. The sale also included two mountain tracts, "considered the most valuable on the Catoctin mt [sic] being covered with fine second growth chestnut." On one of the mountain tracts sat a two-story stone house, and the other a "log dwelling." But the thirty-three-year-old site had aged and had been closed for at least for several months. After the purchase, Brien reported to the Census of Manufactures that Catoctin was an "Old Es-

tablishment in need of repairs. Now repairing it."

The sale represented something of a homecoming for the furnace, since John McPherson Jr.'s wife was the granddaughter of Governor Thomas Johnson. Likewise McPherson was no stranger to the iron manufacturing business. His father, John, Sr., was an "iron master," and his sons, explained a family friend in 1809, "wished to adventure the same way." John Brien also had a background intimately linked to iron production. Born in County Tyrone, Ireland, Brien, along with his two brothers, followed an uncle to America and into the iron business. The Brien brothers worked in iron furnaces in Pennsylvania, gradually accumulating enough money to purchase a furnace named Spring Grove. In 1804, John Brien married, Harriet, the daughter of "iron master" John McPherson, Sr.



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COLD WAR WARRIORS

Russians vs. Romans

Commander John Murphy
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Is the Cold War returning? Cold War “rock star” Mikhail Gorbachev said so in Berlin on 9 November - at the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. Current Russian leader Vladimir Putin couldn't make the event. He was too busy developing the New Russia in Ukraine and Crimea. From a Russian perspective “it's the Romans fault!” If they had not spread throughout the world in the first millennium, grabbing land and imposing their language on foreign nations the world would be a much better place today. Russian scholars referred to this mindset as the “Russian Westernizer versus Slavophile controversy.”

At Georgetown University in the 1970s, we expected this question to appear on major, graduate degree exams. We also knew that our answer should include four major elements: the historic evolution of the Russian state; the role of religion and the role of the Russian language development of the Russian national state. Finally, a discussion of major Russian Westernizers and Slavophiles over the years - from 800 AD to the present.

Historic evolution of the Russian state

The modern Russian state began to emerge in Kiev, Ukraine in the 9th century. At the end of the European Dark Ages. It was called Kievan Rus'. Prior to that Russia was a desolate, frigid land of nomadic tribes. Primitive peoples with equally primitive cultures that were driven by cults of earth and stone and trees. You came from the soil and you would return to the soil - Mother Russia. By the 10th century, the Kievan Rus' people were a blend of northern

Scandinavians and Eastern Slavs. A nation - state began to take form and was called Kievan Rus'.

It was ruled between 882 -1054 by a series of princes with names such as Oleg, Svyatoslav, Vladimir, and Yaroslav the Wise. Svyatoslav greatly expanded the state's territory. Vladimir the Great introduced religion and Yaroslav the Wise expanded the state out from its center in Kiev and introduced laws and written culture. I describe this in some detail in the May 2014 Cold War Warrior article entitled “Putin the Great?”

Suffice it to say - all great Russian leaders after the Princes of Kiev seem to be measured by how much territory they acquired. So when the Mongol hordes began rolling west and destroying all in their path in the 13th century, the cradle of Russian history in Kiev was lost. It would be over 200 years before a little known country crossroads called Moscow (Moskva in Russian) began to emerge as a center of Russian power and culture. In 1480 Ivan III of Moscow reestablished Russian control over lands taken by the Mongols and began to refer to himself as “tsar” (czar) - a Russian transliteration of the Roman word Caesar. It was meant to be a clear statement that an empire was under his control.

In 1670, Pope Clement X wondered how to translate the Russian word “tsar”? To him, it seemed to be a barbarian term for “emperor.” But, in the Christian world there could be only one emperor and he was in Rome. Peter the Great in 1721 didn't help things much when he asserted that the Latin term “imperator” should be used in place of tsar. Whatever you called him, it seemed to be in the DNA of Russian leaders to expand the territory of their Russian Empire.



This began with Ivan III in the 15th century when he claimed that he was the true heir and successor of Kievan Rus'. Then along came Ivan the 4th (Ivan the Terrible) in the 16th century who expanded the Russian state to over 1,000,000 acres and demanded that he be called “tsar.” His western cousins did not appreciate this. It made them nervous. But, Ivan eventually got so fed up with the politics in Russia that he decided he would seek asylum in England. Elizabeth refused his request and “The Terrible” died of a stroke while playing chess at the age of 53.

Then along came another great westernizer - Peter the Great (1672-1725). Peter expanded the Russian empire 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, it is important to note that Peter set out to bring Kievan Rus' back into the Russian empire. A process that dragged on from the mid 17th to late 18th century.

In 1721 Tsar Peter went to war with Sweden to gain unfettered access to the Baltic. He won convincingly and built a new capital on the Baltic - St. Petersburg. It was his window “upon Europe.” He also reorganized his government based on European models. The Russian Orthodox Church was brought into his government's administrative structure. This subordination still exists today. This state religion be-

came another element of control. Like communications, propaganda, finance, the courts etc. When Peter the Great died in 1725 (at age 53 ... just like Ivan the Terrible), Russia had become a great power.

When the Soviet Union was created in 1918, Ukraine declared that it was Independent of the Russian Republic. During the Russian Civil War after World War I, Russians and Ukrainians fought for both the Red and White Armies. In 1922, both Russia and Ukraine were founding members of the USSR. Ukraine tried to preserve its ancient ties to Christianity while the New Russia of the USSR viewed religion as a form of oppression. “Religion is opium for the people. Religion is a sort of spiritual booze, in which the slaves of capital drown their human image, their demand for a life more or less worthy of man.” (Vladimir Lenin, “Novaya Zhizn” 1905).

In 1932 the Russians launched Stalin's Holodomor or “Death by Hunger.” A famine that killed 7.5 million Ukrainians. Scholars say that Holodomor was the result of economic problems that were tied to major economic changes during the liquidation of private property. Sound familiar?

When I was young, I met a local businessman who grew up on a large estate near Kiev. His father was the Chief Justice of the Kiev Supreme Court under Tsar Nicholas II. His family had to flee Russia in the 1920s. In the 1970s,

much to his surprise, he received a check for \$70,000 (about \$530,000 today) from the Soviet government in payment for his family estate. I guess Brezhnev's Soviets decided it was pay-back time. Then came the post-Soviet “New Russia” where all property was up for grabs -again. This time by the greedy, immoral Russian oligarchs. Some would say that Russia had become westernized at last. By unprincipled “wild and crazy” capitalists. A world without the constraints of morals, ethics and religion.

Role of religion in Russia's development

To understand the significance of religion in the development of the Russian state we need to return to Kiev in the ninth century. The princes of Kiev understood only too well that religion was a part of the structure of a modern nation. But, they wanted their religion to have a uniquely Slavic dimension to it. They would begin by conducting a worldwide survey of all religions. When they were finished, they selected the Church of Constantinople as the model for their future Eastern Slavic religion. They believed that the Northern Slavs - particularly Poland - were unduly controlled by the Bishop of Rome. They did not want this to happen to Russia.

The Eastern Orthodox Church in Constantinople traced its roots back to St. Paul and the Apostles through the Holy Roman Empire. It claimed it was the church founded by Jesus Christ. In the 16th century, when Moscow decided to assert that it was the legitimate Capital of Christendom or the “3rd Rome” ...they used a story first recorded by the Monk Philotheus in 1510 that a white cowl (i.e. hood) was a sacred relic that was passed from the Bishop of Rome to Constantinople and finally to Moscow.

The legend had it that the Bishop of Rome had sinned and thereby lost his right to the white cowl. The white cowl was then passed to the Bishop of Constantinople. When Constantinople fell to Islam and the Ottoman Turks in 1545, the white cowl was passed to Moscow and the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church. It became a symbol of the supremacy of Russian Orthodoxy in the Christian world and of Moscow as a world power.

Unlike the Western church, the Russian Orthodox Church has been under the control of the Russian government since the time of Peter the Great. A potential tool for repression.

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Czar Vladimir Putin?

I visited Czechoslovakia in 1993 shortly after the demise of the USSR. The Czechs were thriving... as were the Poles. Their American cousins were over there helping them adjust to the transition from the state planned economies of communism. Their everyday business practices reflected the highest standards of morality and ethics. Standards that they inherited from their ancestors in the Holy Roman Empire.

Meanwhile, in Russia there was a faux rebirth of religion. This included the restoration of ancient, orthodox churches and a show of great deference to the Patriarch of Moscow by Russian leaders. But we soon saw that it was nothing but a show. Soon the oligarchs dominated everyday life in Russia and corruption and immorality spread throughout New Russia. The rule of law was a sham. Russia seemed to lack a moral rudder. Unlike their European Slavic cousins.

Role of language in Russia's development

Language has also played a major role in Russian politics. Starting way back in Kievan Rus' in the 9th century. When the Princes of Kiev set out to build the foundation for their Slavic state. They saw language as a discriminator and barrier to the influences of the west - particularly against Rome and the Roman Catholic Church. They felt that their cousins in the Holy Roman Empire (i.e. Germans, Italians, Czechs, Polish, Dutch, French, Frisian, Slovenes, Serbians etc.) were held together by their use of the Latin or Roman alphabet in all their religious and secular writings. Kievan Rus' would not fall into this trap. They would create their own alphabet and it would serve as a barrier to the influences of Rome.

Most know the story of the creation of the Cyrillic alphabet by two brother priests - linguists from Constantinople - Cyril and Methodius. The brothers conducted a phonetic analysis of the sounds of the southern and eastern Slavs. Where they heard vowels and consonants that were common to their Greek language they would use the symbol from the Greek alphabet. When they encountered unique sounds they created new symbols that appear in the modern Russian alphabet today.

The initial Cyrillic alphabet of the 9th century had 56 symbols. This has been gradually reduced to 26 symbols.

The last Russian alphabetic symbol to be deleted was known as the "hard sign." It was deleted by Stalin in a cost-cutting measure in the 1920s. It was noted that they could save \$15 million (\$170 million today) in annual printing costs by eliminating this non-significant symbol.

Once The Princes of Kiev had an alphabet they set about creating a rich foundation of religious and secular writing. This task was assigned to the holy monks of the Crypt Cave Monastery in Kiev. This was in contrast with the monks in the west that focused strictly on religious material. The Kievan Rus' secular material gave historians and linguists rare insights into the daily lives of eastern Slavdom at the time.

It was not long before these ancient Rus'ians began to claim that their culture was superior to that of Europe. A case in point would be when Princess Anne, daughter of Yaroslav the Wise of Kiev married King Henry I of France. The Russians proudly noted that Anne was the only literate member of the French Court. Queen Anne signed important court documents for Henry and became Regent of France after his death in 1080.

Language as a unifier

If you fast-forward to the 19th and 20th centuries you can see where the Russian language was used to unify and control the people. Especially during the Soviet era (1918 -1992). As a student of Russian in the 1970s, I took great pride in my ability to read, write and even speak 9th century (Church Slavonic) and the modern Russian language. We could see the similarities and transferences that occurred over a 1,000-year period between these languages. To us, Ukrainian and Russian seemed like the

same language. We joked about it being like listening to a Yankee from New Jersey or a Southerner from Alabama or Georgia speak English. They were communicating alright, but sounded a little different.

The beauty of the modern Russian language was that it allowed the Soviets to communicate across 150 subdivisions of their nation (16 autonomous Republics, 120 Oblasts etc.) Through the printed and spoken word - this diverse conglomeration of governmental units became one. I can see where from a Russian perspective, the collapse of the Soviet Union also led to a breakdown in solidarity across the former Soviet Union. The various nationalities and ethnic groups drifted back to their native languages. Still, Russia remains number 1 worldwide in terms of overall national-territory with 6,000,000 square miles. Well ahead of China with 3,600,000 square miles, and the U.S. and Canada with about 3,500,000 square miles of territory each.

Westernizers versus Slavophiles

Vladimir Putin is tsar of Russia today. For better or worse he rules supreme over all that Peter and others created. As we have seen, some Russian leaders have chosen to isolate themselves from all western influences. In my May 2014 article "Putin the Great?" I provide an assessment of those leaders that have tended to work with the west and those that considered it their enemy.

Peter the Great was the greatest Russian westernizer. Vladimir Putin is now showing himself to be a classic Slavophile. This is to be expected... It's in his genes. His grandfather - was a cook for Joseph Stalin himself. Putin was a rising star in the Soviet KGB in the early 1990s. Now he is the very personification of the kulak... a Russian macho type who likes to strut about and lead his New Russia straight back to the past. Will he succeed? I doubt it, but he clearly relishes being front stage and center.

Putin's agenda is clear

Vladimir Putin clearly wants to prevent Ukraine from becoming pro-Western and a part of NATO. He seeks dominance of their energy resources - its "chernomor" or earthly resources. He is using energy to control and subvert the Ukrainians. He does not want them to become part of the EU or "westernized." He also is using all the old tricks in his KGB tool kit. First of all, there is a generous use of disinformation. America is portrayed as the archenemy of Russia.

He hits all the Ukrainian "hot buttons" such as claiming they are "neo Nazis" - that are conducting an eth-

nic cleansing of innocent Russians from their territory. Also, he is using Special Operations forces troops (spetsnaz) in Crimea and East Ukraine.

Moscow denies that they are Russians and when shown evidence that they are - simply says they are volunteers on vacation. How stupid does he think we are? It doesn't matter. Meanwhile, ancient Bear D reconnaissance aircraft are conducting unannounced flights along the periphery of NATO nations. Threatening? Ominous? Actually it is pretty "bush league" stuff by Cold War standards, but the western press eats it up.

What do the Ukrainian and Russian people think?

If you read the Russian press regularly you get the impression that the Russian people support what Putin is doing in Crimea and East Ukraine. Recent polls by the state media claim Russians support Putin by 65%. Of course this is a Russian press that is tightly controlled by the central government.

Reading between the lines, I sense that the every day Russian has little or no appreciation for the potential impact of Putin's policies and the western sanctions against them. Not yet anyway. They only know what their government is telling them and they believe that there is some kind of an information war going on. That America and the West simply want to push Russia around and control the whole world. Quite a change from what I was hearing from the man on the street in Moscow and St. Petersburg in the early '90s. They were so upbeat and hopeful. They loved us! I thought at the time "This is good! ... The Russian soul is free at last!"

If you read between the lines of the Russian and Ukrainian press today you would get the impression that some fear that Russia is drifting back into a dictatorship. A land where there are no rules or laws. But lots of repression. Many Ukrainians just want the Russians to "go home." Sure Putin is doing some things that they like, but they do not want to go back to Communism. This is why Putin wraps what he is doing in terms of ancient Russian history.

Russians know and understand men like Putin and they expect to be ruled by strong leaders. Young Russians ... particularly small business owners, realize that there is a Russian elite (i.e. oligarchs) that makes way too much money and the rest of Russian society "lives off the crumbs." And yet, I sense there is a true and living bond between Russia and Ukraine. A very strong bond.

"Andrey" of Kiev recently was quoted in Reuters: "To me, he's (Putin) a fascist. But I regard Russia and Russian culture with respect and even love. Many of my friends are Russian and many of them also don't support Putin's politics."

So as you read the headlines in the near future, keep in mind that from Putin's perspective - all that is going wrong in Ukraine is America's fault ... and the Romans of course. Not him - Tsar Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

Yet, some Russians think that we should be a little careful as to what we wish for. That Putin could be replaced by someone who is a lot worse from a western perspective.

To read other Cold War articles visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net

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MOM'S TIME OUT

How does the Universe work?

Mary Angel

The other day my 13 year old son asked me one of those "how does the universe work" questions. We were playing racquetball together and he stopped and looked me square in the eye and asked, "Are you my friend, I mean are we friends?" It seems like a simple question. I mean when you are a child that is a simple question. As a mom it is a different story and a much more complicated story.

My initial reaction was, "Of course we are friends!" Really what kind of question is that, he is my son, I love him, I usually like him and therefore we must be friends? When I looked at the definition of a friend it is a person attached to another by feelings of affection. Obviously once I gave birth to this 10 pound delight I most definitely had and will always have feelings of affection for him. Another definition is a person who gives assistance. Obviously at the age of 13 I am constantly giving him assistance, whether it is school work, or laundry, I am assisting! If my

answer was simply based on these definitions then my decision would be easy. That is not where my analysis ended and this is where the confusion comes in.

I guess my hesitation came from the way he viewed the term. To a 13 year old his friends are the guys (and some gals) that he hangs out with. They are the people that he can be a goof ball with. I suspect he may even say things to them that he would not say to me. I am not saying he is out cursing like a sailor and robbing banks. I am simply saying that he might play video games for 24 hours straight (given the chance) and he might quote SpongeBob enough times that my brain would explode. So although I love my son beyond words I could not endure that much 13 year old "friend" time even if my life depended on it.

Another concept I had to consider when answering the "friend" question is my role as his mom. My job as a mom is to care for my family and too teach my children so they will be productive, caring, members of soci-

ety who make good choices. I have to teach them right from wrong and good manners and how to take care of themselves. These are not the responsibility of a friend, they are my responsibility. If I allow the lines between friendship and parenthood to blur too much then when it comes time to parent I might not be taken seriously. This is a very difficult job as a parent.

As a mom I really want to be my children's friend. There are days when I am tired of being the person in charge, the disciplinarian. All I want is to just be their friend and have fun. Unfortunately, that is a luxury I don't have. I can have fun with them but, at the end of the day I am still in charge and I have to make sure that is always understood.

So my answer to my son, for that thought provoking question, was simple. "Of course we are friends," I told him, "and you can always come to me about anything." However, I continued, "But remember I am still your mom and I will still teach you right from wrong and be available whenever you need me." Then I stressed that no matter what I will always love him. I can't let him be a complete teenager in front of me, not like he would with his friends, but I can hang out with him and be buds once in a while.

For my son and me we love to watch



the television show Castle together (although he doesn't watch any of the gore, so I guess we watch the edited version). We sit on the sofa with one another and just chill. We chit chat on the commercials and it is completely awesome! With my oldest son it is a date night going out to dinner together. We are friends hanging out and talking and sometimes just being together without talking. With my girls it is different; it is way more girly obviously. There is very little quiet

time. My oldest daughter, for example, as soon as the two of get in the car she asks me to turn of the radio or television. She wants to enjoy talking when it is just the two of us. We play twenty questions all of the time. Both girls love when I paint their nails and when we go shopping (even grocery shopping for the youngest). I am definitely their friend when we go on vacation (at least until bedtime). I guess the bottom line is, when you are a parent, there is a time and a place to be a friend. There just happen to be way more times to be a parent.

Through their lives our children will have friends that come and go (and come back again). There will be those few friends that they keep through the years, but a mom will be there for them until her last breath. The key is to find a happy medium between being a mom and being a friend. It is also important to figure out when your child wants which one and even more important to figure out when they need a mom and not a friend. Remember you can be a friend to your child but no one else can be a mom to them. I hope and pray that I am a good friend to my children and a great mom, but only time will tell.

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

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Stress free holiday party ideas

Brooke Hagerty
The Food Chick

December brings with it holiday parties galore! And parties galore mean lots and lots of food! And lots and lots of food means lots and lot of time spent in the kitchen prepping and cooking instead of enjoying friends and family....usually!

This month we are going to plan the perfect party that includes some homemade items and some not so homemade items that are equally delicious. The key here is to remember that just because it is not totally homemade does not mean it is not totally delicious. Our goal is to have happy guests, stress free hosts, full bellies and happy hearts. Follow along as I show you how to plan and execute the perfect holiday cocktail party!

Step 1 - Figure out what kind of party works best with your space and the number of guests. For our purposes we will use my teeny tiny little house as our inspiration. My and my husbands home has just 900 square feet of living space and I realize that that might not seem like much space for a party but with the proper execution it becomes party central.

Taking into account our small living space with our very large deck and a great view the perfect party for us is a Sunday afternoon. Nestled between lunch and dinner an afternoon Open House from 1-5 is just the ticket! And speaking of tickets, we will for sure have the football game on for entertainment inside and music for entertainment outside, of course with a fire pit for added warmth!

Step 2 - Plan your menu! When planning your cocktail party keep the following in mind; each guest will on average consume 11-13 bites; you will need to include both hot and cold items. Each guest will consume 2-3 beverages; it is important to offer both non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages. A signature cocktail available either with or without alcohol is a great time saver. Be sure to also have water and coffee and/or tea available.

Okay, so now all we have to do is plan and execute the perfect menu. We have already established an afternoon event so we don't have to have too heavy of foods, just enough to satisfy the tummy until our guests head home or to their next event. We have also established that this will be a casual Open House so we know that people will be coming in and out throughout the day so we will need items that can "stand up" to being out all day.

Our menu will include hot and cold items, a signature cocktail, two beers, two wines, coffee and water. It is important to remember that we are operating with limited

space so we are going to go with what I like to call my "Sticks and Bites" menu - no utensils needed, just your fingers or a stick!

The Food –

Meatballs in Marinara Sauce

a very easy fix by purchasing frozen meatballs (1/4 ounce each) and jarred sauce. You can doctor your sauce up by first sautéing onions and garlic in extra virgin olive oil and adding dried Italian seasoning to taste. Sauté until a light golden brown and add your favorite jarred sauce. Finish off by adding fresh shredded Parmesan cheese and fresh basil. Serve in a crock pot and refill as needed. (3-4 per person)

Chile Glazed Shrimp Skewers

Purchased peeled and deveined shrimp to cut down on your prep time and be sure to go for a medium to large shrimp. In a sauté pan heat olive oil with crushed red pepper and crushed garlic to taste. Add shrimp and cook until just pink on both sides. Allow to cool to room temperature and add two shrimp per skewer. (2 skewers per person)

Roasted Pears with Prosciutto

Pre-heat your oven to 450 degrees. Slice an Anjou pear in half and cut off the top tip and bottom end and then slice into

thirds. Take one sage leaf and place on pear and wrap with one slice prosciutto. Place on a parchment lined sheet pan and cook until sage is aromatic, prosciutto is crisp and pear is just soft. (2 per person)

Goat Cheese Pops Rolled in Bacon

Bring to room temperature goat cheese and cream cheese. Meanwhile cook bacon by your preferred method to just crispy then drain and pat dry. Combine 50/50 goat cheese and cream cheese and season to taste with dried Italian seasoning and Montreal Steak seasoning. Roll into bite size pieces. Rough chop bacon. Roll cheese balls in bacon and stab with 6-8 inch skewers. Serve on a bed of greens with sticks up for easy serving. (2-3 per person)

The Obligatory Cheese Tray - take advantage of the season's prepared cheese selections and use port wine cheese, blue cheese almond ball and seasoned feta cheese. Serve with your favorite holiday crackers. Supplement your cheese tray by making a trip to your local high end grocery store and stock up at the olive and pepper bars. Your guests will love the different varieties and you will enjoy the added time with your guests!



The Beverages –

Make a fun signature cocktail by combining Ginger Ale or club soda, cranberry juice and frozen green grapes. Turn this into an "adult bevvie" by adding white wine or vodka to taste. Serving tip; allow your guests to pick their poison and keep the "adult bevies" on the side to add at their leisure. In most cases you will know your guests so choose beer and wine that you know they like. Purchase less than you

think you will need as most people will bring their favorite beverage to share with you. Keep bottled water and coffee on hand and stocked throughout the day!

There you have it, the perfect holiday Open House! And if you want to make it even easier on yourself you can call me, The Food Chick, to provide everything for you! I can be reached at brooke@thefoodchick.biz, 410.903.3921. I hope that you all have a beautiful holiday season!

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

What's new at the library

Linda Frydl
Frederick County Library
lfrydl@frederickcountymd.gov

Children's holiday tea!

A special tradition in Emmitsburg! Kick off your holiday fun at the annual Children's Holiday Tea Party hosted by the Friends of the Emmitsburg Library. Dress up in your holiday finery to enjoy an afternoon of seasonal stories, songs, and treats. For children of all ages with an adult. To be held in the Senior Center downstairs from the library. Registration is required. Call 301-600-6329 to reserve your seat at the tea table.

New large screen TV for movie events

This summer the Emmitsburg Branch received a surprise gift from the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association and we'd like to say thank you. The EBPA purchased a large screen TV and now, thanks to their generosity, the li-

brary can show children's films in the community room. On January 24 at 11 am, Library Associate Julie Scott will host Lunch & Magical Movie. Kids are invited to bring their lunch and enjoy watching 'Frozen' with their friends. Other movie events will be planned.

Volunteer income tax assistance
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will be provided at both the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries this winter. Trained volunteers will provide free assistance in the library's meeting rooms through the end of March. Through the IRS VITA program, median to low-income tax payers are able to access free tax preparation services for simple returns for individuals earning less than \$51,000 annually. More information will be coming.

Staff picks

Look for the new Staff Picks area at the Emmitsburg Library. This area will highlight favorite reads picked by staff members. Check

it out for some great, new reading suggestions and hidden gems.

Teen program - faux snow globes

Teens: Come make a snow globe for a gift or for your own home or room! Tuesday, December 9th, at 4pm. Sign-up online at fcpl.org, or call 301-600-6331.

Children's program - Ginger-ific!

Run, Run as fast as you can... to the library as we celebrate Gingerbread Decorating Day with crafts and games inspired by the classic tale of the Gingerbread Man. Saturday, December 13th at 11am. Suitable for preschoolers and elementary ages with an adult.

Thurmont Regional Library's 7th Annual Holly Jolly Seasonal celebration!

Everyone is invited to join us for our 7th Annual Holly Jolly Seasonal Celebration! This event is part of Thurmont Main Street's

"Christmas In Thurmont". Drop in between 10am and 1pm, December 6th, for holiday face painting and make & take crafts for all ages, including a make & take craft table for adults hosted by the Friends of the Thurmont Library. Afterwards, at 1pm, we'll have a special storytime with Santa and Mrs. Claus. We look forward to seeing you at this annual event for all ages. No registration needed.

Artists on display

This month we welcome two artists to the Thurmont Library, Howard Clark and Kelsey Wailes. Howard Clark is an award winning professional photographer with over 50 years experience behind the lens. His Bio states that while landscapes are his specialty, many of Howard's images provide an intimate look at animals, flowers, plants, and trees. His images have been selected for inclusion in juried exhibitions in galleries throughout the DC area.

More information about Howard can be found on his website: hclarkphotos.com. Howard's photographs are in the Delaplaine Satellite Gallery and will be on display through January.

Kelsey Wailes is a Maryland based toymaker, illustrator, and teacher. Her work has been featured on io9, Mental Floss, BuzzFeed, Kotaku, and more. She uses mostly sculpey for her line of toys, and traditional media for her drawings. Kelsey's illustrations include animals, game characters, Doctor Who and more. Samples of her art can be found at: Eat-toast.deviantart.com. Kelsey's illustrations will be on display through December.

Holiday hours

All Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th.

All branches will be closing at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31 for New Year's Eve.

To learn more about upcoming events at the library visit: www.fcpl.org.

Christmas greetings from MSS

Lynn Taylor
Mother Seton School

Good tidings from Mother Seton School! 'Tis the season once again for making lists and checking them twice, for egg-nog and fruitcake, and for at least four area radio stations to switch to an all-Christmas-music-all-the-time format. It is also the season for warm woolen mittens and down parkas, especially since Mother Nature seems to have so graciously gifted us with an early winter. I'm not complaining, mind you—like Elsa from "Frozen", "the cold never bothered me anyway". The frigid air does, however, make getting children ready for school in the mornings challenging. I have also yet to solve the mystery of the one missing glove. I have a theory that those gloves are running away with the missing socks. It would explain "toe

socks", those things that look like gloves for your feet.

Despite the chill in the air—or maybe because of it—our students are shivering with excitement over what come next—Christmas! We start with our annual Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar, December 6th from 8:00 a.m. until noon, where the kids can talk to Santa about their wish lists and have their photo taken with the jolly old elf. What's great about that for parents is that you can avoid the huge mall crowds. This year, we are also welcoming several new vendors into the Bazaar, as well as a "Kids Bazaar", where all the items are under \$10 and children can shop for their loved ones with their own money. One way to teach children to consider others is to involve them in gift giving. It will also mean more to the recipient knowing that the child chose that gift for them personally.

The Kids Bazaar can help with that.

On December 9th, we are opening our doors to anyone looking for the right school and who wishes to take a tour of MSS. From 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., and then again from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., stop by and see what our students have been up to and all that Mother Seton School has to offer. Enrollment for most schools, especially preschools, normally begins in January, so why not get a head start?

If you need a jolt of Christmas cheer, we have what you need! Our chorus has been diligently practicing for the MSS Christmas Program on December 15th at 7:00 p.m., where they will entertain the crowd with a musical. The lower grades are also getting ready for their own performances, and if you've never been to one of our programs, you should make a point to come this year. There's

almost nothing more entertaining than watching a group of 5- and 6-year-olds performing "Here Comes Santa Claus". Seeing our first-graders playing roles in the nativity on stage is also a sight to be seen. There's something about experiencing these things in person that increases your Christmas spirit more than watching reruns of "Frosty the Snowman" at home does. Maybe because it's a reminder of what Christmas is really about—the humble birth of our Lord.

Amidst all the fun this month and the visits from Santa, we all remain aware of the true spirituality of the season. Most of our

students, with the help of faculty and parents, are engaged in various service projects. From making blankets for Project Linus to delivering food to the Emmitsburg Food Bank, we strive to instill in our students the giving spirit. After all, what better way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, who gave His life for us, than by giving of ourselves to others?

We hope we will see you this December so we can wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in person. May your holidays be filled with warmth, happiness, joy, and the Peace of Christ! See you in 2015!

Sabillasville Elementary to celebrate 50th

Sabillasville Elementary School opened its doors to students during the 1965-1966 school year. Next school year will mark 50 years of partnering with families to provide a quality education to children in kindergarten through 5th grade. A celebration will be planned for next school year.

The first planning meeting will occur on Monday, December 6 at 6 p.m. in the Media Center at Sabillasville Elementary School. Anyone interested in helping make this event extra special, should come to the meeting. We are looking for parents, grandparents, Sabillasville Elementary School alumni, community members, any who want to participate.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 240-236-6000.

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Sleep disorders: a problem at any age

Kevin Bedell
FMH Center for Advanced
Sleep Studies & EEG

Did you ever pretend to be asleep? If you were just joking around, you probably folded your hands over your chest and made loud snoring and whistling sounds as you inhaled and exhaled. While this is all in good fun, it does show us a good deal about our understanding of sleep disorders.

Frequent snoring is not a normal part of sleep, and never has been. Snoring happens when the tissues at the back of the throat relax during sleep and rattle together when a person inhales. Sometimes, these tissues are so crowded together that they completely close off the airway during sleep, so that air cannot reach the lungs. This is called obstructive sleep apnea, or OSA. About half of people who regularly snore also have OSA.

As you can imagine, struggling to breathe is a stressful condition, even when we are asleep. When we don't breathe, our blood loses oxygen and is not able to meet the energy needs of our brain, heart, and other organs. Our bodies are designed to automatically wake up when this happens and take action to get breathing again—similar to the “fight or flight” mechanism that you may have heard about in science class.

People with severe OSA will sometimes wake up 30 to 40 times or more per hour. This is often enough to ensure that their bodies are never able to experience the deep, restorative stages of sleep. They usually aren't aware that they have been awake, though, because the awakenings are very brief.

In adults, obstructive sleep apnea has been associated with a number of conditions, including obesity, high blood pressure, daytime sleepiness, headaches, and even heart attack and stroke. In fact, OSA is the number one cause of resistant hypertension, which is high blood pressure that cannot be controlled by three or more medications. Drowsy driving is a significant safety issue for those with obstructive sleep apnea. Whether it is caused by sleep apnea or just a busy schedule, sleep-deprived people have been shown to be just as impaired behind the wheel as those under the influence of alcohol.

In children, behavioral issues and problems in school are commonly associated with OSA. Rather than feeling sleepy during the day (like adults), young children with obstructive sleep apnea are often hyperactive and aggressive and are three times more likely to have grades of “C” or lower than children without OSA. Exactly how this happens is still being studied, but it is again thought to be because of lack of oxygen to

the brain during sleep.

Like many conditions faced by adults in America, the continued rise in obesity has been blamed for the growing number of cases of obstructive sleep apnea that has been diagnosed in recent decades. Weight loss can often reduce the amount of fatty tissue around the airway, which may decrease or eliminate someone's OSA.

If weight loss is not effective, continuous positive airway pressure, or CPAP, is the most common treatment for OSA. CPAP consists of a gentle flow of air that is delivered through a mask over a patient's nose and/ or mouth during sleep. This pressure opens up the airway enough to allow normal breathing.

For patients who are not able to use CPAP, there are other options. Dental devices can be fitted

by a qualified dentist and adjusted to gently move the lower jaw forward during sleep. In patients with mild to moderate OSA, this movement of the jaw will often open the airway enough to allow normal breathing.

Surgery is also an option for treating obstructive sleep apnea. In children, in fact, it is the preferred method. Most OSA in children is caused by enlarged tonsils and/ or adenoids. Removing the tonsils and/ or adenoids will cure most children from obstructive sleep apnea. In adults, surgery is often an option that can be tried if CPAP is not effective. In addition to removing tonsils and adenoids, surgeries are available to remove other tissue from the back of the throat to enlarge the airway.

Obstructive sleep apnea is the most common sleep disorder that

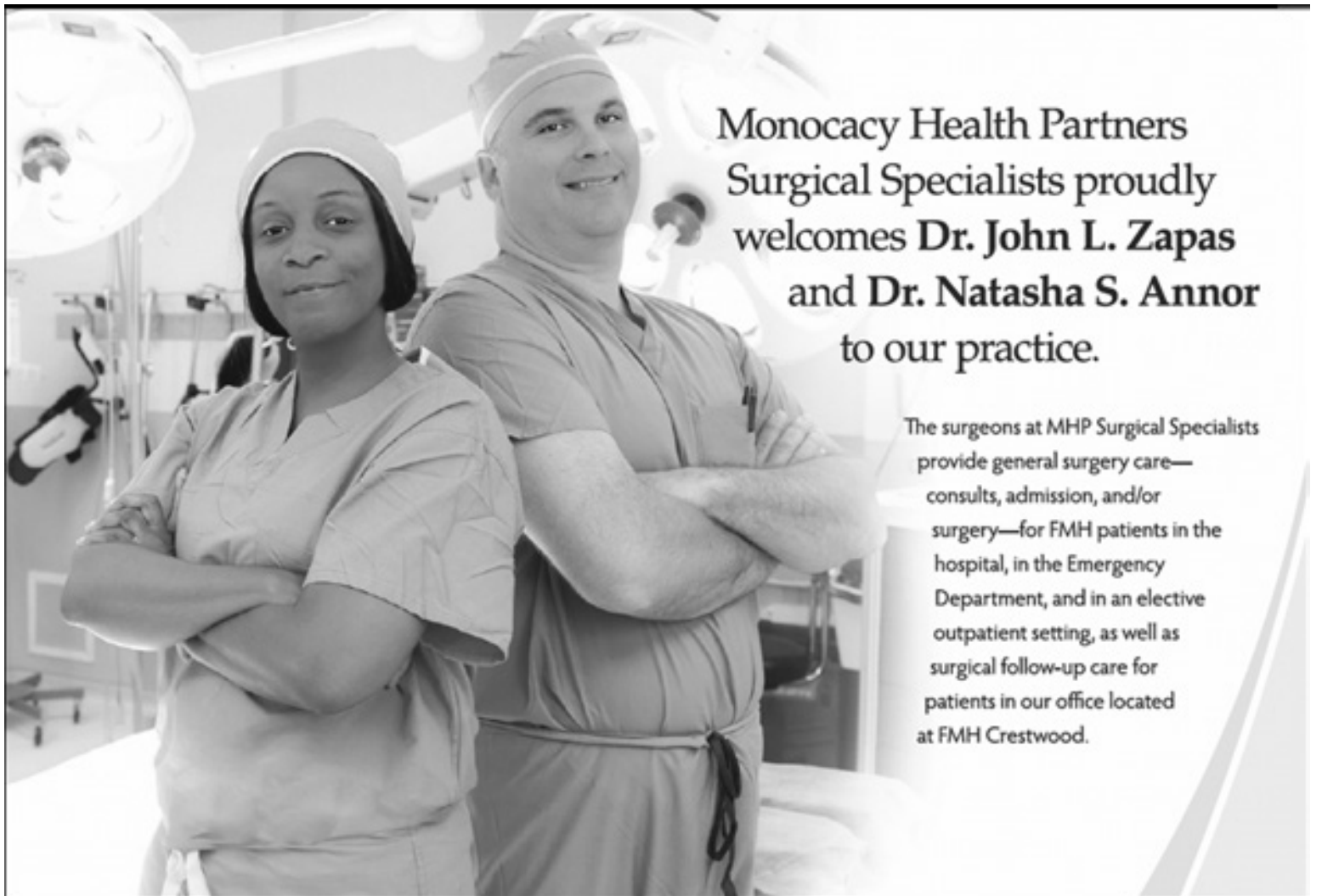
is diagnosed in the United States. It is estimated to affect 2-3 percent of the population, or about 1 in 40 people. However, OSA is far from being the only sleep disorder. Insomnia is also a very common condition in which people have a difficult time falling asleep or staying asleep. This disorder is estimated to cause disruption in the daily activities of about 10 percent of the population.

Narcolepsy is a sleep disorder that many people have heard about, but that is actually very rare—only found in about 1 in 2,500 people. Narcoleptic patients experience daytime “sleep attacks”, which are periods of extreme daytime sleepiness that are often associated with cataplexy (a sudden weakness in the muscles of the body). There are many other rare sleep disorders, most of which

are only diagnosed by physicians who specialize in sleep.

Talking to your family physician is the best first step to take if you have concerns about your sleep or the sleep of someone in your household. Not surprisingly, many snoring patients are “encouraged” to have a sleep study by their sleep-deprived spouses who are tired of wearing earplugs and delivering elbow-jabs throughout the night! Once people are effectively treated for their sleep disorders, they often realize that they haven't really been sleeping for years and many would never leave home again without their CPAP machine.

If you would like more information about sleep disorders and treatment, please visit the FMH Sleep Center website at www.fmh.org/sleep or feel free to call 240-566-4829.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

It's hard to believe that it's already December! As we check off all the items on our lists and begin to count down the days until Santa's arrival, we encourage our readers to remember what makes Christmas so meaningful. We asked our Four Years at the Mount writers to reflect on their own past Christmases. What memories stand out to them? What family traditions make the holiday a unique experience for them? Take a look into the Christmas celebrations of our writers. We hope their articles inspire you to remember the true meaning of Christmas as the holiday season continues. Merry Christmas to all!

Freshman Year

A very merry Christmas season

Sarah Muir
MSM Class of 2018

In my family it always starts in November. The smell of Halloween candy and cinnamon, McIntosh apple candles has been wafted away and is replaced by the smells of balsam fir and baked goods. Throughout this month garland is strung, stockings are hung, nutcrackers and Santa Clause figurines are placed on mantles, and at least two of the many Christmas trees that adorn our home are decorated. All of these cheerful holiday ordainments are placed strategically around the house so one can scarcely turn round without seeing something infused with the holiday spirit; and this is just November. As soon as Thanksgiving is over, dozens upon dozens of cookies are made and it is finally time to buy the Christmas tree. This has always been somewhat of an event in my household. There is a small family-owned farm nearby my home where we cut our own Christmas tree, but not just any Christmas tree. There are certain specifications that need to be met: it must be full, it must be wide, and it must be

tall enough to reach the ceiling. After the tree is bought and brought into the house, we cut the netting incasing it and watch as it spreads open with a burst of pine needles and cold air that smells like a forest covered in frost. As the tree settles and while the cookies and hot chocolate are being made, we carry up the decorations and sort through the lights and beads that have become tangled together in the past long months. After everything is in order, we begin. By the end the tree is laden with white, gold, flame-like lights, and shining baubles that adorn every branch. Some ornaments hold special meaning; some are childhood pictures or old arts and crafts projects, two are a matching pair from my parents' honeymoon, and some are gifts or heirlooms brought from faraway places. The angel on top dwarfs in comparison to the rest of the tree and her dress is rather plain in contrast to the tree's splendor, but we've had her for ages, and every year she has maintained her silence vigil atop the tree, keeping watch over the house's inhabitation. This all may sound like a little too much Christmas spirit, but

it has been this way for as long as I can remember and truly I would not want it any other way.

The first Christmas I can remember is when I was seven years old. There is a certain excitement surrounding Christmas that induces a kind of restless sleep. You stay up late, ears straining to hear the sound of sleigh bells and hooves tapping on shingles. You eventually fall asleep, but when you wake up a few hours later you do not remember precisely when you gave in to slumber. It's early in the morning now, still dark, and your parents are still sleeping as you creep down the stairs. You turn on the lights on the tree and gaze at the luminous picture before you, filled with an indescribable feeling, but it's something akin to wonderment. Everything is still as you slowly approach the glimmering tree, scarcely breathing in fear that you might break the spell that seems to have been placed over the whole house. The house itself seems to be holding its breath. All is still and quiet except for the occasional small pop of a floorboard or the soft clink of the radiator. Your eyes tear themselves away from the scene to the set of packages nestled below, but you can worry about those later. Right now you sit, cross-legged in front of the tree, enjoying the absolute silence and thinking



about everything and nothing at all.

This is how all my Christmases begin. And so it began eleven years ago. I woke up, tiptoed ever so stealthily down the stairs until I stood in front of the colossal Christmas tree. I waited for who knows how long until my sister came down to join me. We tried, we really did try to give our parents an extra hour or so to sleep in, but the willpower of two children crumbles in the midst of gifts from Father Christmas. We started subtly rattling the boxes, hoping the noise might wake our parents; it did not. We spoke a little louder than our previous whispers; still nothing. Finally, my sister convinced me to wake them. So

I did. I snuck into their room and gently shook them awake and after much grumbling, yawning, and shuffling of feet, we were all downstairs as a family, opening gifts and laughing while my father filmed us. I don't really remember what I got that Christmas (I do remember one involved some sort of chocolate), but I will never forget what that day felt like. I do hate to sound cliché, but it wasn't the presents that I will cherish, but rather the faces of my family that will always be imprinted on my heart. And with that, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

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

Sophomore Year

A holiday to remember

Leeanne Leary
MSM Class of 2017

Middle school really wasn't that long ago, about 6 years, but for some reason I can't seem to remember much from those times. Perhaps because they were the most awkward years of my life. All I really remember at a glance is my 7th grade social studies teacher and eating lunch at a long table against the window. For this reason, I didn't expect to recall much when looking back on the holidays from this period. Unsurprisingly, I remember nothing from 7th grade Christmas, but when I was thinking about 8th grade Christmas, I became overwhelmed with the memories from that time period.

I remember a few small details, like asking for a camera as a gift and buy-

ing my dad signs for his new billiards room. I remember going to mass and freezing because the heat was broken. I recall distinctly struggling to Christmas shop for my "boyfriend" of 3 weeks. Boys and brothers are hard to shop for now, but an 8th grade boy who I knew next to nothing about—that was nearly impossible. I'm sure it isn't actually impossible; I'm sure he had a hobby or collected something interesting, but it was impossible for me. So clearly the only choice was to end the relationship on Christmas Eve. I remember this Instant Messaging conversation clearly. I began this Christmas with a middle school heartbreak—comparable now to the fleeting sadness I feel when I drop my food or drink, but at the time it was quite a big deal.

I didn't know that I was about to experience what would now be some of

my favorite memories. This Christmas was the first and last holiday I would ever spend with my whole family. For the past 13 years we had always been missing my Uncle Frank, who lived in Arizona for the majority of my life. The summer before 8th grade he moved back to the East Coast and was there for the first time. He brought the strangest gifts. As my sister—his goddaughter—met him for the first time in person, he gave her a rifle that he had rebuilt and refurbished. He brought my brother an interesting shaving kit that was set up in a mug that nobody could figure out. He brought me a Mountaineers Basketball sweatshirt that I still to this day have not worn because he underestimated my size, but I still have it. Basically, he didn't hit the nail on the head with the practicality of his gifts, but he gave us all something so much more that Christmas. He brought his presence, which I didn't even realize had been missing for my whole life. Suddenly my mom and the rest of my aunts and uncles seemed complete again in the simplest ways. They could tell stories now that they had never told before and take their first full family photo since my Mom's wedding. I finally met the crazy older brother who built a BMX course in the

backyard and shoved French fries in my mom's mouth when she fell asleep. Having my Uncle Frank there for the first time made this holiday so memorable alone, but it was also my last holiday with my grandma, Nana.

My grandma was the glue that held the family together, and as overused as that phrase may be, there is no better way to explain it. She was strong when we lost family members and strong for the rest of us when she was in the hospital. She loved each of us uniquely and although she never let me have any of her chocolate mints, she was my favorite person in the world. She wasn't the typical image of a grandmother with a large family; she wasn't outgoing, she didn't bake, and she wasn't outwardly affectionate, but she was the strongest woman I've ever met. She dealt with the loss of her husband and daughter and never grew bitter. She was intelligent and stubborn and loved the same books I did. This Christmas was the last holiday we had together as a family with both my uncle and Grandma, and I will never forget the way my Nana's face lit up when she saw her children all together again. She didn't talk during any of their stories and she didn't tell any stories of her own, but she just watched. Her look of pure joy

is my favorite thing to picture from this Christmas. She had never seen her son interact with her grandchildren and hadn't seen all of her children together in nearly 15 years. Her happiness is the sole reason I can't look back on this last holiday together with anything but bliss.

I didn't appreciate it then as much as I do now. Partly because I thought it would be the first of many and not the one and only, but mostly because I was 14 and didn't take in what was important. Now that I can picture the scene in my head, all I can see is completeness and pure delight. I experienced my family in a way I never have before and haven't since, and it would be easy to be sad about this. It would be easy to not want to continue to go to my aunt's house for the holidays because the memories could be sad, but instead we choose every year to come together to remember the joy we felt when we were all together and embrace what we have now. That's what I want to encourage everyone to do this Christmas, to appreciate everything and everyone. Even appreciate your cousin who won't stop nagging you to color when all you want to do is watch Home Alone, and your great uncle who tells you stories that cannot possibly be even remotely true. The holidays bring families and people together like nothing else does. I watched as everyone left every worry behind and came together to share in the love and joy that only Christmas can bring. This will always be my favorite way to picture my family, complete.

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REMEMBERING CHRISTMAS PAST

Junior Year Crimson Tide Christmas

Lydia Olsen
MSM Class of 2016

Christmas Eve quickly turned into Christmas morning and I was still wide-awake. Even at seventeen years old my mom reminded me that Santa was not going to come until I was sound asleep. I remember looking at her, frustrated and rolling my eyes while responding, "Don't think that will happen tonight, mom." It was the first time in a long time that I had given up on preheating the oven, carefully cutting the dough, and waiting for the cookies to bake to perfection. My mom had even laid out the hand painted reindeer plate my sister Kelsey had made when she was just a few years old, but Santa would not be receiving any homemade cookies from my oven this year and the reindeer would go without carrots. I was simply too busy!

I sat on the carpeted floor of my bedroom and sighed loudly. Piles of clothing encompassed me. This little blue duffel bag was looking smaller and smaller by the moment. How was I ever supposed to fit everything I would need for eleven days into it? I came to the conclusion that it was just not possible.

I pushed everything around me to the side and decided I would save it all for later. I walked down the hall, said goodnight and Merry Christmas to my family, then plopped into bed, wrapping myself in my heated blanket and enjoying it while I could.

When I woke again, the joy of Christmas day filled my heart. I was excited and cheerful, becoming child-like once again. I tiptoed over to my sisters' rooms and woke them with lots of shaking and happiness. Then we traveled downstairs as we shielded our eyes from the tree and presents in the living room, not wanting to ruin the surprise just yet. "Mom! Wake up!" We cheered as we rocked her, at moments being cruel enough to grab her blankets out from under her arms. "Fine, fine," she said as she rolled out of bed and followed her three daughters to the Christmas tree.

My gifts this year were pretty easily identifiable. They all revolved around camping in one way or another: a new mummy sleeping bag, about a million socks, a traveling fleece blanket, and small containers of shampoo, conditioner, and toothpaste. Later on, my dad and grandparents showered me with

similar gifts: a warm hat, construction gloves, and a small backpack. They were all preparing me for the adventure I was about to be immersed within. Christmas day continued on with so much joy and lots of laughter, but it was safe to say that I was kind of distracted. After multiple delicious meals we all shared in each other's presence, we decided to watch a movie and then turn in for the night. I still had more packing to do and went off to my room to finally figure everything out. I decided on which sweatshirts and sweatpants to bring, came to the conclusion that 15 pairs of socks would be enough, and stuffed my long underwear into my duffel bag. I remember saying, "I guess that's it," because I just didn't have any more room. I went to bed early that Christmas night because I had a big day ahead of me.

On the second day of Christmas I got up bright and early and packed my things into my mom's car. She drove me the short distance to my high school, where I was greeted by 14 other students and a handful of staff members. We all packed our things into two large vans along with our construction equipment. I gave my mom a big hug and kiss before settling into the van for the long drive ahead. The third day of Christmas consisted of a different kind of traveling. Eventually we arrived at a campground in Tuscaloosa, Alabama,

where we unpacked our things and set up our tents before making a campfire and playing a couple of games. It was on that third day of Christmas that we did not realize how cold the nights were going to be. It was on that day that my friend Eva was convinced that she would get too hot if she slept in long pants but before the start of the fourth day, she realized she was very wrong.

On the fourth day of Christmas we started at our service site, where we learned all about the tornado that had just come through that spring, ripping out the houses and taking nearly everything from the town's inhabitants. On the fifth day of Christmas, as we helped put up the walls of the new house we were working on with Habitat for Humanity and realized that it was socially acceptable to say "Roll Tide" in nearly every sentence, we noticed the metal siding that still hung from the tops of trees, where it had been tossed in the storm. On the sixth day we had made it through the 15-degree weather and were lucky enough to get to go on the University of Alabama football field before getting the most delicious burgers and French fries. On the seventh day of Christmas, the walls of the house were finally up and we met the future homeowner, who shared his stories of devastation and triumph with us. On the eighth day of Christmas I explored when I

should have been hammering and came across all that remained of the part of a wall that read, "Home Sweet Home." On the ninth day of Christmas I found a stack of Brail Bibles and worried about whomever they belonged to. On the tenth day of Christmas we woke up to the fire being covered in snow and went to the work site once again to help install the walls around a metal, tornado-proof box within the house. On the eleventh day of Christmas we reflected on all the work we had done and all of the amazing people we had met and the experiences we had. On the twelfth day of Christmas we said goodbye to our campsite home, our newly made friendships, our role models, and our inspirations as we headed back to our Annapolis homes with a new outlook on life.

These twelve days of Christmas spent in Alabama during the Christmas break of my senior year in high school opened my eyes to so many new experiences and challenges. It was one of the greatest things I had ever been involved with and during every Christmas season that rolls around, I reflect on it fondly with an immense gratitude for the opportunity and a deep appreciation for the many blessing that life has in store.

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

Senior Year December dreams

Kyle Ott
MSM Class of 2015

After four long years at Mount St. Mary's, I've started to fall into the kind of pattern you'd expect from an elderly man rather than a soon-to-be graduate. More often than not, I catch myself saying things like, "I remember before there was a Veritas Program," or, "You used to be able to print your papers at the Niche even after the library closed," and other statements that make me sound like I should occupy a spot on a wrap-around porch. Jokes about my growing kinship with crotchety cartoon grandfathers aside, the one positive thing about all of this reminiscing is I get to think back on the amazing first Christmas I had at the Mount, and the adventures of my freshman year.

It was a time when everything was still new, when I could barely navigate the residence halls, and when I thought I could somehow find a perfect balance between sleep, social life, and meticulous notes. It was a time when I could do anything and be anything. Things like declaring a major seemed far less significant than searching for the perfect sandwich combination at the dining hall. Those who have weathered a few winters here at the Mount should know that it looks kind of

like the mythical world of Narnia after a good snowfall. (I would apologize about the puns in the earlier sentence but that would make me a flake. Ok, I promise I'm done now.)

At the time, I was unaware of the magic that followed a good snow. How everyone, regardless of time or location, would just cast up whatever they were doing and begin to enjoy the wintery playground outside. Of all of the things that happened to me then, these are the ones that stick out the most:

Tray Sledding

A general sense of adventure gives rise to a beautiful ingenuity here at Mount St. Mary's University, and when students are unable to procure sleds from outside venues, we improvise. One of my fondest memories was seeing the number of people borrowing trays from Patriot Hall to use as impromptu sledding devices, careening down whatever surface could generate the greatest speed. Freshmen like myself took our newfangled sleds to the hillcock behind Pangborn Hall, and with all the grace of a beached walrus, managed to get ourselves lodged in snowbanks time after time. We would emerge from these mounds of white fluff, laughing and shaking the powder off as we ran up to try it again.

It didn't matter if we were graceful, it just mattered that we did it. It was the same story everywhere on campus. Seminarians were sliding down the hills on Echo Field, and juniors and seniors were traveling to any hilly spot on campus they could find. Tray sledding was more than just a fun way to pass the time; it was a tradition that bound all of us together.

The Charlie Brown Tree

In a move that echoed the time honored tradition of the popular Peanuts cartoon, my roommate and I decided to procure the saddest, smallest, most pathetic faux Christmas tree we could find and turn it into our mascot. We succeeded. During the days leading up to Christmas and all of the time that followed it, up we kept this tiny little wire shrub in the corner of our room. The laundry that accumulated around it became a kind of blanket for its base. We had cheap glass bulbs and tiny plastic ornaments that weighed down the tree's branches. Girls would walk into the room and coo, "It's so cute!" Our guy friends would scoff at it and remark, "Nice tree, bros." And it was. It was our tree; pathetic as it was, we had decorated it, cared for it, and loved it. The tree didn't need to be anything amazing for us to love it. It was a symbol of our newfound freedoms, sagging branches and all.

Getting Cared For By Others

Remember how I mentioned the

walrus-like grace of my friends earlier? After my friends and I had officially soaked ourselves to the bone, we ran inside our hall shouting about how our toes were falling off and hooting about the great time we just had. We decided it would be wise to stop by the girls' floor of our hall, and the ladies in their infinite mercy decided to take us in. Within minutes they had produced a laptop with movies on it, cups of hot cocoa, and several home-knitted quilts. My friends and I were soon bundled up in a wigwam of blankets, curled up on the linoleum floor while watching Boondock Saints on someone's battered computer. It was the most epically spontaneous moment of kindness I had seen. Plus, you know, there was free hot cocoa, so that was nice.

While the list sums up three simple things that I remember, I think the overarching spirit of that list is what's most impor-

tant. What always strikes me is how all of those moments that led up to my first Christmas were indicative not just of the holiday, but also of the freedoms inherent in college. More than my family, more than my friends, I was the one who was left to make my own meaning out of the holiday season. That alone made it one of the best times of my life. The joy that I spread and the moments that I shared with others were born of my own life and whims. It can and should be the same for you. Enjoy the fact that the meaning of the season has as much to do with you as it does with anything else. It falls to you to bring about joy, laughter, and peace this holiday season, and that's a great responsibility. I'm Kyle Ott. Won't you sit and read for a while?

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THE GRADUATE

This house is not my home

Nicole Jones
MSM Class of 2014

*"Every house where love abides
And friendship is a guest,
Is surely home, and home sweet
home
For there the heart can rest."
—Henry Van Dyke*

It has been said that, "Home is where the heart is." I would like to know how the original author of this statement defined "heart." Did they intend the literal definition of one's physical heart, pumping loyally in our chests, in turn telling us that literally wherever we physically are is home? That a place is our home simply because we are physically there? Or perhaps the author meant the less literal, more romantic definition of "heart" that refers to our feelings of love for our family and friends or even the city itself in which we live, thus leading to a more internal and ethereal realization of home? If the first, then why do we ever become homesick when we can simply create home around ourselves, when we ourselves are enough to make a place home? If the second, is it really home that we become sick for or the people within it, the places and faces that made us who we are and gave us an identity? Of course, if these things made us who we are, then we are, in fact, an embodiment of those places and faces that molded us. Consequently, we then portray these ideals everywhere we go, thus returning us to the first definition that we are our own home. Sorry if I've confused anyone so far, but reread as many times as you need to, and you'll see I'm not purely rambling. I guess both interpretations of "heart" lead to a unique but true definition of "home," even if the logic is a bit circular. Glad we cleared that up.

I've been at the University of Virginia for two months now, and I must admit that the first few weeks were quite an adjustment. Between the new faces and places, the stress of school and the responsibilities of apartment renting, I was understandably a little overwhelmed. The city of Charlottesville is very unlike Emmitsburg or my hometown of Westminster. There is a bus system to navigate, a campus five times as large as the one I just graduated from with ten times the number of students, a lot less nature, and a lot more city. While that means there are a variety of activities one could be doing at any given time, it also means the locals (mostly students, of course) operate at a much faster pace with a lot less down time. This works for them, and that's wonderful, but this small-town country girl misses midnight horseback riding and star gazing at Echo Field. It's these various differences that make Charlottesville unique, but also makes me miss my homes. No, that's not a typo. I very much consider both my house at Silver Pond Farm and my alma mater, Mount St. Mary's, to be my homes. Both have brought me joys and memories that will last me a lifetime, personal growth in immeasurable quantities, and relationships that continue to bless me.

During a short fall break, I recently returned to the Mount. Since I pass right by campus on my way to my parents' house, I stopped in on a Friday night as the campus was closing down for its own fall break. Luckily, my remaining undergraduate friends are resident assistants (RAs), so their responsibilities kept them on campus later than most students. I found them sitting in the apartment lounge where I used to have my own RA meetings. I would say it was all very nostalgic, but honestly, it felt like I had never left. It was still my campus, my home. I'd sat in that lounge, on that particular sofa, with those faces a dozen times before.

The only rather large difference now is that I don't pay tuition. I later visited the Residence Life office where I was hugged and hello-ed by my former coworkers and current friends. My distinct laugh drew familiar faces to me like a fly to honey. I told and was told stories, we laughed, and we reminisced of the things that were only five short months ago. These people were still my friends, this office still familiar. I sought out a quiet corner in one of the many campus chapels, a place I had knelt many times before. And still, it was my spot. That campus is still my home.

I made it to my parents' house where I was greeted with hugs, puppy kisses, and a place at the kitchen table with a hot quesadilla from the local Italian joint. (A confusing combination, I know.) I sat on the familiar black leather sofa in front of the perpetually recording DVR and caught up on shows that my parents saved for me. I slept in the bedroom of my own decoration surrounded by piles of books that I had spent my entire childhood collecting and now waited for me to find the time to read them. I sat out in the crisp autumn air and watched the blue heron fly away from the pond that we had had countless barbecues and bonfires next to. I walked out to the pastures where my own horse did a double-take, staring in disbelief as the long-lost two-legged creature she had once perpetually carried on her back approached her. That's when I knew I had been away longer than usual, but oddly, it still felt like I had seen her yesterday. Everything was as it always was. My saddle in the same spot I left it in the barn, my truck parked inconveniently behind mom's car, the dogs sleeping in their usual spots by the master bed. No matter how much time passed, or how much I changed, this place was a constant. It was loyal to every memory. It had touched me and was touched by me. It is my home.

After four short days, I returned to Charlottesville. I pulled into my usual parking space, and turned off the engine, grateful that the three and a half hour drive was over. I



grabbed my bags, unlocked the deadbolt, and dumped everything just inside the door of my apartment. Looking around, it was at that moment that I fully understood what a home was to me.

I had my own clothes hanging in my closet and my own furniture busily furnishing the small living room. My keyboard stood in the corner and my laptop rested on my desk. My poster from Austria decorated the wall, food I had bought filled the fridge, and pictures of my friends looked down at me. But these objects didn't make the apartment my home.



My books litter my apartment from the bedroom to the office. I took my classes just a half-mile away. One of my classmates just moved in down the street from me. I have a job at one of the fourteen libraries on campus that keeps my gas tank full and buys my favorite dumplings at the joint off of Elliewood Avenue. My church is basically next-door, my laundromat actually is next door, and my favorite spot at the soccer stadium practically waits for me whenever there's a home game. But this familiarity didn't make Charlottesville my home.

This place is not my home because it lacks love. It lacks the people I love and the people who love me, the memories we've made together, and their faith and fellowship. Yet, I am comfortable and successful and happy here. This is

only made possible by constantly tapping into that source of love through texting, calling, emailing, and writing my friends and family. Every day I hear from at least two people and one day I even heard from as many as ten. Phone calls are rarely shorter than an hour, and an unexpected letter arriving in my mailbox can brighten an entire week. My homes have the power to sustain me from over 150 miles away because it isn't purely about those books sitting on my bookshelf unread or that favorite corner in the chapel; it's about the people who bought me those books and the person who first took me to that chapel. Those objects and places were expressions of love and were touched by that expression, thus giving them importance. This shabby apartment has ghostly signs of love in the furniture that was bought by my parents and the apples that I picked when my friend visited me, but there is a difference between a weekend exchange and an outpouring of love on a daily basis. As much as my contact with family and friends makes this place livable, the sheer lack of their daily presence means Charlottesville will never be home for me.

Returning to that dizzying opening argument, I can safely agree that home IS where your heart is, in both meanings of the concept. The places and faces of Emmitsburg and Westminster are my home because of the daily exhibitions of love that occurred there and the memories that go with them, but that love can be expressed even over 150 miles away, making Charlottesville just a little more homey even if it still falls short of the full title. There is definitely a sense of home that is carried with me, which is perhaps why when I returned to Maryland it felt like I had never left, because in my heart I hadn't. In my daily texting and calling I hadn't. I had never left that love behind, and it continues to stay with me every day, even as I flip through hefty textbooks a whole state away. Home isn't something so easily left behind because love isn't something so easily left behind.

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



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The true gifts of Christmas

Alexandra Tyminski
MSM Class of 2015

The tune, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," has been crossing my mind more than once lately. The weather change has caused the temperature to drop significantly, the decorations on the Mount St. Mary's campus are starting to be arranged, and I'm getting more excited. The idea of sitting around a fire drinking hot chocolate and eggnog while watching my family open gifts paints a smile on my face. However, there is something about the holidays and this time of the year that always seems to put me on edge. I love Christmas, and I love giving to others, but the gift giving becomes overbearing in my mind. The lists keep growing, and the things I buy keep getting more expensive.

Giving gifts is not a bad thing. By no means am I saying this, but I do get a bit distracted by the gift giving. Over the years, I have always appreciated the gifts I have received: many gift cards, some electronics, a book or two, and maybe some new clothes. I am thankful to the intentions behind the gifts from my parents, friends, or relatives; they thought the gifts they were giving me were something I would genuinely enjoy. And I definitely have enjoyed them.

• • •

Christmas makes me feel extremely blessed. I love spending time with the people around me, giving gifts, baking cookies, decorating a gingerbread house and a Christmas tree, keeping holiday traditions, and enjoying the home-cooked meals that seem to get better with every bite. Each one of these things brings me joy. Christmas is the season of happiness. How could anyone not like Christmas? This year, my family and I will probably be doing the same things we do each year. We will enjoy a Christmas Eve dinner, go to mass, watch the Polar Express, and open presents on Christmas morning. The traditions on Christmas are great, except as I have gotten older, I'm noticing there is one tradition that always sticks out. This tradition of gift giving.

Now I know that I have brought this up twice, but it has always been a mystery to me. As I grow up and start to develop my character, I think that maybe giving gifts that don't have a price are actually the most priceless gifts. If the message of Christmas is supposed to reflect the message of Christ, which is caring for others, then how can we show the ones we care about how much we love them?

Yes, then you might say to yourself, well of course gift-giving is the perfect way to show them how much I care for them. In many ways, this might be true. However, I challenge you to look at gift-giving in a new light. There can't really be a price for compassion and selfless love, right? There might be ways we can share this love with others in a way that society hasn't grasped yet.

I used to think that the idea of giving gifts was truly what Christmas was about. Showing others that I can provide them the gift they wanted or would like. I have that ability to give that to them. But, what if we could give someone we love or our fellow neighbors not just a thing, but rather something of true value. What if we donated clothes to a shelter every Christmas? Or donated money to a nonprofit foundation that supports those suffering from an illness? Or even adopted a pet that needs a home?

Those ideas might sound ironic compared to my previous statement about not putting a price on gifts. If that is the idea, then those gifts wouldn't really support my earlier statement. However, the major idea behind those gifts is that they are gifts that help build our spiritual wealth and not our material wealth. Society is so focused on building the things we have in our houses; we are constantly comparing Christmas gifts or playing with the new gadgets we get every year. In reality, these aren't the greater gifts of Christmas. The greater gifts of Christmas aren't the ones we receive that, over time, lose their value; rather, they are the gifts we give that help us gain a sense of goodness within our own hearts.

In last month's edition, there was an article in the pet's section on the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter, located in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, which wrote in detail about the high cost of taking care of the animals in the shelter. This shelter runs on financial support from the community, and puts the money to good use. For the shelter, the donations go beyond just providing food, medicine, and a clean environment. Really, those donations provide the pets with the stability of having their well being looked after. This shelter is in need of community support. So, why not make the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter a part of your Christmas

gift this year?

I know that adopting a pet may not be at the top of your Christmas list, but it might be on the top of the list for the animals in need of a home. It might also be on the animal shelter's Christmas list so that these pets can be given homes. This year, I too will be challenged to be giving Christmas gifts that will be of benefit to those in need. The greater gifts that we have to offer to each other can be defined as love, kindness, and service.

Love is the best gift you can give a person or a pet at Christmas. It shows them that you really care. Do something for your family member or friend that you wouldn't normally do. Encourage them and let them know that you really appreciate them. By giving the gift of love and appreciation, this person will know and recognize how thankful you are for them. Don't be shy to talk to your pets and thank them too, for always being there for you when you are sitting around in your home. They never judge you, and they always have the greatest listening ears. If you don't have a pet, think about maybe giving a pet a new home and adopting a new friend. I promise that this will be one of the most rewarding gifts.

Kindness can be defined in many ways. However, when it comes to Christmas, it might mean something completely different. Kindness refers to how we carry ourselves. During this Christmas season, give the gift of being kind to not only those you know and cherish, but also to those who are complete strangers. Don't be afraid to smile at someone or give them a thank you as you do that holiday shopping. The important part about being kind is that should be genuine. Be genuine wherever you go and be the light of Christ, the true message of Christmas.

Service is a gift that I like to call the



"It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into Christmas." —Mother Teresa


gift of no words. In this sense, serving others and giving to those with a serving heart is something that will automatically show. Service shows that we love so much that we want to give something of ourselves. We are willing to sacrifice time, energy, and a donation to a cause or something that means something to us and those we are seeking to help. Service reflects the meaning of Christmas, which says that Christmas resembles not just giving gifts, but more so giving a helping hand.

Love, kindness, and service are only a few of the many greater gifts that we can give this Christmas season. It is easier to get lost in the material gift giving, but the spiritual gift giving is something we must never lose sight of. Maybe a donation during the Christmas holidays is something you

might consider, and maybe, just maybe, it will bring you more satisfaction than any gift you've ever given or received. In a few weeks, I will be going back home for Christmas break, and I will soon be sitting around the Christmas tree with my family. But, this year, I hope that when I'm drinking my hot chocolate and singing to my favorite Christmas carols, I will be able to smile knowing that the greater gifts I have to offer this Christmas will be my best gifts to date.

As Mother Teresa once said, "It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into Christmas." I wish you luck in your gift giving this year and hope you have a Merry Christmas!

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



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CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND FESTIVITIES

Emmitsburg Evening of Christmas Spirit

Emmitsburg kicks off its official Christmas season on December 1st with festivities, including the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony and "An Evening of Christmas Spirit" has become a town tradition sponsored by The Carriage House Inn, The Town of Emmitsburg and Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association.

This year's "An Evening of Christmas Spirit," which has always been held in conjunction with the town tree lighting ceremony, marks the 26th year that the Carriage House Inn holiday event has been formally held.

A few years ago, the community Christmas tree lighting ceremony was moved back to the traditional location at the Town Square. Mayor Briggs said, "The Lighting the Christmas tree on the Square is a time honored tradition. Bringing the cere-

mony back to the Square, the crossroads of community is a natural part of our emphasis on the community and why we are directing design, planning and investment into it."

The festivities begin with Christmas music in the Town Square at 5 p.m. in front of the old four-story hotel. The parking spaces in front of the hotel will be blocked-off to allow the public to gather for the festivities.

The community Christmas tree lighting ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. with Mayor Briggs performing the honors. The tree has been donated by E and E Trees in Walkersville and is an Austrian Pine that stands 14 feet tall. Santa Claus will arrive at the Town Square at 6:15 p.m.

The public is invited to sing along with Christmas carols that will be performed there as well by the Silver Lining band from Elias Lutheran Church and the chorus from Mother

Seton School. Reverend Jon Greenstone from Elias Lutheran Church said, "I feel that Emmitsburg still has that rich experience of small town charm and when our teenagers participate by their involvement with Silver Lining band, it makes the true message of Christmas even more special."

Festivities will then shift to the Carriage House Inn with Santa Claus arriving at 6:30 p.m. The inn will be offering free hot dogs, cookies and hot chocolate to the revelers, and will be featuring a live Nativity by Tom's Creek United Church, entertainment, and hayrides provided by Twin Oaks Farm.

The inn will have entertainment, including the Silver Lining band, St. Joseph's Choir, Emmitsburg Community Chorus, Mount St. Mary's Choir, and the Fairfield Show Choir - Knightime Impressions, in Joann's



Ballroom from 7 - 9 p.m.

Carriage House Inn owner Bob Hance said, "An Evening of Christmas Spirit has certainly become a town event since the tree lighting joined us many years ago. It seems to keep growing and I don't see it slowing down anytime soon."

Canned goods and donations for the Emmitsburg Lions Club Christmas Food Drive will be accepted at the Carriage House Inn that evening. Look for boxes in designated locations to place your canned goods or donations. The donations will fill Christmas baskets for families in need.

Totem Pole Playhouse's *A Christmas Carol*

Tickets for Totem Pole Playhouse's holiday presentation of *A Christmas Carol* at the Capitol Theatre in downtown Chambersburg will open December 11th and run through December 21st for ten performances.

Totem Pole's production of the holiday classic was a fixture during

the holiday season in the Cumberland Valley for many years beginning in 1987 at the Central Center and later moving to the Historic Capitol Theatre in downtown Chambersburg where it was last presented in 2004.

Paris Peet, who has appeared in several productions at Totem Pole

Playhouse including last season's hit comedy, *The Foreigner*, will play the role of Ebenezer Scrooge. Peet teaches performance classes in the Theatre Arts Department at Shippensburg University. He is a member of Actors Equity Association and has appeared at regional and summer theatres in-

cluding The Alley Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre, Charlotte Repertory Company, The Houston Shakespeare Festival, and The East Carolina Playhouse.

The performances are scheduled for December 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 at 7:30 PM with matinees on December 13, 14, 20, 21

at 2:30 PM. Ticket prices are \$36 or \$33 for adults and \$20 for students (age 18 or younger).

To purchase tickets or gift certificates call the Totem Pole Box Office at 717-352-2164 (ext. 1) or visit the playhouse's website at www.totempoleplayhouse.org.

The Way Off Broadway's "It's Christmas!"

When the theatre's 2014 Season concludes with its final production of the year, *It's Christmas!* The musical variety show will close Way Off Broadway's 20th Anniversary Platinum Season, which has been a year of celebration.

Christmas is a time to celebrate with family and friends at Way Off Broadway. The most joyous

time of the year, the magic of the season makes anything possible. Always the most popular of the year, blending songs and music from Christmases past and present, the show is perfect for the entire family.

It's Christmas! has a cast that features Sarah Biggs, Jessica Bilonos, Mary Ellen Cameron,

Charlie Cizek, Matthew A. Mastromatteo, Matt Rothenberg, Jordan B. Stocksdale, and Tori Weaver.

The show was conceived and directed by the theatre's President & Managing Director, Justin M. Kiska, and has choreography by Jaimie Lea Kiska and music direction by Jordan B. Stocksdale. The creative team is the same team who brought Way Off Broadway's 20th Anniversary Revue to the stage for a special engagement at the theatre to look back and celebrate the last two decades of Way Off Broadway entertainment.

It's Christmas! will run from November 29th through December 27th, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. There is a special added Thursday evening performance on December 18th.

Tickets on a Friday evening, a Sunday matinee, or on Thursday, December 18th are \$43 for dinner and the show. Tickets for Saturday evening performances are \$47. Those interested in purchasing tickets should call the Box Office at (301) 662-6600.

Following *It's Christmas!*, the 2015 Season will include *Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story*, a new musical come-



Paris Peet, pictured here with Chambersburg resident, Taylor Blair, will play Ebenezer Scrooge in Totem Pole Playhouse's upcoming holiday production of Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

dy for the fall, and *The Magic of Christmas*.

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, under the direction of the Kiska Family since 2002, celebrates its 20th Anniversary Platinum Season in 2014. Since it first opened in 1995, the theatre has been a leader in the area's performing arts community, proudly bringing both classic musicals, as well as regional and area premieres to the Frederick stage. Productions have included *Sunset Boulevard*, *Legally Blonde*, *Dolly Parton's 9 to 5: The Musical*, *The Music Man*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Hairspray*, *South Pacific*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Full Monty*, *Mel Brooks' The Producers*, *CATS*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Evita*, *Thoroughly Modern Mil-*

lie, *The Sound of Music*, *A Chorus Line*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Grease*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Bye Bye, Birdie*, *The King & I*, ...*Forum*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Joseph...*, *Oliver!*, *Blood Brothers*, *Mame*, and *42nd Street*. Way Off Broadway is also the home of a one-of-a-kind children's lunch theatre, offering entertainment for the entire family, and giving children a chance to see some of their favorite characters live on stage. The theatre also produces a number of special events throughout the year including a growing series of interactive murder mysteries.

For additional information about any of Way Off Broadway's productions visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND FESTIVITIES

Christmas is coming!

Caroline King
MSM Class of 2015

Even if you haven't looked at the calendar lately, there's still no way you could have missed the fact that Christmas is coming. With temperatures plummeting and even some predictions of snow flurries soon, everyone will be having dreams of sugar plums and, let's be honest, buying warmer jackets. Still, there's something to be said for this cold season! The warmth of the holidays and being around your friends and family is much stronger than chilly winds and bitter cold. Break out the eggnog, deck the tree, start baking cookies, and get ready to welcome this wonderful season back into your life!

While you've been readying your winter clothes and Christmas shopping lists, the community has been working on putting together an amazing list of holiday-themed activities for the public. Grab a pair of gloves and your family—maybe even a friend or two—and mark those calendars with these events that are sure to spark the Christmas spirit in even the grumpiest of humbugs! (Not to mention, a lot of these events give you an opportunity to get a jumpstart on some of those Christmas lists.) So let's raise our candy canes to a white Christmas, reconnect with our family and friends, and jump right into the holiday spirit with our whole community!

Starting right off the bat, on December 1, the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony and "An Evening of Christmas Spirit" will take place in Emmitsburg Town Square. For the 26th year, the Carriage House Inn will hold this event. The festivities begin with Christmas music in the Town Square at 5 p.m. in front of the old four-story hotel. The community Christmas tree lighting ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. with Mayor Briggs performing the honors. Santa Claus will arrive at the Town Square at 6:15 p.m., so make sure you've been extra good during the lighting ceremony!

On Thursday, December 4 at 4 p.m., Elias Lutheran Church will hold its annual Yard Sale. There will be Christmas items, clothing of all kinds, books, kitchenware, and almost anything and everything you could imagine! It's definitely the perfect place to find that gift for that one hard-to-shop-for friend. The Yard Sale will be located at 100 W. North Avenue in Emmitsburg. For more information you can call 301-447-6239.

The Festival of Lights will take place on Friday, December 5 at 7 p.m. at the All Saints' Episcopal Church, located on 106 W. Church Street in Frederick. There will be Holiday greetings, carols and an inspirational message—all joining together to highlight the true meaning of this wonderful holiday! Attendees get to join in the program with a candle lighting ceremony, filling the courtyard with light. It will be a sight you won't want to miss!

On Friday, December 5 at 2 p.m., the 5th Annual Gingerbread Celebration and Holiday Mart will take place at the Gettysburg campus of Harrisburg Area Community College (731 Old Harrisburg Road). There will be a fun gallery of gingerbread creations,

holiday art mart, activities for families, and so much more! There is free admission both days. For more information call 717-334-0853 or visit www.gettysburgfestival.org.

The Annual Old Getty Place Christmas Parade and Tree lighting will take place on Saturday, December 6 at 7 p.m. There will be the annual parade, the lighting of the tree in the Lincoln Square, and of course, Christmas carols for the public to sing together to bring in the holiday season. There will be bands, floats, costumed characters, distinguished guests, dancers, youth groups and the man of honor himself, Santa Claus! After the parade, Santa's Shanty will be open on the Square for the children. This event will be located in Downtown Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-1518.

On Friday, December 12 at 7 p.m., the 19th Annual Gettysburg Tuba Carol Fest will take place! Weather permitting, tuba players will be playing Christmas Carols on Lincoln Square in Gettysburg. The alternate site will be the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Lincoln Square, Gettysburg. It's a fun Tuba twist to Christmas classics!

You'll get to experience the Frederick Museums in a new way on December 13. The Fredrick Museums by Candlelight event will feature free holiday-themed programs at over 20 museums and historic sites throughout Frederick County. There will be period demonstrations, living history vignettes, hands-on crafts, refreshments, tours, music, holiday decorations and more. A little history to go with your Christmas season!

On Monday, December 15 at 8 p.m., the Mother Seton School will be getting into the holiday spirit! Mother Seton School will be holding a Christmas Program and is extending the invitation to the community to "come celebrate the joy of Christmas with us!" The program will include choral performances from the Mother Seton School Chorus and from individual classes and their award-winning band. There will even be a student-produced Christmas play! For more information visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

The Maryland Ensemble Theatre will be showing their version of "A Christmas Carol" from December 19-21 at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, located at 20 West Patrick Street in Frederick. This production is not going to be something to miss. With a cast of over two dozen actors, the two-story set and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, Future are sure to remind you of what the season is all about while giving you a thoroughly enjoyable visual experience! Tickets are \$12-24.

Speaking of plays, on Friday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m., after a 10-year absence, the Totem Pole Playhouse's legendary production of "A Christmas Carol" will return to the stage of the Capitol Theatre in downtown Chambersburg. There is nothing like a Christmas classic to bring the family together and really get your holiday spirits up! The actors will take the stage at the Capitol Theatre, located at 159 South Main Street, Chambersburg. For more information visit www.totempoleplayhouse.org.

On Saturday, December 20 at 4 p.m., the fun-filled festivities at the annual

Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration will begin! The event is sponsored by the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library and will have a plethora of fun-filled holiday activities, including songs of the season by Rich Fehle and others, fire truck rides, horse-drawn sleigh rides, smores on the plaza, refreshments on the library porch, and craft making for the kids. This day will be jam packed with all sorts of things to do to make sure you have a holly jolly Christmas! But the fun doesn't stop there. At 6:30 p.m. the tree lighting ceremony will take place, and then at 7 p.m. the program continues at the Monterey Pass Battlefield museum and interpretive center with a special candlelight program and tours by Civil War and Monterey Pass Battlefield Historian John Miller. Blue Ridge Summit Plaza is located at the intersection of Monterey Lane and Sabilasville Road. For more information call 717-642-5645.

On December 23 at 7 p.m., Messiah Sing-Along will take place, also located at the Weinberg Center for the Arts (20 W Patrick Street, Frederick). The Frederick Chamber Singers, orchestra, and soloists lead an annual sing-along to G.F. Handel's Christmas mas-

terpiece. Remember: "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!" according to Buddy the Elf! Tickets are \$10-20.

But the fun doesn't just end when Christmas does. There are also many New Year's celebrations coming up!

On Wednesday, December 31 at 9 p.m., Gettysburg will have a New Year's Eve Celebration. There will be entertainment at downtown venues, including fireworks and a party in Lincoln Square. For more information call 717-334-5006 or visit www.adamsarts.org.

Or if you'd rather, there will also be a New Year's Eve celebration on December 31 at 9 p.m. at Liberty Mountain! The celebration will include late night skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing until 1 a.m. There will also be fireworks at midnight, and a bunch of special events! It's an age appropriate celebration for anyone! For more information call 717-642-8282 or visit www.liberty-mountainresort.com.

For a full list of events, check out www.emmitsburg.net. Make sure you mark those calendars and take advantage of all this season has to offer! And remember—stay warm out there, everyone!

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SPORTS

Mount men's basketball

Bridgette Nitza-Buwala
MSM Class of 2015

On our mountainous campus, winter not only brings the cold, snow, and Christmas, but it also brings athletes, spectators, and an abundance of school pride to Jim Phelan Court in Knott Arena. During winter, the Mount St. Mary's University's (MSMU) Men's Basketball season begins. Coming off of a successful spring season during our last academic year, the mountaineers have worked tirelessly to stay grounded and keep the ball on their side of the court.

Mount Mayhem, an annual tradition at our University, was celebrated on Friday, November 14 at 7pm in the Mount's Residential Quad. A live projector feed of the Mount Men's Basketball team playing this season's first game in Arizona pumped up the students for the coming home game. During the live feed, the Women's Basketball team, the Mount cheerleading team, and none other than our signature mountain man mascot, Emmitt S. Burg, made an appearance. S'mores, popcorn and various giveaways were a part of the night's festivities.

Led by Head Coach Jami-on Christian (Mount St. Mary's Class of 2004), Associate Coach Ben Wilkins, Assistant Coaches Darryl Bruce and Donny Lind, Coordinator of Basketball Operations Justine Miller (Mount St. Mary's Class of 2013), and Graduate Manager Oliver Brown (Mount St. Mary's Class of 2013), the team played their first

home game of the 2014-2015 winter season on Wednesday, November 19 at 7pm. Our Mountaineers took on the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Hawks.

Mount Pep Band, directed by Mark Carlson, played the beautiful National Anthem in order to prep all for the game ahead. To introduce the game, Christian unveiled the newly dedicated student section and a large banner above that read, "Mount Mayhem lives here!"

"Our journey for next season's title begins right now!" Christian emphasized to both the team and the spectators.

All students in the newly dedicated section under the large banner cheered and stomped in excitement. Mount senior Tyler Boyd showed his excitement not only through cheers and stomps, but also through body paint and a Mohawk in our school colors of blue and white.

The home side of Jim Phelan Court was filled with an anxious audience, just as large as the audience of the Mount student section. Emmitsburg residents, alumni, staff, and faculty made up the game's spectators. President Powell even brought his family to watch the event.

While the Mountaineers had a rough start to the game, they persevered through the struggle and showed true strength by closing the gap in points. With a positive attitude to go forth into coming competitions, the men left the court with a loss of just 41-53.

The men's next home game will be against Norfolk State University on Saturday, December 13 at



The Mount Men's Basketball Team played with tenacity during their first home game of the season. Photo credit: Mount St. Mary's Athletics.



2pm. This game has been designated "Autograph Day" for the men's team. Following "Autograph Day," the men will play against Binghamton on Monday, December 22 at 7pm, against Central Connecticut State on Thursday, January 8 at 7pm, against St. Francis Brooklyn on Saturday, January 10 at 2pm, against Robert Morris on Thursday, January 22 at 7pm, and against Saint Francis for the Mount's official Homecoming game on Saturday, January 24 at 2:30pm.

The Northeast Conference Pre-season Coaches Poll has picked the Mount to finish fifth overall. This is an improvement from last

year's prediction, as last year they had been picked to finish sixth. However, while an improvement, the mountaineers will not settle and prove this prediction to be true. They will play hard to exceed this prediction, especially coming off of last year's successful season. The Mountaineers will work hard to defend their NEC championship and continue the Mount Mayhem.

This year's team is made up of both fresh talent and valuable returners. Specifically, this year's roster includes: #2 So. Byron Ashe, #34 Sr. Aaron Brown, #50 Jr. Taylor Danaher, #12 Fr. Charles Glover, #15 Jr. Gregory Graves, #22 Fr. Troy Henderson, #21 So. Maalik Howard, #13 Gr. Kristijan Krajina, #44 Fr. Chris

Manning, #0 Jr. Chris Martin, #5 Jr. Liam McManimon, #11 So. Will Miller, #4 So. Khalid Nwundu, #3 Fr. Junior Robinson, #1 Fr. Mawdo Sallah, #30 Jr. Andrew Smeathers, and #35 Fr. Chris Way. While last year's seniors are certainly missed, this year's freshman have been welcomed with open arms into a team that is always working to excel.

For information regarding tickets for this season's games, please call 301.447.5700. For more information on the Men's Basketball team and all other sports at the Mount, please visit www.mountathletics.com. Mount Athletics can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. #GOMOUNT!

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High School Basketball

Michael Donahue

The basketball season is back and everyone should be excited! In just a few days, a new season kicks off for the Catoctin Girls' Basketball team. On December 5, the Cougars will host the Walkersville Lions for the first game of the season. The Cougars will look to dominate the Lions and get their revenge. Last year, when the two met at Walkersville, it was a terrific high-scoring game where Catoctin lost 74-88. This year the Cougars will be looking to play stouter defense on their own floor in what should be a terrific matchup.

The Cougars will look to have a winning season this year. Last season they were two games off finishing the season with an 11-12 record. To be able to achieve a positive record, the Cougars will have to improve on the road. Last season, they were 7-4 at home and a disappointing 3-7 away from their own gym. Another problem for Catoctin was that they had lots of close losses last season. They will have to finish those games if they want to try and make the playoffs this season. This year the Cougars' most important games are an early matchup with Boonsboro, where last season the Cougars lost by 4, a game against Francis Scott Key, who prevailed against the Cougars last season 42-40, and two games toward the end of the season against a brilliant South Hagerstown team and a tough Oakdale team. This season will be a dangerous one for the Cougars, yet they could surprise quite a few people with a good record, a good seed in the playoffs, and possibly a run in the playoffs early next year.

On the same night, the Fairfield Knights will kick off their own basketball season. They will march to Southern Huntingdon County in a tournament to open the season. After that they start the season with harsh matchups against York Catholic, @ Hanover, and @ Christian School of York. Last season the Knights were creamed against York Catholic. They lost both games against them to a combined score of 143-52. When the Knights took on Hanover they were not much better. They also lost both of those matchups 80-22 and 83-38. It is a good possibility that they could lose both of the matchups this season. The Knights need to get better on the offensive side of the court. The Knights cannot give up on the season if they do lose those few games. If they do not give up, Fairfield could bounce back with a win against Christian School of York, a team they beat by sixteen points last season.

This year will be hard for the Knights. The schedule is not the most promising for the Knights. Yet, Fairfield went 5-16 last season and it is a real possibility for Fairfield to improve on their

record. They will have to win manageable games like their matchups against Christian School of York, Littlestown (on December 19), and York County School of Technology. Fairfield just has to concentrate on one game at a time

and play better on offense. Seems simple enough on paper, but will the Knights be able to execute on the court?

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



Catoctin ace Tera Woelsel prepares to add to the point led at a recent game.



Catoctin Cougars players Raubaugh (22) and Delauter (25) go the extra mile to block a shot.

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FITNESS AND HEALTH

Complementary Corner

Cold and flu prevention

Part 2

Renee Lehman

In a continuation from the November article, this month's article will cover Traditional Chinese Medicine's (TCM) and other complementary forms of healthcare's approach to preventing a cold or the flu.

Receive Acupuncture. Acupuncture is now recognized for aiding in the production of our "natural killer cells" which are our primary defense against organisms that make us sick. Acupuncture supports and boosts the immune system. Many individuals receiving acupuncture on a regular basis report that they get fewer colds once they began acupuncture!

Protect the Back of Your Neck. Wear a scarf or turtleneck to protect the back of your neck from the wind, cold, and rain/snow. According to TCM, the back of our necks is where we are most susceptible to an "invasion" and cause colds and flu.

Eat foods that support your LUNGS. From a TCM perspective, these foods include honey, mushrooms, and garlic. There is more research than you may think about the cold and flu prevention benefits of eating honey. Research suggests it might reduce the risk of the flu by flushing bacterial and viral pathogens. A recent clinical trial involving the eating of one to two teaspoons of honey in the evening compared to taking dextromethorphan (a cough medicine ingredient in most conventional over-the-counter cough products) found that honey may be more effective at preventing and treating nighttime cough.

Mushrooms, such as, Reishi mushrooms, Maitake mushrooms, and Shiitake mushrooms boost the immune system to defend against a number of viruses. Reishi mushrooms are usually not used as a food. Reishi is usually taken in capsule form. Maitake mushrooms aren't easy to find fresh, so try ordering them dried. Finally, Shiitakes mushrooms are scrumptious, so eat your fill!

Garlic's long and storied history of healing includes earning high marks as an antiviral, and it's particularly valuable for warding off colds and helping open sinuses. Crushing or cutting garlic cloves generates a sulfur compound known as allicin, which has antiviral, antibacterial and anti-fungal properties and is credited as the star component that gives garlic its all-around stellar healing repertoire. Allicin is available only from raw garlic; however, so choose a preparation that calls for it raw, or add garlic at the end of cooking to tap its full medicinal power.

Other spices that are known to be great immune system boosters, and can easily be added to your diet include: cinnamon, turmeric, rosemary, thyme, oregano, and onions.

Consider Using Herbs. Herbs such as echinacea, astragalus, ginseng, and elderberry may help to support your immune system. Also, consider using sage and/or eucalyptus steam inhalations.

Echinacea (aka, Coneflower), contains several chemicals that play a role in its therapeutic effects. The root and upper part of the plant offer different benefits. The combination of these active substances is responsible for triggering the activity of the immune system.

In Germany (where herbs are regulated by the government), the above-ground parts of Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower) are approved to treat colds, upper respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, and slow healing wounds. The root of the Echinacea pallida (Pale Purple Coneflower) plant is also approved for the treatment of flu-like infections.

In a review of 14 clinical trials, the University of Maryland Medical Center found that echinacea reduced the odds of developing a cold by 58% and the duration of a cold by 1 - 4 days.

Astragalus is an antiviral and immune-strengthening herb that has been an important herb in TCM for thousands of years. In Herbal Antibiotics, author Stephen Harrod Buhner recommends a daily pot of tea containing 2 to 3 ounces astragalus

root. Or, use astragalus along with garlic as part of an immune-enhancing soup broth, Buhner suggests.

In a 2005 study on the herb ginseng, Canadian researchers gave 279 adults either a daily placebo or 400 milligrams a day of ginseng. Four months later, the ginseng group had contracted considerably fewer colds. University of Connecticut researchers repeated the study and arrived at the same conclusion, deeming ginseng "a safe, natural means for preventing acute respiratory illness." In his book *The Green Pharmacy*, James A. Duke, PhD, suggests a daily dose of about 1 teaspoon ginseng steeped in a cup of boiling water to make a tea.

Elderberry syrup is not only packed with vitamins A, B and C, but it also stimulates the immune system, has been shown to prevent colds and the flu, and tastes delicious. If you feel a tickle in your throat, soothe it with some elderberry tea.

Sage discourages bacterial growth, while eucalyptus is known for its antiseptic properties. Research has shown that by using these herbal oils via steam inhalation, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and immune-stimulating responses occur. A study published in the journal *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, in 2006 by M. Salari, et al., noted that eucalyptus had successful antibacterial activity against bacteria that caused strep throat, pneumonia, meningitis, skin infections, sinusitis, MRSA, and others.

Use essential oils. Essential oils are restorative, curative and natural antibacterial agents. They also happen to smell pretty great. Apply some oregano oil to your back, chest and bottoms of your feet. Aside from being a natural antibiotic, it also has bacteria-fighting properties and is a powerful antihistamine.

Juniper berries boast a powerful antiviral compound known as deoxydophyllotoxin. For upper respiratory tract infections, Buhner (in *Herbal Antibiotics*) advises turning to the woody-smelling essential oil of juniper. He says to place eight to 10 drops of juniper essential oil in water in a 1-ounce nasal spray bottle. Use four to six times per day, shaking the mixture



before each use.

Practice Yoga and Qigong. These gentle movement exercises can activate your immune system by balancing your energy, and decreasing stress levels.

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.



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FITNESS AND HEALTH

Keep moving Stop the cravings!

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer/
Fitness Therapist

We all want to eat healthy and feel good and maybe lose a few pounds. One of the hardest things for most people is to stop the snacking. Some are afternoon snackers and some are evening snackers. Around three in the afternoon the vending machine seems to be calling you as you walk past and it is so hard to fight the temptation. Vending machine food is never the kind of food that will improve your health. Maybe a small bag of pretzels would be OK once in a while but somehow snacking from the machine becomes a daily habit and one that is very hard to break. Bring a healthy snack from home in a properly portion sized bag and you will actually be help-

ing to stop the unhealthy cravings and move toward losing a little weight and maybe even lowering that cholesterol or blood pressure number. Healthy snacks don't have to be the plain carrots or celery. You can get creative and make whatever kind of fruit or vegetable smoothie you may like and add some flaxseed or protein powder and you will feel like you are having a desert. You can even add some low fat or almond or soy milk and it will be like having a milkshake. There are a lot of pre-packaged shakes and smoothies on the market but you really need to read the label to check out the amount of sugar and other preservatives they contain. Many products are labeled low fat or low sugar but in reality they may contain more of some ingredients than the regular products. I found that with brownie mix one time. I read less fat on

the front of the box but after comparing it with the regular brownie mix the one claiming low fat actually contained more than the other mix with no special advertising on it. If you are a person that needs something crunchy for your snack there are many foods that will fill your needs. I find hard pretzels a satisfying snack in the afternoon. Usually one will do it because it is large enough to equal several bites and you have to chew it a while because of the size and texture of it. Sometimes small pretzel sticks or pretzels will turn into mindless eating without realizing just how many you have consumed. Nuts can also be a great snack but you do have to be aware of the fat content and the serving size or you can get into trouble very quickly with calories. Vegetables and fruit are always great snacks but you also have to watch the sugar content in fruits. I know it sounds funny for a snack but a hardboiled egg or piece of chicken also make a satisfying snack if you goal is to lose a few pounds or improve your bloodwork numbers. The most important thing to remember when choosing a snack is the por-

tion size. Any of the foods I have mentioned are good to improve your health but you must control the amount of them that you are eating. On that note, the other side of the coin is you have to eat every day. So many people find themselves busy or just not hungry and go all day without eating or only eat a quick snack for breakfast and then nothing until dinner. This is not good because your body doesn't know when you are going to feed it again and it holds on to anything and everything you gave it therefore, not burning the food as fuel but turning it into fat for later consumption. I know it is not easy to eat healthy, lose weight and

be satisfied all at the same time but it is possible and you will find if you change the kind and amount of food you eat you will not crave those chips or candy as much. You may even find that when you have a soda it may now seem too sweet or those chips may taste too greasy and you just don't want them anymore. I know you probably don't believe that last statement but it really is possible.

If you have any questions please contact me at 717-334-6009. I will be glad to help you think of some new ways of eating for the coming New Year. Remember, Keep moving!!

Fitness matters

George Puvel
Anytime Fitness Owner

Question: Almost every time I go for a run, whether it's outside or indoors on a treadmill, within 10-15 minutes I get a cramp in my side. What causes this runner's cramp and can you give me any suggestions on how to alleviate it?

Answer: There are many theories as to why the runner's cramp happens. A large amount of food may have settled in the intestines, you may have tried exercising too soon after eating or drinking, there could be a lack of oxygen to the diaphragm, or even in the ligaments that attach the liver, stomach, and spleen to the diaphragm. Running makes our internal organs bounce up and down and all of this movement could contribute to a side stitch. To help alleviate the cramp, try changing the rhythm of your breath along with how you breathe. For example, find a pattern of inhales and exhales for a certain number of steps (e.g. inhale for 2 steps and exhale for 4). Then, switch breathing from your belly to your chest. You could also try pressing into the side stitch with your opposite hand while raising your arm (on the same side as the cramp) overhead. You can also try lying down with your hips elevated. Both of these techniques help to ease pressure on the ligaments that connect your diaphragm to the other organs.

Question: Whey protein powder seems to upset my stomach. Are there any other alternative protein powders that I can try?

Answer: An upset stomach could be a sign that you have an allergy or sensitivity to whey protein. Try egg, pea, brown rice, or hemp protein, which are all excellent alternatives for whey. Lactose and gluten could also be culprits, so you might start by looking

for brands of whey protein labeled lactose-free or gluten-free. Of course, it could also be what you are combining with whey that is causing the issue. Instead of milk, try blending powders with kale juice, unsweetened almond milk or coconut milk to pack a dou-

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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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of December

Professor Wayne Wooten

For December 2014, the Moon will be Full Moon, the Long Night Moon, is on December 6th. The waning gibbous moon passes five degrees south of Jupiter in the morning sky on December 12th, and will interfere to some degree with the peak for the Geminid meteor shower on the following morning before dawn. The last quarter moon occurs on December 14th. The winter solstice occurs at 6:03 PM on December 21st, and winter begins on the shortest day of the year. The new moon occurs on December 22nd. The waxing crescent moon passes six degrees north of brilliant Venus on December 23rd, then five degrees north of fainter reddish Mars in the SW twilight on Christmas evening. The first quarter moon follows on December 28th.

Venus returns to the evening sky during the first two weeks of December. She is coming from the far side of the Sun, and shows a tiny, almost fully lit featureless disk in the telescope, but will get much higher in the evening sky during the first half of 2015. Mars remains in the evening sky this month, moving through Capricornus in SW twilight. Jupiter dominates the evening sky for the next five months, brighter than any other planet except Venus and imbedded among the stars of Leo.



The famed Pleiades cluster lies about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. The "Seven Sisters" are probably the most beautiful objects in the sky viewable by binoculars.

Jupiter reaches opposition in February 2015. Any small telescope will show the four large Galilean moons around at 10X or higher power, but larger scopes will be needed to show the famed Great Red Spot, which seems to be shrinking currently. Saturn rises about 4 AM in Scorpius, and the famed rings are now open about 22 degrees. They were edge on as seen from the Earth in 2009, and will be tilted 27 degrees toward us at solstice in 2017, when they will double the planet's present brightness.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to

the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row.

It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon

Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. The "Seven Sisters" are probably the most beautiful objects in the sky in binoculars, with over 100 members of the cluster, as well as clouds of gas and dust the young cluster is now moving through, visible. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Their appearance in November in classical times was associated with the stormy season, when frail sailing ships stayed in port. Aldebaran is not a member of the Hyades, but about twice as close as the Hyades; distances in astronomy can be deceiving.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of

Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers. Jupiter now sits in the middle of Gemini, far brighter than any other object of the winter sky.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active star birth all over the place.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year's sky feast.

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Farmers' Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Fair and cool (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) with showers and storms (8, 9). Fair and mild (10, 11, 12) with more showers and cooler (13, 14). Windy and cool with some lake-effect snow (15, 16, 17); periods of snow in the northern part of the region and rain in the south (18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24) Fair, cold, turning windy and colder late in the month (25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Full Moon: December's Full Moon occurs on Saturday, December 6th. It has often been referred to as Cold Moon by many Native Americans (for obvious reasons!). Other tribes called it Ice-forming Moon and Beaver Moon because lakes and ponds begin to ice over and in some areas, beavers are scurrying to finish building their dams and lodges before the winter sets in for good.

Special Notes: The Hagerstown Town & Country Almanack wish-

es everyone the happiest of holidays! We thank everyone for their continued support this past year and over the many years The Almanack has been there to inform, inspire, and entertain. Remember that The Almanack makes a great gift for anyone and is a gift that keeps giving throughout the coming year. Simply go to www.almanack.com/order and order today to ensure delivery before Christmas. Make moderation the watchword for this year's festivities. Try not to over-indulge in either food or drink and you will be sure to enjoy the holidays so much more (and then you won't have to include going on a diet as one of your New Year's Resolutions!). This year, consider giving the best gift of all: your time and attention. Volunteer at a local hospital, nursing home, or community shelter and you will see that the good will you extend to those often forgotten during the holiday season will make

them (and you!) truly feel the holiday spirit!

Holidays: Celebrate Christmas on Thursday, December 25th. Enjoy family and friends during these festive times and keep that joyful and giving spirit alive throughout the coming year. New Year's Eve is Saturday, December 31st. Here's hoping that the New Year brings you and your family good health, full hearts, and renewed hopes. New Year's Eve is Wednesday, December 31st. Make plans to attend a First Night Celebration and enjoy a safe, family-oriented evening of fun, food, and entertainment on the very first night of the year. Look online at www.firstnight.com/cities to find a celebration nearest you.

The Garden: Re-plant any perennials that have been heaved out of the soil by frost and consider covering them with pine bark mulch. To avoid rodent damage during the winter, keep a couple of inches clear of vegetation and mulch around the base of young trees. Plastic or metal hardware cloth can be wrapped around the base to deter their chewing on the tender bark. Remember when cutting evergreen foliage for Christmas decor, cut just above a bud. This ensures that no spurs will be left to encourage decay. The birds that stayed in the region throughout the winter are counting on us to keep those bird feeders full and to spread out plenty of seed, especially if the ground is covered with snow.

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COMPUTER Q&A

Protect your data now!

Bob Jester
Jester's Computer

In the last few weeks we have received a half a dozen computers that were infected with a type of ransom ware that attacks your Word documents and Excel files. One of the computers also had the picture files infected. If you get infected with this ransom ware you will lose all access to your files. The infection will have to be removed but the damage to your data is irreversible. If you do not have a backup of your data to restore, your files are lost.

CryptoWall is a file-encrypting ransom ware program that was released around the end of April 2014 that targets all versions of Windows including Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Windows 8.

When you are first infected with CryptoWall it will scan your computer for data files and "encrypt" them using RSA encryption so they can no longer be opened. Once the infection has encrypted the files on your computer drives, it will open a Notepad window that contains instructions on how to access the CryptoWall Decryption Service where you can pay a ransom to purchase a decryption program. The ransom cost starts at \$500 and after 7 days goes up to \$1,000. This ransom must be paid in Bitcoins and sent to a Bitcoin address that changes per infected user.

CryptoWall is distributed via emails with ZIP attachments that contain executables that are disguised as PDF files. These PDF files pretend to be invoices, purchase orders, bills, complaints, or other business communications. When you double-click on the fake PDF, it will instead infect your computer with the CryptoWall infection and install malware files either in the "AppData" or "Temp" folders. Once infected, the installer will start to scan your computer's drives for data files that it will encrypt. When the infection is scanning your computer, it will scan all drive letters on your computer including removable drives, network shares, or even Drop Box mappings. In summary, if there is a drive letter on your computer CryptoWall will scan it for data files.

When the infection has finished scanning your computer, it will also delete all of the Shadow Volume Copies that are on the affected computer. It does this because you can potentially use shadow volume copies to restore your encrypted files.

Now that your computer's data has been fully encrypted, it will display the DECRYPT_INSTRUCTION.TXT and DECRYPT_INSTRUCTION.HTML files that were created on your Desktop. These files contain information about what has happened to your data and instructions on how to pay the ransom. In most cases, once CryptoWall launches this document it will remove the infection files from your computer, as they are no longer necessary.

Unfortunately, at this time there is no way to retrieve the private key that can be used to decrypt your

files without paying the ransom on the CryptoWall Decryption Service. Brute forcing the decryption key is not realistic due to the length of time required to break an RSA encryption key. In addition, any decryption tools that have been released by various companies will not work with this infection. The only methods you have of restoring your files is from a backup, file recovery tools, or if you are lucky from Shadow Volume Copies.

In summary, even if you have a backup drive those backup files will be encrypted also. We would suggest that you only attach your backup drive during the backup and then remove it. DVD's are a good choice to back-up your data on as they cannot be altered. System images are also a good choice because individual files cannot be accessed.

Unfortunately, their antivirus did not protect the infected machines that we serviced. Norton, McAfee,

Microsoft Security Essentials (not a very effective antivirus) and Avast were ineffective. AVG (which we use and recommend) has so far not been tested. So you must protect your data now or take a chance on losing it. Good luck.

If you are in need of PC computer repair or services please visit Jester's Computer Services located at 5135 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, PA. You can also reach Jester's Computer Services by phone at 717-642-6611 or send an email to: customerservice@jesterscomputers.com

For help with learning how to use a PC computer, mobile technology, web design, or graphic design contact Jester's Computer Tutor for help! You can also visit our website at www.thecomputertutor.info or like us on Facebook to receive free tips and tricks! You can contact the tutor via email at help@thecomputertutor.info or by phone at 717-HELP-4-ME or 717-435-7463



CryptoWall is the largest and most destructive ransomware threat to PCs to date. It takes over your PC and holds it ransom for \$500. If payment is not made, your files will be deleted or made unrecoverable.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4

Frederick Community College's All That Jazz! Jazz Saxophonist Thomas "Whit" Williams joins FCC's big-band Jazz Ensemble for its popular fall concert. JBK Theater at Frederick Community College, 7932 Opposumtown Pike, Frederick. For more information call 301-846-2512 or visit www.frederick.edu.

December 4, 5 & 6

Elias Lutheran Church's annual Yard Sale. Christmas items, clothing of all kinds, books, kitchenware and you name it! 100 W. North Ave., Emmitsburg. For more information call 301-447-6239.

December 5

Hollabaugh Bros Holiday Open House. Bring the family for holiday fun including product sampling, delicious refreshments, raffles, sales, and more! Bring a donation of canned goods or a toy to be donated locally and pick a ticket from our prize basket including coupons, free goodies and more. There will be an ornament making station for the kids, too! Gettysburg Brass will be in the market from 4:30-

6:30pm playing some holiday favorites and leading some sing-along fun!

Hollabaugh Bros. Fruit Farm and Market, 545 Carlisle Road, Biglerville. For more information call 717-677-8412 or visit www.hollabaugh-bros.com.

December 5 & 6

5th Annual Gingerbread Celebration and Holiday Mart. Enjoy a gallery of gingerbread creations, holiday art mart and activities for families. Also, participate in the gingerbread creations silent auction and People's Choice voting. Proceeds will benefit the non-profit Gettysburg Festival Inc. Free admission both days. Gettysburg Campus of Harrisburg Area Community College, 731 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-0853 or visit www.gettysburgfestival.org.

December 5, 12, & 19

Strawberry Hill's photos with Santa. Visit Santa by the fire in Strawberry Hill's historic Pink Cabin built in 1798. Portrait Package includes: 5x7 print, hot chocolate with Santa, and a free holiday gift from Strawberry Hill.

1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org.

December 6

Hollabaugh Bros' Saint Nicholas Day. On this day centuries ago, little children would place their shoes outside the door during the night, only to find them filled with oranges, tangerines, apples and candy in the morning. Come meet the famous Saint Nicolas in person! Celebration party includes hot chocolate, donuts, picture opportunities with Saint Nick and a Holiday craft! Sessions are scheduled for 9, 10 and 11am and registration is required. Please call 717-677-8412 to register. Fee of \$10 includes snacks, story with Saint Nick and craft. Hollabaugh Bros. Inc. Fruit Farm and Market, 545 Carlisle Road, Biglerville. For more information call 717-677-8412 or visit www.hollabaughbros.com.

Annual Old Getty Place Christmas Parade and Tree lighting. Be part of it all as we delight in the annual pa-

rade, light the great tree in the Lincoln Square, and sing Christmas carols together to bring in the holiday season. Enjoy a variety of bands, floats, costumed characters, distinguished guests, dancers, youth groups and, of course, Santa Claus! After the parade, enjoy the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Lincoln Square and Santa's Shanty will be open on the Square for the children. Downtown Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-1518.

Frederick Community College's The Spires of Christmas. The Spires Brass Band presents a concert of traditional holiday music. JBK Theater at Frederick Community College, Frederick, MD. For more information call 301-662-8320 or visit www.frederick.edu.

4000 Year of Christmas: Music of Ancient Tradition. 4000 Years of Christmas: Music of Ancient Traditions is a unique concert of Christmas music that illuminates the ancient traditions that were transformed into the Christmas we know today. Join The Freder-

ick Chorale and award winning storyteller, Adam Booth, for this sparkling holiday treat for all ages. Frederick Presbyterian Church, 115 West 2nd St. Frederick. For More Information call: 301-371-4668 or visit www.frederick-chorale.org.

December 6, 7, 9, 12, 13 & 14

Gettysburg's Community Theater's A Christmas Story the musical. Gettysburg Community Theatre, 49 York Street, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-2692 or visit www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org.

December 7

Catoctin Furnace Historical Society's Traditional Village Christmas. Featuring handmade crafts, gifts, made to order wreaths, greenery, children's activities, and refreshments.

With unique gifts and decorations for the Holidays. Catoctin Furnace Road, (Just outside of Thurmont). For more information visit www.catoctinfurnace.org.

December 8

Sabillasville Elementary 50th Anniversary celebration panning. Sabillasville Elementary be celebrating 50 years of education during the 2015/2016 school year. There will be a meeting, for anyone interested in the school's auditorium, to begin planning of the celebration.

December 10 & 17

Reid's Orchard & Winery's Women's Singer Songwriter Night. Reid's Orchard & Winery, 400 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-7537 or visit www.reidsorchardwinery.com.

December 11, 12, 13, 18 & 19

Reid's Orchard & Winery's Local singer/Songwriter Night. Reid's Orchard & Winery, 400 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-7537 or visit www.reidsorchardwinery.com.

December 12

Elias Lutheran Church's Christmas Coffee House preceded by Pot Luck Supper, bring a dish to share. Home Comfort Bluegrass Band and Silver Lining Band. Free! Elias is located at 100 W. North Ave., Emmitsburg. For more information call 301-447-6239.

19th Annual Gettysburg Tuba Carol Fest. Tuba players from everywhere playing Christmas Carols on "historic" Lincoln Square in Gettysburg, PA. The rain site will be the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Lincoln Square, Gettysburg.

The Majestic Theater's Sweetback Sisters Country Christmas. Celebrate the holidays with The Sweetback Sisters Emily Miller and Zara Bode and their precise, family-style harmonies that recall the best of country music from the Everlys to The Judds, with spirited rockabilly energy. Expect a wide-ranging program of holiday music, from well-loved Christmas carols to classic winter-themed songs to lesser-known country gems. All the songs are presented with the Sweetback Sisters' signature mix of harmony singing, rollicking telecaster and twin fiddling

The Emmitsburg Council of Churches

INVITES YOU TO SPEND

Christmas in Emmitsburg

Saturday, December 6

Christmas Bazaar

Christ's Community Church (303 West Lincoln Avenue) hosts their 3rd annual Christmas Bazaar from 9am to 3 pm. There will be 19 vendors and a silent auction! Baked goods and food for sale. Free scavenger hunt, free cookie decorating for the kids, and a free picture with good ol' St Nicholas. Contact Heather at 717-321-5522 or Pastor John at 301-447-4224 for information.

Annual Christmas Bazaar and Beef, Turkey, & Ham Supper Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold their Annual Christmas Bazaar and Beef, Turkey, & Ham Supper (with apple fritters) starting at noon. Adults \$11, Children 6-12 \$4, Carry-out \$12. The supper also includes filling, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce and cake. The Annual Bazaar includes crafts, home baked products, yard sale items.

Christmas Party for the Children of Emmitsburg The Lions Club of Emmitsburg hosts their annual Christmas Party for the Children of Emmitsburg, hosted at the Vigilant Hose Company fire hall. Free for children of ALL ages! Crafts, magic show, food, and a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. (Contact Lions Club for time)

Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar Mother Seton School hosts their annual Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar. 8:00-Noon. Enjoy a pancake breakfast then shop our craft and specialty gifts vendors at the Bazaar! With photos for Santa, door prizes and raffles, and a Kids' Bazaar, there's something for everyone! Free admission to the Bazaar. Breakfast tickets available: \$7/7-Adult, \$5/3-6y, ages 2 & under FREE. Visit MotherSetonSchool.org for more information.

Evening with the Mount St. Mary's University Chorale The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton hosts an evening with the Mount St. Mary's University Chorale and guest orchestra from 7-8 pm. They will perform Haydn's Mass in Times of War. Find comfort from the worries of today in a beautifully hopeful artistic performance.

Christmas Craft Fair

The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Saint Joseph Catholic Church host their annual Christmas Craft Fair in the parish hall from 8am to 3 pm. There will be over 30 vendors! Baked goods and food for sale. (Also on Friday, December 5, from 9am to 5pm). Contact Jane Gjerde at 717-642-1247 or Gwen Topper 301-447-2713 at for information.

Tastings at Gateway

Educate your pallet at Gateway's free December wine & Liquor tastings

Dec 6 - Wine & Sparklings, 1- 4

Dec 6 & 7 - Open House

Dec 12 - Scotch & Rums, 5- 8pm

Dec 13 - Wine & Liquors, 1 - 4

Dec 19 - Dewars & Drambuie, 5 - 7pm

For more information visit www.gatewaycandy.com or call 301-271-2322

Christmas Bazaar & Indoor Yard Sale

December 6th - 9am to 2pm

Home Made Soups & Sandwiches
EAT IN or CARRY OUT

Christmas Gifts & Goodies ~ Cookies By The Pound
Cobblers ~ Candy ~ Holiday Breads ~ Pies ~ Cakes

For Info Call:
301-898-5167

No Early Birds
No Friday Sales

St. John's Lutheran Church | Call: 301-271-7851

8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown, MD | Or Visit Us At: www.emmitsburg.net/iglc
(Take 15 N. or S., get off at Thurmont east and follow Rt. 550 to Creagerstown.)
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Christ's
Community Church

3rd Annual

Christmas
* Bazaar

Saturday, December 6th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

* 19 Vendors! Silent Auction! *
Baked Goods Table! Free Scavenger Hunt!
Free Cookie Decorating For the Kids!

Soups ~ Nachos ~ Hot Dogs ~ Drinks
Will Be On Sale!

For more information contact
Heather Crum at 717-321-5522
or Pastor John at
301-447-4224



303 West
Lincoln Ave.
Emmitsburg, MD

UPCOMING EVENTS

along with a healthy dose of holiday cheer. Lyric sheets are provided so that everyone can join in the singing! Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

December 13 & 14
Geminids Meteor Shower.

December 14
Music Gettysburg's Christmas Offering. Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. Concerts are free and open to the public. Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary Chapel, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-338-3000 or visit www.musicgettysburg.org.

Taneytown's Trinity Lutheran Church's A Candlelight Christmas Concert. This concert of traditional choral holiday music. The concert will be held within the beautiful candlelit, stained-glass-windowed sanctuary of the church. A light reception will follow the program for a time of friendship, fellowship and sharing. For more information call 410-756-6626

December 15
Mother Seton School Christmas Program. Come celebrate the joy of Christmas with us! The program will include choral performances from the Mother Seton School Chorus and from individual classes, our award-winning band, and a student-produced Christmas play. For more information call 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

December 20
Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration. Come join in the fun-filled festivities at the annual Blue

Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration! This year's event, sponsored by the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library. Songs of the season by Rich Fehle and others; fire truck rides; horse-drawn sleigh rides; s'mores on the plaza; refreshments will be served from the library porch, craft making for the kids; and the historic Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will open its doors for the annual Holiday Open House. At 6:30 p.m. the tree lighting ceremony will take place. This year the tree lighting will honor the memory of Jerry Scruggs

and Dorothy Abplanalp. At 7 p.m. the program continues at the Monterey Pass Battlefield museum and interpretive center with a special candle light program and tours by Civil War and Monterey Pass Battlefield Historian (and the News-Journal's most excellent history author!) John Miller. Blue Ridge Summit Plaza, located at the intersection of Monterey Lane and Sabilasville Rd. For more information call 717-642-5645.

December 21
Winter Solstice occurs @ 6:03 PM.

December 22 & 23
Ursids Meteor Shower.

December 31
Gettysburg's New Year's Eve Celebration. Entertainment at downtown venues, fireworks and party in Lincoln Square. Lincoln Square. Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-5006 or visit www.adamsarts.org.

Liberty Mountain! New Year's Eve Celebration. Ring in the New Year at Liberty Mountain! Liberty Mountain Resort. The celebration will include late-night skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing until 1am, fireworks at midnight, and a variety of special events happening around the resort. There's something for everyone and every age! For more information call 717-642-8282 or visit www.libertymountainresort.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BINGO

Wednesday, December 31, 2014
NEW MIDWAY VOL. FIRE CO.

Doors Open at 5:00 PM
Buffet at 6:00 PM - Play Starts at 8:00 PM

Meal Includes: Turkey, Shrimp, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Dressing, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Tea And Dessert!

Tip Jar! **King Tuts!**

30 Games (\$100 Minimum) Jackpot (\$1,000)
Tickets: \$45 (In Advance) \$50 (At The Door)

12019 Woodsboro Pike, New Midway, MD 21775
(On Route 194)

For more info or advance tickets call: Mary or Joe Lenhart
301-898-9161 or 301-898-7985

Proceeds Benefit The New Midway Vol. Fire Company & The Frederick County Farm Museum.

Seton Center Thrift Shop
*** CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**
*** December 9th-13th**
Tuesday thru Friday - 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday - 10 am to 3 pm

ALL CHRISTMAS ITEMS 1/2 OFF!
Refreshments: Cookies and Cider!

301-447-6102
* 16840 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727


Visit Santa Dec. 13th! 10 am to 1 pm!

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, January 24, 2015
8:00 pm - 12:00 am

5th Annual Fundraiser Dance
featuring
The Rock & Roll Relics

Enjoy Original Rock & Roll Sounds From the 50's & 60's

BYOB Event



Emmitsburg Vol. Ambulance Co. Building
17701 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Tickets: \$15 In Advance \$20 At The Door
For Tickets Call: Bob Rosensteel at 301-401-7287
Proceeds Benefit The Emmitsburg Business & Professional Association

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Bingo starts @ 8 PM

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MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!

Amid the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, may we find peace and stillness in anticipation of the coming of the Lord. Grace and blessings to the Emmitsburg community now and through the new year!

Thomas H. Powell *Irene Q. Powell*
President Thomas H. and Irene Q. Powell



“Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born
to you: he is Christ the Lord.”

—LUKE 2:11

Join Us to Celebrate the Christmas Season

Student Instrumental and Vocal Recital

December 3, 7:30 p.m.

Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

Join our talented music students for a year-end concert of masterworks.

✱

Haydn at the Shrine

December 6, 7 p.m.

National Shrine St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Basilica

Choir, orchestra, and vocal soloists join forces in this special performance by the Mount Chorale of Joseph Haydn's "Mass in Time of War." Written during the Napoleonic Wars, the Mass's relentless exuberance speaks to us even today about the power of joyful faith in the face of struggle and danger. The performance will take place in the beautiful setting of the National Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton. Admission is free.

✱

Mount Wind Ensemble Advent Concert

December 7, 2 p.m.

Knott Auditorium

The University Wind Ensemble will perform festive works and seasonal favorites in this short matinee program. The Mount's Flute Ensemble will open the program.

✱

Seminary Open House

December 7, 2-4 p.m., McSweeney Hall, patio entrance

Tours every 20 minutes, light refreshments

Holy Hour: 4-5 p.m., Advent Lessons and Carols: 5 p.m.

Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

✱

Mass at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes

December 7, 14, 21 and 28, Noon

No Christmas Day Mass