

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 3, NO. 6 • WWW.EMMITSBURG.NET • WWW.MYFAIRFIELD.NET • JUNE 2011

NEWS

Emmitsburg Community Day

The annual Community Day parade returns this year, with events being held all day in Community Park. **Page 46**

EBPA to hold Business Expo

Expo to show off area businesses and services. **Page 3**

COMMENTARY

Pure Onsense

The US debt ceiling debate appears poised to be the least exciting blockbuster event of the summer. **Page 11**

Down Under

The Midas Syndrome - A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing. **Page 11**

ARTICLES

The Book of Days

Old superstitions about bees and diseases. **Page 13**

In the Country

In the Mason-Dixon area one can find two Oriole species and maybe both Tanager species. **Page 15**

Pets Large & Small

Over the years, I've discovered that trust can be a very delicate thing. **Page 18**

The Master Gardener

Why grow native plants - As we become more global, our natives are becoming less present in our landscapes and unfortunately in our natural habitat. **Page 22**

History

A look back at the old Ashbaugh's General Store. **Page 24**

Cold War Warriors

Technically speaking, any Cold War naval vessel was a potential spy ship. **Page 26**

JOURNALS

The Retired Ecologist

Since I grew up on a farm and have raised gardens throughout my life, I always have been interested in the weather. **Page 14**

The Graduate

As of May 15, 2011 I have officially graduated, but the reality of graduating has not really hit home yet. **Page 35**

In My Own Words

There is something unique about our small community and having been able to be a part of it, even for a few short months. **Page 37**

Complementary Corner

By staying "grounded" and deeply rooted like a tree, you can withstand any strong winds or storminess of life. **Page 42**

'Tis the season for music & plays

Katelyn Phelan
MSM Class of 2011

It's finally stopped raining and the temperature has quickly risen to the mid-90s; summer is here! Instead of sitting around the house hiding in the air conditioning this June, come on out to one of the many exciting cultural events happening in our area. With such a variety of events who needs a long drive to D.C. or Baltimore? Start by checking out Wednesdays at the Fountain located on Mount St. Mary's campus.

Wednesdays at the Fountain, a summer concert series held at Mount St. Mary's, will run throughout June and July. Every Wednesday a different music group will come to the Mount to perform their original work at no charge to the public. Last year, the outdoor concerts featured only Jazz, but this year many musical styles will be represented to appeal to listeners of all ages and musical tastes. Come on

out to Wednesdays at the Fountain to hear some great music! See page 38 for more details.

The Gettysburg Festival, which will run from June 10-19th, features a variety of cultural events from a cappella singing to culinary events to comedy. The events showcase beautiful Gettysburg through the lens of the arts. More information and tickets are available at 717-334-0853 or on www.gettysburgfestival.org.

The Pennsylvania Lavendar Festival, held at Willow Pond Farm, is a unique event, the only one of its kind on the East Coast. The festival will run for three days and will feature sensory delights as well as many different experiences including tours, demonstrations, lectures, workshops, and opportunities to cut your own lavender. See page 23 for more information.

The International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival will commemorate the British duo W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan by performing their comic



Emmitsburg Lion's Club chicken barbeque will once again be a big feature of the Emmitsburg Community day festivities. See page 46 for more details

operas at the Majestic Theater in downtown Gettysburg. Nine operas will be performed during this ten-day celebration. See the ad on page 32 or find more information at 717-337-8200 or www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

The Majestic Theater in Gettysburg will be featuring old movies at their "Movie Memories" events on Wednesday nights throughout the summer. Movies will vary from "San Francisco" to "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" to "Raiders of the Lost Ark." See the ad on page 33 for the complete listing or check www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

"As You Like It" one of Shakespeare's most famous comedies

will be performed by the Maryland Shakespeare Festival outside at Mount St. Mary's University on June 25 & 26. Call 301-447-5825 or check www.msmary.edu/shakespeare for more information and tickets.

Add in the plays at Totem Pole Playhouse and you'll find we have such a variety of cultural events to choose from this June and throughout the summer that there's no need for you to feel bored this summer! Whether you catch an old movie, smell some lavender, or come to Wednesdays at the Fountain each week, we hope you come out and support one or many of these impressive events.

Fairfield Fire & EMS open house

The Fairfield Fire and EMS Company opened its bay doors to show off a bit for the community on May 15 as members hosted the 5th Annual Fire and EMS Open House.

Visitors could meet with members of the fire, EMS and police to ask questions or just chat. Displays showed equipment or capabilities of the company as did demonstrations held throughout the day. These include search and rescue dog demonstrations, tours of an emergency helicopter and an auto extraction demonstration.

"This is a show and tell," said Lt. Kip Hamilton with the ambulance company. "It's our chance to expose

the community to their local fire department and ambulance company and show some our capabilities."

Kids found plenty of things to enjoy with rides on fire trucks, getting lifted into the air in a tower engine bucket truck and free giveaways. Presley Miller, 7, of Fairfield said the rides in the fire truck were his favorite thing to do during the open house.

Jason Howe of Waynesboro had been a member of the company before he moved from Fairfield. He said it was good to see all of the new equipment that the company had at their disposal, but he also said that the company needs volunteers to help, too.



Fairfield Fire & EMS members : From left to right: Fire Captain Adam Jacobs, Fire Lieutenant Derrick Martin, Jesse Sanders, Bill Jacobs, Patrick Henry, James Moe



"I know people are so busy and this takes dedication, but it's like they say, 'many hands make light work,'" Howe said.

Melissa Miller and her family moved into town so they could be closer to the fire hall. "We wanted to be able to walk here since we're over here so much," Miller said. She and her husband volunteer to help at that the fire hall and they also clean it.

She says the community supports the fire and EMS company but it is

still always in need of volunteers.

"This has got to be a team effort, a town effort, because that's what keeps the fire company going," Miller said.

Capt. Neal Abrams with the ambulance company said that planning for the event begins in January in order to line up all of the demonstrations for the first Sunday of EMS Week, but the hard work is worth it.

"Community events like this is what it's all about," Abrams said.

Postal Customer

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Westminster, MD
Permit No. 94

NEWS

Around the Borough

The April 16 storm that dropped more than 4 inches of rain on the Borough of Carroll Valley caused so much damage that the borough is applying for disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

The amount of assistance that the borough is seeking is \$153,691.04 to cover all the extra costs that the borough incurred because of the storm and the flooding that it caused.

"Needless to say, it was a bad one," said Borough Manager Dave Hazlett.

He pointed out that long-time residents had told him that they had never seen flooding so bad in the borough. Weeks after the storm, sections of Cardinal Trail were closed because the flood waters had undermined a pipe making the road above unsafe. Most of Creek View Trail was still without asphalt and a home on Blue Spruce had to be condemned.

Carroll Valley has largest increase in residents among county boroughs

According to U.S. Census numbers, more people moved into Carroll

Valley between 2000 and 2010 than any other borough in the county. The census shows that 585 people moved into Carroll Valley during that time, which is more than the population of Fairfield, PA.

"We're the borough that most people came to (who came to Adams County)," said Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris.

Percentage-wise, Carroll Valley saw growth of 17.8 percent. That is greater than the state, county or the two larger boroughs in Adams County. Carroll Valley also remains the third-largest borough behind Gettysburg and Littlestown, though the gap with both is shrinking.

The census also shows that Adams County had 101,407 residents in 2010, topping 100,000 for the first time with 11.1 percent growth. Fairfield remains the smallest borough in the county with 507 residents and 4.3 percent growth.

Reassessment impact yet to be felt by borough

While Carroll Valley residents are still reeling from property reassessment that increased by a factor of six in some cases, that true impact of that

change has not been felt yet at the county budget level.

While there is concern that some non-resident property owners may simply abandon their parcels rather than paying higher taxes, there is little the borough can do. Council President John Van Volkenburgh said during the May 10 council meeting, "As a municipality, we have no standing in these personal things."

If the properties become three years delinquent in their property taxes, then they can be sold at a sheriff's sale. If no one chooses to purchase them, they become county property.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett said the impact will not be felt until next year's budget. He has been trying to connect parcel owners who live outside the borough and want to get rid of their parcels with possible buyers who have adjoining parcels. Those people may not be interested in taking on another parcel, but sometimes they are.

"We have a lot of bankruptcy properties in the borough now," Hazlett also noted. "That's a new problem for us."

As of the May 10 meeting, 21 parcels in Carroll Valley were bank-owned.

Fairfield Notes

The Fairfield Borough Council unanimously passed an open container ordinance at its May meeting. The ordinance prohibits consumption of alcoholic, malt or brewed beverages on public property in the borough nor can a person have an open container of the beverages. Violations will carry fines of \$100 to \$1,000 plus the cost of prosecution.

Special events ordinance on hold

The Fairfield Borough Council has placed its special events ordinance on hold to wait and see what happens this

summer when Bike Week moves from Gettysburg to location close to Fairfield. Also, some elements of proposed ordinance may already be covered in the borough's parade and assemblage ordinances.

Councilor Dean Thomas expressed concern that special events ordinances "seem to be, generally speaking, designed to prevent special events."

Borough attorney Matthew Battersby said that the ordinances allowed the borough some control over the events and the ability to recapture some of the extra costs these events cost the bor-

ough. Police Chief Richard Hileman, III, said it was not meant to hinder responsible event planners but to give the borough a course of action should someone who wasn't responsible try to put on an event in the borough.

The issue will be revisited sometime after Bike Week.

Enforcing helmet law

Police Chief Richard Hileman, III, told the Fairfield Borough Council that his department will be more aggressively enforcing the Pennsylvania Bicycle Helmet Law now that schools are letting out for the summer and youngsters are getting outside on their bikes more often. The law requires

all bicycle riders age 12 and under to wear a bicycle helmet while riding their bikes.

Improving communications with the fire and EMS companies

After a meeting between the members of the Fairfield Fire and EMS Company and local officials from the municipalities the company serves, participants renewed their commitment to communicate better to ensure that the company remains strong.

The fire and EMS company are in need of volunteers who will not only help with fundraising activities but also answer emergency calls. Fairfield Fire and EMS responded to 203 fire

calls and 711 EMS calls in 2010. If an adequate number of volunteers can't be maintained, then the company might have to hire paid personnel.

"We can't close our eyes to the problem," said Councilor Carroll Smith during the May Fairfield Borough Council.

The company also needs continued financial support. Currently, it is funded through contributions, fundraisers and insurance reimbursements. Adams County provides no support the company.

"If they could get \$25 from every household, they would really be financially in a position to keep rolling along," Smith said.

Around the Town

Emmitsburg is considering a budget for fiscal year 2012 that will grow slightly larger while holding the property tax rate steady.

Mayor James Hoover presented his \$1.62-million budget to the Emmitsburg Town Council last month and they are expected to pass a version of it before the end of this month. This is about a 4.2 percent increase over the current year's budget. Hoover said police protection, utilities and fuel costs as the three major increases that led to the larger budget.

The budget also includes \$87,000 from the town's rainy day fund that is being used to balance the budget and avoid a tax increase or additional budget cuts.

The property tax rate is projected to remain at 36 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This is slightly higher than the town's constant yield rate for next year of 35.35 cents. The constant yield is the tax rate the town would have to set in order to collect the same amount of property taxes,

not including any new construction.

The proposed budget includes a 2-percent cost-of-living increase for town employees who have not had a COLA for three years. Commission Tim O'Donnell expressed concerns about giving employees a COLA that adds \$9,700 to the budget.

Police coverage continues to account for nearly a quarter of the town's budget. The cost to have three full-time Frederick County Sheriff's Deputies working solely in Emmitsburg next year will be \$356,000, up from \$327,016 this year. The increase covers additional post-retirement costs for the two deputies.

Once approved, the new budget will go into effect on July 1.

Town submitting grant application on behalf of Daughters of Charity housing project

The Emmitsburg town commissioners voted last month to apply for a \$500,000 Maryland Community Development Block Grant to help the senior housing project at St.

Joseph's Provincial House. Homes for America is developing 43 senior housing units in an unused wing of the Daughters of Charity building on South Seton Avenue.

The project would include 31 one-bedroom apartments and 12 two-bedroom apartments for senior who are at least 62 years old. The residents' incomes would need to be less than \$50,000 to be eligible and rent for the apartments would be \$499 to \$795 a month for the one-bedroom apartments and \$594 to \$949 a month for the two-bedroom apartments.

The grant will serve as the town's financial contribution to the project. The \$10-million project is expected to begin sometime next year.

Plenty of rain

Emmitsburg has more than twice as much rain as normal in April, according to Town Manager Dave Haller. In early May, Haller told the Emmitsburg Town Council that the town had gone from a deficit of rainfall to a surplus for the previous six months because of the amount of rain that fell. The average rainfall for the month is 3.8 inches, but

the town had 8.5 inches, about half of which fell on April 16. The town now has a 1.3-inch surplus of rain over the previous six months, which helped keep Rainbow Lake full.

Community garden spaces still available

There are still spaces available in the new Emmitsburg Community Garden if you are interested in growing your own vegetables this season. The plots are 10 feet by 5 feet and are located in the northeast section of

Community Park.

Residents can reserve their plot with a \$20 security deposit that is refundable at the end of the growing season. The person who uses each lot will be responsible for weeding and maintaining it during the season and cleaning it up at the end of the season. Water for the gardens will be available from rain barrels set up near the pool buildings.

The park opens on June 16. Contact the town office at 301-600-6300 if you are interested in a plot.

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

1 East Main Street

P.O. Box 543

Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

Office Number: 301-471-3306 Fax: 301-447-3057

www.emmitsburg.com and www.emmitsburg.net

News, events, history, humor and culture for the Historic Toms Creek Hundred geographical area: Emmitsburg, Zora, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Harney, Rocky Ridge, Detour, St. Anthony's and Zentz Mill. The Emmitsburg News-Journal is published the first day of every month by Toms Creek Hundred LLC.

Senior Advisers

Eric Glass, Taney Corporation

Dan Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass

Dr. Peter Dorsey, Professor of English, Mount St. Marys

Bo and Jean Cadle, Former Publishers of the Emmitsburg Dispatch

Managing Editor, Michael Hillman, editor@emmitsburg.com

Assistant Editor, Katherine R. Au (MSM Class of 1998)

Katherine@emmitsburg.com

English Editor Jackie Fennington (MSM Class of 2010)

News Editor, Jim Rada, news@emmitsburg.com

Advertising, Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

Graphic Design and Layout, Brian Barth, bbarthdesign.com

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

**8th Annual
Emmitsburg
Farmers' Market**
302 South Seton Avenue

* Fresh Local Fruits & Vegetables * Crafts * Cut Flowers
* Organic Beef & Eggs * Baked Goods

Every Friday! **June 17-September 23**
3:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Vendor Space Still Available

For more information contact Amy Naill
(301) 600-6301
anaill@emmitsburgmd.gov

Gold Star mom speaks at Harney VFW

Sandy Seidel, a Gold Star mother from Emmitsburg, spoke at the Monocacy Valley VFW Memorial Post 6918 in Harney about her son, 1Lt. Robert Seidel. Gold Star Mothers are mothers who have lost a child in war. Seidel's son, 1Lt. Robert Seidel was killed along with two other men when his Humvee ran over an IED in Iraq on May 18, 2006. Sandy Seidel was the guest speaker at the VFW's Memorial Day Service on May 28.

"Robbie decided in the fifth grade that he wanted to go to West Point,"

Seidel said. "He remained focused on that goal all through middle school and high school."

Seidel read from his son's application to Congressman Roscoe Bartlett to get an appointment to West Point. Even that early in his career, Robert Seidel knew that he might be killed in the line of duty. He wrote, "I know that every flag-draped coffin, there are many times that number of children who will go on with their lives."

When Seidel was killed, his body was buried in Emmitsburg on

Memorial Day 2006.

"That year Memorial Day hit us like a ton of bricks," Seidel said. She said that people have written her since then saying that Robert Seidel's funeral also made Memorial Day real for them.

Robert Seidel was also an aspiring poet. His mother read a couple of his poems. His poem, "Tribute to My Father" compares Robert Seidel's duty to his soldiers to a father's duty in caring for his children. It ends with the line, "Watch over my boys if today is my day."

The services had begun earlier in the day with a firing of a 21-gun salute



Bill Kuhn is planning to reschedule the Second Annual His Place Car Show in September. It had been scheduled for May 15, but was cancelled due to the rain. Still, some hardcore car enthusiasts showed up.

at veterans' graves at both Sunrise and Mountain View cemeteries in Harney. American flags were also placed on the graves of each veteran buried in the

cemetery. Wreaths were also laid at the veterans memorial at the VFW while a 21-gun salute was fired and "Taps" played.

Emmitsburg's first business expo is June 15

Emmitsburg may be a small community, but it has plenty to offer in business services and organizations.

"You'd be surprised to find what businesses we have here so that you don't need to drive to Gettysburg or Frederick to get what you need," said Conrad Weaver, president of the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA).

To show off Emmitsburg-area businesses and services, the EBPA

is sponsoring its first business expo on Wednesday, June 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. It will be held in JoAnn's Ballroom at the Carriage House Inn on South Seton Avenue. There is no charge to attend.

The 2011 Emmitsburg Business Expo will be modeled on Thurmont's successful annual expo, which grew from a small event to one that has more than a thousand attendees and nearly 100 businesses displaying their services.

"We had hoped we could be a part of Thurmont's expo, but we were shut out because they limit it to businesses in their zip code," Weaver said.

So the EBPA Board of Directors decided to put together their own expo for businesses in the area that residents could easily visit. The goal is to have 20 to 30 businesses participating with displays, representatives and plenty of giveaways—one of the features that

helped make the Thurmont expo so popular.

"We want to give our community a taste of the kinds of businesses in our area," Weaver said.

It will be a taste, too. Weaver said participating restaurants are planning on offering samples of items from their menus to entice new customers to their establishments.

The EBPA also hopes that it will have its new town map featuring member businesses hot off the

presses to giveaway at the expo.

"We are working to make this an experience that people will remember and want to come to again," Weaver said.

Tables are still available for businesses, non-profit organizations and churches who want to introduce themselves to the community. There is no charge to have a table at the expo if you are an EBPA member. Non-members can reserve a table for \$50. You can find an application at www.ebpa.biz.

Rube's Crab Shack opening an eat-in restaurant in Emmitsburg

Rube's Crab Shack, the popular crab carry-out in Thurmont, is opening a new, larger restaurant in Emmitsburg that will offer more to the customers than the current 300 square foot location.

The new restaurant will be located in the former Alessandro's Italian Restaurant building on North Seton Avenue. The goal

for the new restaurant is to open by Father's Day, the restaurant's busiest day of the year.

Robin Harne owns Rube's Crab Shack with her husband. They are both experienced hands in the steamed crab business. Robin's father, Bob Carlson, owned the Blue Mountain Crab House in Thurmont. Both Robin and her

then-future husband worked in the restaurant for years.

The Harnes opened Rube's Crab Shack in Thurmont seven years ago and the business has been growing steadily since then offering only carry-out.

"The key is we do everything fresh," Robin said.

They buy their crabs fresh each day. Robin will climb on the trucks, pop the lids on the containers and examine and smell the crabs.

"I can tell you where a crab

is from by looking at them and smelling them," Robin said

Besides Maryland blue crabs, Robin has purchased river crabs and crabs from North Carolina and Louisiana. She tried Georgia crabs once but was not satisfied with the taste. Rube's uses only no. 1 and jumbo-size crabs, though they have started ordering the smaller, less expensive no. 2 crabs.

"We're very particular with the crabs we buy," Robin said. "Usually we wouldn't buy no. 2 crabs, but with the economy the way it is some customers requested them because they are cheaper. So we will buy them sometimes when

we have a special request."

By using fresh crabs, the Harnes are able to steam their crabs with the seasoning on them. Most crab houses cook their crabs and then refrigerate them until they need to prepare them for an order.

"You have more dead loss with fresh crabs, but you can taste the difference with them," Robin said. "We tried using pre-cooked crabs once and we felt guilty doing it."

Besides Rube's signature steamed crabs, the new restaurant will have an all-you-can-eat seafood buffet, dining room, alcoholic beverages and lunch specials as well as carry-out service. They will also be offering their crab soup, which was voted "Best in Frederick County" by Frederick Magazine.

They plan on having crab feeds, parties and other events on the large patio dining area in back of the restaurant.

To be kept up to date on specials at Rube's Crab Shack, you can follow them on Facebook or visit their web site at www.rubescrabshack.com. You can also call the new restaurant at 301-447-4116.

Get more out of life with a reverse mortgage

This free video from MetLife Bank can show you how.



If you're a home owner age 62 or older a reverse mortgage could give you the financial flexibility you need. And MetLife Bank—a MetLife company—has the expertise to help you get the most from a reverse mortgage.

Call today for your free reverse mortgage video and information kit—there's no obligation.



James McCarron
Reverse Mortgage Consultant
877-756-5006
301-605-4291

MetLife
MetLife Bank, N.A.
For the if in life.™

All loans are subject to property approval. Certain conditions and fees apply. Mortgage financing provided by MetLife Bank, N.A., Equal Housing Lender. © 2010 METLIFE, INC. R0610110496/ep0511[All States][DC] 12425

RENT-A-TENT



Weddings,
Reunions, Picnics
Sporting Events
Large 20' x 30' tents

\$150 per day: Includes set-up & take-down
Contact Steve Bittle 717-642-6136

JACK GAUGHEN
REALTOR ERA
1814 E. Main St.
Waynesboro
717-762-7111



Karen Stewart **Joan Sidoli**
Direct: 717-658-4027 Direct: 717-357-1135
www.thepreferredteam.org

Call The Team That Offers Exceptional Service To Both Seller And Buyer!
Call the Preferred Team
The Team...you will remember,
The Results... you will never forget!

Master Sales Bronze Award 2009
Presidents Circle Team Production 2009

NEWS

Saint Philomena's opens new location

Saint Philomena Catholic Books and Gifts now has a larger, more prominent presence in Emmitsburg. The owners plan to use that as good representatives of the best the town has to offer.

Owners Pam and Bruno Sielaff spent Memorial Day weekend moving their equipment, furnishings and stock into the new location of Saint Philomena Books and Gifts at 2 West Main Street in Emmitsburg (the northwest corner of the town square).

"We're more than doubling our space from about 400 square feet

to more than 800 square feet," said Pam Sielaff. "It will be very nice. We'll have a lot more room and storage space."

Saint Philomena Catholic Books and Gifts sells books, t-shirts, posters, vestments, statues, CDs, DVDs, cards, packaged coffee, jewelry, medals and Bibles all geared towards Catholic buyers. However, with the new, larger location, Sielaff said the store might expand to offer other Christian books, too.

The biggest change that customers will notice is that about a quar-

ter of the new space will be used for a coffee bar called Holy Grounds Café where customers can purchase coffee, espresso, cold drinks and smoothies. The café will also be a Wi-Fi hot spot.

"We've had a good response from our customers about this," Sielaff said. "Right now, the only place they can get specialty coffees is McDonald's."

The addition of the coffee bar means the store will open earlier in order to make it convenient for morning coffee drinkers.

Though Saint Philomena Catho-

lic Books and Gifts has been in Emmitsburg for 14 years, the Sielaffs have only owned it for the past two years. They are excited about the opportunity to grow their store and do not intend to waste it.

"This new location makes us much more visible," Sielaff said. "We want to make sure it speaks of Emmitsburg with its shrines and Catholic history."

The Sielaffs plan to creating a community history wall with old pictures of the people, events and buildings in Emmitsburg's histories, which they believe will be

a nice presentation of the town to visitors who stop in for coffee or to shop. If you have a historic picture that you would be willing to have copied and displayed, contact Pam Sielaff at 301-447-3833.

"We are very excited," Sielaff said. "This is the next step for Saint Philomena's. We had outgrown our old space and this new location is a real blessing."

The store's new hours are: Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can also find them on Facebook or at www.philomenabooks.com.

Harney resident seeks to keep funerals simple and inexpensive

Whether you want to go green when you die or save some green for your family, a natural funeral may be for you.

"You don't really need a \$3,000 to \$5,000 casket and graveyard regulations are what generally require a concrete vault in order to keep the ground level," said Mel Allen, owner of Your Country Coffin.

Your Country Coffin began making simple wooden coffins in May 2010 as an extension of Allen's antique furniture restoration business. However, he began working with coffins about

10 years ago when he was asked to repair a hand-made coffin that a customer had. That led him to research more about wooden coffins. He even joined a group that specialized in natural funerals and visited a natural burial site to learn more. He is slowly become a resource for people interested in natural burials.

"The whole thing is you want to keep life simple and keep the process simple," Allen said. "We are losing our ability to say goodbye when we have to do it from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m."

Allen's coffins are simple pine

coffins with a cotton cloth lining and rope handles. The deceased's pillow is made of cotton filled with wood chips. The pieces are held together with wooden nails. The exterior surface is rubbed down with beeswax and mineral oil.

"It is 100 percent bio-degradable and the most-expensive model I make costs \$1,300," Allen said.

He said that funeral homes are resistant to using inexpensive wooden coffins because it cuts into their profit margin. However, some families have insisted on using them. One couple had a son who was into woodworking. When he died, they used a wooden coffin in the funeral home.

"They were so pleased and grateful that their son was buried in the coffin he would have preferred," Allen said.



Because wooden coffins are also used in natural burials, Allen found himself being asked questions about that as well. He informs families that viewings can be held in homes like they used to be and that a body doesn't need to be embalmed.

"If you are holding a viewing, dry ice will work for up to three

days with no hazardous chemicals," Allen said.

And while most cemeteries require burial vaults, natural cemeteries have been started where the pine coffin is buried directly in the ground. The first one in Pennsylvania opened in April.

Allen admits that natural funerals aren't for everyone. Some people are too grief stricken when a loved one dies to do the extra work that is required for a natural funeral. It is much more convenient to pay a funeral director to take care of things, though that service comes at a cost.

Your Country Coffin is located at 3710 Taneytown Road in Gettysburg. You can visit them on the web at www.yourcountrycoffin.com or call 304-671-9081.

**Don't Go In The Hole
Going In The Hole!**

Want Less Stress?...**PRE-PLAN!**
SAVE THOUSANDS - 100% ECO-FRIENDLY

Only **\$1500⁰⁰** Or Less

Coffins For People & Pets By
ALLEN'S WOODWORK
Gettysburg, PA
304-671-9081
Visit Us At: www.yourcountrycoffin.com

YELLOW CAB
Regan National Airport Starting At... **\$65**
Dulles Airport
BWI Airport
Call for an exact quote

350 East Church St.
Frederick, MD 21701

301-271-3340
www.yellowcabfrederick.com

FATHER'S DAY - JUNE 19TH!

Coors Light Loose Cans 30 PAK \$18⁹⁹	Bud, Bud Light, Coors Light, Miller Light & Yuengling Loose Bottles 24 PAK \$17⁹⁹	NEW! MGD 64 Lemonade 12 PAK \$10⁹⁹	TUESDAY SAVINGS! WINE or LIQUOR SAVE 10% Cash Only On Purchases of \$40 Or More 7% DISCOUNT ON CREDIT CARD PURCHASES
---	--	--	--

Heineken, Heineken Light & Amstel Light
24 PK Loose Bottles **\$25⁹⁹**

Paul's Pit Stop
DISCOUNT BEER WINE & LIQUOR
150 South Seton Avenue, P.O. Box 919, Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301-447-6262

Corona & Corona Light
24 PK Loose Bottles **\$25⁹⁹**

Conveniently Located! Store Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am-10 pm, Friday & Saturday 9 am-11 pm, Sunday 12-8 pm Open 7 Days A Week!

One hundred years ago this month

June 2

Decoration Day

Decoration Day solve the streets of Emmitsburg resplendent with the national colors and crowds in their holiday clothes. The depleted ranks of the veterans were augmented in the parade by the Vigilant Hose Company, an unusual number of schoolchildren carrying flags and flowers and Emmett Coronet Band. The formal exercises were held in the high school building, following which the line of march to the cemetery was taking up. The customary service, according to the Grand Army ritual, and Lincoln's Gettysburg speech or read and the graves decorated.

Emerald Opens their Hall

The new hall erected by the Emerald Beneficial Association and Literary Society was formally opened last Sunday afternoon. An audience of members and their friends comfortably filled the room. The decorations were tastefully arranged and the presiding officer's place was a bow or a bunting in the national colors in the green emblem of the Association. From the four corners long streamers of yellow and white, the papal colors, were gathered together in the center of the ceiling.

Mr. Breichner presided and welcomed the guest and members in the name of the society. He then introduced Father Hayden of St. Joseph's, who made two suggestions to the Association, which he asked them to consider. The first had reference to the social side of the organization's work and the speaker advised the Emeralds to have the hall open every day where they may gather to enjoy games and meaningful fellowship. The second suggestion was to use the books now the priest house for the beginning of a parish library and as the foremost social organization of the Paris the Emeralds were asked to give their support. Father Tragessor of St. Anthony's Parish was then introduced and in a few words he complemented the Association on their new hall.

14 Graduate from High School

Never before in the history of the local high school had the closing exercises and so elaborate and so well carried out. The beginning of the series of public meetings was on Sunday, May 21, when Mr. Gluck preached the sermon to the graduates. This was followed by the annual banquet at the Emmit House last Saturday evening.

On this occasion the newly organized high school orchestra made its debut. Under the able and painstaking leadership of Mr. Warrenfeltz this organization has grown in efficiency until it may be truthfully said that musically Emmitsburg is better represented than ever before. On Monday evening the literary society of the school gave a public meeting in the Opera House and the building was comfortably filled with friends and patrons of the institution. A very elaborate program was given, gener-

ously interspersed with music by the orchestra.

Burning Smokehouse Endangers Other Buildings

The fire bell rang yesterday afternoon at around three o'clock. Mr. Philip Lawrence's smokehouse, immediately adjoining the Elder Building was on fire. A stream of water was soon playing on the building and by the time the flames were out little damage had been done. The proper response of the firemen prevented a serious blaze. Mr. Lawrence greatly appreciated the work of the firemen and states his loss, due to their quick response, was almost nothing.

June 9

Local Improvements

Another improvement that will soon be enjoyed by Emmitsburgans will be the new concrete sidewalk leading to the railroad station. For years pedestrians have been forced to wade through mud and stumble over worn-out bricks and flagstones on their way to trains and at last this discomfort is to be done away with. The town has passed an ordinance requiring all property owners from the square to the stations to have cement pavements and the Emmitsburg Railroad has voluntarily agreed to continue to work up to its buildings. The new station is most creditable to the railroad and a decided improvement to the town. When the long stretch of modern sidewalk is finished, connecting with a wide cement approach already laid by the railroad company, the southern entrance to town will be greatly beautified.

Death of Isaac Percher

Death removed one of the most prominent citizens of Liberty Township when Isaac Percher breathed his last on Monday. Had Mr. Percher lived until today he would have been just 70 years of age. His death was indirectly caused by the hardships he endured during the Civil War. Mr. Percher lived his entire life on the farm on which he was born. Early in the 60s he enlisted and fought for the freedom of slaves. During his military career, to the hardships of the war he contracted an ailment, which contributed towards his last and fatal illness.

In his community he was held in the highest esteem. For 25 years he taught school, was a school director, Justice of the Peace, and prominent Democrat, taking a leading part in politics. He was a man with many strong characteristics and great interest in public education. Patriotic and liberal in spirit, he presented the Emmitsburg high school with a lofty flagpole that graces the schoolyard. His grandson, Lawrence Mordorff graduated from this institution this year with high honors.

Big Improvements on Frederick Street

Contracts for 1100 feet of con-

crete paving, to be laid between the Hotel Spangler and the creamery have been let to Mr. Charles Ryder. Mr. Rider has just finished the work at the depot were wide concrete pavement and platform has been laid. This improvement to the sidewalk on this approach to town will be as greatly appreciated as it was needed.

Reception at Mr. and Mrs. Hoke's

Last evening Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoke were given a reception at their home at Appolds. A special train from Emmitsburg took about 50 persons to the function. The Vigilant Hose Company, of which Mr. Hoke is president, attended in full uniform, as did the Emmitsburg band.

June 16

Severe Storm Ravages County

The severe storm on Saturday evening, while it did little damage here, was more destructive to throughout the County than any so far this year. Telephone and trolley wires were crossed in Frederick, animals were killed by the charge wires and one man was severely stunned. A barn was struck near Walkersville. The wind was particularly violent in and around Creagerstown. The Reformed Church at Middletown was slightly damaged and many trees were blown down.

Firemen's Picnic

Arrangements are about ready for the Firemen's Picnic to be held on July 4. The attractions will be better than ever at a large crowd will attend. All that is needed now to ensure a pleasant day to those who tend is the weather.

Notice and Warning

A warning is hereby issued to those who have made a public dumping ground of the lots immediately adjoining the Lutheran hitching grounds. Arrest and prosecution will follow any further throwing of papers, dead animals and other trash on these grounds



Emmitsburg Remembrance Day parade passing the newly installed Dough Boy statue, circa 1925.

June 23

Good Ball Game Spoiled by Rain

The return game with Fairfield was played on last Saturday afternoon at Fireman's Park. While Emmitsburg won decisively 11 to 3, the pleasure of the victory was dampened by the rain, which is directly accountable for the numerous runs and more numerous errors. Up to this time when the ball became a mop the game was nip and tuck with no scoring on either side and no errors. After that the side that won was the one that had the most luck in handling the ball which felt as if it were covered with eel skin.

June 30

The Safe and Sane Fourth

First of all spend your Fourth in Emmitsburg. Why? Because in the first place it's the only sane thing to do, and in the second place it will be worth your while. The firemen will have a big time on that day. They always do. There will be the annual picnic, and that means more fun, more real enjoyment than can be had by leaving town or in any other way. And then the proceeds from the affair- and this is worth bearing in mind- will be applied towards paying

the balance due on firemen's Park, a public park of Emmitsburg.

Everyone in the community is or ought to be interested in the Vigilant Hose Company and every person in town should show loyalty to that organization by patronizing the big festival on Independence Day. There'll be amusements for young and old and sports aplenty. The big Parade alone is worth seeing; but that is only a starter. The festivities will open up at the park and from early until late something interesting will be going on. If you are fond of music you will find it there. If you care for dinner you will have a chance to get one- the very best meal you ever ate- right on the grounds.

The children will be happy there on the merry-go-rounds and playing games. At night a firework display will illuminate the whole park and the bands will serenade the whole assembly. Be safe, be sane! Attended the Fourth of July picnic and have the time of your life.

Emmitsburg Valuation Increased

The taxable basis, according to the latest assessment, for the Emmitsburg district shows \$1,383,473 as against \$1,125,997 of last year. The tax levy has been fixed for the coming year at \$.88 per \$100 of assessed value. Last year it was \$1.19 per \$100 of assessed value.

THE EMMITSBURG ANTIQUE MALL

OVER 120 BOOTHS

Enjoy the memories of the eras gone by as you stroll through our 34,000 square feet of antique furniture, linens, quilts, primitives, glassware, china, toys, tools, collectibles and more!

The Emmitsburg Antique Mall, located in the heart of Historic Emmitsburg, is the largest, cleanest and friendliest antique mall in the Gettysburg/Emmitsburg area!



Located in the heart of
Historic Emmitsburg, MD

Open 7 Days 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

301-447-6471

Carpeted
Air Conditioned
Ample Free Parking
Buses Welcome
Handicap Accessible






GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Paul Smith

The Board of County Commissioners recently passed a policy to have prayer at the beginning of its BOCC meetings. In the last few days, several people have asked me why I voted against the prayer policy. I will explain.

The very thought that the government will regulate the content of our prayers is chilling. You would think that if freedom of speech means anything, it would mean that the government can't tell you what you can and cannot say. You would also think that if the Establishment Clause means anything, it would mean that the government cannot establish specific criteria for what one can and cannot say in a governmental prayer.

I do believe in prayer, and I actually would support a policy of having prayers at some of our meetings. But it is a mistake to pass a law that regulates what you can and cannot say in a prayer. A preferable policy would be to allow individuals on a rotating bases from all faiths and persuasions to say or pray something for a limited time period at the beginning of meetings. This would entail no regulation of the content of speech, and it would not establish any religion over another. Federal courts have upheld such policies in New York, Georgia,

Delaware, and Indiana. But the very process of prescribing an acceptable, non-sectarian prayer is the endorsement of one religious point of view.

The new prayer policy requires (1) That the invocation must be non-sectarian with elements of the American civil religion and must not be used to proselytize or advance any one faith or belief or to disparage any other faith or belief; (2) That there be no references specific to any particular religion, denomination or sect; (3) That invocations are to be directed only at the County Commissioners; (4) That the County maintain a database of "known ordained religious

leaders of monotheistic religions with established congregations in Frederick County; and (5) That prayers "should not contain references that are specific to any particular religion, denomination or sect. As examples, invocations should not include references to religious figures such as Jesus Christ, to images such as a crucifix, or to teachings from such sources as the Koran or the Book of Mormon."

Some courts have already struck down prayer policies that sought to establish a non-sectarian legislative prayer. See e.g., *Pelphrey v. Cobb County, GA*, 547 F.3d 1263 (11th Cir.

2008). Two cases from the Fourth Circuit give some support to the constitutionality of our new prayer policy. *Simpson v. Chesterfield County*, 404 F.3d 276 (4th Cir. 2005) and *Turner v. Fredericksburg*, 534 F.3d 352 (4th Cir. 2008). Both of these cases rely on *Marsh v. Chambers*, 463 U.S.783 (1983), which upholds the right of legislatures to begin their sessions with prayer. But the *Marsh* case did not address the issue of whether legislative prayers must be "non-sectarian." I do not interpret *Marsh* to hold that legislative prayers must be non-sectarian.

In my opinion, anyone who will thoughtfully consider the implication of the elements of the above prayer policy will acknowledge that this attempt to regulate prayer content is infected with problems. First of all, the very defining of a "non-sectarian" prayer creates a "sectarian" prayer. Second, the prohibition from using references to a particular denomination or sect is impossible. Third, directing the prayers to be "directed only at the County Commissioners," necessarily means that the words would not be prayers, for prayers are directed at God. Fourth, maintaining a database of "known ordained religious leaders of monotheistic religion with an established

congregation" necessarily excludes certain religions from the database. Fifth, prohibiting prayers that might contain references to a "particular religion, denomination or sect" creates an impossible standard to measure. Seventh, the specific prohibition from mentioning "Jesus Christ" or the "crucifix" specifically violates the standard stated in *Marsh v. Chambers*, because this prohibition disparages that particular faith. *Id.* at 794-795. Eighth, the prohibition from including "teachings from the Koran or the Book of Mormon" disparages Muslims and Mormons, and therefore also violates the *Marsh* standard, and it is also a vague standard that would be impossible to ascertain or enforce without prohibiting all prayer.

It is worthy to note that the Fourth Circuit is currently considering the constitutionality of a county's prayer policy (in North Carolina) that made a regular prayer time available to people of all religions and persuasions, and which did not dictate the content of the permissible prayers. *Joyner v. Forsyth County*, Case No. 10-1232.

What the Supreme Court said in *Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577 (1992) is certainly applicable here:

It is a cornerstone principle of our Establishment Clause jurisprudence

that "it is no part

of the business of government to compose official prayers for any group of the American

People," *Engel v. Vitale*, 370 U.S. 421, 425 (1962).

If appreciating diversity in our society has any value, then we should certainly be broadminded enough to listen to and appreciate the religious beliefs and non-religious philosophies of other citizens. Personally, when I pray, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Should I pray differently when I pray in public? Should I change the way I pray any time my praying might offend someone? I normally begin my prayers by addressing "My Father in Heaven." Is this going to be acceptable now? Should the County generate a list of all the ways that one can legally address God in a prayer? The City of Frederick generated such a list, and no one has sued them yet. But this type of prayer law is currently being litigated around the country.

Again, my opposition to the prayer regulation is not an opposition to prayer; rather it is an opposition to government-controlled prayer that establishes one brand of prayer and prohibits all others.

From the Desk of Town Council President Chris Staiger

May and June are typically "Budget Time" in town government. We are continuing the tradition as we finalize the fiscal year 2012 (FY2012) budget which will go into effect on July 1st. After two years of declining budgets, we are faced with a bottom line increase of approximately four percent for FY2012 to \$1,622,586.00. As we get the final results from the current

budget year and continue to plan for the next, it has become apparent that we have a continuing 'structural deficit' of approximately \$90,000 or 5.5%.

To this point, we have chosen to plug the gap by using monies from the "rainy day" fund – or, more accurately, the General Fund Balance of approximately \$640,000 prior to the conclusion of the current bud-

get. The reality is that in the current budget, the upcoming budget, and in future budgets, we will routinely be spending more than we receive in revenue. Spending our savings to cover the gap seems to make the problem go away but will only take us so far. We only have a "balanced" budget in the sense that we currently have savings to make up for our overspending.

Most of our primary sources of income (Real Estate Tax revenue at \$700,000 and County Tax Equity payments at \$200,000) have stabilized. However, a huge and continuing gap has opened as Highway User Tax revenue traditionally transferred from the State government has largely dried up. We have seen an annual reduction of over \$125,000 from the State in respect to these funds. Even if the economic environment continues to improve, I don't believe the State will ever return these funds that they have already redirected to their own purposes. Over the last two years, we have found savings to cover almost \$35,000 of the loss but will continue to have the remaining deficit.

A structural deficit can only be resolved in two ways: raise taxes and /

or cut spending. The easiest way for a government, of course, is to raise taxes on people who have no other choice but to move... In our case, a tax increase of 4.5 cents or 12.5% to the current tax rate of 36 cents per \$100 of assessed value would (probably) plug the hole. Since approximately 25% of the town's assessable tax base is tax-exempt, the amount of revenue received per penny of tax is much less than many other municipalities. (This is why our tax rate is already so high compared to other jurisdictions.) Obviously, this is the least attractive option.

When looking at spending, most people are immediately drawn to the cost of overhead – employees' salaries, benefits, etc. At roughly 36% of the General Fund budget, our current costs are high but not outrageously so. Although we may be able to realize some savings by restricting Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs), covering the gap will not be possible by chopping this area of the budget alone. The Town Council should maintain a pattern of supporting our current staffing levels of town employees.

We should be able to save at

least \$45,000, half of the remaining gap, by trimming expenditures in numerous areas such as COLAs, Office and Operating Supplies, Conferences and Travel Expenses, and by not budgeting toward future purchases of equipment. The General Fund balance (or "rainy day fund") can legitimately be used for any emergency purchase of equipment that might be unforeseen but required in the budget year. We should use the fund balance of the Sewer and Water Enterprise funds to pay down high interest sewer or water improvement related loans in order to reduce debt maintenance. We should also review the list of town owned properties with a goal to sell at least one, thereby increasing the town coffers and returning property to the tax rolls.

Lastly, we need to revisit contractual expenses. Last Fall, the Board reviewed the current contract for three Community Deputies that has been in place for about three years now and was unwilling to reduce coverage. At \$120,000 per deputy, the cost of this contract represents approximately 22% of the General Fund budget. I'm not convinced that our current revenue can continue to support this expense. In my mind, the choice is eventually going to come down to raising taxes or cutting a deputy. We all need to think about where we stand on this decision and if we are willing to live with consequences – either way.

I encourage you to share your opinions on these and other issues with your elected officials. Have a great month.

MELISSA M. WETZEL, CPA, P.C.
Certified Public Accountant
 Individual and Business
 Tax Returns Consulting
 Payroll Services, Notary
301-447-3797
 Fax: 301-447-3755
 301 West Main Street • P.O. Box 990 • Emmitsburg, MD 21727-0990

A sponsor of the *Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL*



EMMITSBURG
GLASS COMPANY
 A reflection of quality
 P.O. Box 346 / 100 Creamery Court
 Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
301.447.2245 / Fax: 301.447.2316

REALTORS WITH A HEART
 OFFICE 717-642-9400
 DIRECT 717-752-8148
 FAX 717-642-6910



JEFF KUYKENDALL
 REALTOR
 Licensed in PA & MD
 e-mail: jkrealtor@embarqmail.com

138 W. Main Street
 PO Box 223
 Fairfield, PA 17320
 www.TrishRoweRealty.com

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

On the Charter Writing Board petitioners

Commissioner Blain Young

Okay, here we go...Act Two of the Charter Writing Board petitioners. They have now received the services of former County Commissioner John L. "Lennie" Thompson, Jr., at no charge, and have filed for a judicial review of the Frederick County Board of Election's disqualification of their petition calling for a special election to elect members to sit on the Charter Writing Board. Their efforts were invalidated after being notified by the Board of Elections that they had not obtained the required 2,000 valid signatures to have a special election within 30 to 90 days called by the Commissioners per the Maryland State Constitution.

Now am I surprised? No.

Am I surprised they did not get the 2,000 valid signatures? No.

Am I surprised they want to take this issue to court? Again, the answer is no.

Why was I not surprised that they did not get the required 2,000 valid signatures? Well, they only turned in 2,915 signatures (not 2,856 as they first thought and claimed).

Heck they did not even know how many signatures they turned in!

The majority of those putting their names forward for consideration to be placed on the ballot and those helping gather signatures were lead by Kai Hagan (Envision) and Janice Wiles (Friends of Frederick), who are arrogant, self-serving, self righteous individuals, the type who know what is best for you and your family.

What do I mean by that you ask? Well it is simple, they had an opportunity to sit down with the Board of Elections and have the process and procedure explained to them so they could alleviate any issues or problems with getting valid signatures. Did they take the Board of Elections up on this opportunity? No, but Board of Elections Director, Stuart Harvey, did correspond via email to help them remedy some issues, but even then they were too arrogant to take his advice. This did not and does not surprise me one bit.

They had several common problems that could have been corrected if they would have just asked the Board of Elections and worked with them from the beginning. These

were simple issues such as putting correct dates, telling folks to use their full name, and having specific information on the petition that is required by the state constitution. It was not anything mind-boggling.

At first Kai Hagan and Janice Wiles claimed no real involvement other than moral support and encouragement, however as time went on we all found out their true involvement and it was much more than moral support and encouragement. They were doing all they could to help the petitioners get the required 2,000 valid signatures.

Now, they had 30 days from the day the Board of County Commissioners appointed the Charter Board and they could only muster 2,915 signatures. I say this only because, with 10 plus people involved in this effort, if each of them would have gotten just 15 signatures per day that would have equaled 150 per day combined. There would have been 4,500 signatures gathered in the 30 days. So as you can see, they did not really want it that badly, or the majority of them were not willing to work that hard for it, or were not able to convince voters why we

needed a special election to select who would write the proposed charter that would be put on the ballot for a vote.

If they would have turned in 3,500 to 4,000 signatures, I would have said they had a great chance of getting 2,000 valid signatures. I know Ellis Burris, one of the organizers, who worked hard, and I personally like Ellis. I do not agree with his politics. But if he would not have relied on Janice Wiles, who supposedly had a lot of knowledge on petitions and was used as a resource to educate the organizers, maybe his own signature would have been validated.

You heard me correctly; the lead organizer did not have his own signature validated because of an incorrect dating issue. The person they used as a lead resource on how to correctly do a petition, Janice Wiles, signed the petition twice! One signature counted and one was thrown out.

My colleague and Frederick County Commissioner David Gray, who participated in the selection process for the current Charter Writing Board, and who never objected to the process, had many of the sig-

natures he collected thrown out because of a dating issue. Heck, he even signed the petition. His signature was thrown out with the note "PAGE - Petition Format" a processing issue. But his wife's signature was accepted. Now, I do not understand why David collected signatures for the petition and personally donated to the petitioners cause with money. Only he can answer that question.

I do not know if the petitioners will win their judicial review or not but they have not earned it and they have not explained to the taxpayers of Frederick why we need to spend \$250,000 on a special election to select a new charter writing board when they have not shown that they are open minded, have a willingness to learn, or are even smart enough to follow a simple state petition gathering process. If they can't do that I could only imagine what type of charter they would write.

Thank you for your time and this space. This is my opinion and only my opinion. Maybe I should not speak my mind sometimes, but I could no longer bite my lip on this issue.

To Charter or not to Charter...

Bob White

There is a lot of buzz about Charter Government for Frederick County these days. But not many people - even the supposed experts - seem to know what it is, what it would do, or even if it would be good for Frederick County.

Maryland state government is very paternal. It tells the counties pretty much what they can do, what they must do, and what they cannot do. Counties are kept on a pretty short leash.

In 1827 the Maryland General Assembly gave counties the authority to establish their own, limited form of local government. This is the Commissioner form of government we now have in Frederick County, and the limits of this form of local government are specified in state law. The Maryland state General Assembly has full power to legislate for the County. Only powers specifically granted by the state legislature may be used by county commissioners to enact local ordinances, taxes and bond issues.

In 1915 the Maryland Constitution was modified to allow Maryland counties to establish their own local form of government and to take back some local control from the state legislature. To gain these limited freedoms, a county must write and enact, by referendum, a county charter - essentially a constitution for county government.

A Charter can specify what form the government will take, method of election, establishment of boards and commissions and com-

pensation for county officials. It can give the county powers to enact local laws. It can give the county bonding authority (though limits are set by the state.) It allows counties authority to establish criteria for referenda on local laws. It can set ethics, open meeting and disclosure requirements for county officials, meetings and employees.

However, even under a chartered government, the state retains taxing authority. The state can still tell all Maryland Counties whether a tax may be enacted and how much it can be. The state also retains significant authority in the area of county planning.

So, is charter government worth the time and effort to draw up a charter and bring it to referendum? Well, that depends on your point of view. Obviously, with the state still holding onto the purse strings, regardless of the form of government, it has limited benefits. But the ability to enact local ordinances without going through the state legislature in every instance does have a certain appeal.

To me, the real question is not in whether or not a chartered government is good or bad...it is what form of government the Charter establishes. I lived for a time under the chartered elected executive/council government in Montgomery County, and now for a much longer period under the Commissioner form of government in Frederick County. In every way, the Commissioner form of government in Frederick County is less expensive, less bureaucratic, more efficient and more responsive to the citizens of the county.

Why is that? Not because of the charter itself, but because of the government established by the charter was the elected county executive/county council format. And that's why I have concerns about this move toward charter government in Frederick County. This Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) favors that same form of government. And a majority of members of the BOCC - appointed Charter Board have expressed personal preferences for

that form of chartered government. This scares me. And it is why people petitioned for an election of the Charter Board, so the voters could choose from a broadly representative group - not a pre-selected panel, already predisposed toward the elected executive/council form of chartered government.

A single highly-paid executive running this county is an open invitation for moneyed interests to have an inside track for favors. (It is easier to put big bucks into one election campaign than it is for multiple commissioner elections.) It is also the first step toward building a giant, expensive, unresponsive county government bureaucratic machine - controlled by one individual.

Some counties also have made their counties' legislative body councilmen appointed by district rather than at-large. Under our current form of commissioner government, each commissioner is responsible to you. If you can't get to see one, you can talk to another. Under election-by-district, you only have one councilman

to approach - the one who represents you - and if he isn't interested in your problem, well - "that's all she wrote." Also, under our current at-large system of Commissioner election, every one of the Commissioners has to be concerned about the welfare of the entire county, not just his voting district.

So, do I support a charter government. Well that depends on how the charter is written. If it would charter an elected executive / county council form of government I would vigorously oppose it. But if it were to charter an At-large Commissioner form of government with an appointed county manager - much like we have today - I would support it in a heart beat. So - the moral of this story is to watch very closely what the Charter Board creates - because you will have to live under it - and pay for it - for the rest of your life.

Bob White is the current Chair of the Frederick County Planning Commission and was a candidate for County Commissioner in the 2010 primary election.

ROBERT C. VERDERAIME
Attorney At Law

410-952-4141

Practice Limited To
Serious Injury/Death Cases

- Free Consultation
- No Recovery - No Fee
- Past President Trial Lawyers Assn.
- Named In "Best Lawyers in America"
- Named In "Maryland's Super Lawyers"
- Fellow-American College of Trial Lawyers
- Highest Ethical & Legal Ability Rating (A.V. Martindale-Hubbel)



Affordable Self-Storage

Need Room? Let Us Store It For You!

Storage Units For The Public & For Business!

12917 Caloctin Furnace Rd., Thurmont, MD 21788
 Conveniently Located On Maple Drive, Across From Thurmont Feed Store

Mike Jensen, Owner

VISA VISA & MC ACCEPTED

301-271-7455

MOTORCYCLES, CARS, TOOLS, FURNITURE, ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, OLD FILES, NEW FILES, APPLIANCES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS & TOOLS, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, LANDSCAPING TOOLS, LAWN MOWERS, POOL SUPPLIES, BUILDING MATERIALS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, MEMORIES...
WHATEVER YOU CAN THINK OF INCLUDING THE KITCHEN SINK!

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Paul Kellett

The topic of water resources seems to crop up from time to time. This spring it seems crazy to suggest that we could ever have too little water to meet our needs, but just as a cold winter is followed by a hot summer, a drought will come again. Adams County is different from most areas in that it is the headwaters to all of its streams; it has no reservoirs; and it has an exceptionally poor quality aquifer. Our soil types go from normal to severe drought in 90 days, where the norm is 140 days. I cannot claim that any of this is news to the people of Adams County as voters in 2008 by a 75% majority approved a ten million dollar bond referendum to preserve the water resources of the County.

It is clear that a problem looms. The State of Pennsylvania has designated the Rock and Marsh Creek basins a critical area for resource planning. It is one of only three such

areas in the entire state. Such a designation can mean only one thing—the answers are not easy. In this article I will try to explore some of the ideas I have heard and offer some of the pros and cons of each.

Reservoirs: A logical idea, utilized in many parts of the country and a great way of averaging our annual rainfall. Certainly 39 inches of rain is enough to meet any foreseeable need, so just keeping some of the water we get around for the summer months would be great. The problem is: where do we place this new reservoir(s)? The purchase of the land required for both the actual lake and the needed buffers would bankrupt us all. The permitting, engineering, construction as well as the purification and the cost of the water main from the new facility would be astronomical in cost. I just do not see any politician having the political will to take enough land by eminent do-

main and spend the money needed to build a reservoir in this county.

The big pipe from the Susquehanna: This is the solution proposed by the Gettysburg Municipal Authority. The idea is to bring up to 2 million gallons a day from our neighbors to the east and provide all the water we need. At first glance, this seems great, but the problem is that it is what is known as basin shift. It would move water from the Susquehanna basin to the Monocacy (Potomac River) basin. We are then faced with 2 problems: what do we do with the water once it goes down the drain? And How do we make that water clean enough that our streams do not take on the smell and appearance of an open sewer? The Chesapeake Bay Commission will only allow a certain number of pounds of both nitrogen and phosphorus to be discharged into the streams per day. This number will not increase even

if the flow of the stream increases. It is called a maximum daily load. That means as usage increases the need for more advanced (read costly) treatment becomes necessary. Water bills increase and housing becomes less affordable. The streams would also suffer as the increased flow would exacerbate flood events and carve a larger stream channel, destroying natural riparian buffers, causing erosion and siltation.

Limit the expansion of demand: If one considers a water budget to be similar to a household budget, then this answer becomes apparent. If your household budget is set around getting that year-end bonus or the big raise, then tragedy strikes when the increased supply does not come through. If on the other hand, a budget is set that does not count on a big increase, but rather relies on maintaining about the same levels of demand, then a large measure of com-

fort can be had in knowing that the status quo can be maintained.

The obvious question arises, what can a County Commissioner do about it? Land use is determined not by the County but by the townships and boroughs. However, the County does have the Office of Planning and Development. This office can and should help municipalities work together to set a water budget and examine their ordinances to see that that budget is followed in the future. This is not an easy task and needs to allow for economic growth. It cannot just be a first come only served plan as much needed job growth cannot be displaced by yet another subdivision. Such a new direction is going to take resolve by the new board of commissioners. Remember, it is easy to have resolve in an emergency; it is a mark of leadership to have the resolve to avoid one.

From the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

We have made it through the rain storms and floods. The estimated damaged experienced by the Borough is projected to be over \$100,000. We are grateful that we did not experience any loss of life. I would like to thank our firefighters, law enforcement officers, and our Maintenance Services crew for all they did during the storm to help our citizens. Special thanks goes to Boy Scout Troop #76 who helped one of Carroll Valley's residents; to the Cub Scout Troop #76 and the Clarke family who helped in Carroll Commons after the storm. For a while there, Carroll Commons was closed. However, through the efforts of these people and our outstanding Maintenance Service crew the park was reopened for everyone to enjoy.

On May 6th I attended a somber gathering at the Oak Lawn cemetery. This was the day set aside for remembrance of those who made the

ultimate sacrifice in Adams County. Adams County's Fallen Officers memorial service was best described by Laitmore Township Police Chief Michael Weigand who lost his son in the line of duty, "this day serves as a reminder of what some people put on the line to keep others safe." See pictures at www.ronspictures.org.

The EMS Open House was held on Sunday, May 15th in Fairfield. Over 100 residents were treated to number of interesting events. New this year was the Mountain Rescue Group. They are a member group of the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference and certified by the National Mountain Rescue Association. They demonstrated litter lowering from the fire house's roof. Most exciting was watching them lower themselves from Emmitsburg's Vigilant Hose Company Tower 6's extended ladder bucket which was 100 feet in the air. A chopper from

LifeNet flew in. A number of rescue dogs were there to perform various tasks. The event ended with the Fire Company's emergency rescue personnel performing a vehicle extrication of a crash victim using the "Jaws of Life" as well as other tools. See pictures at www.ronspictures.org.

It's June. The weather will be warmer and with school ending more people, young and old, will be bicycling and walking on our trails. This might be a good time to take a look at our Pennsylvania laws regarding both. In Chapter 35, Section 3510 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes book, there is a law that requires all bicyclists age 12 and under to wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet every time they ride their bicycle. As a matter of fact, it is recommended that all bicyclists wear a safety helmet when riding a bicycle. Please note that a bicycle is considered a vehicle and therefore when riding on a roadway must be operated in the same direction as required of other vehicles on the roadway. All bicyclists are required to use hand arm signals while on the road. Section 3507 mandates that bicyclists, who ride after dark, install reflective devices or lights on their bicycle. We know that pedestrians have the "right of way".

But what are your responsibilities/duties regarding walking on our trails? Well, Section 3544 states that where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable, it is unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway. Where a sidewalk is not available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk only on a shoulder as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway. Where neither a sidewalk nor a shoulder is available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk as near as practicable to an outside edge of the roadway and, if on a two-way roadway, shall walk only on the left side of the roadway. Bottom-line, please follow these laws. They are for you and your family's safety on the road. For us drivers, slow down when in the Valley. Watch out for the unexpected when it comes to people walking, jogging and bicycling on our beautiful trails.

This month, we celebrate our national flag and fathers. National Flag Day is June 14th. Flag Day was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916. On August 3, 1949, President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating

June 14th of each year as National Flag Day. Be proud! Fly the flag that day. This year Father's Day will be celebrated on June 19th. Father's Day originated in 1909 when a woman named Sonora Dodd came up with the idea to celebrate her father who was born in June. She encouraged others to honor their fathers in June. It didn't become an official holiday until 1972 when President Nixon issued a proclamation declaring the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

Sign up for the 5th Annual Carroll Valley Citizens Association Golf Classic to be held on June 9th at the four-star Liberty Mountain Golf Course. There will be great prizes plus the chance to win a car for a hole in one on the 18th hole. The proceeds are donated to support our July 4th Celebration. Call Charles Dalton at 642-5844. The FBC Motorcycle Ministry is organizing a ride to help less fortunate. They plan to depart Carroll Valley on June 11th at 9:00 am to ride to Shanksville PA where they will pay their respects to those who died in the terrorist attack on 9/11/01. Immediately thereafter, they plan to meet with the Pastor of North Ridge Baptist Church to present a donation to a family in need. For more information contact Dan Patton at 642-6871. Borough meetings to be held are: Planning Commission (June 6th); Public Safety (June 13th); Borough Council (June 14th) and Parks & Recreation (June 22nd). Please be sure to mark your calendar for our July 4th Celebration. There will be new free children rides, a 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament, live music, civil war encampment, a car show and fireworks launched from the top Ski Liberty Mountain. See you there. If you have any questions call me at (301) 606-2021 or email at mayor@carrollvalley.org.

**5th ANNUAL
CVCA Golf Classic
Tournament
June 9th, 2011**

**Fund Raiser Event For The
Carroll Valley July 4th Celebration!**

GREAT PRIZES!
More Prizes For 2011!

**"Win A Car!"
For A Hole
In One On
The 18th
Hole!**

Carroll Valley at
Liberty Mountain
Golf Course
"Four Star Rating" - Golf Digest

**\$65* per Golfer
(4 person Scramble)**

* Includes Greens Fees, Cart Fees, Donuts, Lunch, and Door Prizes. Free Beverages

Check in Registration 7:30 AM Shotgun Start 8:30 AM

Prizes Awarded in 3 Mens' Flights & A Ladies Flight!
Longest Drive (M/F) Straightest Drive (M/F) Closest To The Pole (M/F)

Completed registration form required to play. Download registration form at www.carrollvalleycitizens.org. You may pick up a form or drop off a completed form at the Mountain View Realty Office in Carroll Valley.

For More Information Contact:
CHARLES DALTON
717-642-8696 • 717-642-5844 • 717-420-0744
or email charleswdalton@gmail.com

SANDERS

FAMILY RESTAURANT & ICE CREAM

Q
U
A
R
E

• BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

• Fresh Home-Cooked Food

• Home-Made Desserts

Come In And Try One Of Our Delicious
Dinner Specials For Under \$7!

10 McDanniell Lane (Rte.116), Fairfield, PA

717-642-9131 Tues. - Sat. 7am - 8pm
Sun. 8am - 8pm, Closed Mon.

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Randy Phiel

Thank you to the voters of both parties in Adams County for shrugging off soggy and stormy conditions on May 17th and turning out to select candidates for the November 8 General Election. After a very slow morning start 25% of the voters did turn out, which unfortunately is about average for an Adams County primary election. To have received the most votes for County Commissioner is indeed an honor and privilege. Thank you to all my advisors, supporters and volunteers that worked diligently for five months getting my message out and to all the other candidates for stepping forward to serve Adams County.

Last fall, after serious discussions with my family, and some other folks whose opinion I respect very much, I decided to run for Adams

County Commissioner.

I was the first candidate to announce that decision on December 8th. It was not a snap decision. I am very aware that Government at every level has become extremely challenging. Thus, public officials increasingly are in the unenviable position of having to make many difficult decisions, which may not be popular with certain constituencies, or unquestionably have a negative effect on some programs or residents. In addition, candidates must be aware that their willingness to serve their community does and will impact their own family to various degrees. It is important their family understand that, and are supportive and receptive to that reality. Candidates need to think about where they have been, what they have done, what they want

to do, and what they believe they can do while in office. That was my mind set and the prelude to an over five month campaign for Adams County Commissioner. This primary campaign generated unprecedented interest, produced ten candidates, resulted in numerous candidate forums by various entities and garnered significant media coverage. It also involved significant energy, scheduling and multi-tasking on the part of the candidates. It brought to the surface for me that Adams County has many different areas, many different issues and a lot of great folks. The best part of the campaign was making many new friends and getting to know many old friends on a new level.

The primary concluded on May 17 with the unseating of two commissioner incumbents with Com-

missioner Glenn Snyder not running for re-election. I was extremely honored to receive the most votes of any candidate and the sole endorsements of the Adams County Police Chiefs Association, Fire Chiefs Association, and Volunteer Emergency Services Association. I was also one of four candidates, and two non-realtors, to receive the York/Adams Realtors endorsement. Myself and Jim Martin are the two Republican nominees who move forward to the General Election; while Marty Qually and Paul Kellet are the Democratic nominees. On November 8 voters will chose 3 of the 4 to be seated in 2012 with each party having a least one representative by state mandate.

Now five days after the primary my signs are collected and stored, my grass is finally mowed, my ga-

rage is mercifully cleared so we can walk thought it and my mail is being collected each day. My family and Golden Retriever Molly are again receiving the attention they deserve. Campaign mode is quite a life experience! As we move toward the General Election, I have been invited by the Emmitsburg News Journal to contribute a column that references my campaign experiences and vision for Adams County. Although I don't expect everyone to agree with all of my philosophies, ideas and semantics, it is my hope that the readers will find it thought provoking, interesting and informative. Until then enjoy everything that Adams County has to offer during the summer months - and if the Lord is willing and the creeks don't keep rising, I will be back to visit with you next month.

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Marty Qually

Thank you Adams County Democrats for supporting me in the Primary. A great campaign team and numerous volunteers deserve the lion's share of the credit for this victory. They did the work behind the scenes that won this election. Political campaigns like County government are not about one person, but about teams working towards a common goal. While I am honored that the Democrats in Adams County gave me the most votes in this Primary, I am eager to begin a dialogue with Adams County Republicans and Independents on how to move Adams County forward. Elected officials are not tasked with just listening to their friends or political party leaders, they are duty bound to listen to and represent all citizens.

Over the past four years I have tried my best to serve our citizens in whatever capacity possible. I have served on the Adams County Housing Committee, working with non-profits to help create and preserve affordable housing. In 2008 I was appointed by the Governor with the consent of State Senator Richard Alloway to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Crane Operators. And in 2010 I was appointed by the Adams County Court of Common Pleas to become one of three Adams County Auditors. These positions are not glamorous or headline news, but they are important. I do not believe that I was appointed to any of these points solely for my expertise in government or on the issues, but for my ability to work well with others and to get the job done.

Adams County government has been through some dramatic changes over the past few years. For the first time in our County's history a County Manager has been hired, a long overdue Reassessment has painfully been completed, we have seen an inordinate amount of growth in housing without the tax relief that comes with economic development, and now we are facing

tighter budgets with no help in sight. We need to change the way we do business in order to survive in these trying times. With the addition of a County Manager to complement our already knowledgeable and competent County employees, this transition is possible. The County Commissioners need to understand County Government and hold staff accountable for spending taxpayer money, but Commissioners must also have faith in the County professionals to do the work of government. It is only by becoming more involved in the County outside of the Courthouse that the next Board of Commissioners will lead Adams County forward.

Throughout the Primary campaign I heard from citizens, who wanted to know what the Commissioners would do to improve our economy. They are tired of the previous answer that it is not the responsibility of County government to help attract and improve business. Over the coming months I will meet with local business and municipal leaders to determine what plans the Board of Commissioners should present to the staff and citizens of Adams County. It is time to accept that there will be no life line from the State or Federal government. Making due with less, keeping our government a manageable size, reducing our debt are what we need to do in order to survive this down economy. But we need to look past just surviving and forward to succeeding. Our local economy's success will rely on teamwork and leadership from the Commissioners.

I feel obligated to make sure voters understand that, while I am running for public office, I have always and, if elected, will continue to have concerns with people in authority. Growing up in a large family may have taught me that groups do a better job getting the job done than loners, but being the sixth of seven children also left me with a healthy distrust of

authority. Having older brothers, who could hold me up by the feet over the toilet bowl, didn't always engender trust. And my younger brother Paul probably has stories of me being the Big Brother. While most of my brothers and sisters have moved out of Adams County (my oldest brother Burt Karsteter outside of McSherrystown and my youngest brother Paul Karsteter lives in Carroll Valley), all seven of us graduated from Saint Francis Xavier and Delone Catholic High School. After retiring from the United States Army, my father became a Business professor at Mount Saint Mary's University, which allowed five of us to afford obtaining a degree from Mount Saint Mary's University. My wife, Tanya, and I live in Cumberland Township, where we raise our eight year old son Lucien. I loved growing up here and I want to help keep more of our families in Adams County.

I believe getting the right team of Commissioners together willing

to listen to local leaders' advice on improve our local economy and our quality of life are paramount, if we are to succeed in keeping our families here. I believe that by looking at the long term financial health of County government, instead of just borrowing to prevent short term tax increases, we can better make use of taxpayer money. I believe that if every eligible voter takes the time to choose the two candidates best suited to represent the citizens and lead Adams County forward, we will succeed.

I am ready to serve Adams County. I am ready to listen to your concerns before developing a plan that will move us forward. I am ready to work with any other candidate, who shares the goal of working together to serve the citizens of Adams County. I would be honored to receive one of your votes on November 8th.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to check out my website at www.martyqually.com, email me at marty@martyqually.com, or call me at 717-339-6514. In order to learn how best to serve our County, I need to now your concerns.

Village Book & Table Restaurant

- BREAKFAST
- LUNCH

(Including Platters)

29 W. Main St., Fairfield, PA

717-642-5650

Open 7 Days A Week!



NAPA KNOW HOW

...we've got it...you can get it
...and SAVE!

\$5 OFF \$25

\$10 OFF \$50

\$20 OFF \$100

Coupons cannot be used to reduce your account balance or in combination with other discounts. Coupons expire July 15, 2011. Coupon must be present at time of purchase.

NAPA of Gettysburg, Hanover and Taneytown

340 E. Middle St., Gettysburg, PA
285 Frederick St., Hanover, PA
117 E. Baltimore St., Taneytown, MD

UNDEATABLE PRICE!

4.99*

/QT.

MOBIL 1 FULL SYNTHETIC MOTOR OIL

#0W20, 0W30, 0W40, 5W20, 5W30, 10W30, 15W50, 90MMA4, 90T81, 90W20

SAVE 42%

3.48

LUCAS FUEL SYSTEM TREATMENT

(5.25 oz.) #10020

2.39

CRC BRAKLEEN BRAKE PARTS CLEANER

(1 lb., 3 oz.) #091314

Sign up for our **PREFERRED CUSTOMER PROGRAM**

Give us your email address and we'll give you 10% off your next purchase!



napagettsburg.com napahanover.com napataneytown.com

COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Social Security is in Trouble!

Shannon Bohrer

According to EXPERTS, we have a broken entitlement system and Social Security is on the list. It has often been repeated that for our Social Security to continue in its current form, our government needs to supplement the funding. Of course, since our national debt is so large, conventional wisdom would say that our government cannot afford to add the needed monies into the system. The EXPERTS conclude that we cannot kick the can down the road anymore; we need to act before it is too late. We need honest and tough politicians who will step up and make tough decisions.

Social Security is an issue that affects everyone and our elected officials do not seem to be working on a solution. In this light and since this is not a new problem, the PEA Party (People for Ethical America) decided to examine the problem and suggest some solutions. Our first stop was Google, and we found some very interesting facts. The history of Social Security is actually very good, considering it is a government program. In 2010 Social Security was 75 years old and it was self-sustaining and never cost the tax payers a dime except for our payroll taxes. In fact, the estimates are that So-

cial Security will be solvent until 2037. You may be saying to yourself, if Social Security is good until 2037 (that's the next 26 years) why is it in trouble?

"You see, a lot of people in America think there's a trust, in this sense, that we take your money through payroll taxes, and then we hold it for you, and then when you retire, we give it back to you. But that's not the way it works. There is no trust fund, just IOUs that I saw firsthand, that future generations will pay." President George W. Bush, April 5, 2005.

Well, about 30 years ago, according to what we found on Google, Social Security had such large surpluses that our government started borrowing the money and replaced what they borrowed with IOUs. Our government is now saying that there are no current Social Security surpluses and for the program to continue, they, the government, would have to add money (pay back) each year, money they do not have. This is like putting money in the bank to save for retirement and then the bank telling you they do not have it when you want to take it out. Actually, it is not like that because the banks are insured

by the FDIC (the government). This might be a good argument for putting Social Security in a bank, I think... maybe - or just a thought!

Another way to explain this is that over a 30 year period the government has borrowed 2.5 trillion dollars from our funds. That is a lot of money. And each time they borrowed it they spent what they borrowed. To our government, the surplus Social Security funds were like their own slush fund. They did not even include the surplus in our national budgets, that is until recently; this was probably just a little oversight. And now that the surplus slush fund has dried up they want to change the program. This sounds reasonable. If you ran a country and owed 2.5 trillion dollars and you could not afford to pay, what would you do?

Maybe the government does not understand that an IOU means I (the government) O (owes) U (us) the money! Of course these are not ordinary times, with the treasury empty and a national debt of over 14 trillion, of which 2.5 trillion is owed to Social Security. Actually the total public debt, (held by the public) is only 9.4 trillion. Does that make you feel better? Another positive is that if the government defaults on the So-

cial Security debt, the National Debt would be reduced by 2.5 trillion dollars. Conversely, what this also means is if the government would pay back the IOUs, they would have to borrow the money from another country to pay back the money they borrowed from Social Security. The Pea Party does not think that borrowing money to repay money that was borrowed is a good idea.

Maybe, just maybe if our elected officials created a fix for the program - the result will be less Social Security funds for us, with a little left over for the government slush fund, then we could start all over again. No matter how congress would fix the program, if the program generates extra funds, congress would use them and we would be back to our current problem.

If someone owed you money and they could not pay you, you could go to court and attach their salary - and in this case that might be a good idea. We, the people, could attach the salaries and retirements of every congress person, active and retired, along with the former presidents, until the 2.5 trillion dollars is paid back. If you think this is not a good idea, then how do you describe "Being Responsible?" Another idea is that we could raise the maximum contribution level. Everyone pays Social Secu-

rity up to an annual income of \$106,800, which is a substantial amount. The problem could be fixed by raising the annual income level. Incomes over \$106,800 could pay at half the rate and when the system is balanced, (when we have sufficient funding) the rates could go down. The idea being to maintain a balanced system, so slush funds do not exist and we eliminate the temptation from congress to borrow our money. I am sure this idea would be met with resistance as an increase in taxes. However, this is an easy idea for me because I do not make that much.

There is a constant debate in our society about how inefficient our government is and how government programs waste so much money. In a strange way, and it is strange, Social Security is a government program that worked for over 75 years. It worked so well it accumulated over 2.5 trillion dollars in surpluses. If the politicians had not borrowed the surpluses it would have continued for another 26 years, without needing any changes. It sometimes appears that our government is very good at finding solutions to problems that do not exist, or problems that did not exist - until they fixed and/or created them.

"Things that are obvious are not necessarily true and many things that are true are not all obvious."
Dr. Joseph LeDoux

View from the Track

Kip Hamilton

So, what do the leaders of the six municipalities surrounding Fairfield and the Fairfield Fire & EMS all have in common?

They all want to provide the best possible emergency services to the citizens they serve.

To this end, the Management Team of the Fairfield fire department invited representatives from the local governments of the areas they serve as well as representatives from their emergency service partners from the Cashtown and Fountaindale Fire Departments to the inaugural meeting of a yet to be named Emergency Services Regional Planning Group on May 23rd at the Fairfield firehall.

As has been mentioned in this column before, the local municipalities have the legal responsibility to provide fire and rescue protection to their residents. In the case of the Fairfield area, the Fairfield Community Fire Company, now known as Fairfield Fire & EMS, has actually been providing this coverage for over 90 years... without compensation, as a free service to their neighbors.

There are ongoing discussions all over the country on the future of volunteer fire departments as membership in Pennsylvania volunteer departments has been steadily declining since 1985. In many areas, this decline in membership is resulting in decreases in the quality of service and/or department closures. Unfortunately, Adams County is not immune from this societal phenomenon brought on by among other things, the modern family's overbooked schedule. All over Adams county volunteer fire companies are having staffing issues, some more than others.

Fortunately for the Fairfield residents, the members of the fire and ambulance companies that serve them are working (volunteering) hard to maintain the high levels of service the citizens are accustomed to. But, in an attempt to be proactive, this group was brought together for the first time to start planning for future eventualities. Normally, such strategic planning is conducted at the county level, but since the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has no counties, the individual boroughs and townships

are more or less on their own. This, however, results in duplication of effort and comes with an inherent inefficiency. In the future, there will be no room for such things and municipalities will have to work together to get the best result for their residents.

Following a brief introduction, the evening's program began with a quick outline of the capabilities of the Fairfield Fire & EMS department, followed by some of the specific challenges they face.

Back in 2004, a Resolution was passed in the PA General Assembly known as Resolution 60 which contained over 20 provisions relating to the delivery of Fire & Rescue services in the state. Fairfield Board President A.J. Aldrich has done much research and really has become the local expert on the subject and he gave an hour-long presentation that covered the responsibilities of the local governments and the emergency responders and how the two groups could work together as a team, prompting a series of good questions from the civic leaders.

Finally, the group was present-

ed the "Down and Dirty" bottom line in the form of a series of slides which laid out what it would cost the local governments if for some reason they were forced to start from scratch in providing their own fire & rescue services. The costs for just the payroll for providing 24/7 paid firefighting coverage came to a staggering \$1.2 million. This did not include the costs associated with providing EMS coverage or purchasing the apparatus, which would more than double that amount. It was a sobering moment. The reality is that the residents simply could not afford to provide their own emergency services. The annual budget of just the Fairfield department is between \$650,000 and \$700,000 per year. There are in the neighborhood of 1000 residents. Do you see a problem here?

The comment was made that a number of current residents are transplants from counties to our south where the local governments provide countywide emergency services and that they are used to their tax dollars going to provide these services. Now living in Adams County, they do not realize that we do not have a county-sponsored Department of Fire & Rescue Services and that the local fire departments

are not tax supported at all. Its just not something you think about...you just expect the service to exist. When you call 911, you just want someone to come quickly to help you; you are not concerned at the time which who funds them and how they do what they do, right?

The hope of the participants is that these meetings would develop into a regional group which would be responsible for conducting strategic, long-range planning for continuing the area's emergency service coverage into the future. When it becomes evident that the all-volunteer system has reached its limits as far as providing quality emergency services, it will be a terrific benefit to the residents to have had this group in place, as this new regional group will then be able to simply activate plans already drawn up rather than having to take some emergency (ie not well developed) stopgap actions.

The fact that the meeting was well attended and well received by the civic leaders should be very important to the citizens in and around the Fairfield area. The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 25 at 7 pm at the firehouse. Any interested citizens are encouraged to attend!

Pure Onsense

Economics of prison reform

Scott Zuke

The US debt ceiling debate appears poised to be the least exiting blockbuster even of the summer—or most exiting, if you're a policy junky. To little fanfare, the US passed its statutory limit of \$14.29 trillion of debt on May 16, forcing the Treasury to take emergency measures to give Congress time to negotiate whether to increase the debt ceiling or drastically change the government balance sheet either by cutting spending, increasing taxes, or both.

Congress's reaction so far has been a reverse how-to manual in negotiation tactics. Both sides have tried to reassure a wary public that negotiations are on track and that all options are "on the table." However, Republicans then add, "Except tax hikes," and democrats add, "except cuts to entitlements." A government impasse could have severe "recovery-ending" consequences (if you believe we are in recovery), or it might be more of a temporary "inconvenience" and minor disruption. We'll know soon enough. Like failed Rapture prophecies, the date of the real fiscal disaster has been revised forward to August 2, when, according Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, the US will

run out of options to avoid defaulting on its loan payments.

Whatever happens in the next couple months, it's clear that pressing economic stress is forcing us to reevaluate our priorities from more (apparently) prosperous times. We do need to give fresh consideration to the long-term viability of major entitlements, and virtually everyone can agree that the tax system needs an overhaul. But until things change enough to allow such contentious issues to be deliberated openly, are there other financial drains we might work to reform in the meantime?

Consider this curiosity: According to DOJ statistics, the average dollar loss per burglary offense is around \$2,096. However, the average prison sentence for burglary is more than two and a half years, and the average per inmate cost of incarceration is \$29,000 a year. I don't mean to suggest that burglars shouldn't face prison time, just to demonstrate that US crime policy is a surprisingly large and yet underreported drain on public resources, and that our penal system is, in some ways, just another kind of government service that we can't afford to maintain in its current state.

The US has the world's highest incarceration rate and the largest

prison population. The number of state and federal inmates, adjusted for population growth, more than tripled between 1980 and 2009, a result of the War on Drugs and various "tough on crime" policies like mandatory minimum or "truth in sentencing" requirements, and the famous three strikes law.

The latter, a signature policy in California, has helped lead the state into a crisis of prison overcrowding and overextended resources for such things as inmate medical services. As a result, last month the Supreme Court upheld a controversial ruling that California's prisons are so overcrowded that they must significantly reduce their population in the next two years, even if that means releasing convicted criminals before serving out their terms.

Justice Scalia sharply dissented, arguing that many of the inmates who could be released "will undoubtedly be fine physical specimens who have developed intimidating muscles pumping iron in the prison gym." While he wrote this in reference to the fact that the inmates who may be set free might not even be those who have suffered from inadequate access to needed health-care, the statement is revealing as far as how many Americans view prisons.

In the most general terms, would we say that people are made better or worse by serving time in US prisons? Do felons emerge as citizens ready to re-

join the community and workforce, or are they hardened, muscle-bound, threatening individuals likely to commit crime again in the near future?

This is a different question from whether or not justice for the original crime is served, and it's worth asking for reasons extending beyond just moral considerations. After all, not only are inmates expensive during incarceration, they also create a drag on the economy after release, often forced to join the ranks of the chronically unemployed. If a Supreme Court Justice has such a negative view of the products of the penal system, imagine what potential employers think, regardless of whether the ex-convicts received job training or even higher education degrees during their imprisonment.

As *The Economist* recently reported, America's unemployment problem is disproportionately impacting the young male workforce, and within that group especially the less educated and blacks: "...Around 35% of 25- to 54-year-old men with no high-school diploma have no job, up from around 10% in the 1960s," and, "Among blacks, more than 30% overall and almost 70% of high-school dropouts have no job." The socioeconomic problem has fueled the prison problem, but it works in reverse as well—more convicts creates more unproductive members of society, fueling a vicious circle.

The common response from social activists has been to encourage prison reform to feature more rehabilitation programs in order to reduce recidivism and increase employment prospects after release. In tight financial times, though, such programs are likely to be first on the budget chopping block. Instead, it might be time to consider changes to the justice system designed to keep more non-violent criminals out of prison in the first place, emphasizing cheaper alternatives like supervised probation, the cost of which a Pew study found to be a mere \$1,250 annually.

The challenges facing the US budget deficit and debt are too great for any single policy to work as a panacea, and some of the adjustments that will need to be made will be more painful than others. Prison reform is simply one issue that has long been in dire need of attention anyway. As with the broader debt ceiling debate, solutions will require moving past tired partisan rhetoric like the dreaded "soft on crime" brand. Other Constitutional and legal issues aside, hopefully the Supreme Court's recent decision will at least spur more realistic discussion on how to regain control of the ballooning prison population and address both short and long-term economic and social costs.

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

Down Under

The midas syndrome

Lindsay Coker

A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing. Alexander Hamilton, April 30, 1781

That most delicious of all privileges - spending other people's money. John Randolph, American politician

Some years ago I had the privilege of visiting the site of what was possibly the oldest silver mine in Europe, as well as being the oldest mint for silver coins. These and other coins were vital for trade long before the Romans, and as populations and commerce grew over the centuries other forms of exchange developed - until today 'real' money hardly exists, at least in the west. Coins and notes are still tokens of the real stuff, however, and are there for everyday transactions - but an electronic byte or two cascading around the world in 80 nanoseconds is the 21st century mode of finance, with someone somewhere eventually looking at a screen to determine how

theirs, or someone else's, wealth, has changed.

According to the screen, that is. What if you actually want to see the cash? The numbers generally involved are so large that actually counting enough banknotes would be impossible, while you could never tell if the sight of all that gold or silver was the right amount. Anyway, who cares about that when your screen money is good, and can be used to trade with other electronic gurus? Lots of money can always be made, (and lost), but when you can buy practically anything on earth with sufficient electronic cash, who needs to see the dough? There's always enough of the green stuff for day to day, while the big stuff - well, everybody is doing it, aren't they, so how can you lose? Why, that's also easy, and not just individuals or corporations - governments do it too. You don't have it? Borrow it. Plenty of lenders, you can't go wrong.

Enter our hero, Alexander Hamilton. No matter anything else he may have done, he got the nuts and bolts of the economy of

the new nation in place. But, as always, he could not foretell the future, and his little aside quoted above grew into a mantra that shaped the thoughts of those who followed: How much debt can we run with? Good question. It turns out the answer is 'whatever we can get away with'. And that is a lot, when you have parleyed your economy into the strongest in the world. You do not argue with the strongest man on earth if he says he'll pay you what he owes you when he's ready, especially when he keeps buying your products (without paying COD) that keeps your own economy booming.

But, heigh ho, the gold standard went away in the 20th century, because it was argued that if gold could be used as a guarantee, then so could a nation's wealth - and that consists of far more than gold reserves. And who would value that wealth? Why, the government, of course. And the government can be trusted, in such a successful economy, can't it? Heh!

Whether wittingly or not, what then develops is the Midas syndrome. He's the king who was given the power to turn anything into gold - providing he began with the very first thing he saw, which turned out to be his adored daughter. All the gold in the world could not restore her to life, and

he cursed his bargain. The syndrome forms when the lure of wealth (gold) blinds one to the risks, and that is pretty much what has happened in the USA. Want something? Use debt to get it. Buy money with debt and trade it. Make money. The treadmill is in operation, and the resulting debt accrued so far outstrips any possible national wealth. That's more than trillions.

And someone is going to get unhappy pretty soon. While American needs oil, cheap goods, and a population that is mostly happy to see it continue, the suppliers and creditors are going along, because you are still the biggest market. But, with the dollar so low and falling, interest rates near zero, and a threat to your credit rating, then China, for one, may bail out. There ARE other markets, ones who actually pay for the goods then and there. How about Japan and the Emirates? And all the other countries that you are into? What will they do?

Can you forestall this by balancing the books? How? Print money, the German solution in 1930? Yes, that's been done, and inflation has become the dragon. Raise taxes to a sustainable level? Heavens no, that would mean taxing the 10% at the top of the heap at a rate they need to pay, but never will. Mr. Randolph rules OK.



As I sit writing this the death of Osama bin Laden has been announced. Interesting, but hardly earth-shattering news. Not that the media think that. A great news day! So much hoopla it makes me sick. My wife said, as the TV ran, "So, the end of the age of terror has arrived!" Yeah, sure. Nero could not have had a better day. Rome still burnt.

The United States of America has many things other than terrorist activity to worry about. Perhaps it's time to stop being the policeman for the world, pull in the horns and lick the wounds. Survival is painful, but it is not too late to achieve. Stop funding wars, using credit, and start taxing the rich. Alexander Hamilton is turning in his grave.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Of Sangamo specials and model trains

Pastor Peter Keath
Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church

My neighbor has the finest collection of model trains I've ever seen. When he and his wife designed their house, he made sure the back part of the second floor would include a house length room for his hobby. Where there could be two rooms, there is a large one, dedicated to a magnificent scale model railroad. Along the walls are display cases filled with his collection of locomotives, rail cars, and railroad memorabilia. There is so much he could open a shop. When leaving from my first visit to see it, his wife said, "So, you've seen the collection. Sinful, isn't it?"

She was both joking and getting in a bit of a dig. Perhaps she did not approve of the vastness of the collection – and the money spent acquiring it. My neighbor smiled with a look of having heard it before. Still, I knew two things. The collection wasn't going anywhere. And that he loved it.

I once knew two people who seemed concerned somehow about their earned affluence and a possible conflict with their level of faithfulness. "Are we truly called to sell all we have and give it to the poor?" I answered, "No, then you would

be poor too." Their question came from an understanding some have that to love God means that we must choose absolutely between the material and spiritual things of life. There is the story of Jesus telling the rich man that if he wanted to know God he must first go and sell all that he had. He went away unhappy. The point, of course, was that the man was tied closely to his wealth. Jesus did not mean that he should become poor, but rather that he evaluate his set of values.

My friends know that I am interested in watches. Actually, they know that I am more than interested. The Internet web sites for people like me. We are called WIS's (watch idiot savants). It is a term given to those who have a peculiar fascination with watches. Wrist-watches and pocket watches. Not clocks. Watches. I'm a watch nut. So, with that clear, it's not so hard to imagine that I collect them. I restore, overhaul, and repair watches. When someone sees my collection, or I bore him or her explaining the significance of one I may be wearing that day, they will sometimes ask as to its value. Like many things collected, the value is based on original cost, condition, rarity, desirability, complexity, and beauty (which is subjective).

I have watches made by Omega, Rolex, Eterna, Seiko (yes, they make mechanical watches), Longines, Bulova, Hamilton, Benrus, Breitling, Oris, IWC, and on and on and on. But if you want to get me started, ask me about pocket watches. Well, you probably shouldn't, because I will tell you more than you may want to know.

There were once many companies making pocket watches in America. The Illinois Watch Company was one of them. They were in existence from around 1869 – 1927. They are considered by many to be the most finely made American pocket watches. They made a variety of "calibers" but their best would be their railroad grade versions. (Ask me, I'll tell you all about it). And, I have some doozies.

But, you know, I've thought about my watches. I could sell them. I could give the money to the poor. I could give the money to someone who needs it. They just sit there. Either on my watch bench, or in the bunch needing certain parts, or in display cases. They are worth money, and they just sit there. I only wear one watch at a time, and I could look almost anywhere and see a digital display of the time, but I have them. Couldn't I sell them and help someone who needs money? Yes. But I won't.

We are material by nature. We cannot entirely divest ourselves of material things. (To get into the issue of material need versus want takes another article). The issue is not the quality or amount of material things we may have, but how they are ranked in our sense of what we value. It's a question of what's important. We must be generous. We must be charitable. We must contribute. We must share. And we must always give priority to these things over any material acquisition.

You may collect something – or



have material objects that serve no purpose other than to bring you pleasure. We understand, all of us, that we would sacrifice any material thing for the well being of another. So it is true that one can have material objects and still love your neighbor. If we have "nice" things we may keep them as long as we know that they cannot, cannot be the most important part in our lives. We just have to remember that there is an inherent higher value on the non-material things of life.

In a million years I'd rather have a heartfelt embrace from one of my children than any watch in the world. I mean it. I'd rather give than receive. I'd rather spend money feeding someone who is hungry. I have, and I will again. And I'm

sure guys like my neighbor are the same way.

I will try to keep the lesson of priorities and "where my heart should be" and try to remember what is truly valuable in this world. In the mean time, I'll keep the 1915 Illinois Watch Company Sangamo Special 23 ruby jewel with raised gold settings and gold running train, motor barreled, number three pattern damasked plate, model 3, 14 carat gold plated factory cased, adjusted to 6 positions and for temperature and isochronism, size 17s railroad grade pocket watch. And I'll enjoy it.

To learn more about the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church join them for Sunday service at fellowship every Sunday.

Did you know people have been worshipping at Harriet Chapel for over 175 years?
Has it been that long since you attended church?

It's time to come back!
You can find the peace, comfort and joy you seek at Harriet Chapel, a friendly, Episcopal Church just 3 miles south of Thurmont.

Come Home to Harriet Chapel!

Harriet Chapel, Catocin Episcopal Parish
12625 Catocin Furnace Road, Thurmont
Services Every Sunday at 8AM & 10:30AM
301-271-4554 www.harrietchapel.com

Home Care Solutions Made Simple
preferred HealthStaff, Inc
LICENSED HOME CARE



"We could not be more pleased with all you provide. It is more than expected, and the quality of the person coming to our home is exceptional!"

Steve

Free In Home Assessment Within 24 Hours
Compassionate Care for Older Adults
201 East Main Street, Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-8500 www.preferredhealthstaff.com

St. Philomena Catholic Books And Gifts Holy Grounds Cafe

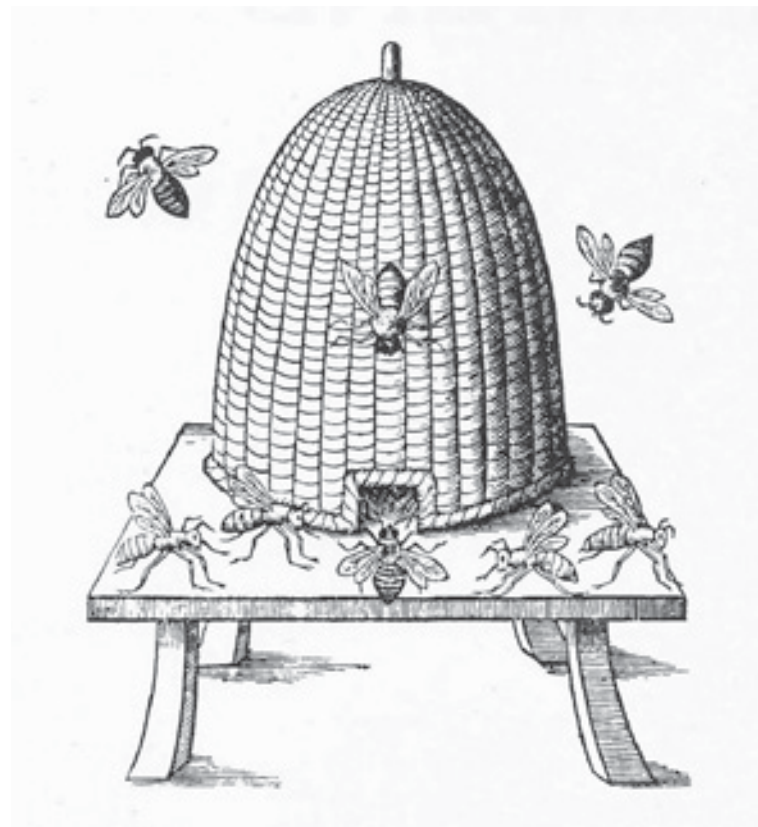


Stop In At Our New Location At 2 West Main Street (On the Square In Emmitsburg)
"Come Savor The Heavenly Flavor!"

Statues, Books, Rosaries, Jewelry & More!
2 West Main Street, Emmitsburg, Md 21727
(301) 447-3833
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6 am to 6 pm; Sat. 7 pm to 6 pm

THE BOOK OF DAYS

Superstitions about Bees



It is unlucky that a stray swarm of bees should settle on your premises, unclaimed by their owner.

Going to my father's house one afternoon, I found the household in a state of excitement, as a stray swarm of bees had settled on the pump. A hive had been procured, and the coachman and I hived them securely. After this had been done, I was saying that they might think themselves fortunate in getting a hive of bees so cheap; but I found that this was not agreed to by all, for one man employed about the premises looked very grave, and shook his head. On my asking him what was the matter, he told me in a solemn undertone that he did not mean to say that there was anything in it, but people did say that if a stray swarm of bees came to a house, and were not claimed by their owner, there would be a death in the family within the year; and it was evident that he believed in the omen. As it turned out, there was a death in my house, though not in my father's, about seven months afterwards, and I have no doubt but that this was taken as a fulfilment of the portent.

Bees will not thrive if you quarrel about them.

I was congratulating a parishioner on her bees looking so well, and at the same time expressing my surprise that her next-door neighbour's hives, which had formerly been so prosperous, now seemed quite deserted. 'Ali!' she answered 'them bees couldn't du.' 'How was that?'

I asked. 'Why,' she said, there was words about them, and bees 'll niver du if there's words about them.' This was a superstition so favourable to peace and goodwill in families, that I could not find it in my heart to say a word against it.

It has been shewn in a contemporary publication, that it is customary in many parts of England, when a death takes place, to go and formally impart the fact to the bees, to ask them to the funeral, and to fix a piece of crape upon their hives; thus treating these insects as beings possessed of something like human intelligence, and therefore entitled to all the respect which one member of a family pays to the rest. Not long before penning these notes, I met with an instance of this feeling about bees.

A neighbour of mine had bought a hive of bees at an auction of the goods of a farmer who had recently died. The bees seemed very sickly, and not likely to thrive, when my neighbour's servant bethought him that they had never been put in mourning for their late master; on this he got a piece of crape and tied it to a stick, which he fastened to the hive. After this the bees recovered, and when I saw them they were in a very flourishing state—a result which was unhesitatingly attributed to their having been put into mourning.

Superstitions about Diseases

Perhaps under this head may be classed the notion that a galvanic ring, as it is called, worn on the finger, will cure rheumatism. One sometimes sees people with a clum-

sy-looking silver ring which has a piece of copper let into the inside, and this, though in constant contact throughout, is supposed (aided by the moisture of the hand) to keep up a gentle, but continual galvanic current, and so to alleviate or remove rheumatism.

This notion has an air of science about it which may perhaps redeem it from the character of mere superstition; but the following case can put in no such claim. I recollect that when I was a boy a person came to my father (a clergyman), and asked for a 'sacramental shilling,' i. e., one out of the alms collected at the Holy Communion, to be made into a ring, and worn as a cure for epilepsy. He naturally declined to give one for 'superstitious uses,' and no doubt was thought very cruel by the unfortunate applicant.

Ruptured children are expected to be cured by being passed through a young tree, which has been split for the purpose. After the operation has been performed, the tree is bound up, and, if it grows together again, the child will be cured of its rupture. I have not heard anything about this for many years; perhaps it has fallen into disuse. There is an article on the subject in one of Hone's books, I think, and there the witch elm is specified as the proper tree for the purpose; but, whether from the scarcity of that tree, or from any other cause, I am not aware that it was considered necessary in this locality.

Ague is a disease about which various strange notions are prevalent. One is that it cannot be cured by a regular doctor—it is out of their reach altogether, and can only be touched by some old woman's nostrum. It is frequently treated with spiders and cobwebs. These, indeed, are said to contain arsenic; and, if so, there may be a touch of truth in the treatment. Fright is also looked upon as a cure for ague. I suppose that, on the principle that similia similibus curantur, it is imagined that the shaking induced by the fright will counteract and destroy the shaking of the ague fit.

An old woman has told me that she was actually cured in this manner when she was young. She had had ague for a long time, and nothing would cure it. Now it happened that she had a fat pig in the sty, and a fat pig is an important personage in a poor man's establishment. Well aware of the importance of piggy in her eyes, and determined to give her as great a shock as possible, her husband came to her with a very long face as she was tottering down stairs one day, and told

her that the pig was dead. Horror at this fearful news over-came all other feelings; she forgot all about her ague, and hurried to the scene of the catastrophe, where she found to her great relief that the pig was alive and well; but the fright had done its work, and from that day to this (she must be about eighty years old) she has never had a touch of the ague, though she has resided on the same spot.

Equally strange are some of the notions about small-pox. Fried mice are relied on as a specific for it, and I am afraid that it is considered necessary that they should be fried alive.

With respect to whooping-cough, again, it is believed that if you ask a person riding on a piebald horse what to do for it, his recommendation will be successful if attended to. My grandfather at one time used, always to ride a piebald horse, and he has frequently been stopped by people asking for a cure for whooping-cough. His invariable answer was, 'Patience and water-gruel;' perhaps, upon the whole, the best advice that could be given.

Earrings are considered to be a cure for sore eyes, and perhaps they may be useful so long as the ear is sore, the ring acting as a mild seton; but their efficacy is believed in even after the ear has healed.

Warts are another thing expected to be cured by charms. A gentleman well known to me, states that, when he was a boy, the landlady of an inn

where he happened to be took compassion on his warty hands, and undertook to cure them by rubbing them with bacon. It was necessary, however, that the bacon should be stolen; so the good lady tools it secretly from her own larder, which was supposed to answer the condition sufficiently. If I recollect rightly, the warts remained as bad as ever, which was perhaps due to the bacon not having been bona fide stolen.

I do not know whether landladies in general are supposed to have a special faculty against warts; but one, a near neighbour of mine, has the credit of being able to charm them away by counting them. I have been told by boys that she has actually done so for them, and that the warts have disappeared. I have no reason to think that they were telling me a down-right lie, but suppose that their imagination must have been strong to overcome even such horny things as warts. A more coincidence would have been almost more remarkable.

There is a very distressing eruption about the mouth and throat, called the thrush, common among infants and persons in the last extremity of sickness. There is a notion about this disease that a person must have it once in his life, either at his birth or death. Nurses like to see it in babies; they say that it is healthy, and makes them feed more freely; but, if a sick person shows it, he is given over as past recovery, which is really indeed extremely rare in such cases.

To read other selections from the Book of Days visit Emmitsburg.net.

Calvary Berean Fellowship
 Meeting Sundays at
Emmitsburg Elementary School
 10:00 am ~ Studying Luke

- Prayer • Fellowship
- Line-by-Line Bible Study

John Bartlett - (717) 360-1501
 Cbfellowship08@yahoo.com

Est. 1999
Classic Affairs D.J.'s
 Elaine & Dennis Ebaugh

Wedding, Anniversary & Birthday Parties
 1930's to Top 40

39 Federal Avenue, Emmitsburg, Md 21727
 301-447-6440
 ebaughsr2@comcast.net

Karaoke Available

The New 2011 F150

- All new engine lineup - 3.7L V6, 5.0L V8 and EcoBoost™ 3.5L featuring best-in-class horsepower & fuel economy.
- Revised 6 speed automatic transmission with Tow/Haul mode now standard on all models.
- SelectShift and Progressive Range Select.

Now Better Fuel Economy

2011 FORD ESCAPE 4x4
 UP TO 28 MPG
 SAVE Thousands With Financing As Low As 0.0% APR

All New - My Ford Touch 2011 FORD EDGE
 \$3000 Cash Back

Introducing the ALL-NEW 2011 SUPER DUTY
 Power your F250 or F350 with the new 385 HP Gas Engine or the new 400 HP 6.7 Turbo Diesel

2012 FORD FOCUS
 "Make Your Best Deal On These New Arrivals!"

2011 FORD FUSION HYBRID
 UP TO 41 MPG

AREA'S BEST SELECTION OF NEW & QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLES!

Family Owned & Operated Since 1941

Only 10 Minutes From Emmitsburg and Only 20 Minutes From Thurmont

AREA'S COMPLETE SALES, SERVICE, PARTS DEPT., COLLISION CENTER

Rt. 140, Taneytown, MD
 (410) 756-6655 (800) 621-3673
 www.crouseford.com

Showroom Hours:
 Monday - Friday 9am - 8pm
 Saturday 9am - 4pm

THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

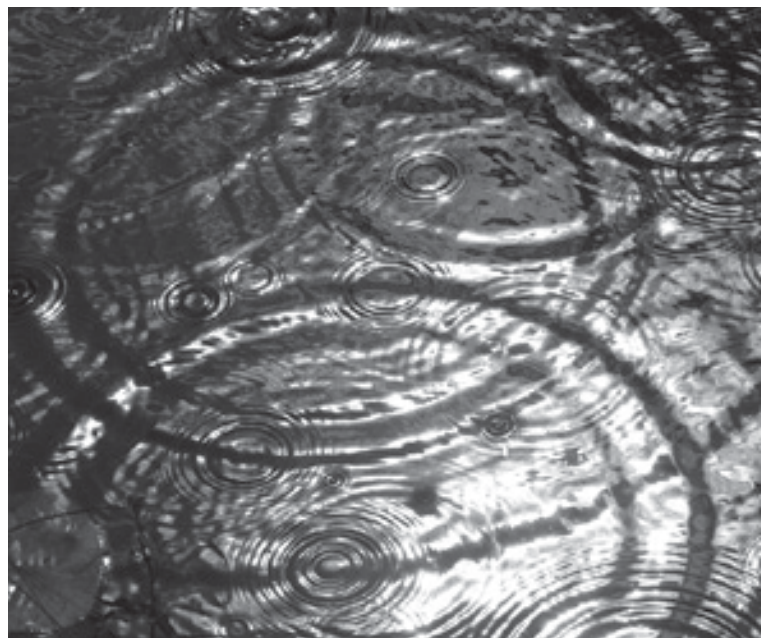
By the numbers, weather or not

Bill Meredith

"Rain is grace; rain is the sky condescending to the earth; without rain there would be no life." ...John Updike.

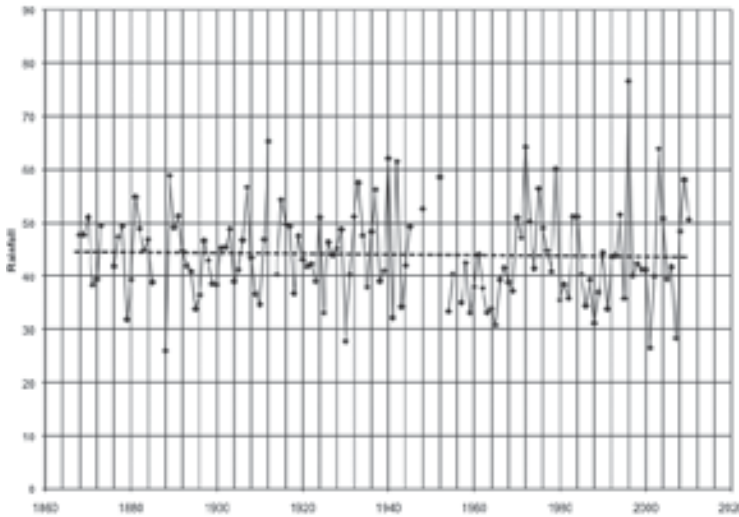
I typically have breakfast with the *Washington Post* spread out on the table before me, while my wife sits nearby in her rocker scanning the shopping ads in the *Frederick Post*. At some point she will hand me the sports section. This is partly because the Frederick paper has better sports coverage; Washington is always a day late in reporting on games played after 6:00 pm, which is most of them, and it often completely ignores the Orioles. But the main reason I want the Frederick sports section is because the weather report is on the back page of it.

Since I grew up on a farm and



have raised gardens throughout my life, I always have been interested in the weather. This interest was amplified when I was in graduate school learning to be an ecologist; one of the leading textbooks at that time taught that weather was one of the four most important factors that control animal populations. So I used to maintain a small array of weather-recording instruments on the roof of the science building to generate data for my ecology class; this provided a supply of first-hand examples that the students could use in lab studies. Since retiring, I no longer need such information; but I still find it interesting, so each day I enter it on a spreadsheet in my computer. I have trained the spreadsheet to draw graphs that compare daily temperature and rainfall with long-term averages, in an array of different colors. My wife regularly questions the value, and sometimes even the sanity, of this activity, but I justify it on the grounds that I enjoy it and it does no harm to society at large.

One of the first weather stations in the country was established at Mount St. Mary's College in 1869, so, except for a few gaps during the war years, we have a continuous record of rainfall for this area over the past 142 years. The average for that period is 45.37 inches per year, which is just what the textbooks say is needed to maintain the deciduous forest that originally grew here. Individual years



The dotted straight line in the center of the graph is the rain fall trend line, which shows the average rain fall has decreased slightly since 1869.

vary, of course, but over that time the annual rainfall was less than 30 inches only three times, most recently in 2001, and more than 70 inches only once, in 1996.

of rainfall and the sunspot maxima. Also, I was surprised by the amount of local variation that the graph revealed. Frederick, only 25 miles from us, receives an annual average of almost five inches less rain than Emmitsburg; and during the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s, when the Midwestern states were in extreme drought, rainfall in Emmitsburg was actually above average. Since the sunspot cycle is the same whether you are in Emmitsburg, Frederick or Kansas, I am forced to conclude that for now, we aren't able to predict long-term rainfall patterns much better than groundhogs or woolly bears.

So far, 2011 has added to my uncertainty. In the past month, national news has covered wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan, governments being overthrown in the Middle East, nuclear meltdowns in Japan, precarious economies in Europe and at home, and congressional deadlock over how to deal with the national debt; but in the face of all these things, the headlines have been dominated by the weather. Record numbers of tornadoes have occurred in the southern states, and as I write, the flood crest in the Mississippi River is approaching New Orleans. All of those other problems in the news could possibly be solved by people of good will, if they could put self-interest aside. But rainfall remains impossible to control.

By comparison to the rest of the country, here in Emmitsburg things aren't so bad. We have had some storms which flooded basements and temporarily submerged roads in low places, but nothing like those in the southern states. The year is off to a wetter start than usual; with May just

past half gone, the rain gauge in my garden has recorded 25.62 inches. This would project out to about 68 inches for the year if things continue as they are now... wetter than usual, but not a record. But nothing is constant; chances are that things will change. The first two months of this year were actually below average, and my records include several cases where wet springs were followed by droughts in summer or fall.

Farmers and gardeners have learned from experience that there is no place for pessimists in this business. Anyone who plants a seed must be an optimist; you have to believe that things will grow and survive. My garden was too wet to plow in March, but the ritual potato that I planted on St. Patrick's Day has come up and appears to be happy, insofar as it is possible for a potato to be. Last week we had a few days without rain, and I got the garden plowed; a gentle drizzle began before I finished, but I was able to get a row of potatoes and a few tomato plants into the ground. It has rained every day since then, but instead of stewing about it I have decided to accept John Updike's wisdom that rain is grace. I recall a verse somewhere in the Bible... in the Sermon on the Mount, if memory serves... that says the rain falls equally on the



just and the unjust; and I imagine it says the same about dry seasons somewhere in there too, although I haven't bothered to look it up.

After you retire, there is less need to worry about some things. Sooner or later, the rest of the garden will get planted. In the meanwhile, there is the prospect of sitting on the porch, watching the wrens in the birdhouse my grandson made some 20 years ago, and receiving unexpected visits from children. Evenings on the porch will be enhanced by the birthday presents friends recently gave me... a pack of cigars and a bottle of that "liquid sunshine, garnered on faraway southern hillsides" like they had in *The Wind in the Willows*. Rain, or the lack of it, can't compete with that.

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

The National Weather Bureau has always hoped to find a way to predict rainfall, and several years ago they did a study of the effect of the sunspots on weather. The number of sunspots reaches a maximum approximately every 11 years, and the Bureau found evidence of a 22-year cycle in rainfall. This seemed interesting, so by a combination of coaxing and threatening I persuaded my computer to draw a graph of the whole 142 year rainfall record for Emmitsburg. At first it appears to be a random sequence of peaks and valleys, but if you stare at it for a few hours you can make out a more or less regular pattern of wet and dry years which conforms roughly to a 22-year cycle. However, I am not able to see any relation between the peak years



GET YOUR DECK OR PATIO READY FOR THOSE OUTDOOR BBQS!
Let Us Make It Look Like New Again!

No Job Too Big Or Too Small!

Residential ~ Commercial
Power Washing ~ Free Estimates
Interior ~ Exterior

DAVID E. LITTLE 11530 Simmons Rd., Taneytown, MD
Custom Painting 301-447-2315 or 301-676-0064





The Carriage House Inn
Circ. 1857
RESTAURANT & CATERING

Father's Day - June 19th

Featured Appetizer:
SPICY STEAMED SHRIMP \$11

<p style="text-align: center;">14 oz. Prime N.Y. STRIP STEAK <small>with caramelized shallots & a wild mushroom brandy cream sauce served w/butter roasted red skin potatoes</small></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">\$28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cajun Grilled SWORDFISH STEAK <small>topped with a herb and tomato infused oil</small></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">\$28</p>
---	--

Serving Lunch from 11 AM to 4 PM & Dinner from 11 AM to 7 PM

OR

Take Dad out to a Special Brunch in JoAnn's Ballroom
Serving from 10 AM to 2 PM

Includes:
PRIME RIB STEAMED SHRIMP CRAB DIP
(Made To Order) **OMELET STATION**
(Just to name a few of our delicious offerings)

ADULTS \$21.95	CHILDREN (4 to 12) \$10.95
---------------------------------	---

Reservations Recommended
301-447-2366
www.carriagehouseinn.info



IN THE COUNTRY

Orioles and Tanagers of the Mason-Dixon

South Mountain Audubon Society

Rust Ryan

In the Mason-Dixon area one can find two Oriole species and maybe both Tanager species. The Baltimore Oriole is the commoner of the two orioles and the Scarlet Tanager is by far the more common of the Tanagers.

The Orioles - Orioles belong

to the Baltimore Oriole in 1882. This protection occurred even prior to the National Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the. Apparently Maryland is fond of the Baltimore Oriole.

The Baltimore Oriole (BO) is about the size of a robin but slimmer. The breeding male is distinctively orange and black. The female lacks the bold col-

ored into sections and left hanging. They will even dine on offerings of grape jelly.

The BO is a migratory species and spends the winter months in southern Mexico, Central America and northern South America. They generally arrive back in the Mason-Dixon area in late April. When they first arrive, they are easy to observe due to their bright coloration and because the trees have not fully leafed out. At this time they are also very vocal.

However, all that changes and the chance of seeing any sign of this bird is the fall and winter months when the trees drop their leaves and the distinctive nest is left for proof of their existence. I've known people who had no idea that an Oriole was nesting close by to their residence until they observe the nest.

Less common and smaller than the BO is the Orchard Oriole (Orchard). This bird has been a yearly breeder at my property for the past several years along with the Baltimore Oriole.

The Orchard can be best described as a very dark burnt orange to black version of the BO. Depending on the light conditions, this bird appears to nearly black. As with most bird species, the female is less colored however the female displays herself in three different ways during courtship.

The Orchard prefers semi open areas such as parks and shade trees along streams. The song of the Orchard is more musical than that of the BO.

The Tanagers - The Tanagers belong to the same family as the Cardinal, Grosbeaks and Buntings.

Probably the most strikingly colored of the breeding birds of the Mason-Dixon deciduous for-



Scarlet Tanager

ests is the Scarlet Tanager (Scarlet). The Scarlet is comparable in size to a slimmed version of the Robin but the breeding male is brilliant scarlet red with black wings. The female is much duller in color.

Both species of Tanagers like the Orioles are neo-tropical migrants. This means they spend the winter months south of the border of U.S. but migrate to north of the border for breeding and raising young.

Unfortunately, this bird also spends most of the time high in the tree tops for nesting and foraging for insects and can be very difficult to see once trees leaf out. The only good way to observe this bird is take the time to search for it after it is heard. The Scarlet sounds like a Robin with a sore throat. The call note is even more distinct if heard. It can be described as saying chip burr.

The Scarlet like so many species are declining in numbers due to habitat loss. The Scarlet depends on large acreage of forested tracts especially in the forest interior. Defragmentation of those areas for development as meant that the Scarlet is more prone to predators and brood

parasitism from the Brown-headed Cowbird.

The Summer Tanager (Summer), an uncommon breeder in the Mason-Dixon area is fond of oaks forests. It has been rumored to breed at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve near Fairfield but I've been birding in the Mason-Dixon area for 25 plus years and I have still never seen or heard one.

The breeding male is entirely red (even the Cardinal consists of another color - black). The Summer feeds primarily on bees and wasps which it has adapted to catch and kill (including removing the stinger prior to eating).

Last evening I got the rare opportunity to view both the male Orchard Oriole and a male Scarlet Tanager singing within a few trees apart. For most folks, a need for patience, good hearing, binoculars and strong neck muscles is necessary to view these striking birds but the time spent is worth it. For some lucky folks, the opportunity to view them from your home is possible with offerings of jelly, fruit halves or nectar solution.

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



Baltimore Oriole

to the same family of birds as the blackbirds, meadowlarks and bobolink.

As any Marylander should know, since 1947, the Baltimore Oriole has been the Maryland State bird. Pennsylvania chose the Ruffed Grouse as their state bird.

Some trivia: In 1894, Baltimore named a major league baseball team after the species - Baltimore Orioles. The state of Maryland even went as far as enacted special provisions to pro-

tection of the male. The nest of both Oriole species is distinctively that of a hanging pouch.

The BO's preferred habitat is along the edges of deciduous and mixed forests. The BO spends much of the time high in the trees foraging for food which is primarily insects but they will also feed on berries and nectar. Both the Orioles and the Tanagers can be attracted to special feeders which consist of nectar solutions similar to that of hummingbird feeders or fresh fruit

Adams County Farm Fresh Markets

Wednesday's Market at the Rec Park
 Gettysburg Rec Park
 545 Long Lane, Gettysburg, PA
 Open Now Through Mid-October
 Hours: 2:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Friday's Farm Fresh Market
 Outlet Shoppes at Gettysburg
 Lots of free parking - Just follow the signs
 Open Now Through Mid-October
 Hours: 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Saturday's Farm Fresh Market
 Outlet Shoppes at Gettysburg
 Lots of free parking - Just follow the signs
 Open Now Through Mid-October
 Hours: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Showcasing Our Agricultural Diversity

Locally Grown,
 Harvested Fresh
 Homemade & Handmade

Now accepting both EBT & Debit Cards
 Find us on Facebook: Adams County Farm Fresh Markets

For more information and market programs, EBT services or vendor inquiries, please visit:
acfarmersmarkets.org

Sign up for our e-newsletter! Events, vendor news, recipes and lots more!



CAMP MONONCACY
Emmitsburg

Spend your summer vacation with us, enjoying games and crafts that reflect a weekly theme. Whatever you're interested in, there is a week for you! For details on weekly themes visit us online.

6-11 yrs / 5 days / \$125
 Emmitsburg Comm. Center
 Monday-Friday
 7:00 am-6:00 pm
 8 weeks to choose:
 June 20th-August 12th

To register for Camp Monocacy, go online or call:
www.recreator.com • Tel 301.600.2936

THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Kids & seeds

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

So, we had a school group come through Fort Boonesboro while I was planting Scarlet Runner beans.

Kid after kid came up to inquire what I was doing. That's ok. I've kind of reconciled myself to the fact that most children, today, have never seen a seed go into the ground. But it was worse. Most of them pointed to the small bowl and asked, "what's that?" Seriously! They didn't even know what a seed was.

It's one thing to look at a styro-foam package of steak and realize most people haven't a clue where food comes from. But that really shocked me, that fourth graders don't even know what a seed is, or why it gets planted.

Downright scary!

God dropped this message into my e-mail account signing it as Brook Elliott- occasional contributor to Mother Earth News magazine, co-author of Hiking Kentucky (America's Best Day Hiking Series), long time member of Yahoo's "Heirloom Growers Garden" group, a gifter of Sinhusia pepper seeds (an heirloom seed I'm still working with since 2005), recreator of many

other things 'gardening/Appalachian frontier' history related.

As occasionally happens when information just falls in my lap connections with other bits, events, conversations snap into order, of sorts. In another aspect of Herself, She tells me (as M in Texas) to follow the advice of the farmers who've gifted me the acre to garden. That acre has been turned over by plow and before it could be disked, the rains began again, soaking it deeply. I'm hoping we'll get onto it before June, but I'm now planning a fall crop of cabbages, kales, collard greens, beets, peas- whatever can take a bit of frost or cool weather. (Marty says a late spring often means a late fall so I'm still hopeful of planting potatoes and maybe seeing some peppers and tomatoes ripen before the end of this season.) I'm obviously being taught patience, but something else becomes transparent as I wait.

Brook's e-mail reminds me I have a story to write, a tale I've been at for more than twenty-five years. One that I start and stop with such unpredictability as to depress anyone. Recently, I've been asked to sit in on a meeting with someone from the Small Business Administration



and a determined woman planning a youth program that will probably use gardening as one of several focal points. The possibilities that opened before me at that meeting connect with the waiting acre, the story and the eventual start-up business of a market garden. I've volunteered to take a shot at writing the business plan for the youth program, which will help me write my own plan.

I'll restrict my involvement with that particular group to providing what help I can away from the kids. A police background check is required to work with children and last I knew anyone who paid to have such a check done on themselves the cost was \$500. Twenty years ago, it was \$500! If I had \$500 to waste on being told I've officially lived a very boring life I'd gift it to the kids and go on with my naps. Add the requirement to be finger printed and I'm not looking to be anymore than a sideline benefactor of this youth program. (I may some day decide to become a criminal and it would be stupid to willingly allow my finger prints to be on record with the police. Even I'm not that big an idiot!)

I'm back to feeling very much like a worm on a hook. Possibilities keep poking me as I squirm around hoping I'll be dropped back into the bucket so I can go back to sleep. I mean really, who wants to be a tool of a god, especially the God? Sheesh, She's pregnant with possibilities after all and who knows how She'll put me to work once I agree to even one of them! (CRAP! I already agreed to the acre!) She's driving me, in cursing and swearing fits, toward what we both know I'll agree to do in the end anyhow.

Ignorance is my constant companion, a darkness I struggle to pierce yet wrap about me as a security blanket. Brook telling me there are ten-year-old school kids who do not know what a bean seed is is a sharp point to prod me with. Having set me up as a firearms range safety officer as well as an archery coach to kids as young as three, I see I'm being prepared for a future, or at least the probability of one, I both want and am terrified of. Allowing the story to grow in my head, feeding events and people into it to cause it to constantly grow bigger and grander- Damn She plays me! She'll even have me finger printed if She wants, but She'll have the provide the \$500 'cause I'm a stubborn

ape and dragging my knuckles on the ground means I can grab it and hold tight when I need to!

I've been reading books I'd best have left be, but having a Curious George gene in me somewhere, I had to pick them off the library's shelves and damage myself some more by trying to lighten my ignorance. (Oh, how I sometimes long for the days when I used alcohol to blunt the damage books do to me!) The Vegetarian Myth by Lierre Keith and The Vertical Farm: Feeding the World in the 21st Century by Dr Dickson Despommier both argue that the planet (as we occupy it now) is no longer able to maintain our current population of humans.

I normally wouldn't have read either of these books, but being a "mind numbed robot" of Rush Limbaugh's, I followed his advice to seek truth for myself. I think Rush believes the planet can easily support more of us, that humans have the capacity to solve any problem confronting us.

Dr Despommier, also thinks humanity can solve its growing food problems by way of high tech engineering. Ms Keith, a radical feminist, leaves me thinking she'd like to see the race reduced to barely enough effeminate sperm donors to keep the gene pool workable and the rest of us male apes be reduced to garden compost. She believes there are simply too many people and our food production methods have been destroying the planet's ecosystems since the first knuckle dragger split (raped) the earth and dropped a seed on purpose. I agree with her about there being too many of us, but I think people like her should show us the way. If she'd come to the acre, pick a nice spot for a nut tree to grow and add herself to the soil, I'd happily buy the tree to plant over her.

Chaos! Mother of everything! See what happens when you keep me from hurting myself with honest physical toil? Look where I wander when I've nothing useful to focus on! Let up on the rain long enough for me to get the acre garden started! Ga! I get it! Now let me get to work!

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

Catoctin Mountain Orchard



U.S. Route 15
15036 North Franklinville Road

Phone (301) 271-2737 Fax (301) 271-2850

BUY FRESH! BUY LOCAL!

Rhubarb, Kale, Lettuce,
Spring Onions
Strawberries
Fuji, Cameo, Pink Lady
& Goldrush Apples
Hanging Baskets & Planters
Apple Cider
Jams, Jellies, Honey
Local Crafts
Fresh Baked or Frozen Fruit Pies

Market Open Daily 9 AM - 5 PM



www.catoctinmountainorchard.com
Visa/Mastercard Accepted



**Tired Of Spending
The Summer Mowing,
Weeding & Trimming
Your Lawn & Garden?
WE CAN HELP!**

We can plan, install &
maintain a beautiful
lawn & garden for you!

**PLANTING & BED INSTALLATION
LAWN CARE & MAINTENANCE
POND INSTALLATION & MULCHING**
(We Have More Services Available - Call For Details)
MULCH AVAILABLE FOR SALE
(We Deliver or You Can Pick It Up!)

Baumgardner Farms Landscaping
Chad Knox, Manager 301.418.1353
Paul Baumgardner 301.676.9847 | 717.642.5469

IN THE COUNTRY

Big cats at Catoctin

Richard and Mary Anne Hahn
Catoctin Wildlife Preserve
and Zoo

Over the years there have been many big cats in the history of the CWPZoo. But there were none from 1933 until 1966, because it was known as Jungleland Snake Farm and specialized in reptiles. Jungleland prided itself on giving every one a personally guided tour, many of which were led by school teachers on summer hiatus. The reptile collection, including Giant Tortoises and many venomous and harmless species of snakes, was bigger than the Baltimore and National Zoos collections combined. Big cats did not become part of the exhibits until after 1968 when the name changed to Catoctin Mountain Zoological Park.

There are only a four really big cats in the world. Not the 40 pound Maine Coon cat but the nearly 1000 pound (1/2 ton) Saber toothed Cat of the Pleistocene age and the longest cat on record, the original American Lion which lived in North and South America. With a body length of over 8 feet it was almost 1/3 longer than the modern African Lion.

The current big cats of the zoological world, in order of the largest first, are the Asian Tigers, the African-Asian Lion, the South American Jaguar and the African Leopard. Until recently they were all grouped into the same taxonomic genus with the extinct American Lion because they all roar.

There are actually two types of Lions, African and Asian. The Asian form is found only in the Gir Forest in western India. African Lions have been a mainstay of the zoological collection for hundreds of years when they were given as valued gift by kings and emperors. In England, they were housed in the Tower of London for the king before the London Zoo was



This little yet to be named tiger has recently joined the tiger streak. Visit CWPZoo.com to see how you can help give her a name!

created. The first lions born at the CWPZoo were on May 27, 1970 to proud (sic) parents Bonnie and Claude (Clawed).

There used to be at least nine different races of tiger, all living in Asia. Beginning with the largest cat on the world at this time, they are the Siberian or Amur Tiger, the South China Tiger, the Indian or Bengal Tiger, the Sumatran Tiger, the Indochinese Tiger, the Malayan Tiger and the recently extinct Bali, Javan and Caspian Tigers.

All have pretty much the same pattern and color, black stripes on an orange background. That is until recently. In the 1920's, a white tiger with blue eyes turned up in Rewa, India. The very first white tiger entered the United States in November, 1960 and was displayed for many years at the National Zoo. By crossing this white color mutation with Siberians and back crossing again another "sport" the Golden Tabby Tiger was created in the 1990's. The CWPZoo has had many tigers in the past 50 years including the three White Tigers currently exhibited and one, now deceased, very rare Golden Tabby phase Tiger.

Pound for pound Jaguars are the strongest of the big cats. Like leopards, jaguars come in two colors, the normal spotted kind and solid black. They are

the largest cat in the New World followed by a not so close second, the Mountain Lion. In the 1980's a male Jaguar cub was raised with a female tiger cub and were displayed together until they were about three years old at which time they were split up to be paired with their own species. It is not known if they could have produced viable cubs but many crosses have occurred in zoos the past including ligers, which is the product of a male lion and a female tiger exhibited at the CWPZoo in the late 70's. The hybrid is usually larger than either of the parents and may or may not show attributes of both, such a mane, in the males, and/or stripes mostly on the legs.

Jaguars are the rarest of the species of big cats. They were almost completely exterminated from the United States but recently several have been spotted in the extreme southern part of Arizona. Jaguars of one form or the other have been exhibited at the CWPZoo for decades with the most recent birth having occurred in 2002 with one spotted and one black kitten being born. A female of the spotted variety is currently on exhibit in the Latin American area of the park.

African and Asian Leopards reproduced here as well. All Leopards are classified as "Near Threatened to Endangered" by

the IUCN depending on the species and subpecies.

As long as we are talking about big cats, not to be confused with "the" Big Cats. We are frequently asked about two other cats, the Mountain Lion of North and South America and the African Cheetah.

Mountain Lions have more than 40 different names in English alone including Mountain Screamer, Puma, Cougar, Panther, Painter and Catamount. Pumas are the best jumpers of the bigger cats and are able to broad jump up to 40 feet. Cougars have lived in the CWPZoo almost continuously for the last 50 years with several litters of cubs being born in the early years. Some were raised to several months old in our small cabin. This was usually discontinued when they got old enough to crawl under the upholstered furniture and tear out the bottoms of chairs and couches. There is currently a pair of Catamounts in the North American section of the CWPZoo. They are older cats that were retired to the mountains from other zoo collections.

Cheetahs are really a completely different story. One big difference is their claws. They have non

retractable claws like dogs. They are the fastest land animal having been clocked for short distances at 60 miles per hour usually while chasing small antelope.

CWPZoo has never provided a home for a cheetah. Maybe some day...in the future.

Most of the CWPZoo's cats have been Tigers, Lions, Jaguars and Mountain Lions. All of which were born and raised here many times in the past. Today, it is increasingly more difficult to find them good homes and they are bred far less often. Usually every four or five years, we have a litter of one of the four. This year we have one baby White Tiger. She is not from our pair and was obtained with the idea that she would add a new blood line to ours since our current adult pair of White Tigers are brother and sister.

I am sure that she would love to see you. On select weekends during this summer as a fund raiser for new lion quarters, we will be offering photos with this cub under controlled conditions. Should you be interested in this once in a lifetime experience for you or your family, please call for dates and times.



Evita, The Preserve's Jaguar

VISIT CATOCTIN ZOO

WE'LL BE WATCHING FOR YOU!

RT 15-THURMONT, MD
301-271-4922
CWPZOO.COM

FIND US ON
FACEBOOK!



\$8.00 OFF A FAMILY OF FOUR!
2 ADULTS AND 2 CHILDREN.
NOT VALID WITH OTHER OFFERS.
Expires 7/31/11

Wonderful adventures and over 500 exotic animals await you in this 50-acre preserve! You'll be welcomed by natural ponds, lush landscaping, and wandering Ambassadors who are happy to indulge questioning guests.

General Zoo Admission
Adults (13+) \$16.95
Children (3-12) \$9.95
Seniors (60+)/Military \$14.95

Safari Admission
Adults (13+) \$14.95
Children (3-12) \$9.95

PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Trust can be a very delicate thing

Jennifer Vanderau

Over the years, I've discovered that trust can be a very delicate thing. Many times I've given it to people, only to be disappointed shortly thereafter. It's in those moments that I'm reminded of the old adage, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

And I become reluctant to trust so freely again. The more it happens, the more hesitant I become, until I figure it's just easier to agree with Fox Mulder from the X-Files and "Trust No One."

That's why animals are such a revelation to me. This most recent epiphany of mine came from an experience with one of my cats.

Allow me to digress for a moment and introduce my group. I live in an apartment with eight cats who never go outside because I would worry about their safety. At the risk of sounding like the crazy cat lady (or Kathy Lee Gifford talking about her kids), they're my babies. Life with my group is...interesting, to say the least.

First, we have Pinky, the all-white patriarch of the clan and the oldest of the bunch. He's the dearest soul. Nothing really bothers him. I affectionately call him Jabba the Hut because when he stretches out, he's so

large and his stomach so fat, that you look around for Princess Leia in the bikini.

Then there is Grinch (man, he was a nasty little kitten -- hence the name), Little Girl, Blackie and Fluffy. They're a combination of all black and black-and-white and came in as a group and keep to themselves more than the rest.

Monky is the only one who came from the shelter. He was such a sweetheart, I fell madly in love and just had to bring him home. He's a unique rust-and-white color and has gorgeous amber eyes. Then came Dee Dee, the princess. Her majesty is a bengal cat, with a wild personality. She climbs, she hollers and generally makes her presence known.

Finally, the newest acquisition is Shredder and the name's appropriate. This all black kitten likes to use those claws. Sigh. I'll never have a house in Better Homes and Gardens.

Well, the afore-mentioned revelation comes from a tale of my Monky boy. One day he had decided to climb his way to the top of the closet to check out the shelf that his siblings like to use as a makeshift bed. I heard him scrabbling around up there and wondered what in the world he was doing, so I went to take a look.

By the time I had arrived, he must

have either realized the actual height of the shelf or decided the experience wasn't nearly as cool as his brothers had made it look. He was literally on the top shelf of the closet making an attempt to leap directly to the floor, with no stop off points in between.

The funny thing about cats if you ever take the time to watch them is they're really not dumb. They may be opinionated and sassy and occasionally a tad self-centered (you really should meet my Dee Dee), but they're pretty smart when it comes to the basics. Like having an instinctive understanding when a perch is too high for a straight jump to the floor.

He must have known this because I found him with his back paws on the shelf and his front feet on the hanger bar in front of him. Every once in a while, he'd put a paw out to the hangers below him only to pull it back when his courage evaporated. You could almost see him contemplating the distance to the floor and whether or not he thought he could make it.

Naturally I didn't watch this little dance for too terribly long because I feared he just might be nutty enough to try to make the jump and I didn't want him to hurt himself. So I reached up and cooed at him, "You silly monster, what have you gotten yourself into?" and carefully plucked him from his precarious position.

Now, I must admit that in the back of my head, I figured there was a slight chance I'd get pretty scratched up in this rescue attempt. Part of me assumed that my adventurous little four-legged boy might instinctively grab onto whatever he could for support.

Amazingly, he didn't claw me up at all. He was calm as a cucumber as I murmured soothingly to him and brought him back down to a height with which he was more comfortable.

I kissed him on his little orange-and-white head, put him on the bed



Casey is an old patch tabby looking for another person to take a chance on her. She was returned to the shelter as a loving gesture so that she will have another home and someone to take care of her. Are you the right person to understand that Casey still has a lot of love to give? Take a chance on her...you'll be glad you did.

and he raced away, apparently off to take part in yet another feline escape.

I remember saying to the empty room, "You're welcome, you little turkey," but before I left, I had to take a minute to consider the blatant and complete trust I had just witnessed. He had obviously been rather uncomfortable up there and not really sure he could get down. I was lifting him away from the only stable thing keeping him from falling and yet he never protested. He never showed any fear.

He trusted me not to let him fall.

To this day, that little revelation is

hard for me to quantify. I don't have adequate words to describe the feeling I got when I realized that at some point in time during the years we have lived together, I had earned his trust to the point where he knew I would never do anything to hurt him.

It was an incredibly poignant discovery for me.

At the same time, I had to marvel at his ability to trust someone so completely. Heck, I haven't had that kind of conviction in years and yet here he is, a four-legged little soul, utterly dependent on me, teaching me more about what it means to believe in someone than most people I know have. It's really quite humbling.

And it's one of the main reasons I'm so dedicated to animals and speaking out for them. If we take the time to watch and look and learn, it's absolutely incredible what our four-legged friends can teach us.

So through all my fear and doubt and suspicion about people, I've decided to place my trust in animals. I'm certain that my cats will greet me at the door when I come home, make me smile at least once a day with their antics, want to cuddle at some point in the evening (even if it's at 3 a.m.) and teach me about what's still good and pure and true in the world.

And to me, that's something worth trusting.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg, Pa., and can be reached at cvasoc@innernet.net. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at (717) 263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org.

Environmental Enhancements
Lawn & Landscaping

Turf Care
 Weed Control, Crabgrass, Fertilization,
 Flea & Tick, Seeding, Repairs, Mowing, Soil Testing

Shrub Care
 Insect & Disease Control
 Fertilization, Trimming, Mulching

Emmitsburg, MD **301-241-3719**
 MDA 29039 environmentalenhancements@rocketmail.com

CLC PET SITTING SERVICE

"CARE, LOVING AND CONCERN
 FOR YOUR PETS IN THE
 COMFORT OF YOUR HOME"

Cindy L. Colburn
 Owner/Operator

301-524-0004
240-288-8279

Bonded & Insured Visa/MC Accepted
clc1009@netscape.com

**LITTLESTOWN
 VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

*** NEW PATIENTS WELCOME ***
 Dogs, Cats, Birds & Exotics

Julie L. Holland, DVM Gary J. Kubala, VMD
 Over 40 Years Combined Experience
 Now Offering Laser Surgery

5010 Baltimore Pike, Littlestown, PA
717-359-7877
www.littlestownvethospital.com

Pet Portraits
 by Rebecca Pearl

Bring
 In This Ad & Get
20% OFF
 All Pet Portraits
 Offer Good Thru
 July 1, 2011

(Paintings Are Done From Your Photograph)

Give A Gift
 Of Love &
 Remembrance!

Register For Spring
 Art Classes Now!
 Adults & Children
 All Levels Welcome!

10% OFF
 Custom Framing
 With This Ad!

Fine Art - Custom Framing
301-271-2348
 24 W. Main St., Emmitsburg, MD
 (Next to the Palms Restaurant)
www.rebeccapearl.com

Thurs. - Sat. 10 - 5
 Or By Appointment

PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Dressing for the vet

Kimberly Brokaw, DVM
Walkersville Veterinary Clinic

My editor asked me to try and write a happy or funny article, since the last article was a sad article about a horse that died of colic. Currently it is the middle of foaling season. Last week I saw two septic/infected foals and I treated another sick foal today. It's hard to think of a cheery topic when in the middle of foaling season. While foalings can go well, I am only called if they go poorly. After all, if everything goes smoothly, the vet won't be needed until several hours after the foal has nursed to do a physical exam and bloodwork. This makes it difficult to write a happy article at this time of year when foalings have the potential to go very badly and result in death for both the mare and foal.

Many owners do everything right (e.g. good feeding program, good vaccine program, constant monitoring to be sure a human is present for the birth, and a snap test to make sure the baby has gotten enough colostrum right after birth) Even then, sometimes things go wrong. Well managed barns monitor their mare for a few weeks before she is due until she has had the foal. Through the use of technology, such as foal cameras and foal alerts, people can monitor their mare from the comfort of their bedroom. If they notice that something isn't going the way it should they can quickly call the vet, jump out of bed and run out to the barn. Needless to say when I arrive, I frequently find my clients in interesting outfits. While pajama bottoms, a t-shirt, uncombed hair, and flip flops are the most common attire, I have had the opportunity to see some unique garments.

One of my most memorable calls involved a gentleman who had rushed out to the barn wearing nothing but a bathrobe and boots. He had been napping on his sofa while watching the foal camera when the foal alert went off, sending him running to the barn. The foal was born with some human assistance as contracted tendons were preventing full leg extension. Her legs had not fully straightened which made it difficult for her to pass through the birth canal. Luckily the owner was experienced enough to know that assistance was needed. The foal was manipulated and successfully pulled.

After the foal was born, the contracted tendons also prevented her from standing. It is extremely important that a foal stand up and nurse quickly after birth. The colostrum, or first milk, is full of antibodies that are essential to keeping the foal healthy and preventing it from becoming septic and dy-

ing. As the gentleman assisted me in getting the foal to stand and nurse, his bathrobe kept untying and slipping, revealing that he truly was wearing nothing but a bathrobe. Luckily the foal did well and after a few hours was able to stand with minimal assistance. The owner continued to monitor the foal and ensure that she continued to nurse and remained healthy. Her snap blood test for antibodies from the colostrums was normal and she continued to thrive due to the diligence and quality of care that her owner provided. Initially I wished the gentleman had taken an extra two seconds to put on underwear, in the end I was grateful that he had raced out to the barn and called me immediately, rather than wasting 15 minutes getting properly dressed.

While for unplanned emergency visits, I can understand when people are wearing clothing or footwear that is less than appropriate for the task at hand, it baffles me when I show up for a scheduled appointment and their attire is still questionable. One time I was floating teeth as a part of a routine, scheduled dental exam for a woman's horse. She was wearing pajamas and fuzzy bedroom slippers. She noticed me staring at her feet and said "oh these are my mud slippers" as if everybody has a pair of fuzzy slippers that they wear to the barn.

On one occasion, when I was working in Virginia, I was out at a farm for routine Coggins test and vaccinations. As the vet truck pulled into the driveway, a woman came out of the house without her shoes on. Instead she had multiple pairs of socks on her feet. She then proceeded to run through the mud after her horses, trying to catch them and get halters on so that they



could be treated. As this was a scheduled appointment, I was surprised that she wasn't wearing muck boots or something in the very deep mud. I was also disappointed that the horses hadn't been caught prior to my visit.

One of the reasons that clients are told what time to expect the vet is so that they can be ready when the vet arrives and have the horses caught. There are many intelligent horses who recognize the vet truck and realize that when it arrives on the farm they are going to get poked with needles. As one can imagine, this makes catching these horses somewhat difficult once they have seen the truck. Experienced owners are usually aware of the

intelligence of some horses, and catch their horses and lock them in their stalls before the vet truck arrives.

I have to admit that I am not known for always wearing the most appropriate clothing. When riding and working on my own horses, I have been known to wear flip flops when I am too tired to walk into the house to put on boots. However, when I am on call and know that I could be called in the middle of the night and need to rush out the door, I have a clean pair of pants, shirt, as well as boots set aside in case I get a midnight call. Now

these boots may be green with pink stripes or have a multicolored dog print on them, but they are comfortable mud boots none the less.

If you are dressed in a fancy dress and high heels when I arrive for an emergency call, I will understand. However, when you are in smiley face boxers with suspenders, no shirt or pants, and bare feet when I arrive on time for your scheduled visit, remember that your visit might make it into one of my future articles!

To read more articles by Kim visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Forney's
CARPET CLEANING

Upholstery Cleaning
Carpet Sales
Free Estimates
Oriental Rugs
Truck Mounted Power
Tile & Grout Cleaning

STEVE FORNEY
Hagerstown, MD or Gettysburg, PA
301-582-4453 717-337-0601

TRISH ROWE
REALTY LLC
717-642-9400
138 WEST MAIN ST., FAIRFIELD, PA 17320

Realtors With A Heart
"We Can Help You With All Your Real Estate Needs!"

 \$209,000	 \$199,000	 \$239,900
 \$248,000	 \$235,000	 \$279,900

Call Our Office For Details About These Properties. **Call Trish Direct 717-642-6733** Licensed In Pennsylvania And Maryland.

www.TrishRoweRealty.com

THE MASTER GARDENER

Why mulch?

Phillip Peters
Adams County
Master Gardener

Putting a good application of mulch on the beds accomplishes several things that cut down on stress. A layer of two to four inches thick will keep soil cool, as the air trapped in the mulch insulates the ground. It also prevents soil from being splashed onto the plant leaves, thereby reducing the incidence of fungal diseases and unsightly dirt on the plant. Applied evenly, it provides a neat and pleasing look to the garden. Most importantly, a mulch layer helps the soil retain any moisture that does fall, since the same trapped air that acts as an insulator is also a poor conductor of heat that would dry out the soil. Not only are the plant's roots cool, very important for plants such as clematis, but they remain moist.

If you are like me, a trip to the garden supply store overwhelms you. There is mulch and more mulch. There is organic mulch, derived from something that was once alive and inorganic mulch made from inert stone or various synthetic materials. There is mulch in bags and piles and plastic mulch in rolls. And they come in many colors and textures: black, brown or red shredded bark, large chunk bark, stone and brick chips in light reds, dark reds, various grays, black and basic white to suit every need and aesthetic taste. How to choose?

You might start by deciding

whether you want organic or inorganic mulch. Organic mulches such as bark, shredded bark, peat, compost or leaf mulch convey a warmer, more inviting feeling because their colors and textures are less formal.

Organic mulches are made from natural materials: wood chips, shredded bark, coconut fiber, paper, and leaves among others. Their textures vary from coarse to fine and, depending on which you choose, evoke different emotional responses. Make your choice to fit your artistic vision. As these mulches break down, they contribute nutrients and bulk to enrich the soil. To prevent a water-repellant crust from forming on the top on the finer materials, rake them occasionally and renew the top several inches periodically.

Examine the finer shredded bark mulches periodically for signs of bird's nest fungus. This is a growth that forms colonies of bird-nest-shaped cups in which are egg-like fungal sacks full of spores. As these spread, they make the bed look unsightly. A related fungus, called artillery fungus, looks similar, but, as the bodies open, they can shoot spores up to 30 feet. They can spot house siding or a car parked in a driveway. Remove any affected areas of mulch immediately and dispose of them.

Inorganic mulches offer a selection of stones, gravel, lava and brick chips. By their very nature they convey a sense of endurance and permanence. Properly maintained, they call attention



Mulch volcano—how not to mulch around a tree!

to a beautifully manicured, formal bed. They are most effective in a bed of perennials and shrubs that will not be moved or disturbed often. Planting annuals in this material will leave traces of dirt and signs that the soil was disturbed, sometimes scattering the material, and detracting from the neatness you are trying to achieve. But, if you are trying to set a formal tone for your garden, by all means, use one of these.

Remember that lighter colored materials will reflect the sun's light and may burn leaves that hang too low. Stone and brick also retain heat. A benefit in winter when stone absorbs the day's heat and releases it gradually during the cold winter nights, this could be a drawback in summer, depending on where the garden is situated and how much

sun it gets. Small plants and new plantings are more susceptible than large and mature ones.

A word about using roll plastic as mulch. Keep in mind that, while it retains moisture, it also prevents water from penetrating the soil except where there are holes for the plants. A plant's natural cycle is to use water that falls from all its leaves, all the way out to its drip line. Its roots are expecting this. Consequently, under plastic it may not get enough water. And, if you don't cover the plastic, the material may reflect the sunlight onto the leaves and cause sunburn.

On the positive side, the color of the plastic can influence crop yields. Red will help increase your tomato crop, while white plastic can increase productivity up to 30%. Be careful with the clear plastic. It acts as a mini-

greenhouse. It is used to increase soil temperature but will not kill weeds as you might think.

The best way to weed mulched beds is by hand. Since the material retains moisture and is not compacted, weeds will usually pull out without difficulty. Mulch the bed to a depth of two to three inches, a bit more if you are using coarse bark mulch. Avoid the tall, volcano shaped mounding around trees that seems so popular today. This invites insects, disease, fungus and small rodents.

Be sure to keep mulch several inches away from trees, shrubs and flowers. So often we see mulch applied incorrectly. The volcano look around trees is not conducive to a happy plant. Not only does mulch that is too close create favorable conditions for disease or insect activity, it can also provide shelter for rodents that can ring the bark of a tree or shrub or devour a plant stem. During moist conditions, it can encourage adventitious buds along the lower trunk to push roots. These roots then can potentially become a major water intake source for the tree. If that happens, the feeder roots are then in that mulch layer, allowing those roots to be the first to dry and shrivel when drought occurs, resulting in potential death to a tree.

The best way to apply mulch around trees and shrubs is to allow space at the trunk of the tree, spreading the mulch only to a depth of two to three inches, as mentioned previously. This is very important for the health of your shrub or tree. Mulching out to the canopy of a tree or shrub is ideal, although not always practical. The less competition from weeds, turf or other plants for moisture and nutrition will allow for the healthiest environment for the plant. In addition, it keeps mowers away from the trunks and bases of plants and trees, keeping the bark from getting banged, nicked or damaged. Just underneath the bark are the tubes that run water and nutrition up and down the stems



240.674.5746
717.642.9463

R & M Lawn Services LLC
and more...

General Lawn Maintenance
Hauling • Painting • Deck Restoration

Kim Valentine • 3644 Bullfrog Rd. • Fairfield, PA 17320 • Insured

Let Us Help Your Garden Grow... at Gettysburg Agway!

Gettysburg

PLANT YOUR PERENNIALS NOW!

Enjoy Your Own Fresh Perennials All Summer!

We carry a large selection of perennial plants

**Large selection of Seeds...
Seedway, Agway
& Livingston**

**A full line of planting aids...
Soils, Mulches, Sprays &
Fertilizers...many natural & organic!**



Get Your
Garden Ready
Now!

AGWAY

www.gettysburgagway.com

Mon-Fri: 8AM-6PM Sat: 8AM-5PM
Sun: 10AM-4PM

107 N. Washington St., Gettysburg, PA

717-334-1108



Join us on... facebook



THE MASTER GARDENER

The Small Town Gardener Quiet thoughts for a busy world

Marianne Willburn

The garden is an integral part of my life, and consequently, it is difficult for me to imagine why anyone would wish to live without the joy of eating one's own produce, watching a treasured cutting turn into a flourishing shrub, or sitting in the midst of one's own creation on a warm spring evening – be it on three acres, three-tenths of an acre, or surrounded by three overflowing pots. Yet, as insular as I can sometimes be, I am aware that there are those who do not share my great love. There are many that regard gardening as a duty performed for no other reason than to keep the Housing Association letters at bay – and I admit that trying to evangelize you is challenging. Each week I preach to the choir – but also to the uninitiated; striving to bring the heretics unto the green fold, spouting clouds of love for carrot and chrysanthemum, and regard for all things green. But why do I think that gardening should be a part, however small, of each of our lives?

Those of us who garden do so for a myriad of reasons. Some of us are species collectors – dealing in the latest cultivar of Austin Rose or the largest tri-color dahlia on the Eastern Seaboard. Some are rare plant collectors, cultivating perennial and shrub gardens that would never rub shoulders with common gardens like mine. Some of us raise bountiful vegetable gardens to feed families and friends. Some have cut flower gardens to insure their houses are never without a splash of color. Some gardens are born of impoverishment; some are born of great wealth. The reasons for gardening are as varied as the gardens themselves, yet we all share one fundamental premise whether we realize it or not – the joy of being connected, in some tangible way to the Earth. And this, my friends, is extraordinarily important for one simple reason; the pace and scope of modern life is one of perpetual disconnectedness.

We have just witnessed the end of a century that started with horse-drawn carriages traversing dusty streets and ended with robots traversing the dust of Mars. Yet thousands of labor-saving devices haven't made us a quieter, more reflective people with time on our hands, they have merely given us more hours to fill with other activities; sometimes (aided by the miracle of electric lighting) far into the night. This "business of being busy" is the proverbial elephant sitting in the middle of the living room. Everyone can see it, or at the very least subconsciously feel that it is there, but no one does anything about it. We pretend it doesn't exist, that it is a fact of life, that there is nothing we can do. We cannot open the door and throw it out; we don't know how. And even if we did, we wouldn't want to appear radical or inadequate – so our busy, crazy, frenetic pace of life sits in

every room of our house staring at us and smirking as we try to ignore it.

Enter The Garden

Here we cannot hurry the easy ebb and flow of life. There is only so much time for work, regulated by the passing of the solar day from sunrise to sunset. Sure, we can micromanage a plant here and there, but Mother Nature is more than likely to have the last laugh in the end. In the garden we experience the life cycle of plants from seed to compost pile. We witness the passing of seasons, without the fanfare of high priced decorations. We create painted landscapes and exquisite still-life pictures from the simplest plants, the humblest flowers – and never touch a brush. We can reconnect with creatures that spend their entire lives in the basic pursuits of eating, procreating and caring for their young – and wonder at how our own lives have somehow diverged from this universal path.

In the garden, life makes sense again. The earth gives off sweet smells that invite us to plunge our hands in and get them dirty, and for a few moments, the artificiality of the modern world is laid bare in contrast. In the garden, food looks like food. There is no such thing as a veggie stick or a gummi-fruit snack. We don't have to have a Master's Degree in applied chemistry to create a delicious pan of stir fried peas or to trickle olive oil over a crunchy head of Romaine. We share something in common with those who have gone before us on this Earth and, one hopes, those who will come after. And somehow, every gardener, whether he looks after those three pots or those three acres, knows this instinctively.

If you have always found yourself on the outside of this world looking in, the chances are that you regard your outside space as yet another place for that elephant to sit, taunting you with his To Do list; and you have long ago changed what could be your sanctuary into your cubicle. Could reclaiming that space as your safe-haven be as easy as a change of attitude?

It might just be worth trying.

The garden is a place to forget about our stock portfolios, debt ratios and carpool schedules and concentrate instead on the beautifully mundane issues of life like the type of pea supports to use this year, and whether there's a rugosa cultivar with a double pink bloom. These simple pursuits are what keep us sane when the world feels foreign and overwhelming.

And I'm happy to say there is no App for that.



Root flairs of trees need to be able to breathe. Covering with mulch will kill the root flairs.

and trunks of plants. Damaging this can only reduce the efficiency of the plant from doing this function.

Building boxes around the base of trees is another mistake people often make. Remember, we don't want to cover the base of a tree, so mounding soil is no better than mounding mulch. When looking at a tree, at any age, we need to be able to see the root flare, that is, the area at the base of a plant that begins to flare into the soil. Every plant has a root flare zone. Covering that will create stress

for the plants, and when a plant is stressed, potential secondary problems can set it, like insect infestation and disease. It if looks like a telephone pole is stuck in the ground, you better dig down and look for the flare.

Applied carefully and maintained regularly, mulch will beautify your garden while it keeps it moist, nourishes it, and makes it easier to care for.

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

PATRICK ARENTZ GENERAL SERVICES

- Yard Clean-ups • Lawn & Field Mowing
- Tree & Shrub Trimming • Hauling Junk and Debris
- Firewood, Mulch & Topsoil Sales & Delivery
- Light Excavation & Backhoe Service
- Lots Cleared & New Lawns Installed

www.arentzs.com
717-642-6802

Zurgable Brothers Hardware
HOME IMPROVEMENT SUPPLIES

SPRING IS HERE!

Why waste the gas and time traveling to Lowe's or Home Depot in Hanover, Gettysburg or Frederick?

STAY HERE! SHOP LOCAL!
We have ALL your Home Improvement, Lawn Care and Gardening needs!

- ✓ Fertilizer For Your Yard And Garden
- ✓ Garden Seeds & Plants
- ✓ Window / Screen Repair
- ✓ Weather Stripping
- ✓ Window / Screen Repair
- ✓ Hardware and Tools
- ✓ Holland Gas Grills
- ✓ Garden Supplies
- ✓ Lumber
- ✓ Mulch
- ✓ Valspar Paints
- ✓ Sakrete Cement
- ✓ Keys Made
- ✓ Caulk
- ✓ Window Kits
- ✓ Red Wing Shoes

Open Monday thru Friday 7am - 6pm, Saturday 8am - 5pm, Closed Sundays
16663 Old Emmitsburg Road
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727 **301-447-2020**

DARK MULCH \$28/YD
RED MULCH \$38/YD
BLACK MULCH \$38/YD
TOPSOIL (SCREENED OR UNSCREENED)
COMPOSTED MUSHROOM SOIL or COW MANURE \$24/YD

• DRIVEWAY • LANDSCAPING
• STONE HAULING • EXCAVATING
• SAND/FILL DIRT
• LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

WE ALSO SELL COAL FOR YOUR WINTER HEATING NEEDS!

RODNEY MCNAIR
301.447.2675
17618 OLD GETTYSBURG RD., EMMITSBURG

Cub Cadet days

50th CELEBRATION SPECIAL BUY
0% AND OTHER GREAT FINANCING OPTIONS!

RZT ZERO-TURN RIDER

\$100 TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF AN RZT 50 ZERO-TURN RIDER.

SERIES 1000
LTS LAWN TRACTOR

SERIES 2000
GARDEN TRACTOR

Z-FORCE[®] S SERIES
STEERING WHEEL ZERO-TURN RIDERS

HARRINGTON & SONS
427 E. Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301-447-6666

THE GARDEN

Why grow natives plants?

Mary Ann Ryan

First let's define native plants. According to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), native plants are one which occurred within the state before settlement by Europeans. As we become more global, are native species of plants are becoming less present in our landscapes, and unfortunately in our natural habitat. As plants from other parts of the world come into our landscapes, things happen. For instance, barberry and burning bush – now found in our forests – are reducing the herbaceous material that typically grows in forested areas. No natural predators, no natural controls.

Why is this a problem? Here's an interesting fact: "In 2000, 5% of PA native plant species had been eliminated and another 25% were in danger of being eliminated." (DCNR.state.pa.us) Research shows that the decreased native plants have a direct effect on our native insects, amphibians, birds, and wildlife. We should be concerned because as our native insects decrease, so does our food supply. We need insects to pollinate our vegetable plants, like cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and beans.

More interesting facts: "Americans manage 30 million acres of lawn. We purchase 100 million tons of fertilizer per year and 80 million pounds of pesticides (10 times the rate per acre of pesticides used by farmers). We spend \$750 million on grass seed. Grass clippings consume 25 – 40% of landfill space during the growing season. Before settlers, 95% of the watershed was forested, now less than 60% is forested." (Acb.onlin.org)

Growth is expected. But the way we manage growth can be controlled. We can increase plant di-

versity. We can connect plant corridors with our neighbors. We can reduce turf grass by planting shrubs, trees and perennials. We can increase insect diversity, reduce pesticide usage by planting plants that attract these insects. We can increase pollination for our vegetable crops by introducing native perennials into our landscapes that attract these beneficial insects.

Imagine being an insect, amphibian or mammal in today's world. All in the name of growth, you have been limited to small, forested areas. Remember, our area has been reduced by 35% and counting. To travel from one forested area to another, there is housing, streets, cars, grass, and water that is polluted with pesticides—lots and lots of open space. Survival rate? Probably not so good.

Now, what if we take that same environment and connect yards with shrubs, trees and perennials. What if we reduce the turf. Suddenly, the animals, birds and insects have corridors that connect them to one forested area to another. Not only have we created more diversity in plant and animal life, we have provided more food as well as safe route for travel, we have allowed these critters to visit our vegetables to pollinate, we've allowed for activity in our yards we never would have seen, and we've cleaned up our water because we are using less pesticides as we allow for natural predators to prey on pests.

As a horticulturist, I get questions every day that go something like this: what can I spray to fix "xyz" problem? We as a society want quick and easy answers, and expect immediate results. Quickly, we get frustrated because the amount of pesticides available to us as homeowners is reduced each year, or so it seems. Why has this happened? We are the most abu-

sive users of pesticides. We don't read the label, or if the label says to use ¼ tsp per gal, we use ½ tsp, because more must be better.

Farmers and professional pesticide applicators are regulated. They have to take a test to apply pesticides. They have to continue their training of pesticide usage to keep their license. We, as homeowners, are not. We can use pesticides that we get at Lowe's, Home Depot, Wal-mart as we wish. We don't always abide by label directions. We can abuse our right to use pesticides without punishment.

Problems in our landscapes are often a result of bad planting, the wrong plant selection, or plant maintenance and have nothing to do with insect or disease issues; or the insect or disease issue is a secondary infestation resulting from bad plant management. Therefore, education is imperative so we can understand when to use pesticides, and what is the best management of our plants in our landscapes. If we concentrate more on native plants that are acclimated to our weather, soils, and natural insects, we will reduce the need for "fixes".

As homeowners, we must look at our surroundings as a piece of the natural world. What was there before houses, streets and cars? What can I do to make my environment friendlier? Consider this: if we reduce our lawn, we reduce the amount of fertilizer we're applying. If we reduce fertilizer use, we reduce pollution



Mary Ann Ryan of Sugarloaf Valley Gardens in Fairfield is one of the area's leading experts on native plants

of local creeks and streams, possible contamination of ground water, air and noise pollution from gas powered equipment. Think about it: if we're not mowing, we're saving on gas. We are reducing our costs of fertilizers that potentially run into our water supply. We've increased biodiversity – the variety and variation of plants, animals, fungi, microbes and their relationship to each other, we've created a cleaner environment. We've reduced pollution of local creeks and streams and possible contamination of ground water.

It's really quite simple. Each and every one of us can help our environment to become healthier and happier. All we have to do is:

1. Avoid fragmentation of forests by connecting your land to your neighbor through planting trees, shrubs and perennials.
2. Replace trees and shrubs with native plants and reduce turfgrass areas. This will allow our native critters to live happily, resulting in less pesticide usage and better pollination for our foods.
3. Buy your plants from someone that knows plants. Not all non-native plants are bad, not all cultivated or selected plants are bad. Many are good. Many have benefits to our environment, but ask a professional.

Native at Alloway

Barbara Steele
Alloway Creek Gardens

Alloway Creek Gardens, located in the watershed of the Alloway Creek, is surrounded by fields, woodlands and a stream that starts in the Littlestown Pennsylvania area. Alloway Creek eventually flows into the Monocacy River near Harney, Maryland. Native plants abound in this area and recognizing their significant contribution to the wildlife that is sustained by them, Alloway has added natives to their plant offerings over the past years. Native ferns, Eupatorium (Joe Pye) Boneset, Rudbeckias, Asclepias (Butterfly Milkweed) Lobelia (Cardinal flower and Blue Lobelia), Monarda (Bee balm), New England Asters, and Echinacea (Coneflower) are all easy additions for the garden. Some natives such as the Joe Pye are now available in shorter varieties like 'Gateway' or 'Baby Joe', likewise the Echinacea are also now offered in a wider range of colors. Asters and other plants in the daisy families are great additions in the butterfly garden. Butterflies like sun and the daisies are sun lovers.

Heleniums, Coreopsis and Heliopsis all invite the butterflies to rest on their petals and sip the nectar!

Attracting hummingbirds to the garden adds another dimension in experiencing wildlife and one red variety of Monarda (Bee balm), 'Jacob Kline' is a big draw for the little "hummers". Monarda fistulosa, the wilder version of Bee balm, has a lovely lavender flower and can be used as a tea. Vines with tubular flowers also offer nectar to the hummingbirds. If you do not have room for a trumpet vine, Campsis radicans, try Lonicera sempervirens, a honeysuckle vine that can be kept under control on a trellis or fence.

Native plants play a huge role in attracting and nourishing our "native" bees. These bees are the pollinators of our fruits and vegetables. "Research suggests native plants are four times more attractive to native bees than exotic flowers." (Mid-Atlantic Plants for Native Bees" www.xerces.org)

Try to plant bee flowers in clumps and have plants that flower all through the summer. Heirloom plants such as herbs and old fashion annuals can be used to supplement the "natives".

While there are many native trees abounding in nearby woods, two small native trees are of particular use for today's smaller gardens and yards. The Serviceberry, Amelanchier canadensis, is a small 20' tree with early white flowers followed by edible berries enjoyed both by the gardener and birds. Another small tree for a spot of filtered shade is the Redbud, Cercis canadensis that is spring flowering with red violet blossoms. There are many native shrubs that make nice additions to a smaller garden. Mock Orange, Bayberry, and Viburnums, Witch Hazel can all be utilized in the landscape. Look for shrubs that have a two-season interest, for example, Witch Hazel that blooms on bare twigs, followed by leafing that turns a bright yellow in the fall. Not all natives might be well adapted to the garden but there are many that can be utilized and become a welcome addition to the homeowner and the birds, bees, and butterflies that add life and joy to the garden.

For more information call 717-359-4548 or visit our website at www.allowaycreekgardens.com.



Bird Houses



SugarLoaf Valley Gardens



Bird Feeders

Native Perennials

Now Open
For The
Spring Season!

Open Spring thru Fall

Visit Us At: sugarloafvg@embarqmail.com

Open Weekends - Saturday 9-4 - Sunday 12-4

3901 Fairfield Road,
Fairfield, PA 17320

717-642-9293



Lavender—lovely but confusing

Tom Wajda
Adams County Master Gardener

Lavender is one of the most enjoyable plants for any gardener. It has lovely flower spikes, a great aroma, is very drought tolerant, and grows in poor soils. It has few insect pests. The blossoms can be used for craft or culinary purposes and have long been a staple of herbal medicine. Its gray-green foliage looks good all year in the perennial garden, and it attracts butterflies.

At the same time, lavender is a much misunderstood plant. Gardeners face an array of varieties and names such as English, French, Spanish, and Dutch. Often, there are references to lavenders and lavindins. All told, there are more than 250 named lavenders on the market so it is little wonder that confusion exists. When buying, be sure to read the label and insist on knowing the botanical name; only then can you be sure of what you are getting.

Hardy Varieties Let's begin with a review of the different kinds of lavender. What is often referred to as "English" (or sometimes "Dutch") lavender is botanically known as either *L. angustifolia* or *L. x intermedia*. Some experts refer to the *angustifolia* as "lavenders" and to the *intermedia* as "lavindins." The an-

gustifolia have small, narrow leaves usually about an inch long and a quarter inch wide; the leaves of the *intermedia* are about twice that size. Both are hardy to zone 5.

The best known *angustifolia* are Hidcote and Munstead. Hidcote has superb purple blossoms while Munstead has a somewhat lighter color. Both grow to be about two feet high and wide. Their blossoms -- on 6-8 inch stems -- are very fragrant and are popular for crafting, cooking, and medicinal purposes. Other popular *angustifolia* include Royal Purple, Backhouse Nana, Lady, and the pinkish-white blooming Rosea.

The *intermedia* varieties tend to be larger than the *angustifolia*s. Some of them are 3-4 feet in diameter and two feet high with the flowers produced on stalks 20-24 inches long. Provence and Grosso are probably the most popular *intermedia*s with Seal and Pierre Boutin giving them good competition. Their masses of three inch long dark purple blossoms make a real "statement" in the garden from mid-June through mid-July. All four varieties are excellent dried and can be used to make lavender wands.

Tender Lavenders Most so-called French or Spanish lavenders are lovely in the garden in spring and summer but will not survive a frost. These include *L. stoechas*, *L. multi-*

fida, *L. dentata*, *L. lanata*, and *L. pinnata*. These varieties are not as aromatic as their hardy cousins and their blossoms are quite different. Interestingly, they do very well as houseplants; kept in a sunny window and regularly fertilized, they will bloom all year.

Care and Feeding Lavenders need full sun, good drainage, and slightly alkaline soil; you should test your soil, adding lime if necessary. Test kits of varying quality and reliability are available from most nurseries. For a thorough soil analysis stop by the Penn State Agricultural Extension Service office and pick up one of their \$6.00 test kits. Heavy clay soils need the addition of sand for lavenders in order to insure good drainage.

Mulch lavenders with a one-inch layer of sand, white pebbles, or oyster shell; this will reflect the sunlight back into the plant and help prevent fungus diseases. Leaving adequate spacing between plants will help air circulation. Lavenders benefit from a cover of evergreen branches in the winter and a pruning of not more than one-third of the plant in the spring. Deer do not appear to care for the taste of lavender; in fact, some gardeners plant lavender among other plants as a deterrent to deer.

One note of caution. Lavender loses its stem and leaf color in win-

ter, and many gardeners assume it has died. That is usually not the case so do not be too hasty in pulling it up and throwing it out. I planted 800 lavenders last June and watered them only twice - once when they were planted and again in early August. Ninety percent of these plants made it through the winter despite our severe drought. Even now--in early June--plants that I was confi-

dent were dead last week are making new growth.

If you are looking for a versatile herb that has stood the test of time, consider lavender. It has been around since the time of the Greeks and Romans and continues today to provide beauty and fragrance to those lucky enough to have some growing in their gardens.

Find the Latin confusing... then read.

Alloway Creek Gardens & Herb Farm

* Herb Plants * Perennials * Annuals * Native Plants * Vegetable Plants
* Display Gardens * Authentic Log-House Gift Shop

JOIN US FOR THESE EVENTS!

ANNUAL ALLOWAY GARDEN FAIRE
JUNE 3rd & 4th
10am to 3pm
Artists, music, vendors and tasty herbal treats!
Featuring
HERBS, PERENNIALS & VEGGIES!

Visit Us On The Web At:
www.allowaycreekgardens.com
"Friend" Us On Facebook!

456 Mud College Rd, Littlestown, PA 17340
717-359-4548 Wed.-Sat. 10am-5pm Sun. 1pm-5pm
Other hours by appointment or chance



Since 2001

pennsylvania lavender festival

Willow Pond Farm, 145 Tract Road, Fairfield, PA

June 17th - June 19th

Featuring:
Susan Belsinger, Culinary Herbalist; Don Haynie, Herbal Designer & Author
Jennifer Vasich, Author Of *The Lavender Gourmet*

Admission: \$5⁰⁰ (Children 12 & Under FREE!)

Advance Tickets: \$20.00
Includes: Admission, a picnic lunch with drink, a \$5.00 bunch of cut-your-own lavender plus a 5% discount on all purchases from the Willow Pond Farm Shop, greenhouse and lavender tent!

Food, Cooking Demonstrations, Music, Crafts.
Win \$100 In Saturday's Recipe Contest! *Pick your own lavender!*
Lavender field tours, workshops, make your own lavender wands, vendors & more!

Free Parking And Shuttle At Fairfield School - No Pets Please

Full Schedule of Events at: www.palavenderfestival.com

717.642.6387

www.willowpondfarm.com

Hours: June 17-18 - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
June 19 - 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



HISTORY

Ashbaugh's store

Cheryl Ashbaugh-White

My Grandmother, Helen Ashbaugh was born Helen Beatrice Knott in Thurmont, Maryland on March 29, 1900. Like so many girls of those times, she married at the age of eighteen to Harry Ellsworth Ashbaugh. Harry was killed in an elevator accident when she was only 21 years of age and carrying their first child - a boy, Harry, my dad.

Several years after the death of her husband, Helen married Harry's brother George. I'm told in those days it was not uncommon to marry the brother or sister of a lost spouse. They had three children - George (the youngest), Ruth, and Georgette. Two have nicknames, which they are still called by today. I would like to share the story that was told to the grandchildren about how their aunt and uncle got their nickname.

George's nickname is "Tick" because when he was little he couldn't say "stick" he could only say "tick" and this nickname has stuck with him for 65+ years to his family and friends in Emmitsburg. Ruth



Ashbaugh's store as it appeared in the late 1930s. It was torn down to make room for Irish town road.

by my great grandfather, Hebert Ashbaugh and his wife Delta Gelwicks. Through the years it became a grocery store and my grandparents, George & Helen ended up owning and operating it until the 1970's when my Grandma closed the store due to her age and health. Eventually the store was sold and torn down and replaced with a road. It's a shame so much history has been replaced for modern times.

I can remember as a child I always loved going to Grandma's. She spoiled all her grandchildren, but I always thought I was spoiled a little more. I can remember running through the

ting on the left side of the door as you came in. I would always dig into the big barrel to get a hard pretzel. In the summer the store would make Snow Cones. The snow cone machine set on the big window frame in the front of the store. There must have been a dozen flavors - lime, cherry, strawberry, and blueberry, etc. You could even mix the flavors and get the rainbow. That's the one most of the kids liked.

Then there was the big glass candy case where you could buy candies for penny apiece. She would always let me get a few pieces. I just loved the red licorice sticks. I can also remember customers would call their orders in and Uncle Tick would pack up the groceries in a brown cardboard box and deliver to their home. I don't know if the other stores in town did the same. Something else the Ashbaugh's Grocery Store provided was credit from payday to payday to their regular customers.

I remember customers coming in and Grandma slicing 1/2 lb bologna or cheese, or taking out a long string of hot dogs and taking a few apart and they would say, "put it on my bill Helen". Grandma would nod her gray hair head and take a piece of paper and write their name on it. On Fridays and Saturdays the customers would come in and pay their bill off.

As a teenager girl in the 60's I really liked helping around the store, cause all the boys would come in and buy their cigarettes or shotgun shells. They would hang around and talk to



Bob Myers, a regular at Ashbaugh's store

was nickname "Tiny" because she was born premature and was so tiny they didn't think she would survive. The colored lady that helped deliver her at home placed her in the cook stove to keep her warm. She is the only child of Helen & George Ashbaugh still living in Emmitsburg. The others have died or moved on.

I didn't live in Emmitsburg or the immediate surrounding area as did my cousins, but Emmitsburg was apart of my life as it was theirs. I spent many holidays and summers with my Grandma and helped at the Ashbaugh's Grocery Store until I joined the military in 1970 and left Maryland for good.

The Ashbaugh's Grocery Store was first a blacksmith shop owed

grocery store door and seeing her behind the counter in her bib style apron waiting on a customer. Big glass top red barrels with the big white letters of Snyder's pretzels would be sit-



Helen and Ted Ashbaugh

my Uncle while he lit his pipe about the deer that "got away". To me it seemed like everyone in town knew my Uncle Tick and he loved talking about hunting. He would start a conversation about the weather or anything else happening doing that time with any stranger that would walk into the store. He stills enjoy talking to anyone including strangers and I have always found him easy to talk to. He holds a very dear spot in my heart.

After my Grandfather, George passed away in 1959 Uncle Tick and Grandma ran the store seven days a week, opening at 8:00 a.m. except on Sunday. Friday and Saturday were the late nights to stay open. The store would open on Sunday afternoon for about 3 hours after Catholic Church let out. I can even remember a couple of times on holidays when the store was closed someone would come and knock on the house door and needed an item. Grandma or Uncle Tick would go and unlock the store so the customer could

get their stuff. You sure can't get that kind of service today.

I would like to share some stories that my father and Grandma told us kids growing up.

The 1st story is about my Dad - I guess he was your typical boy always getting into trouble. He would probably be labeled today as "Dennis the Menace". As the story goes he was around 5 years old and was home in bed sick with the croup. Grandma had to attend the store and left Dad in bed with strict instructions, "don't go outside". This incident happen during the winter. Since he was a mischievous little boy, he got out of bed and got his dad's ole shotgun. He went outside and saw (Charley Shorb) "Old Man Shorb", as he was referred to by my Dad go into the "outhouse".

Dad started firing shots into the outhouse. He said you could hear Old Man Shorb yelling and the outhouse just a shaking. He kept shooting until no shots were left. Dad went back inside, put the gun up and went back to bed. Thinking none

TWICE IS NICE
"SECOND HAND STORE"
THURMONT'S #1 VIDEO GAME SOURCE

VIDEO GAMES & SYSTEMS

XBOX SEGA PlayStation Nintendo

AIRSOFT & PAINTBALL MARKERS & ACCESSORIES
Military Camo BDU Clothing!

BABY ITEMS
(Stollers, Car Seats, Clothing, Walkers, etc.)

TOYS & GAMES
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
ELECTRONICS
BOYD'S BEARS
LONGABERGER BASKETS

We Buy, Sell & Trade!

Summer Hours: Mon.-Fri. - 10 am to 6 pm, Sat. - 10 am to 5 pm
6 North St., Thurmont, MD 21788
301-271-2403

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH 12 - 2 PM
220 W. Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD

Directions: Rt. 15N to Rt. 140 Emmitsburg exit. Make a left onto Main Street. Home on the right after the town square.

BEAUTIFUL BRICK FEDERAL STYLE HOME

This home has so much to offer. 4 bedrooms, hardwood floors, upper & lower rear porches, front & rear staircases, built-in cabinets, hot water gas heat, huge laundry room on 2nd floor, walk-up floored attic, extra large rooms, large back yard & ample off street parking, close to shopping & major commuter routes at VERY AFFORDABLE PRICE! If you dream of reaching back in time to a simpler way of life you have found your new home! MLS #FR7535610.

MACKINTOSH REALTORS^{INC.}
1830 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD 21740
SHARON MARTIN, Assoc. Broker, GRI, CRS
301-790-1700 or 301-606-8680

HISTORY



Ted selling Charlie Tyson a fishing rod

would know it was him. Well, I guess Old Man Shorb knew and went straight to the store to tell my Grandma. She went to the house to confront my Dad, who of course, denied it, but through the denying his cough was getting worse, which gave him away. He tells, this was the worst licken he ever had in his life and sent upstairs to bed before the rest of the family went up.

Because the upstairs was haunted with Nancy, the ghost, none of the kids even when I was growing up the grandchildren would go up to bed without Grandma or another cousin with us. As Dad told it, he would get the licken, go upstairs, come down get another licken and set back upstairs and this went on for over a hour until he wore his Dad out and he let him stay downstairs until the family went to bed. Dad would say later, "he would rather get the licken than stay upstairs by himself with Nancy the ghost".

This begins the story of Nancy

the ghost in the Ashbaugh's house. As my Grandma use to tell us kids, if you are bad and don't listen Nancy will come and get you. Since none of the Ashbaugh's grandchildren were angels we wouldn't go upstairs at night without an adult. As we got into our teens, we would go with each other instead of our parents or Grandma. My cousin, Carole Weidner and I held hands going up those long dark narrow squeaky steps at night to bed on many occasions.

Nancy was a young woman who lived in the house during the Civil War. When the Blue Bellies as the Yankees were called came through town she hid in the attic. They thought she was aiding the South and killed her in the attic and left her body there. The Ashbaugh's house was sold a few years ago, so I don't know if Nancy remains with the new occupants, but she did while the Ashbaugh's owed the house. Almost everyone in the family has had an experience

with Nancy. I for one, have.

The time was around 1965. Uncle Tick was married in 1964 and moved all his belongings out. My Grandma's house was a three-story house and there is no way someone could get up to the back bedroom window without a tall ladder. Even then, I don't know if a tall ladder would do it. It was midday and I was going upstairs to get something. Even in midday none of us kids liked going upstairs by ourselves, but I did this one time. I walked into the bedroom, which was at the top of the stairs, and the closet door was open. I thought this was funny, as I hadn't opened it when I left and no one had been upstairs. I crept closer to the closet and there I saw the shoe toe of a pair of shoes sticking out from the long dresses that was hung in the closet. Needless to say, I was scared to death. I ran downstairs and got my cousin, Carole. We went back upstairs and the shoes were gone, closet door shut, and the bedroom window open. We looked out the window and saw nothing.

The only explanation, Grandma gave, "it was Nancy". Sometimes at night as I would lie in bed I would hear what sounded like someone walking in the attic. My Grandma wore a hearing aid and would take it off at night. She wouldn't be able to hear anything, but she would say she could feel a vibration from the attic, "it was Nancy".

As I said earlier, my dad should have been named Dennis the Menace he was always pulling pranks on people. Another story he used to tell was about the black cat that he and some of his buddies painted to look like a skunk and released it during the Walk-a-thon at Flat Run. As you might guess, everyone started screaming and running all over the place.

Years have passed as well as my Grandma in 1984 and my Dad in 1988 but I will always remember my times in Emmitsburg and the stories told to us kids by our relatives sitting at Grandma's kitchen table.

Ashbaugh's Grocery Store

Don Rodgers

Having been born and raised in Emmitsburg to the age of nineteen, I still consider it to be my hometown even after being away for over forty-five years. But, I don't live far away and return often. Going through town recently, one of my thoughts was about the stores that were there when I was growing up. Although the town has more inhabitants than it did forty-five years ago, it has fewer "stores". It may have more business's but they don't sell goods, they sell services. This isn't unique to Emmitsburg -- times change and big stores have wiped out most of the small ones not only in Emmitsburg but all over the country.

Since we lived just four doors from Ashbaugh's, that is where I spent a lot of my time. In the winter, heat was supplied from a pot bellied stove behind the meat case. There were four or five chairs around the stove and you could come in from the cold, sit in one of the chairs, lean back and put your feet up on the stove. I don't think any of the other stores could boast of a pot-bellied stove. You could sit in there, drink pop, talk or just listen. There was usually someone coming in to buy a little something and, of course, we knew everyone in town anyhow so you would at least say "Hi" to them. Most of the time the counter was tended by George, Helen or Tick although Harry, Ruth and Georgette took their turns also.

Most of the items were behind the counter and you ask for them and they would be set on the counter. A large roll of paper at the end of the counter was used to wrap freshly sliced lunch meats and cheeses. Lunch meats consisted of bologna, Lebanon

Bologna (summer sausage) and perhaps a ham loaf. Prices were tallied on a brown paper bag and money rung up on a brass cash register.

George also sold fishing and hunting gear and, when fiberglass rods first appeared on the market, George told me he could bend it in a circle tip-to-end and not break it. That was hard to believe and I said I would buy it if he could do that -- he did it, I bought it and, believe it or not, I still have the rod.

Of course there was the candy case -- it had a big curved glass with a crack in it and a piece of adhesive tape over the crack. The crack was there as long as I could remember and was most likely caused by too many kids leaning on the glass. It held quite an assortment of candy and, for a nickel, you get a nice little bag full.

In the summer time, the ice man (I don't remember his name except that I think his first name was Quincy) would pull up in his Model T pickup and deliver ice. He delivered ice all over town from the ice-plant next to East End Garage. We would run to the back of the truck, throw back the tarp covering the ice, and get one of the slivers that had chipped off of the 50 or 100 lb blocks. He probably delivered ice in the winter also but I wasn't out there looking for ice chips in winter. When the ice plant shut down Ashbaugh's built a small ice house in the corner of the building and sold ice from there.

I'm sure the other stores all had their charm but for me Ashbaugh's Store will always be the one I remember most vividly. The buildings that housed the other stores are all still in use but Ashbaugh's building is now gone.



16-20 W. Main St. Emmitsburg, MD ♦ (301) 447-3689
Wed., Thu., Fri. 7:30 am - 9 pm; Sat. 6:30 am - 9 pm;
Sun. 7:30 - 11:30 am; Closed: Monday & Tuesday
Owners Terry Ryder & Doug Long

Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Homemade Soups & Desserts
We Offer Daily Specials ~ Beer, Wine & Cocktails
Now Serving Soft Serve Ice Cream!

Father's Day, Sunday, June 19th!
Treat Dad to Breakfast!

We will be closed June 25th for Community Day!

301.447.2020
16663 Old Emmitsburg Rd., Emmitsburg

Zurgable Brothers Hardware

Come and Taste the Holland Difference
It Grills, It Steams and It Smokes
Stop by for our live cooking demonstrations

Fri., June 17th - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Holland grill is the easiest, safest, healthiest way to make your cook-out a success. Most foods never need turning. Simply close the lid and cook by time. *Guaranteed performance.*

- Stainless Steel Cooking Grid and Cast Iron Burner Guaranteed for the Life of the Grill
- Durable Construction - Made in the USA
- Models Available in L.P. or Natural Gas



LIVE DEMO!




Simple. Delicious. Reliable.

•Stay Here!•Shop Local! Support Your Local Businesses!

COLD WAR WARRIORS

Spy ships—theirs and ours

Commander John Murphy,
USN, Ret

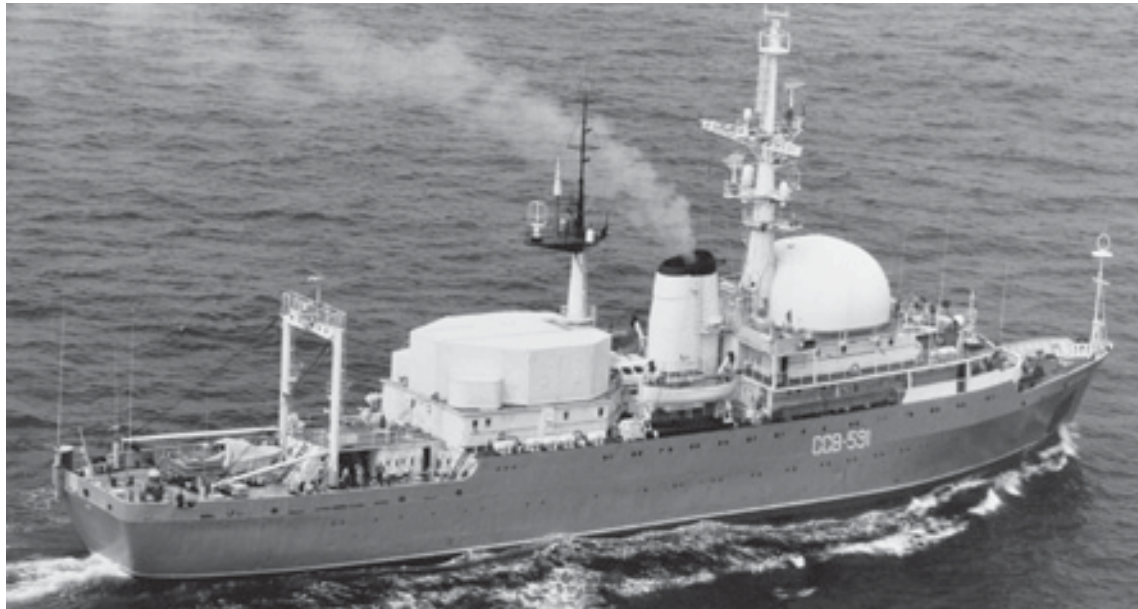
They made for sensational headlines back in the 1960s and 1970s.

“U.S. Spy ship Seized by North Korea”, “Israelis Attack U.S. Spy Ship”, “Soviet AGI collides with U.S. submarine near Rota”.

Who were these Cold War spy ships? For the most part they were Soviet or American ships that were specially equipped for a variety of intelligence missions. Visual and photographic, acoustic, electronic (radar etc.) and communications intelligence for the most part. They were usually equipped with fancy antennas and intelligence collection paraphernalia.

Soviet Spy Ships

Technically speaking – any Cold War naval vessel was a potential spy ship, but the Soviet ships that were of the greatest concern to the U.S. Navy were those pesky, little, decrepit looking fishing trawlers that were interfering with naval operations worldwide. We called them AGIs (Auxiliary General Intelligence). The Soviets simply called them “trawlers” (tra’l’shchiki). We gave them credit for being covert, but the Chief of the Soviet Navy (Admiral Konstantin Makarov) told me in 1988 “It’s all my government would give us. We wanted better ships, but were told they were too expensive.” To the U.S. Navy – these small, ubiquitous AGIs were a genuine pain in the barnacles. They sat off all of our major base areas- worldwide. A U.S. ballistic missile submarine could not enter or leave its base in Spain, or Scotland without being harassed by a Soviet AGI. Our aircraft carriers could not conduct flight operations without an AGI cutting across its bow or sitting in the middle of its bombing zones. I increasingly came to believe that they just



Top photo: Soviet Primorye class intelligence collector underway.
Bottom photo: USS Pueblo before her capture by the North Koreans.

wanted to taunt us and ruin our day.

After the Cuban Missile Crisis, the U.S. Joint Chiefs had enough of these maritime pests. They authorized a “Counter AGI Program” with very clear guidelines as to what we could do and could not do to them. Plainly put ... we could do just about everything- but we could not sink them. We could put destroyers alongside to “shoulder” them. Bump and bruise them. Foul their propellers with steel wire or even melt the tubes in their electronic gear with high power electromagnetic radiations. They could get in the way

of our operations, but they were going to pay for it. That was the plan. We tried some counter AGI operations in the mid 60s, but the AGIs proved adaptable and cagey. They may have looked like god-forsaken pieces of junk, but they were manned by talented and capable crews. Scientists and signals intelligence professionals who were fluent in English. That sloppy looking captain that was in the wheelhouse was probably a Soviet Navy Commander or Captain who had just come from a destroyer in the Soviet Mediterranean Squadron. He, and all his crew had been careful-

ly screened by the KGB for political reliability and loyalty.

I took part in the first JCS-authorized operation against a Soviet spy ship in 1964. I was at the Atlantic Fleet Headquarters in Norfolk when I received orders to be the Officer in Charge of a Naval Security Group Detachment aboard the destroyer USS Robert A. Owens (DD 827). Our job was to keep a Soviet AGI - then operating near Norfolk, away from tests of a new, U.S. Navy cruise missile (Harpoon). As a Russian linguist, I was given a special electronic system to monitor conversations from the AGI’s bridge area (wheelhouse). The “system” they gave me was called an “ABC Sports Mike” system. It had just been introduced for use by ABC Monday Night Football TV crews. When we got alongside “our” AGI, all I got was noise from an exhaust fan on my own ship. My ABC Sports Mike was not “directional”- It was totally omnidirectional. I gave up.

However, we continued to trail our target AGI for days as he moved northward towards Newfoundland. I became increasingly impressed with the shiphandling skills of the AGI’s Captain. We would try and come close alongside for photographic coverage and he would “spin on a dime” and head into the sun putting us at a disadvantage. Our destroyer could not “spin” as nicely as an AGI.

We eventually figured out that

our AGI was finishing a long, six month cruise and was looking for his replacement. Another AGI who was lurking somewhere in the midst of the huge, Soviet fishing fleet off Newfoundland. As we entered the Grand Banks, there were little fishing trawlers that looked just like our AGI – everywhere! Fortunately, we were able to follow him because of his very distinctive navigation radar. It made a distinctive “hiccup” sound at the end of every sweep. When our AGI finally found his replacement – the two began exchanging boxes of classified material, food, and most importantly to them – vodka. I can still see the scene - topside on our AGI that day. Soviet scientists, sailors (i.e. spooks), their mascot dog and a case of vodka. They waved and shouted greetings – in perfect English. They were going home to beautiful, downtown Murmansk. Our counter AGI operation was over.

It may seem like I “respected” the Soviet AGIs and to some extent I can see where they were serving a useful purpose. They were probably bringing home useful intelligence on our operations while making our life more difficult than we would have liked, BUT! they were also taking unnecessary risks which were adding up in our “Incidents at Sea” ledger. These incidents finally led to an Incidents at Sea Agreement between the U.S. and the USSR in 1972. This agreement clearly defined basic ground rules for the operations of Soviet and U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and submarines – on the high seas and in and around major base areas.

We were sick and tired of the Soviet spy ships interfering with our major exercises and general operations. AGIs were accidents that were just waiting to happen. They demonstrated poor seamanship and judgement to say the least.

I can recall one incident in the Sea of Japan in 1969 while serving aboard the carrier USS Enterprise. Our A-6 bombers were conducting what were called “wake bombing”. Enterprise was in fight operations and running at high speed - up to 30 Knots or more. A large wake would appear aft of the ship and the AGI’s would begin dropping unarmed 500 lb. bombs into the wake. Our duty AGI would complicate things by falling in 200 yards astern of the Enterprise and ride in the wake – taking in the showup close and personal. I don’t know what they were trying to prove, but it was risky behavior at best. Sometimes, we would have to suspend the bombing and send a destroyer out to “shoulder” the AGI away from the impact zone. I am sure they took great delight in disrupting our training, but they would not be so smug if they could have heard the A6 pilots talking about them in their Ready Rooms after they

Weikert's Egg Farm

A FAMILY OWNED FARM

FARM FRESH EGGS

From Free Walking Hens

FARM FRESH BEEF

Naturally Fed, No Hormones, No Antibiotics
Our cattle are fed on organically grown feed produced right here on our own farm

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Visit our farm store on Rt. 116, 4 mi. west of Gettysburg

717-334-3727
2559 Fairfield Rd., Rt. 116 West
Gettysburg, PA 17325

COLD WAR WARRIORS



was sent out to the mid Pacific to snoop around the French nuclear tests and Jamestown checked out the Mediterranean and Africa. Liberty replaced the Jamestown in the Mediterranean. Meanwhile the Vietnam war was growing in intensity as the U.S. presence steadily grew in- country and at sea. Air Force and Navy strike aircraft worked together to conduct major bombing (Operation Rolling Thunder) of the North Vietnamese logistics system down into South Vietnam through what was called the Ho Chi Minh trail.

I was the Operations Officer on USS Jamestown when she was assigned to replace Oxford off the coast of South Vietnam. We were assigned to conduct the first NSA-sponsored, electronic survey of South East Asia and Vietnam in 1964. Serving aboard a Liberty hull AGTR in a combat zone was nerve wracking. You were always aware that if you took a torpedo or a mine in either of the major Operations Areas – the ship would quickly fill with sea water and you would “go down like a bomb”. We operated very close to the Vietnamese coast in the Gulf of Siam and were constantly alert for attempts by the Viet Cong to sneak up in high speed, rubber boats in an attempt to place “limpet mines” on our hull. We operated due south of Sihanoukville, Cambodia – right in the path of the main Viet Cong supply line flowing from Cambodia into the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam. The saying was “We may own this place during the day, but the V.C. owns it at night.”

Ironically, It probably was a good thing that the Israelis attacked a Victory hulled AGTR – USS Liberty on 8 June, 1967. My Liberty hull AGTR could not have survived such an attack. Israeli patrol boats made a direct hit with a torpedo in the USS Liberty’s communications center and the

ship survived. But, not before 34 men died and 170 were wounded. The Communications Officer, LT Jim Pierce, USN was killed instantly when the torpedo struck his spaces. Several months earlier, I was working to transfer Jim Pierce to a major communications center ashore. His dream assignment. I needed him immediately, but he asked me to leave him on board until after the 1967 cruise. That this would be his “sunset tour”. His final tour in the Navy. Regretfully, for Jim, I agreed.

In the late 60s, the Navy created a new, smaller, less expensive, spy ship known as the AGER. There were three AGERs – USS Banner (AGER 1); USS Pueblo (AGER 2) and USS Palm Beach (AGER 3). In the late 60s I was responsible for assigning the Naval Security Group officers to these ships. We used Banner in North East Asia to keep an eye on the North Koreans, Chinese and Soviets. Then we brought two more ships on line – USS Pueblo and Palm Beach. Since both ships were being introduced about the same time... I let the officers pick their own ship. Those that preferred an East coast homeport - chose Palm Beach. Those that preferred the West coast went for the Pueblo. One of the officers en route to Pueblo asked me to assign him to Emergency Ship Handling School before reporting. A special course for technical specialists in

the Navy – to learn how to “drive a ship”. I asked him why he would want to take such a course and he replied “Well, you never know. We might get attacked and the Captain might get wounded.” I sent him to the course, but he never made it topside when the USS Pueblo was captured on 23 January, 1968.

I find it sadly ironic that – all of our AGTRs and AGERs are gone – except for USS Pueblo that remains a ship of the U.S. Navy – tied up as a tourist attraction in Pyongyang, North Korea. The others? I understand, they were towed out to sea and sunk. They became undersea “barriers and reefs”. It was a particularly poignant moment for me, was when I was asked to visit USS Liberty in Norfolk in 1973. It was the day before she was to be towed out into the Atlantic and sunk. I walked through the operations area and stood in a passageway where my friend LCDR Dave Lewis had lain severely wounded on 8 June 1967. After all the effort to save the Liberty and bring her home for repairs – now she was about to make her last cruise. This Spy Ship’s Cold War was over.

In Memoriam – LT James Cecil Pierce, USN, Buried, Section 13, Arlington National Cemetery

To read past editions of John Murphy’s Cold War Warriors, visit the author’s

came back aboard the “Big E”. “Should’ve bounced a few off their antennas! See how they like that.” Or “One good hit in the foredeck area of that pathetic piece of junk - would have sent them straight to the bottom.” Etc. Now that is what I call a real Counter AGI operation!

Our Spy Ships

Meanwhile, in the mid 1950s, we began creating our very own class of Spy Ship, known as the AGTR (Auxiliary General Technical Research). We were quick to point out that these were not spy ships - they were “Technical Research Ships”. When we visited foreign ports and gave tours, our visitors would ask us “What are all those huge antennas for?” We would respond “Tree research! We are conducting technical research of the forests around the world.” Or something like that

By 1964, we had five AGTRs. Three were WWII Liberty hulls – USS Oxford, Georgetown and Jamestown (my future ship). The other two AGTRs were the more modern WWII Victory hulls – USS Belmont and Liberty. In WWII the single hulled Liberty ships were considered “expendable”. They hauled cargo – if they made it... fine. To Murmansk in the Soviet north or the Arabian Sea in the South. If not C’est la guerre. As spy ships they were big. Looked impressive. Carried lots of men and equipment. But were weakly armed. Mostly to repel hostile, boarding parties.

The first AGTR ... USS Oxford became operational as the Cuban Missile Crisis was reaching its peak in 1962. Oxford was driving the Cubans crazy with her operations around the important naval base at Cienfuegos. She was “jumped” several times by heavi-

ly armed Cuban patrol craft. We had some anxious moments at the Atlantic Fleet Headquarters and had to scramble Air Force and Navy jets from aircraft carriers and bases in Florida - to warn the Cubans that the had better not harm our spy ships. It was “brinkmanship” at its best. It worked. But, it also taught the U.S. military that it better keep a careful eye on these ships. The Joint Chiefs of Staff required that NSA and the Navy keep everyone informed as to their operational schedules. From the earliest days We recognized that the AGTRs (and later the AGERs) were not your average naval ship. By the mid 1960s they were operating worldwide ... probing potential, international hot spots. USS Oxford and Georgetown covered Cuba and the Southern Atlantic. Belmont

Licensed Insured

REAVERS WOODWORKING INC.

*Quality Hand-Crafted
Cabinets/Furniture*

Brian P. Reaver, Sr.

Shop: 301-447-3386
Fax: 301-447-1750



- Kitchens, Armoires
- Hutches, China Cupboards
- Computer Stations
- Entertainment Centers
- Fireplace Mantels
- Vanities, Gun Cabinets
- Children’s Furniture
- Corner Cabinets, Bookcases
- Dressers, End Tables... etc.

Visit us online at: www.emmitsburg.net/woodworking



**Happy with your
Fuel Supplier?**

No?



**Then Call...
McLaughlin’s**

**For A Painless Change To Our Great
“Close To Home Service!”**

- FUEL OIL • KEROSENE
- PROPANE (LP) GAS

**Spring
Clearance Sale!**

10% Off

**Our Reg. Discounted Price
ON ALL HEARTH PRODUCTS!**

*A Family Owned & Operated Business Since 1954
Dedicated To Providing Your Heating Oil & LP Gas Needs!*

Located Just Over The Mountain In Rouzerville!

11931 Buchanan Trail East,
Waynesboro, PA 17628

717-762-5711
800-463-5711



McLaughlin’s

HEATING OILS & LP GAS

“Nothing Heats Like A Flame!”

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 am to 5 pm; Sat. 9 am to 12 Noon

CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Diary of Joseph Wible

John Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society
Civil War Historian

Thursday, Jan 2, 1862 – Today is cold and cloudy and the weather portends snow.

Friday, Jan 3, 1862 – Today the weather has differed but little from yesterday except this evening it commenced snowing and from crescent appearances we will have sleighing tomorrow.

Saturday, Jan 4, 1862 – The ground is now covered with about 5 inches deep of snow and the weather is very cold. Our boys started out this morning rabbit hunting and caught a few which they ate for dinner. There has been considerable cannonading in the neighborhood of Hancock today and which still continues. We could see a very bright light in the direction of Hancock, supposed to be the burning of that

place by the rebels.

Sunday, Jan 5, 1862 – Lt. Hunter with a squad of men took a lot of prisoners from Williamsport to Frederick today. They were mostly deserters from the Rebel army. There has been heavy firing all day in the direction of Hancock.

Monday, Jan 6, 1862 – Snowed all last night and the snow is now several inches deep. The sleighs are running to and fro showing us the pleasure without the enjoyment. The 46th Pennsylvania came to Williamsport today. The whole of the Third Brigade of General Banks' has moved up in this direction – part have gone on to Hancock.

Tuesday, Jan 7, 1862 – We unpacked our uniforms today but were disappointed in getting them. There was one of our men sent to town to the guardhouse this evening. Twelve of us were detailed for two weeks to act as messengers

along the river.

Wednesday, Jan 8 to Jan 31 – Many things of note have transpired over the interval of the above dates. We received our uniforms somewhere about the 12th of this month. It comprises a complete cavalry outfit from head to foot. This makes two suits for us in our five months of service but we have received three overcoats already, which is two more than we are entitled to. A great part of our Company has been detailed as messengers for the First Maryland Regiment which is stationed along the Potomac River. I have been doing duty as messenger for about two weeks up to last Monday, which was the 20th when I with some of the rest of our squad returned to our Company. And, on Wednesday of the same week our whole company was detailed to guard the telegraph between Hancock and Frederick. We were payed off today – they paid us mostly in Treasury notes of the denomination of ten dollars. Our squad consisting of: Spangler, Shaffbury, Feste, Furle, Knox, Corporal Annan and myself arrived at our place or quarters on last Wednesday a week ago. Our squad are all pleased very much with our accommodations. We have had very mild weather during the past month for this time of year. Our duty here is rather hard – we are on eight hours out of every twenty.

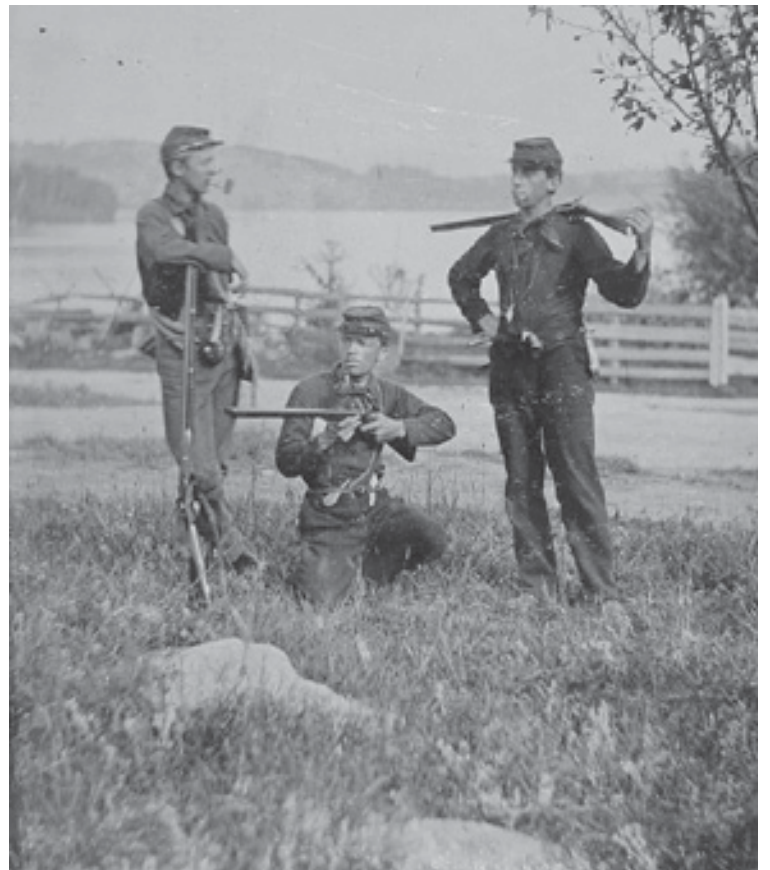
February 1, 1862 (Saturday) – Today has been very mild and Spring-like. Have been searching over the country side looking for a blacksmith's shop to get my horse shod. At last found one and had my wants attended to.

Feb 2, 1862 – Washington County, Md. – Last night had a respectable fall of snow but it had almost all disappeared already in the short space of 12 hours. The weather has been unusually mild lately. We went to Clearspring today to Church with Corporal Annan.

Feb 3, 1862 – Nothing worthy of note has happened today.

Tuesday, Feb 4, 1862 – We received orders today to return to our Company but as we felt a little reluctant to leave this place we postponed the matter till tomorrow. The weather has been very pleasant today.

Wednesday, Feb 5, 1862 – It was extremely cold and biting this morning. We were up before day getting ready for our trip to Hagerstown. We started about eight o'clock and about half past eleven we met the Company on the march three miles this side of Hagerstown when we had to retrace



our steps and follow the Company. We, with the Company, arrived at Clearspring about two o'clock PM where we encamped for the night. The most of the Company quartered in the Academy building for the night. I was fortunate enough to find a good feather-bed under the hospitable roof of Mr. Reitzel along with Mr. Wilson. I shall not soon forget their kindness. We also got a good breakfast in the morning before we left and had a hearty invitation to call again when convenient. I hope "convenient" may be soon.

Thursday, Feb 6, 1862 – We left Clearspring early this morning for Hancock our present place, where we arrived early in the afternoon and where we found miserable quarters. This certainly must be "Camp Misery." We were promised quarters tomorrow that are good quarters.

Friday, Feb 7, 1862 – Today has come and passed and we still have our old accommodations. This evening they commenced getting the boats ready for the soldiers to cross the river. It is still a little muddy.

Saturday, Feb 8, 1862 – Hancock – This is certainly as muddy and as disagreeable a place as it has been my misfortune to behold. Go where you may you can't escape the mud. It not only stares you in the face all the while but it is continually meddling with your clothes and more or less impeding your progress at every step. It will be impossible for me to enumerate the different varieties of mud with which this place abounds but still it all comes under the general head of dirty mud, but the whole town from one end to the other is one vast sea of mud. The interior of the houses not excepted. The population of this place I should

judge is about six or seven hundred. There is one principal street, about one third of a mile in length. The town is located on the east bank of the Potomac River about forty miles east of Cumberland and about 26 miles west of Hagerstown and is located on the extreme western portion of Washington County. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad runs but a quarter of a mile distant from this place on the western bank of the Potomac River. The river is about four hundred yards wide at this place. The only communication between this place and the Virginia shore is a small flat boat which is towed across several times a day by the soldiers. Our visitors from "Dixie" are mostly females who come to down-trodden Maryland to make purchases of such things as cannot be had in the "Land of Cotton."

Sunday, Feb 9, 1862 – This morning I was detailed on messenger duty for Sir John's Run which is about six miles up the river from this place. There was a soldier drowned at Dam No. 6 this morning – he accidentally fell into the canal in the lock. I carried but one dispatch today and that was for Gen. Lander whose Headquarters are at Patterson's Creek eight miles this side, and east of Cumberland. Several of the men stationed at Sir John's Run were at Bath but saw no Rebel soldiers.

Monday, Feb 10, 1862 – Last night was one of the coldest nights we have had this winter and this morning the canal is coated over with ice. Several hundred soldiers crossed at this place this morning and started for Romeny to repair the telegraph wire. Our men have commenced repairing railroad bridges destroyed by the Rebels at Dam No. 6 today. Several deserters from the Rebel army were brought to this place today. We found new quarters in an old weather-boarded house today but still are not comfortably quartered. I received a very interesting letter today from a friend.

To learn more about the Emmitsburg area in the Civil War, visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net



Civil War Battle Reenactment GETTYSBURG

July 1, 2, & 3, 2011

★ Infantry ★ Cavalry ★ Artillery ★

Witness These Exciting Battles!

Friday, July 1st

6:00 p.m. - Overwhelming Odds

Saturday, July 2nd

11:00 a.m. - A Fleeting Victory (Cavalry Battle)

5:00 p.m. - The Raging Attack

Sunday, July 3rd

11:00 a.m. - The Confederate Surprise (Cavalry Battle)

3:00 p.m. - Pickett's Charge

Note: All battles take place at 965 Pumping Station Road, Gettysburg

All Day Family Events!



- ★ Period Speakers
- ★ Real Civil War Weddings
- ★ Living History Village
- ★ Shop for Period Wares
- ★ Medical Demonstrations
- ★ Period Worship Services
- ★ Mortar Fire Demonstrations
- ★ Visit the Camps & More!



For Tickets & Event Information
Visit...www.GettysburgReenactment.Com

or Call 717-338-1525

All Events Held at 965 Pumping Station Road, Gettysburg

Prices are Higher at Gate *Schedule subject to change

Horner
Enterprises



Mostly Civil War Stuff

Potpourri of Publications, Presentations, Tours

John B. Horner

20 Horner Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

(717) 334-8916
e-mail: jhorner@cvn.net

VETERAN'S PROFILE

Emmitsburg's own "Commando Kelly"

Originally published in the Emmitsburg Chronicle in 1945.

Emmitsburg's own "Commando Kelly" is now spending a 30 day leave at his home on S. Seaton Ave., after returning for more than 2 1/2 years service overseas.

The Emmitsburg soldier is staff Sgt. Ralph Kelly, 26 son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kelly, and his career in the Army closely parallels that of the winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor from Pittsburgh.

Although his honors do not include the Congressional medal-highest award to any of the Armed Forces - Sgt. Kelly's decorations include enough of the ribbons to weigh down his tunic.

Twice wounded

He has been awarded two Silver Star Medals for gallantry in action, a Bronze Star Medal, an award given only to the infantry soldiers; the Combat Infantrymen Badge, the Silver Rifle and Wreath Badge that can be worn only by infantry soldiers fighting in the field; the Good Conduct Medal; two Purple Heart Medals for wounds received in battle; a Presidential citation, and the European Theater of Operations ribbon with five battle stars for different invasions



and offensive actions.

Sgt. Kelly is a veteran of fighting in Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium, and Germany, and trained for while in England. He returned this week from Germany where he was fighting with the First Division of the First Army.

The Emmitsburg soldier join the Army three years ago and train with First Division troops at Camp Wheeler Georgia before going overseas. Because he was assigned to the veteran division, he went overseas after just six months training in this country.

Two Silver Stars with Citations

He first fought in Africa and then went with invading forces into Sicily. It was in Sicily that he took part

in action that one for him his Silver Star awards. The citation accompanying the first metal, which was for action near Troina, Sicily on August 6, 1943, reads in part as follows:

"Although his machine gun was isolated from the rest of his company and was bearing the brunt of an enemy counterattack, charging Kelly refused to leave his position. Despite the ferocity of the enemy attacked and the fact that his ammunition was seriously depleted, Sgt. Kelly continued firing upon the enemy inflicted serious casualties."

Starting Kelly was awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster in Lieu of the second Silver Star Medal for action in the vicinity of Gela, Sicily. Accompanying the cluster was a citation which reads in part:

"During a fierce engagement with the enemy, Sgt. Kelly observed a wounded soldier lying in an open field and in grave danger of receiving further injury. Without hesitation Sgt. Kelly left his place of concealment, proceeded to the wounded man's aid, and carried him to safety"

After fighting in witness division in Sicily Kelly went to England where he trained for while and then went into France on D-Day with the invasion forces. He fought across Europe into Germany from where he was sent home on fur-

lough on the rotation plan now in force.

Sgt. Kelly received his first wound in Africa in November 1942 when he was struck in the right leg with a piece of shrapnel. His second one was received in Germany last November when he was struck in the left arm by another piece of shrapnel. Both of his wounds were comparatively minor, however, a spent only about a month combined in hospitals recovering from them.

A graduate of the Emmitsburg high school, Sgt. Kelly worked at the Taneytown plan of the Blue

Ridge Rubber Co. before entering the service.

The German air controllers at Frankfurt Airport are renowned as a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location, but how to get there without any assistance from them.

So it was with some amusement that we (a Pan Am 747) listened to the following exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747, call sign Speedbird 206.

Speedbird 206: "Frankfurt, Speedbird 206 clear of active runway."

Ground: "Speedbird 206. Taxi to gate Alpha One-Seven."

The PA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.

Ground: "Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?"

Speedbird 206: "Stand by, Ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."

Ground (with quite arrogant impatience): "Speedbird 206, have you not been to Frankfurt before?"

Speedbird 206 (coolly): "Yes, twice in 1944, but it was dark, -- And I didn't land."



Rube's Crab Shack

Coming Soon To Emmitsburg!

Open 7 Days A Week!

We will be opening in June in Emmitsburg! Now you can enjoy all our delicious seafood, chicken and sides in the comfort of our new dining room! Come on in and relax and enjoy one of the best meals you'll ever experience.

**Call And Ask About Our CATERING SERVICE!
Company & Private Picnics, Fundraisers, Reunions, Birthdays
Crab & Shrimp Feeds And All Your Holiday Parties!**

Visit Us On Facebook

Visit Us At:
www.rubescrabshack.com
For More Information!

New Location:
17308 N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD
301-447-4116

Eat-In or Carry Out!
Credit Cards Accepted

STAGES OF LIFE

Mom's Time Out

Mary Angel

It was a day like any other. I had gotten three of the four kids off to school and my 3 year old and I were off to Westminster to run errands. By eleven we had already finished most of the errands when I noticed my gas light had been on (for who knows how long). We immediately headed to BJ's for gas. I pulled in behind a man who appeared to be in his late sixties or early seventies. Although I am a terrible judge of age so he might have been well into his eighties. As we were both pumping gas I glanced at his rear window and noticed a sticker proclaiming he was a veteran. It brought a smile to my face, the thought that someone is willing to give their life for my freedom is something that I respect greatly. A minute or so later another man pulled up on the other side of the pump and began filling his tank. It didn't take long before these two apparent strangers were engaged in a brief but heart felt conversation. And although I didn't hear all of it, and attempted not to eaves drop,

I was able to discern enough to get the gist of what was going on. The newest of the two gentlemen must have seen the same sticker I had seen when he pulled up. After setting his pump to fill his vehicle he struck up a conversation with the man. I am sure it was a familiar conversation for these two gentlemen and many other veterans that went something like this. "So I noticed your sticker," one would say to the other, "what war were you in?" After answering the man with the sticker would reply, "how about you?" If per chance they had served in the same war, as these gentlemen had, the conversation would become a little more personal. Possibly asking when, or where they each had served. And even more personal would be the question of which platoon, company, etc. So there I was at the gas pumps at BJ's in awe of these two strangers being brought together by the mutual respect of having served their country.

As a mom I sometimes worry that one of my sons, or even my daughters, will decide to join the military. My husband and I

have actually discussed the likelihood that our youngest son might very well decide that is the path he wants to take. And although the thought of it brings me to tears, I am also filled with an intense pride for anyone who would choose this career path. No mother wants her children to pick a career that might lead them into harms way. I am included in that whole heartedly. But knowing that if it weren't for all of the men and women who have served in the military we might not have the freedom we have now is simply put...humbling! And to think that might child would one day want to be a part of something so important, encompassing, and respectful, brings me to tears.

The tears however are like a double edged sword. I could not in good conscience, as his mom, stop myself from trying to talk him out of it. Please don't misunderstand, I am not trying to take anything away from anyone who chooses this career path. It is just that when you give birth to a baby there is never a time in their life from birth until death that you do not have this overwhelming instinct to protect them. So if they choose a career path that could in any way put them in harms way, you will without thought try and stop them. That being said, if he convinced me it was what was in his heart and he was going to follow that, then I would do my very best to be supportive. That includes, but is not limited to, crying when he is not looking.

And I can only hope he would finish his tour of duty in good health and happiness and hopeful-

ly be a better person for it. Then maybe one day he will be at a gas station getting gas and see someone with a sticker that will spark a conversation. And that conversation will be witnessed by another mom with small children who will shed a tear at the mutual respect, the honor, and the uncontrollable fear that her baby might choose the same path.

When I am out with my husband he is very good at recognizing military stickers, patches and tattoos. When he does he immediately goes up to that person and sincerely thanks them for their service. This is a small gesture that I have always admired about my husband and something that not nearly enough people do. Whether it be because you are too shy, too busy or just too naive to realize what these

people have done for you, get over it and thank them. Thank them for serving, for doing something you couldn't or wouldn't, for duty, or just thank them out of respect. No matter how you do it; a handshake, a "thank you", a small gesture, or the giant marquee that I saw at a hotel in Frederick, just thank these people for what they have done for you, me and our country.

To all of the men and women who have served, are serving, or might serve in the armed forces...thinking of you on Memorial Day, thank you and God bless! John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down ones life for ones friends. (NIV)

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



Alexander's Plumbing & Pumps, Inc.
For All Your Plumbing Needs
Specializing In:
Water Pump Repair
Water Treatment & Plumbing
4236 Fairfield Rd.,
Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-5285

LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE AT A REDUCED RATE?
Our tuition is based on family income using the sliding fee scale. CCIS & POC vouchers accepted.

Enroll Now and Receive Your First Week of Tuition FREE.
New Enrollment Only.
Tuition Starting At \$102/Week

Play, Learn and Grow... Together!
NOW ENROLLING FOR SUMMER!

Our Summer Program Includes: Swimming, Field Trips, Nature Walks, Sprinkler Play, Arts & Crafts And Special Events!

EMMITSBURG EARLY LEARNING CENTER
16840 South Seton Avenue,
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301-447-6100
www.emmitsburgearlylearningcenter.com

Pre-School & School Age Programs!

Proud To Be A United Way Agency!

Opens at 5:45 am & Closes at 6:00 pm.
Available for Children Ages 18 Months to 12 Years
Nutritious Breakfast, Lunch & Snack at NO Extra Cost
Full Time & Part Time Schedules
Preschool Curriculum Activities



THUNDERHEAD BOWL & GRILL
4337 Old Taneytown Rd., Taneytown, MD 21787

WACKY WEDNESDAY!
JUNE 15 - 10 AM to 9 PM
Snack Bar Specials:
★ \$1.00 Hot Dogs
★ \$1.00 Small Drinks
★ \$1.50 Cheese Pizza (Per Slice)

\$1.00 GAMES!
Per Person Per Game

410-751-1750
Tax Not Included
No Coupons Valid During Special



WINDBORNE FARM
Specialty Cut Flowers

Cut Flowers Direct From The Field
Custom Bouquets
Special "Bouquet A Week" Program
(12 weeks of beautiful flowers)
Special Order Arrangements
Classes In Flower Arranging

Member: Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers
www.emmitsburg.net/cutflowers
717-642-5436
489 Crum Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320



SUBWAY

June Special!
NEW! Turkey Bacon Avocado Sub!

Come in & try Our **NEW \$3.00 Breakfast Flatbread Combo!**

BUILD YOUR OWN PERSONAL PIZZA!
Visit Either Of Our Locations:

Emmitsburg 101 Silo Hill Rd. (Next to Jubilee) 301-447-2059	Thurmont 224-K N. Church St. (Next to CVS Pharmacy) 301-271-4239
--	---

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 AM-10 PM, Sat. 8 AM-10 PM, Sun. 9 AM-9 PM

American Youth Soccer Organization

Becky Bequette

Well, hello May! Regions all across the area finally got a chance to get teams out on the pitch playing soccer as the rain stopped for a little while. Now eager players are getting out for practice and participating in games. Coaches have a difficult job balancing practices and trying to reschedule games missed in April due to the constant rain, but they're happy to be playing again. Thank goodness longer days are helping out, allowing scheduling of evening games.

I mentioned last month that Region 709's U8 fields had been severely damaged by the April 16th storm and associated flooding. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, two of the three U8 fields were back up and playable surprisingly fast. A gathering of people answered the call for help and showed up two separate evenings with shovels, rakes, work gloves and wheelbarrows to clear the fields. Thank you to all who came out and helped remove the debris and salvage the goals. As I've brought up before, AYSO would be impossible without willing volunteers and this was a wonderful example.

Our Vera Bradley Bingo Night was a great success. Region 709 raised almost \$2,000 after expenses from bingo and food. This will be a great help in the season ahead. The region is looking at improving and expanding our storage shed and replacing some well worn equipment and uniforms as well as replace the third U8 field goals. Successful fundraisers help us keep fees for players as low as possible while maintaining equipment and fields safely. Thank you to everyone who helped, donated and came out to play Bingo.

June is going to be exciting for AYSO soccer in the area. This year the regions in the immediate area are participating in double elimination playoffs, culminating in an Area Championship. Fairfield will be proudly be hosting the championship playoffs on June 4th for U10 boys, U12 boys, U14 boys and U16 coed teams. It should be a great time. Come on out to see some fast paced, exciting soccer action.

It's hard to believe, since I just put the finishing touches on Spring Season registration, but it's already time to think about Fall. Fall registration details have not been finalized, but look for Region 709 AYSO to be holding registration clinics at the end of June or beginning of July. Registration clinics will be held in both the Fairfield/Carroll Valley area and in Emmitsburg. If you would like to be notified once the clinics are set, feel free to send an email to becky-

beq@yahoo.com and I'll make sure you know. If you can't come out to a clinic, don't let that stop you from registering your child to play soccer! You can register your child online at www.eayso.com starting mid-June.

Speaking of Fall season, it's also time to start asking for volunteers again. The summer is a great time to take a look at various positions available within Region 709 and to take any online training courses that are available. We are always on the look out for coaches, assistant coaches and referees. This year we are also scouting for several Regional Board positions including Referee Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator and Field Manager. If you have skills you'd like to put to a good use, check position descriptions out at www.ayso.org or call Darren Heberton at 717-642-5762 or mrdsh@hotmail.com to find out more. This is a great opportunity to get outdoors with your child and help the community. I had the chance this season to not only work with all players in the capacity of Regional Registrar, but to coach a U6 team (5 year old players) even though my youngest child is 10. It has been a wonderful and fun experience to help these players. It is so exciting to see the improvement. And five year olds are so darn cute!

This month the volunteer spotlight falls on referees. Referees are some of our most important volunteers. Referees ensure that all games are safe, fair and fun for players. One of the biggest problems any region faces is having enough referees to officiate all the games played. Becoming a certified referee takes a few hours of online and in-person training. AYSO pays all training costs for volunteers. AYSO's referee certification is considered some of the best in the United States. Knowledge of soccer is helpful, but not necessary with a willingness to learn. AYSO also encourages youth to consider volunteering as referees. The minimum age to be a regional referee is 12 years old. Being a referee can also be a wonderful way for students to fulfill community service requirements as AYSO is a non-profit, volunteer, community organization.

The last item to cover is a wonderful opportunity for kids to get out and play soccer over the summer. The 2011 Fairfield Soccer Camp will be held at Fairfield High School June 6th through June 10th from 6pm to 8pm nightly. Camp is available for boys and girls entering grades 2 through 9. Proceeds from the camp benefit the Fairfield High School Boys and Girls soccer teams. Please contact Brion FitzGerald at 717-642-6657 or Clyde McClain at 717-642-8056 for more information. You do not need to live in Fairfield to take advantage of this opportunity. AYSO is not affiliated with the Fairfield Soccer Camp.

In loving memory



Kat Dart

A month ago, I realized that while getting there could potentially be messy, death itself is a peaceful process. My grandmother, called Memaw by her granddaughters, had been slipping away over the past few months.

On Wednesday, April 14, my mother decided to go down to Memaw's house early the next day, leaving our house at three a.m., as it was becoming obvious that Memaw was not going to be around for much longer.

At 2:15 Thursday morning, Mom received a phone call from one of her sisters, asking her when she was planning on leaving. Mom said she was going out the door in 45 minutes. Her sister asked if Mom could leave in 15 minutes.

At 2:25 on Thursday, Mom used the listen-or-you-will-die voice to me to make sure I would be up and conscious enough to make a decision. She asked if I wanted to go with her to visit Memaw or if I wanted to stay behind.

At 2:27 I was out and waiting in the car with a backpack, a cell phone and a charger. At 2:30 we were leaving Brookfield to make a fast, tense and desperate four-hour drive. Being

2:30 in the morning, I do not remember the entire ride down. I know at 3:50 we were stopped because of a highway-closing accident, and we were scared that we would not be able to pass.

A sheriff working on the scene of the accident gave us an alternate route when my Mom pulled up and explained she needed to get to Chance, Md. as fast as possible.

At 5:30 we stopped in Cambridge for a caffeinated drink and gas. The stop took less than 10 minutes. After that stop, we had an hour of driving left.

The last leg of the journey to Memaw's involves driving through the wetlands, a drive that normally takes 40 minutes; Mom made it 20.

We pulled up to Memaw's house at 6:30 a.m. Exhausted (more so on mom's part), but glad we had made it down with no phone calls (at that point no news meant good news), we entered the house.

Memaw was on a hospital-like bed and hooked up to an oxygen tank with different medications on a table next to the bed.

My Aunt Midge, the one who had called earlier, was asleep in a chair by Memaw's side, ready to be awoken at any second.

Aunt Joyce was asleep in one of the bedrooms. Aunt Sue-Kay was up and moving, looking frazzled and careworn, but glad we had made it. At that point in time I disappeared into the bathroom to take 10 minutes to compose myself. When I came back out, Sue-Kay and Mom were waking Aunt Midge up, and we got the story behind the 2:15 phone call.

Aunt Midge had been woken up at two in the morning by Memaw's mumbling. Memaw was waving to people only she could see. Her feet

were treading, walking on a road only she could see.

We believe that she was seeing old friends, her husband, her faithful dogs, Chessie and Blackie.

Midge said she was pleading (arguing) with Memaw's guardian angel saying, "We know you want her, but you can't have her. Not yet. Mary isn't down here yet, and she needs to see Mom."

At seven, we woke up Memaw and managed to give her some pain medication. To keep it down, Memaw had to eat or drink something. All five of us, Midge, Sue-Kay, Joyce, Mom and I worked at different intervals to get her to eat something. The whole ordeal took over an hour for a few ounces of a health drink. Memaw spoke for the last time that day, announcing, "I'm done." Fifteen minutes later, just her physical shell was left of her.

It was 8:23 in the morning on April 15.

Four days later was Memaw's funeral. It was the second time I had seen all the other grandchildren and sisters and uncles in the same place.

Besides immediate family, we had our great aunt and a few second cousins attend; people Memaw had made friends with; her neighbors; and people from the American Legion she was part of.

The sisters, my aunts and mother had decided they wanted the grandchildren to speak at the funeral. We had small speeches prepared about funny things Memaw had caused, or how we remember her.

I made a few semi-funny jokes about things Memaw probably would have laughed at ("we did everything together, except for driving. She never did let me drive her car..."), then talked about how summers I would go and stay with her for two weeks.

That was the most difficult thing I have ever had to do, but I know Memaw would not have wanted to live the way she was in her last days. She lived for a long time and was ready to go on to the next life.

Memaw and I were close. I know I never would have believed Mom if she had told me that Memaw's death was peaceful. It was something I needed to, and did, see for myself.

Gertrude Edith Ulrich
1926-2011



Emily's Cleaning Service
I'll Clean Your House From
Top To Bottom At A
Reasonable Rate!
Emily Bardini
Owner
emilybardini@hotmail.com
240-818-7395

Monuments Are Our Only Business!



**GILLAND
MEMORIAL WORKS**

Serving All Your Cemetery Needs

Call: **717-794-2981** Fax: **717-794-5689** Cell: **717-773-8119**

Ken Gilland CEO, Miriam Gilland, Roger Gilland
E-mail: gillandmem@innernet.net

P.O. Box 400 - 14902 Buchanan Trail East,
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214-0400

Mention This Ad & Receive An Additional Savings!





A TEEN'S VIEW

College bound



Olivia Sielaff

As I write this article, I'm just twelve days away from my highschool graduation and the next big step in my life – college. I think most everyone has had preconceived notions, either fantastic or horrible, about college and all that it entails. Up until 11th grade, I always imagined college as a place where grown-up people went for independence, parties, and eventually to get a good job. It was an intimidating place where you were all alone, abandoned by your parents and friends, and there was no one to help you with your homework and, even worse, your laundry. I also imagined college as a time and place where a person automatically grew up, where the ever-

self-confident college student had everything under control and her entire life planned out. However, all of these notions aren't necessarily true, and I'm glad to know that my college experience will be something I had never expected.

The beginnings of my college experience probably began with my search for the 'perfect college' last summer. For awhile I had been receiving 'college spam mail'; different liberal arts colleges from all over the country tried to convince me that I would be a perfect fit in their sports program (I haven't played sports in years) or that perhaps I'd decide based off the pretty pictures of their campus. One college sent me information that I supposedly requested on a major in Archaeology. Sorry, not for me. However, in my search for the right college, I quickly narrowed my choices when I ruled out all colleges that weren't authentically Catholic, that were half way across the country, and that had ridiculously high tuitions. That then left me with a handful of Catholic colleges on the East Coast, or close to it. When it finally came down to which ones I should actually start applying to, I chose one. Yes, only one. I chose to ap-

ply to a small college way out in Ohio in a tiny town called Steubenville, sometimes mistakenly heard as 'Stupidville.' The one college I so daringly applied to and set all my hopes on was Franciscan University of Steubenville.

So why did I apply only to Franciscan? Last summer I went on a youth retreat hosted by Franciscan University held on the campus. I had heard about the college before and knew a few alumni and freshmen, but wasn't sure if I should apply. But after staying on campus those few nights, seeing the college students so vibrant and welcoming, and realizing how strong in its Christian beliefs Franciscan is, I just had to apply. When I came home that summer, I couldn't stop thinking about Franciscan and what a perfect fit it was. To add to my excitement, it seemed as if everyone I talked to had a child attending Franciscan, was an alumni, or knew of someone going there. All these signs and more convinced me that God was obviously calling me to Franciscan, and I couldn't ignore it.

The application process went very smoothly for me, unlike some of the nightmarish stories I'd heard from friends; I had my transcript, essay, and recommendations letters all sent in by the end of fall. As I waited for a response, doubts started to set in.

I was convinced that Franciscan was the best fit for me; I had no doubts about that. But I kept worrying that maybe they didn't think I was the best fit for *them*. What if they didn't accept me? Where would I apply to next? As the days turned into weeks, I was getting more anxious to hear a response. Then in early November I received a letter from Franciscan. I tore it open and read the first word 'Congratulations!' and I knew I had been accepted! I was so ecstatic that I didn't read the rest of the letter until I had announced the news to my family. I was so giddy just to know that I had been accepted into a college!

However, I had even greater ambitions: I decided to apply to the Great Books Honors Program. I kept putting off writing the essay for the Honors application. I would write bits and pieces of it while getting advice from my teacher on how to improve my application, but I wasn't sure if it was good enough to impress Admissions. All I could do was write my best and wait for a reply. Every letter from Franciscan I opened with eagerness, but with no luck. It had been about three weeks since I sent my application and I was beginning to lose hope. But just two weeks ago, I saw the cream-colored envelope in my mail, opened it in the driveway, and ran into the house. I had

been accepted into the Honors Program! This time I think I was even more overjoyed than when I was received into Franciscan University. I realized that all the hard work and sincere effort I put into my highschool education had paid off. It is a great feeling.

Each step in my college process has made me see that, yes, I'm actually going to college soon. It's real now. I'll be living about 250 miles away, in a completely different environment, eating non-organic food, and doing my own laundry (which I have yet to master). However, I know I am ready for this step. Although I'm nervous and have lots of questions, I am so excited to meet new people, learn great things, and become a more independent person. I will be majoring in Communications with a concentration in Journalism, and I'm glad to say that writing for the News Journal has sparked my interest in this field of work. I'm so blessed to have this opportunity to go to college. Thank you to all of my family, friends, teachers, and Emmitsburgians for your prayers, support, and encouragement! Because of you, I am prepared for college and all that lies ahead.

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

THE INTERNATIONAL
GILBERT & SULLIVAN

FESTIVAL GETTYSBURG

INTERNATIONAL
GILBERT & SULLIVAN FESTIVAL
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA USA

JUNE 24 - JULY 3

TWO THOUSAND AND ELEVEN

TEN DAYS.

NINE OPERAS.

DOZENS OF PERFORMANCES.

HUNDREDS OF PERFORMERS.

TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW!

The Mikado • Iolanthe • Cox & Box • Ruddigore • The Pirates of Penzance • The Zoo
The Sorcerer • Trial By Jury • HMS Pinafore • Plus Fringe Festival and nightly Cabaret Club

For Tickets call 717-337-8200 or
online at gettysburgmajestic.org.

gsfestivals.org

FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Sophomore Year The world vs. home

Carolyn Shields

Today I was working at cozy little St. Philomena's in town when my mom dropped off my lunch (sloppy joe in a plastic cup which was as unappetizing as it sounds) and a dark yellow, crumpled envelope. I smiled with joy when I saw the monkey stamp and the word, 'Raddolugama' on the return address. Inside was green paper with neat, block letters written across it, folded with a pink ribbon. You gotta love Sri Lankan pen pals. I found mine one year ago on WorldPenPals.com.

I read through Shashini's letter, laughing at how she watched the Royal Wedding and would have preferred a more fashion-forward dress, and how she aspires to become an air hostess to travel the world. After the killer Globalization and Education course I took this year (the course that several times I left shaking in fear), it just blows my mind thinking how globalized this world really is. I've read articles on second-generation Turkish immigrants in Switzerland which argues that students immigrating from periphery countries aren't just traveling across geographic borders but time borders as well. Oftentimes when immigrants come into a

technologically developed country, it is as if they are traveling into the future a hundred years.

So I found it humorous at how my Sri Lankan friend watched the British wedding, and I wondered if we could possibly meet in Europe, a continent home to neither of us, to discuss the wedding when American-me studies abroad in Ireland and Shashini is settled into her career of being an airhostess.

Wow. Globalization is here! Everyone knows the internet and technology in general are shrinking this world. I've gotten facebook requests from random Middle Eastern guys (denied!). My cousin just studied in Egypt, and one of my friends from school is from Vietnam. This isn't the world of our grandparents anymore. This is the New Frontier.

And of course I've been thinking a lot about my future as well. Besides love and money (which go together like fire and rain), what college student doesn't spend most of her time thinking about the future? And I'm not even talking about what I'm going to do with the rest of my life, right now it's more like how am I going to make it through this summer without the Mount to keep me occupied? I'm especially thinking

about the upcoming future. These next few years are going to be the best of my life!

All I really know is that in three and a half months I'll be in Ireland. Soon I'll be visiting all of the shrines I've talked about with pilgrims who come into St. Philomena's, such as the real Grotto of Lourdes in France. In a few months I'll be catching a ferry over to London for a weekend and hiking in the lowlands of Scotland. And then in the summer of 2012 I have my heart set on doing missionary work in Belize with the Mount.

And for the past two years, I've been considering volunteering in Cambodia after my graduation. Ever since I read 'A Commissioner in Cambodia' in the August 2008 issue of the Emmitsburg News Journal (the article has hung in my room for inspiration ever since), I've had a hard time getting my mind off teaching English in Cambodia, especially to the young girls who fall prey to the malicious sex trade. One third of the prostitutes in Cambodia are exploited children.

In high school I looked into the Peace Corps and talked to a recruiter, but their minimum requirement was two years, plus you could only pick your continent and not your country. In addition to these two factors, the



Peace Corps is very individualistic. I was looking to go to Cambodia and stay within a community—preferably Catholic. I heard of Maryknoll, a Catholic missionary group but their required stay was just as long.

Finally, it wasn't until this year that a friend showed me CatholicVolunteerNetwork.org where I discovered the Salesians, a Catholic missionary order stationed in Cambodia and all over the world, with service opportunities ranging from three months and beyond! Perfecto! God's looking out for me!

So globalization. It's a hard concept

to really understand, especially when you're a small-town girl like me, who—embarrassingly—confused Thurmont with Taneytown until she was fourteen. I mean, my family has lived in this area for hundreds of years. Am I really called to travel the world like I want to? I'm terrified that when I finally understand what God asks of me, I will be too afraid to accept his mission. Too afraid or too selfish. What if I'm meant to stay in Emmitsburg forever? I'll admit I'm not completely opposed to it, but there's an entire world out there! My parents have given me a taste of it when we traveled to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria for a week, and then when we took a five-week road trip across America.

But Emmitsburg is my home! William Shields helped his brother-in-law found Emmitsburg in the late 1700s. Before that the Shields were exiled from Ireland a few hundred years ago, and since then my family has settled here on Mary's mountain. So you will understand why I'm so torn between traveling to every corner of this world or forever living on this mountain where that Patriot ancestor of mine is buried. I'll go into my family history for next month's column.

I know God has a beautiful life set out for me. I'm just super anxious to see it. Does it resemble anything like the life I have planned in my head? Is it completely different than the one I've been praying for? One thing I know for certain: this summer I'll be behind the counter of little St. Philomena's on Main Street happily waiting for it to start.

Movie Memories WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

June 1, 2011
SAN FRANCISCO (1936)

June 8, 2011
ARSENIC & OLD LACE (1944)

June 15, 2011
RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (1981)

June 22, 2011
GOING MY WAY (1944)

July 6, 2011
SERGEANT YORK (1941)

July 13, 2011
INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS (1958)

July 20, 2011
THE GREAT CARUSO (1951)

July 27, 2011
THE SEA HAWK (1940)

August 3, 2011
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT (1940)

August 10, 2011
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU (1938)

August 17, 2011
THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALENCE (1962)

August 24, 2011
FANNY (1961)

August 31, 2011
STATE FAIR (1945)

Small movie posters for each film are shown on the sides of the central text.

Show Time 7:30 p.m. • Tickets \$6.00
Visit the Box Office at 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, PA or phone 717.337.8200.
Web: www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Yuengs, Wings and Pings!

Visit Carroll Valley Golf Course for a round of golf, a dozen wings and an ice cold Yuengling Draft every Tuesday and Saturday!

PING
Grand Prize Package Includes:

- 1 Ping G-15 Driver
- 1 Ping G-15 20 Degree Hybrid
- 1 Ping Tour 55 and 60 degree wedges
- 1 Ping Hooper C-1 Carry Bag

- Valid Every Tuesday 2pm-close for \$40
- Valid Every Saturday 3pm-close for \$50
- Each paid participant will be entered to win the Grand Prize **Ping Prize Pack** in September, as well as other monthly drawings.
- **Must Book Online.**

Also, check out our Schedule of Live Entertainment each Weekend at the Tavern on the Green!

www.LibertyMountainResort.com

LibertyMountain
Resort & Conference Center

78 Country Club Trail
Carroll Valley, PA 17320
717-642-8282

EAST PARK AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

Phone: 301-447-3560

**COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES
SCHEDULE & PREVENTATIVE
MAINTENANCE SPECIALISTS**

New Tires Available	(All brands, mounting & balancing)
BG Transmission Service	(Flush & Refill)
Brake, Rotor & Drum Resurfacing	(Flush & Refill)
Hydraulic Hoses	
Custom Made Battery Cables	(Made while you wait)

**FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY
LIGHT DUTY DIESEL REPAIRS
ALL MECHANICS ARE ASE MASTER CERTIFIED**

FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Junior Year

Halfway done...looking back while running forward

Samantha Strub

It's surreal to be sitting here with the reality that I'm now a junior in college. I'm halfway done. Soon I will be starting internships and applying for jobs to start my career. It doesn't seem like this should be happening. It's all going by so fast; I never thought that was possible. When people said that about my high-school years, I didn't believe them. For me, high school went by slowly, even though I knew I was making memories to last a lifetime. I couldn't wait to get out on my own and experience the world. Now that it has happened, however, I just don't understand how the two years I have been at the Mount have flown by.

It is easy to get caught up in the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life, so much so that life ends up flying by and you wonder

what happened. This seemed to happen to me as I end my sophomore year of college and begin my junior year. I have no idea where the time went!

Sure, it's nice to continue moving forward and working our way to a better life, and we are always talking with professors, classmates, and friends about what we are going to do as college ends. Yet we seem to be so concerned with moving forward that we miss the wonderful things happening right now. Or some of us look back to the past wondering how events unfolded the way they did. Whichever person you tend to be, you must learn to enjoy and live in the moment and cherish the memories. Though planning and moving forward with your life, you must slow down the pace and soak in the moment. As some people say, you must stop and smell the roses.

You stop and smell the flowers because it is a simple enjoyable moment that makes a lasting memory. The busy go-go-go of everyday life doesn't really matter because after a while you forget about those silly annoyances like grades on a paper or a test, drama, and bills.

I'm not saying that high school, college, and a career are unimportant. They are incredibly important because they provide the necessities of life. However, the lasting memories come from stopping to smell the roses. It's the memories of making silly jokes or sayings, goofing around, or spending lazy days and crazy nights with your family and friends that stick out as you ride through life. One of the most memorable is when some of my friends and I were up late studying for a test and we had to come up with memory devices and we come up with some crazy and stupid ones in order to remember the lists. When it came time to the test everyone could remember it because we had laughed for hours over the memory devices that we came up with. As I reflect back on my first two years

of college and look forward to the new years to come, these are the experiences that I remember they are your fondest memories because they are closest to your heart. Everyone, please think back to your high school and college days; the times you remember with the friends you made, the hard work you put in and the crazy times you shared with others. I remember the supposed-to-be homework parties that my close friends and I had, when we actually needed to get studying done and ended up staying up really late because we couldn't stop talking and laughing. The spontaneous car rides at midnight, the tickle fights, numerous inside jokes, and other memories, like the one night that we drove to IHOP at 2am because we had



a terrible craving for pancakes.

It warms my heart to look back on these memories of my past years of college and high school; I only have one question, where did the time go? I offer one piece of advice as well: don't forget as life moves by you to stop and smell the sweet and lasting memories.

Senior Year

Here I come!

Julia Mulqueen

The drive from the Mount back to my parent's home in Pennsylvania is always bitter-sweet. The year has ended, and my summer can officially begin. My exams are over, and I am ready for the opportunity to spend time with my family, but reality always hits me as I drive north. I will not be able to see my Mount friends for three months. I will not face the challenge and excitement of classes, papers, and tests each day, and I will have to face added responsibility when the summer ends as I enter into another year of college.

This year the drive home was no easier than the others; in fact, it was even more difficult. I left the Mount for home right after graduation so I would be able to see my senior friends walk across the stage and receive their diplomas. Everyone looked sharp in their cap and gown, and from where I sat, I could see each graduate's foot tapping nervously as he or she listened to various remarks and words of wisdom given at Commencement and waited for his or her name to be called.

Once everyone's name had been called and all had received their diplomas, the newly-commissioned Second Lieutenants were called up. All five of them were wearing their brand new dress blues and the new rank that they had received just two days before at their commissioning

ceremony. The crowd stood in appreciation and recognition of the sacrifice that each young man had chosen to selflessly undertake. As I watched them proudly, the Sergeant I was sitting next to jabbed me in the ribs and reminded me that in just one short year I too would be standing on that stage in my dress blues as a Second Lieutenant. I must admit that a shiver went down my spine as I contemplated how quickly the years had passed.

After the ceremony, we went outside into the sunshine to wish each graduate well and congratulate their proud parents and relatives. Seeing each family gathered around their daughter or son made me realize how pivotal community is for each one of us. Not one graduate had gotten to where he or she was without the help of a strong and supportive community. Looking around I could see just how important family was to each of them. I could see just how big of an impact mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers had had on these young adults.

As I continued to observe the graduates, I noticed many professors pouring out of the ARCC to congratulate their students. Even watching them during the ceremony, I had seen many of them wiping their eyes and beaming with pride as their students were handed their diplomas. It is clear that they too are part of the community that helped every graduate obtain their diploma. Mount professors are some of the hardest working peo-

ple I know, and they are truly dedicated to each and every one of their students.

After many photos and tearful goodbyes, I climbed back into my car and began driving home. As I drove, I thought about how different this upcoming year will be for me and for all of my fellow classmates who are now officially seniors. No longer do we have a class above us to look to for guidance and direction. Instead we have become the guiding class. We are finally seniors. We finally made it.

I cannot believe that three years have already passed. Just three years ago at this time I was driving down to the Mount with my mom and dad practically bursting with excitement and nervousness. We were on our way to Freshman Orientation, and I had no idea what to expect. I was worried that I would not be able to make friends or that my classes would be too difficult. My parents had to continually assure me that I they would always support me no matter where I was or what I was doing.

Then a few months later my summer was over and I was moving into my dorm room with my parents. I watched them drive away and knew that my mother's tears matched my own. After a few days, I called them gushing with stories about my new friends, my exciting classes, and all of the neat things I had already experienced at the Mount. They were excited for me, and I knew that my happiness put them at ease.

My freshman and sophomore years passed quickly, and soon enough, my parents were dropping me off at the Mount for

the third time. My junior year brought with it more classes and more challenges than I had ever before experienced, but I knew that my parents would continue to support me. And support me they did. Every Sunday after church I would phone them and tell them about my week. Likewise, they would fill me in on all of the things that had occurred back home in my absence. It was through this web of support that I was able to survive the busyness and stress of the year.

My Mount professors, too, provided a community in which I knew I was cared about as an individual. They provided a place in which I

could thrive as a young adult. Every Mount professor that I have known has taught me so as to aid in the development of myself into a person who has the power and the knowledge to go out and change the world.

As I think about entering my final year at Mount Saint Mary's, I know that my family, friends, and professors will continue to support me. I know that they will continue to provide a community for me in which to flourish, and I know that one year from now I will see all of their beaming faces at Commencement. Senior year, here I come!

Julia is a German and Theology double major.

NEED REPAIRS AROUND THE HOUSE?
HANDYMAN JOE
 Wood or Vinyl Replacement Windows
 No Job Too Big Or Too Small!
 Call:
JOE WIVELL JR.
301-447-2950

MHIC #11983

The Taney Corporation
 Manufacturers of Wood Stairs & Stair Parts
 Locally owned continuously
 for over 50 Years
 5130 Allendale Lane, Taneytown, Maryland 21787
 Office: 410-756-6671 Fax: 410-756-4103
 Visit us at www.taneystair.com
 A sponsor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal

THE GRADUATE

I graduated! Now what?

Katelyn Phelan
MSM Class of 2011

As of May 15, 2011 I have officially graduated from Mount St. Mary's University and as of this June issue I will be authoring "The Graduate" column for the next year. Jackie Quillen, the former author of this column is still with the paper but will be writing about her life as a new-lywed!

My life, of late, has consisted largely of ceremonies. Between the various honor society banquets I attended before my graduation, three graduation ceremonies (my own, my brother's, and my cousin's), two baccalaureate masses, and a funeral, all of which I attended in just the past month I am quite ready to refrain from formal celebrations and remembrances for a while.

Many people see graduations as definitive moments, as the culmination of years of hard work. They are the reason to endure the late nights, countless assignments, and the general stress that college brings. Of course graduation is the official end-point of college, where graduates get degrees and diplomas and leave the sheltered campus to go out into the world, but graduation in itself has never been my motivation. I have never thought at any point during my four years, "this will be worth it on May 15, 2011 when I walk across that stage." I never imagined myself striding across the stage in billowing black robes to gracefully receive my ticket to adulthood. The thought of my diploma was not something that kept me going.

And I guess it's a good thing I wasn't dying to experience graduation, because I don't remember much of my shining moment walking across the stage. I remember standing at the edge of the stage waiting for my name to be called, I remember stopping at the designated spots for photos, and I remember sitting down in my seat. Not much of a beautiful graduation memory. Like others, I was too worried about tripping or otherwise embarrassing myself to take a look around at the audience and enjoy the moment.

In general, the graduation ceremony itself doesn't do much for me. Instead the little things nudge me toward accepting the fact that my college days are over. I get a sense of finality not from ceremony, but from actually gathering my things to leave. Driving away from the Mount for the last time as a student was much more jarring to me than receiving my diploma. This thought is also expressed in the novel, *A Separate Peace*.

"From my locker I collected my things, and turned away, leaving the door ajar for the first

time, forlornly open and abandoned, the locker unlocked. This was more final than the moment when the headmaster handed me my diploma" For this character, and for me, the graduation ceremony was not a definitive moment. It didn't signal that this was the end. Instead, for me, things like packing up my room, loading my things into my car (in the pouring rain, I might add), and saying good-bye to my college friends are things which brought the reality of the end of my Mount career to my attention.

This reality has not really hit home yet, though. I've been asked repeatedly, "so, how do you feel now that you've graduated?" I'm not sure what these inquirers expect to hear, but I feel largely the same as before. I've never felt total satisfaction after a graduation ceremony or even a sense of completeness. In the case of my Mount graduation, I was considerably hotter and hungrier after the ceremony, but otherwise I felt little change.

If I had to give an honest account of my feelings after graduation, I guess I'd say I'm feeling a little lost. Without school, I'm not totally sure how to fill my days or what goals I should have for the week or the summer. I've moved back home indefinitely, which is nice in some respects—I don't have to worry about paying rent—but the freedom I enjoyed at college has been greatly reduced—not so nice. In previous summers I could have tacked up a countdown of "days 'til school" but now there is nothing to count down to. I'm not going back to school.

I'm also having a bit of an identity crisis post-graduation. I'm no longer a student, but I don't really have a new specific identity. So what now? How should I classify myself? I can no longer easily deflect acquaintances or friends of my parents with talk of my college, year of school, or major. I have no school, no year, and no major. Instead, only adulthood lies before me.

Another problem with not being in school is that I've lost my way of measuring time. I can remember events in my life based

on where I was in my schooling career. I know when I went on certain vacations, made new friends, and got new pets based on what year of school I was in at the time. I didn't associate these events with the calendar year, but according to my own life as measured by school. I remember I got my first dog in third grade, became best friends with Alex in sixth, and traveled to England in twelfth grade. But, I can't tell you the years associated with any of those things. As of this year, that convenient measuring tool has evaporated, and I'm left with attempting to make events stick to dates in order to mentally file my life.

I was given the opportunity to reflect on graduation not only on my own day, but also on my youngest brother's graduation and my cousin's. My cousin graduated from University of Maryland, College Park and was also commissioned into the army as a second lieutenant. My brother graduated from high school. These ceremonies, and especially the speakers at them, emphasized the unlimited possibilities in the world today and the graduates' ability to access them.

Talk of the future and the graduates' ability to influence it created for me the illusion that life is long and filled with many opportunities. This can be true, but a different ceremony I attended reminded me to treasure each moment of life and to keep the things I care about close to me. I attended a funeral of a friend's father who died unexpectedly. This tragedy immediately after graduation offered a different message. Here I was reminded to treasure each second, tell the people you care about that you love them each day, and never take anyone or anything for granted.

Though these two events—graduation and a funeral—are entirely opposite of each other in every way especially in purpose and emotion, the reflection and message of both events can be synthesized into a meaningful reminder.

Life has many opportunities, but they can also serve as distractions. Follow your heart, work hard, and do what you're pas-



sionate about, but don't forget about the people who loved and supported you. Take every opportunity available to spend with the people you love, because you never know how long you'll be lucky enough to have them. Be excited about the future, but cherish what you have. I hope

to remember these lessons every day, and with them in mind I know I won't have any regrets. To the class of 2011, congratulations and good luck!

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

CJ's Tuxedo
Designer Styles Available!

Tuxedo Season Is Here!
WEDDING PACKAGES
Come In & See How The Groom Can Get His Tux **FREE!**
Book Your Wedding Early & Receive Free Tie Rental!

Winners of the prom raffle are Matt Lind and Josh Laramore. Winner of the gas card raffle is Patrick Reaver.

WHY RUN TO FREDERICK?
Save Gas & Support Local Business!

East Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 **301-447-3087**
Mon. 4-7pm; Tues. 11am-7pm; Wed. 1pm-7pm; Thurs. 4-8pm; Fri. 11am-9pm; Sat. 11am-8pm
Email: cjst1@earthlink.net

LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

- Flowers
- Unique Planters
- B & B Evergreens
- Antique Furniture
- Gift Shop/Seasonal Items
- Cut Your Own Flowers In Season
- Fresh Local Produce All Summer!

SEWELL'S FARM
3400 Harney Rd., Taneytown, MD 21787
For More Info Call:
410-756-4397
Hours: Wed. thru Mon. 9 am to 6 pm
Closed Tuesday
Visit Us At: www.sewellsfarm.com
info@sewellsfarm.com

Walk-ins Welcome!

Spring Into A New Look!
Come In And Get A Cut & Style, Perm Or Color & Look Your Best For Spring!

Pamper Yourself...
Have Your Nails Done At
Totally Polished

Full Nail Services By
Jeanne Clark - Nail Tech
Appointment Required For Nail Services

Hours: Tues. 9 - 5; Wed. & Thurs. 9 - 7; Fri. 9 - 5 & Sat. 8 - 2
121 North Selton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD **301-447-6600** Kerry Shorb Tracy Wiles
Owner/Operator Stylist

IN MY OWN WORDS

To my BEF

Jackie Fennington
MSM Class of 2010

When I read Sharon's article about our friendship from kindergarten until now, I was overcome with happiness and smiles. The photo in last month's paper that shows both our names on it was actually a contract we both signed before she left for Montana promising each other to be best friends forever, or as we liked to call it, bestest everlasting friends (BEFs). Proper grammar was obviously not our forte at the time. So by contract, we are BEFs.

My sister could always pick out my mail from the mailbox because it was the only envelope covered in writing. Things like BEF, Miss you, love you, or paw prints covered every white spot on the envelope.

Our friendship was far from ordinary, as Sharon noted. The Skinny Dipping Episode sticks out to every normal person, especially mothers, as the strangest play date for two five-year-old girls. I thought it was the best play date ever! What five-year-old kid does not love to run around naked before bath time or better yet swim naked with a pal? It was perfectly normal if you ask me. I would say

our friendship could not have started off any better. We have no secrets!

One of my favorite childhood memories with Sharon is our obsession with Barbie dolls. Hours before a play date I would set up my entire basement as a Barbie village. I took nearly every hardback book from the bookshelf to make a road for our Barbies to drive on in their cool corvette. The basement was covered in books. As soon as Sharon arrived with her Barbie dolls we disappeared to our Barbie village. There was no stopping us unless we took a break to bake something.

As Sharon recalled in some of our old letters to each other, we wrote about the most random things – meals, family, friends and just life in general. Nowadays it is strange to think that we would write those sorts of things – like what we had for dinner – knowing that we would not receive a response for at least another week. It was still comforting to know that nothing had changed between us. The distance between us did not change how we communicated.

Communication has sped up so much that we forget the beauty of mail, just plain mail, without the 'e.' Our penman-

ship fostered the incredible bond Sharon and I share that is mutually understood just from getting to know each other at five years old. I have made great friends through my experiences in life, but I have never known a friend like Sharon. She is one in a million!

Throughout college Sharon and I did not keep in touch as much as we would have liked, but it never affected our ability to pick up wherever we left off. We truly are the masters of long distance friendships. Before we left for college, Sharon gave me a spiral-bound journal, knowing that I would need to write intense thoughts in it some days. Some of my most memorable and important life experiences are documented in that journal. The first few pages of the journal is a heartfelt letter from Sharon dated June 23, 2006. In the letter she writes,

You are the type of person who is always there, and I always know it, even though we only see each other a few times a year. I can really depend on you, and sometimes that's all I really need, just to know that if all else failed, I'd still have you as my bestest everlasting friend.

Sharon's letter basically confirmed the way I felt about our friendship – it was forever, no matter how far apart we would be. As Sharon said it, "Distance has never been an obstacle for us, so what's a few hundred more miles?" Though we do not communicate as consistently as we did back when we were pen pals, we still touch base every so often and keep each other updated on any major changes in our lives. Since we have not talked in the past few weeks besides occasional texting, I thought it best to write Sharon a letter.

May 29, 2011



The author and her BEF, Sharon Racine, author of the papers Simple Serving column

Dear Sharon,

I can remember so vividly the excitement of writing you a letter when we were pen pals. It was like writing in a diary that actually responded. I think that's why I never kept a diary religiously; I would already say everything I wanted to say in my letters to you. Thanks for being such a great listener and responder!

I cannot thank you enough for being such a great friend to me. When I told you I was getting married, you were nothing but supportive, and you had never even met Sean. I knew the two of you would get along great once you finally met. During all the hectic planning you were there to talk to and you always let me get things off my chest, sans judgment, of course. I know that no matter what I tell you, you will not hold back in sharing your opinion, but also in supporting me. You are always supportive of me.

I was so happy to pick you up from the train station the day before the wedding. Having you right there with me

for everything meant so much to me. I honestly could not have gone through that day and the next day without you. Getting our nails done was quality Sharon and Jax time while catching up. When it quickly changed to frantic packing mode because we had to get on the road to Maryland, the only clear thought I had was *Thank God Sharon is here*. You definitely kept me sane! And throughout it all you still managed to document everything on camera.

Being together for my wedding felt just like old times when we were two little girls playing Barbies and cooking together, except this time I was the doll and you were doing my make-up. I think you had about five life-size dolls that day to play with. Who needs Barbies? Once again, you saved the day! Without your help the entire bridal party would have been late to the wedding, and not just fashionably late.

I am so proud of both of us for our endeavors in life. You have become a beautiful woman with her head on straight and so many goals and dreams to catch. I have always looked up to you as a great inspiration because you have no fears in going after what you want. Though we are all grown up, you are still the five-year-old girl I went skinny dipping with in my pool. And you always will be. It's a bond that is simply unbreakable.

Just like you said, we are the kind of friends who grow old together and whose kids will call each other cousins because we are like sisters. I am so blessed to have you in my life. Thank you for always being there for me.

Love,
Jackie

P.S. You'll always be my best friend.

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



Casual Dining
Weekend Entertainment
301-447-2625
5 WEST MAIN STREET
EMMITSBURG, MD

Happy Father's Day To All The #1 Dads!

Nightly Drink Specials!
D.J. Every Thursday Night
No Cover!

TRIVIA EVERY WED. NIGHT 8:00 PM

PRIME RIB SPECIALS Every Weekend!

Daily Lunch Specials
Extensive Menu!

JUNE BANDS

Jun. 3 - 4 Welcome Mt. St. Mary's Alumni

Jun. 10 - 11 DJ Solarize

Jun. 17 - 18 Jet Stream

Jun. 24 - 25 Bloo Stoo



CONTAINER GARDENS & COUNTRY DECOR

Hanging Baskets \$11⁹⁹

Planters Starting At \$17⁹⁹

BACK THE ALLEY
202 East Main Street (Rear), Fairfield, PA 17320
backthealley@centurylink.net **717-642-5100** Visit Us On Facebook!
Wed.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. Noon-4pm; Closed Mon. & Tues.



EXIT
EXIT PREFERRED REALTY
2021 E. Main St., Waynesboro, PA 17268
Sandy Poulson
Realtor® / Licensed in PA & MD
Bus: 717-762-8000 Ext. 188
Fax: 717-762-3768
Cell: 240-217-8958

Each Office is Independently Owned & Operated

IN MY OWN WORDS

Homerun of an experience

Emma Haley
MSM Class of 2011

It all started a few weeks into my second semester at the Mount when I decided to take on an internship for my last semester as a college student. When I began the internship I wasn't quite sure what to expect. Now, I suppose I should take you back to the day it all started, so you are able to get a complete grasp of my wonderful experience writing for the *Emmitsburg News Journal*.

So, here is how it all began:

The snow was falling, and I was headed out to Mr. Hillmans farm to learn about some newspaper called the 'Emmitsburg News Journal', where I would be interning for the semester. Skeptical about what was ahead, I pulled into the Hillman's drive and was promptly greeted by two friendly pups. As I reached down to pet each dog, Mr. Hillman appeared from his barn and welcomed me inside to meet his delightful wife who was standing next to the biggest most beautiful horse I have ever seen with my own two eyes. They both continued to show me around the barn which displayed vivid photos of their horses' competitions and ribbons that could stretch a mile long. Their passion for animals was clear. After showing me around some more, we headed inside to their cozy home so I could really learn just what was in store for me.

Before spoken to about my duties or what I was expected to do, I was handed the latest copy of the *Emmitsburg News Journal*. "Tell me what you think," Mr. Hillman provoked. Nervous I may give the undesired answer, I flipped through each page carefully making as many observations as I could. I said I thought it was great, looked nice and included in-depth articles. Thankfully, I was correct- to a degree! He continued to tell me the one thing it was missing was a direct connection to the community and my task was to find a way to connect the local community directly into the paper.

Confidently shaking my head, I agreed to the task. Mr. Hillman decided the best way to get the community is involved is to reach out to something the community loves and has loved for many, many years. The one thing that stood out head and shoulders above anything else was baseball. Not just any kind of baseball, but Little League Baseball.

And so began my 'run around the bases' as I took a look into three major aspects of the Little League Baseball and Softball in

the Emmitsburg and Fairfield area.

The assignment was to be broken up into three segments on the topic: an article on the coaches, an article on the sponsors, and finally an article on the players and parents themselves.

The first article on the coaches was one I will never forget writing. I was able to sit down with several coaches and get an inside perspective on why they did what they did. It was clear as I pulled into the coaches meetings in both Emmitsburg and Fairfield the dedication that filled the room.

Being able to sit down and have conversations one on one with each coach made me personally realize the passion these communities have for the youth and sports of baseball and softball. With every question I asked the coaches humbly answered and beamed with joy about the upcoming seasons. From tee-ball to major league each coach was happy to tell me about their favorite moments on the field and why they loved put so much effort and time into coaching.

In my second article the coaches weren't the only ones who showed dedication and commitment to the League. I think for me, I learned the most from this article. Not only did I learn about the many businesses in the area, that I didn't even know existed but I got a true feel for the commitment and love of community through each and every sponsor I talked to, and let me tell you- I talked to A LOT!

My favorite part of my writing experience happened in the last article. Although the rain postponed me from attend-

ing games early in the season, I was still able to get in touch with several parents, grandparents, and players who showed me just how important Little League was to the community. Hearing the joy in their voices and seeing the smile on their face officially made me love the experience I was able to have over the last semester.

Looking back I didn't know just how influential this 'Emmitsburg News Journal' was to the surrounding community, but I sure know now. There is something unique about our small community and having been able to be a part of it, even for a few short months was invaluable.

I also think there is something to be said about Mr. Hillman, and all those who sponsor, read or support the paper in anyway. They deserve a great pat on the back or even a little more. They are serving their community and local area well and making a mark for all those who live here.

Although I will no longer be in the Emmitsburg area, I will continue to check *Emmitsburg.net* frequently for the latest articles.

My experience writing for the *Emmitsburg News Journal* was something I will never regret. It allowed for me to get a first hand look into the lives of those living in Emmitsburg and Fairfield area. I met numerous, wonderful people whose passion and dedication radiated from each of their personal stories. So, thank you Emmitsburg, Fairfield, Little League and everyone in between. You made my experience one of the best.

Overall, my experience was definitely a homerun! Here's to many more!



Every Bloomin' Thing
Established 1999  Boutique & Florist

Beautiful Floral Arrangements For Weddings

Apparel ~ Handbags ~ Jewelry ~ Gifts ~ Quilts
Country Home Decor Items ~ Silk Flowers & Plants

Boutique & Florist Located Together In Our 1896 Carriage House

Downtown Taneytown (Park at door on Church Street)
Hours:
410-756-1900 Monday-Friday 10-5
Saturday 10-4

RAY FICCA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TOTEM POLE PLAYHOUSE





Hank Williams: Lost Highway
The Journey of an American Musical Legend
By Randal Myler and Mark Harelik
May 28 - June 12, 2011
Follow the rise and fall of the original country music outlaw, from his humble roots singing gospel music on the Louisiana Hayride, to the great stage of the Grand Ole Opry. This unforgettable musical tribute features over twenty Williams classics.

Moonlight and Magnolias
Frankly my dear, this is comedy!
By Ron Hutchinson
June 14 - 26, 2011
When famed Hollywood producer, David O. Selznick, realized three weeks into shooting the epic, *Gone With the Wind*, that the screenplay just wasn't working, what did he do? Find out in this hilarious, true life comedy

It Could Be Any One of Us
A Mystery/Thriller with Three Possible Endings
By Alan Ayckbourn
June 28 - July 10, 2011
An egomaniacal composer and keeper of the family estate is found murdered. Whodunit? Was it his nervous nephew, his younger sister and her bumbling detective boyfriend, or the unexpected guest?

Find Us On Facebook 

Call for Details 6 SPECIAL TUESDAY MATINEES AVAILABLE!
Evenings - Tuesday-Saturday 8:00 p.m.
Matinees - Wednesday, Saturday 2:30 p.m., Sunday 3:00 p.m.

Box Office: (717) 352-2164 1-888-805-7056
www.TotemPolePlayhouse.org Caledonia State Park, Fayetteville, PA

THE ARTS

Jazz on the patio returns!

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

This summer marks the second year of Wednesdays at the Fountain, the summer concert series held at our very own Mount Saint Mary's University. In what is hoped to be an annual event, the sound of music will be resonating throughout campus during the months of June and July as a variety of musicians perform at the fountain located on the McGowan Patio. The concerts will take place on Wednesday nights from 8:30-10pm, and the concerts are free to all who wish to attend.

Last year, the summer concerts featured only jazz music. This year, however, the concerts will include musicians from a variety of genres, including classic and modern rock, pop, Latin jazz, and classic and modern jazz. By adding an assortment of genres to the series, it is hoped that the concerts will attract a broader and larger audience. According to Timothy Wolfe, who organized the concert series, "While jazz is America's classical music and perhaps our greatest artistic contribution to the world, we realize that variety is good. So, the various musical genres featured this year should only add to the attractiveness of this free and open to the public concert series."

The first concert is scheduled for June 1st, and it will highlight the jazz/pop quartet known as Third Stream. Third Stream is highly respected and very popular in the Mid-Atlantic region. The members of this group are all experts on their instruments, and some are even phenomenal at playing multiple instruments. Third Stream's music covers jazz, classical, and pop genres. The band's audiences have always been deeply impressed by their musical skills. Third Stream opened the Wednesdays at the Fountain series in 2010, and because of their spectacular performance, they will repeat this honor for this summer's series as well.

The following week on June 8th, The Dirt Party will "take the stage." This quartet is made up of a group of composers who wish to test the limits of their own compositions by combining a variety of genres in their music. Their creative way of meshing their different interests and their desire to think outside the box results in very memorable performances. The quartet rotates a pool of musicians in order to blend jazz, funk and rock in a collective improvisation. Every performance within their group is very different, which creates an interesting combination within the group dynamic. There are individual, unique compositions and artists within the

group, yet there is a common goal of experimenting with and evolving the idea of music that we hold today. The Dirt Party is an experiment in aesthetics, and it provides the audience with music that is striking and remarkable. They are able to provide their audience with a unique perspective on music in general by allowing them to experience many different genres of music within the same performance. The Dirt Party has performed at Philadelphia Art Museum, Tutuma Social Club in Manhattan with Andrew D'Angelo, Chris' Jazz Cafe, World Cafe Live, and many other locations in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas.

Judd and Maggie will perform on June 15th, bringing us a unique combination of pop, rock, and country music. Judd and Maggie are brother and sister, and they work together as a singer-songwriter pair. Originally from Baltimore, they have lived in Los Angeles and Nashville. They have recorded a total of five albums and signed a record deal with RCA. In addition to all of these accomplishments, Judd and Maggie were able to tour nationally and spread their music throughout the country. Their distinct style of music has often been compared to that of the Carpenters, Fleetwood Mac, and Wilco. Judd works as the Director of Music Ministry at Mount Saint Mary's University, so by participating in this concert series he will be able to share even more of his music with the Mount community as he and his sister showcase their musical talents.

Counter Riot will perform the following week on June 22nd. Counter Riot is a punk/funk trio whose debut album "Punk Funk Fugato" has been steadily moving up on the jambands.com radio charts, currently holding the 12th spot as of this past April. The members of this group play guitar, bass, and drums, and they are committed to excellence in their music. Counter Riot's music and lyrics have been described as interesting, exciting, and provocative. They are sure to be a very entertaining addition to the concert series.

Rounding up the June performances on June 29th is the Afro Bop Alliance. This Latin Jazz Septet has its roots in Annapolis, Maryland. The group performs throughout the Mid-Atlantic and was nominated for best Latin Jazz Album at the 51st annual Grammy Awards in 2008. That same year at the 9th annual Latin Grammy Awards, they won for best Latin Jazz recording. The band's music has been influenced by the musical styles of many different cultures that are all under the umbrella of "Latin" or "Latin Jazz." They have been able to take all of these cultures and merge them into a unique, captivating style with which they perform. As can be seen through the band's numerous accomplishments and recognitions, this is a group that you do not want to miss.

After you watch the fireworks burst in the sky to celebrate our nation's independence on the Fourth of July,



The Dirt Party Quartet. They are a great jazz group scheduled to perform on June 8.

keep the entertainment going with a performance by The Scam on July 6th. This acoustic rock quartet performs a variety of rock songs ranging from the 1960's to the present, but adds an acoustic flare to them. In addition to performing hits from classic rock bands such as the Rolling Stones, Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Beatles, and the Steve Miller Band, they also cover material by more recent artists such as Los Lonely Boys, Stone Temple Pilots, John Mayer, and Jack Johnson. Within this group there is an assortment of music that will appeal to a very wide audience, so come and take a new perspective on a classic or listen to the tunes from today as The Scam presents us with an acoustic assortment that will surely be very entertaining.

On July 13th, the Bruce Swaim Quartet will perform at the fountain. This Straight Ahead Jazz Quartet is known and loved by jazz fans in the greater Washington/Baltimore area. They perform jazz standards and also original compositions. In a review about the group, Jazz Times Magazine stated the following describing the band: "The foursome displays a chemistry that comes out naturally. Each musician connects with the others on a plane that is intangible to the audience. Their arrangements endeavor to create a fun atmosphere for themselves and their audience, which makes the Bruce Swaim Quartet's music conducive to the jazz club exuberance." The Bruce Swaim Quartet is a group that will leave you amazed at their talent and chemistry, and they will be a great addition to the series.

The July 20th performance is still to be determined, but based on the quality and talent seen among the groups that will be performing, the music offered that night will surely be just as interesting and enjoyable as the others. Be sure to check the Mount Summer website (http://www.msmary.edu/academics/mount_summer/) to find information regarding the performance schedule and other updates about programs and events being offered throughout the summer. On this website you will also find links to the websites of each of the bands on the playlist for this summer's concert series.

Finishing off the Wednesdays at the Fountain series on July 27th is The Rick Whitehead Trio. This jazz trio has been described as "ridiculous" because of the extreme talent and skills that the musicians have. Their per-

formances leave their audience marveling at how they are able to play their instruments so well. The lead guitarist of the group is Rick Whitehead himself, and his sense of swing and his creative way of improvising ensure a very entertaining and jaw-dropping performance for any audience. The trio is supported by a powerful and hard swinging rhythm section, and the group is considered one of the best jazz groups in and around the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area. The Rick Whitehead Trio should prove to be an exciting finale for a wonderful group of musicians.

The addition of many genres to the series is a great way to allow the audience to be introduced to styles of music that they have never been exposed to before, or just enjoy the ones they know and love. The series is not only a way to broaden one's musical interests, but it is also a way to meet new people, some with similar tastes in music and others who are taking advantage of the opportunity to try out something new. "We think the series benefits the Mount community and the surrounding community by bringing people together. At the music series you will see younger and older people, people of various social backgrounds, and Mount people and non-Mount people all coming together to enjoy the gift of live music," said Wolfe.

The goal of the concert series is to bring people together to enjoy the many different kinds of music that we have available to us. The concerts are a great source of entertainment and a way to build a strong sense of community between not only the students and faculty at the Mount but also with people from the surrounding areas. "Last year, we had a nice mixture of Mount Saint Mary's students, faculty, and staff and members of the surrounding community. We hope to have that same mix again this year," said Wolfe. And remember, the concerts are free, open to the public, and held rain or shine! Should there be inclement weather, the Mount Café will be used as the location for the concerts. So be sure to check out the schedule on the Mount website and attend maybe one, maybe a few, or maybe all of the concerts if you want to experience the music of some of the best musicians around!

For more information about summer programs at Mount Saint Mary's, call 301-447-8329 or send an email to summer@msmary.edu.



Express yourself!

in an art class at the ACAC Imagination Station.

SUMMER CLASSES FOR KIDS	ADULT CLASSES	
Pinch Pot Zoo: Creating Clay Animals - Ages 5-7 June 13 - 17, 9 am - 12 Noon & 1-4 pm - \$20 Materials Fee.	Painting Outdoors May 25 - June 15, 5:30-8:00 pm \$119 Members; \$131 Nonmembers.	
Thinking 3-D - Ages 8-11 June 25-26, 9 am-12 pm - \$20 Materials Fee.	Portraits & Landscape: Lighting & Composition June 2-23, 6:00-8:00 pm	
Camp Abracadabra: All About Magic - Ages 8-12 June 20-24, 1-4 pm - \$25 Materials Fee (Magic Kit to Keep!)	Engaging Creative Energy Through Writing & Art June 7-28, 6:30-8:30 pm	
Decorate Yourself: Jewelry Making - Ages 8-12 June 27-July 1, 9 am-12 pm - \$10 Materials Fee.	Intro To Digital Photography July 7-28, 5:00-8:00 pm	
Art-a-Palooza! Fine Arts Exploratorium Ages 7-11, June 27-July 1, 1-4 pm - \$28 Materials Fee.	Outdoor Sketching August 2-23, 5:30-7:30 pm	
Now You're Cooking Camp At The Links Ages 10-14 - July 11-15, 9 am to 12 pm - No Materials Fee.	<th>SHORT TERM SEMINARS</th>	SHORT TERM SEMINARS
Dirty Hands Pottery Camp - Ages 8-13 July 11-15, 1-4 pm - \$10 Materials Fee.	Bring Home The Bakin' At Pomona's Bakery Cafe - June 11, 1-5 pm \$48 Members; \$53 Nonmembers; \$13 Materials Fee.	
Cooking Around The World - Ages 8-10 July 18-22, 9 am-12 pm - \$50 Materials Fee. Includes: Food During Camp Each Day, Food Taken Home, And Recipe Booklet.	So You Think You Can't Cook - June 13, 3-7 pm \$48 Members; \$53 Nonmembers; \$20 Materials Fee.	
Clay Jungle - Ages 7-11 July 18-22, 1-4 pm - \$10 Materials Fee.	Silver Metal Clay Filligree Earrings - June 18 - 12-4 pm \$48 Members; \$53 Nonmembers; \$28 Materials Fee.	
Time In The Rainbow - Ages 4-5 July 25-29, 9 am-11 am - \$83 Members; \$90 Nonmembers, \$20 Materials Fee.	Make It/Take It Clay Jewelry - July 13 & 20, 5:30-8:30 pm \$71 Members; \$79 Nonmembers; \$45 Materials Fee.	
Explore The Rainforest With Art - Ages 7-11 August 1-5, 9 am-12 pm - \$12 Materials Fee.	See full course descriptions and register at adacart.org .	
Exploring The Elements Of Art - Ages 9-12 August 8-12, 9 am-12 pm - \$12 Materials Fee.		

Tuition for summer camp is \$125 for Adams County Arts Council members, \$135 for nonmembers. Materials fees are payable to camp instructors the first day of camp. Unless otherwise noted: Tuition for Adult Classes and Short Term Seminars is \$95 for Adams County Arts Council members & \$105 for nonmembers. Materials fees are payable at 1st class meeting. Classes meet at Imagination Station, 18 Carlisle St., Gettysburg unless otherwise noted. Register by phone at 717-334-5006.

Mount track and field

Megan Kinsella
MSM Class of 2013

Hello, Emmitsburg! I am currently enjoying the first few days of summer vacation at my home in Allentown, Pennsylvania and let me tell you something, it is nice! That infamous Emmitsburg winter is behind us and its sunshine, summertime, and smooth sailing the rest of the way. Final grades are out (ouch) and summer jobs have begun. Along with doing a whole lot of nothing, I have started training for the 2011 fall Cross Country season. Training includes long runs, hill workouts, lifting, core/abdominal routines, and other stability exercises. While preparing for next year, I can't help but think back on this past year of competition with a smile: the Mount St. Mary's Track and Field team had a year for the record books. In 2008, the same year Mount St. Mary's celebrated its bicentennial, the Mount's Track and Field program commemorated its own milestone: 100 years and counting. Having recently concluded its 103rd outdoor season, the team has proven that it continues to uphold its century-old commitment to hard work and excellence.

As of May 8th, the team officially wrapped up its 2010-2011 regular season competition. The women's team took home 4th place at the Northeast Conference Outdoor Championships, while the men placed 7th. On the women's side, the dynamic twin duo of Ashley and Ashlyn DeCruise set numerous personal, school, and Northeast Conference records in the 100 and 200 meter dashes. The women's 4x400 meter relay team—consisting of the DeCruises, senior standout Lily Otu, and freshman sensation Desi Scott—crushed the school record and won gold at the NEC Championships. Sophomore thrower Madeline Midles set a personal record in the hammer throw and qualified for the ECAC Regional Championships at the end of May. On the men's side, the senior 4x400 meter relay team of Jason Kymingham,

Chris Brewington, Gigi Gibilisco, and Tom FitzSimons placed third at the NEC Championships and ran an IC4A Championship qualifying time. Junior long distance runner Dylan Bernard owned the distance events, placing fourth in the 10,000 meter run (6.2 miles) and second in the 5,000 meter run (3.1 miles). Gibilisco and FitzSimons worked tirelessly all year long and far exceeded all expectations, qualifying for the upcoming NCAA Championships...

Gibilisco Going Strong

Louis "Gigi" Gibilisco, a senior from Newtown, Pennsylvania, is the Mount's top 800 meter runner. "It's basically sprinting for as long as you possibly can," said Gibilisco of his event. "It has been called one of the hardest and most painful races in track, a combination of speed, endurance, tactics, and most of all guts." As a distance runner myself, I can personally attest to these sentiments. 800 meters is exactly one half of a mile—two laps of the track—and the top male collegiate runners in the country, including Gibilisco, cover that ground in a minute and fifty seconds or less. Now that is fast!

Gibilisco proved himself a champion this year, performing flawlessly in both his indoor and outdoor track seasons. He was the 800 meter gold medalist at the Northeast Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships in February. Then, at the NEC Outdoor Championships in May, he returned to defend his title with a gutsy 100 meter kick down the home stretch. "It's exciting to know that I am the only American born 800 meter runner to sweep both the indoor and outdoor [NEC] titles," said Gibilisco. The excitement doesn't end there, though. Gibilisco traveled to Princeton, New Jersey on May 14th-15th to compete in the 135th annual IC4A Championship meet, the oldest track meet in America. In Princeton, Gibilisco confirmed that he can run with the big dogs. He set a PR (personal record) time in the semifinals, then moved on to the fi-



Tom FitzSimons is a senior Criminal Justice major hailing from Hamden, Conn. FitzSimons is a jack-of-all-trades when it comes to track and field.

nals and set another PR, placing 7th overall. He said, "It was such an exciting race, and the 3rd through 8th place finishers were only separated by less than .8 of a second."

Up next for Gibilisco is the trials of the NCAA East Region meet on Thursday, May 26th in Indiana, where he is ranked 38th. "Basically the game plan is to literally give everything I have to beat 14 people and get back to the quarterfinal on Friday," he said. "It will definitely take a PR, but I think I am in shape to do that so I'm really excited to see what this race brings." If Gigi places in the top 12 at the East Region meet, he will advance to the NCAA National Championships at Drake University in Iowa during June. "Gigi is hitting great form at just the right time, setting two lifetime best performances at the IC4A championships to earn his spot," said head Track and Field coach Jim Stevenson. "His races last weekend [at IC4A] showed room for even better performances in just over a week's time, which leaves us hopeful that he can finish in the top 12 and move on to the NCAA Championship finals as well."

When asked for one word that other athletes and coaches have used to describe him in the past, Gibilisco replied without hesitation: tenacious. Well folks, it looks like the Mount has its very own "Tenacious G" (yes, pun intended).

FitzSimons Fit for Nationals

Tom FitzSimons is a senior Criminal Justice major hailing from Hamden, Connecticut. FitzSimons is a jack-of-all-trades when it comes to Track and Field. He does it all: running events, throwing events, jumping events, and even the pole vault. It's a no brainer, then, that he competes in the all-encompassing decathlon. For those of you who aren't so track-savvy, the decathlon is a two day competition with five different events each day. On day one, competitors start with the 100 meter dash, then move onto long

jump, shot put, high jump, and finish with the 400 meter dash (one full lap around the track). On day two, athletes compete in the 110 meter high hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin, and the 1500 meter run (3.75 laps), which is 100 meters short of a mile. After every event, each competitor is awarded a specific amount of points, depending upon his performance. At the end of the two days, the athlete with the most points wins the entire event.

FitzSimons has become quite accustomed to seeing his name at the top of the decathlon results. Last year, he won the 117th Penn Relays, a highly esteemed track meet at the University of Pennsylvania, that is known world-wide and attracts over 22,000 athletes each year. That same season, he went on to take gold at the IC4A Championship meet in Princeton, New Jersey. FitzSimons earned his top decathlon score at the Texas Relays this spring, where he placed 5th in a field of 20 athletes and clinched his spot for the NCAA Nationals in June. His score of 7,606 points is now the 13th highest in the nation. To put things into perspective for you, top caliber decathletes have to score around 8,000 points in order to compete in the Olympic trials. Yeah, I know what you're thinking: our Tom is pretty darn good, to say the least.

"At Texas Relays, I set 6 personal bests and had a lot of fun throughout the meet," said FitzSimons. "The competition was a lot stiffer in Texas [than it was at Penn and IC4A last year], so that was the best 5th place I've ever had." Since qualifying for Nationals, he has been competing in open events each weekend, working hard on the weaker events while tweaking the better ones. "We skipped out on the decathlons at Penn Relays and the IC4A championships this year because the NCAA championship is what's most important," he said. "The plan is to show up big at

Drake University in Iowa and represent Mount St. Mary's well."

Head Track and Field coach Jim Stevenson, who was a decathlete at the Mount in the 90s, is thrilled with FitzSimons' performance. "It is an incredible achievement for Tom to be representing Mount St. Mary's at Nationals this year, and certainly the high point of his athletic career so far," said Stevenson. "He produced a great decathlon score in Texas to qualify and if he repeats it, he will be a serious contender for All-America honors." The top 8 finishers in each event at the NCAA Championships earn the title of All-American. FitzSimons has the opportunity to join Stevenson (1995), along with 102 other Mount track athletes throughout the program's long history, on the prestigious All-American list.

What's next?

FitzSimons and Gibilisco graduated on May 15th in the Mount's Commencement ceremony held at Knott Arena. However, both will be back in action on the track for the 2011-2012 seasons. Due to injuries and illness, both athletes have an indoor and outdoor season remaining. "I have the privilege of returning for a full 5th year season because of my early freshman and sophomore [red shirt seasons]," Gibilisco remarked. "My goal next year is to totally devote myself to track and really see how hard I can push my body."

Speaking of next year, here's a little heads up. The 2012 Northeast Conference Outdoor Championships will be held at non-other than Mount St. Mary's University's Deegan Track. Usually the first or second weekend in May, this two day event is something you do not want to miss. Come out and support the entire Mount Track and Field team, including yours truly!

Well, that's a wrap for this month. Until July, I bid you farewell Emmitsburg!



SIMPLE SERVINGS

Grilling up the good life

Sharon Racine

The smell of summer manifests itself in the form of smoke from a charcoal grill. From May 'til September, I find myself inhaling the distinctly delicious aroma of charcoal smoke somewhere nearby at least once a day before the sun goes down. Then I invariably find myself getting jealous of those mystery grillers, picturing a spacious deck somewhere nearby filled with plates of burgers, coolers of beer, and a folding-chair circle of best friends.

The characters in my envious day-dream don't have an exact reason for their festivities, but I know from experience that as long as a grill is involved, you usually don't need a reason to party. These charcoal- (or propane-) powered contraptions are essentially a party in a box, both a reason to celebrate and a celebration unto themselves.

Back in college, if the sun was out and the mercury was above sixty-five, there were burgers on a grill somewhere off campus. It didn't matter if it was during class on a Tuesday, or if we had exams to study for or million-page papers to finish up. We were limited to a mere month of potential grilling weather before we all went our separate ways during the summer, so gathering on a driveway

with kegs, burgers and cornhole always took precedence over academia, no matter our deadlines.

Our beloved driveway parties inevitably came to an end in May, along with our classes. Everyone returned home for the summer months, only to come back to campus in September with a same, single thought: tailgating season. Conveniently timed to coincide with football season, tailgating season meant Saturday morning barbecues in the crispy autumn sun, cool enough for a jacket but warm enough for grilling.

Most tailgates had a strict, school-imposed start time of 10:00 am, but the real veterans arrived around 9:30 to claim their grilling territory. Groups of friends would take up entire blocks of the tailgate field, bantering back and forth while expertly inhaling morning cocktails at hours only appropriate during college. Unique fusions of songs wavered from car speakers as beer-loose tailgate attendees happily swayed with the music.

The epicenter of the music and games and morning drinks, though, was always the grill. If you weren't lucky enough to own a grill or know someone who did, well...you were seriously missing out. I never really knew where all of the burgers and hot dogs came from or how there were always enough for whoever wanted



them, but the supply at those tailgates seemed endless.

Looking back now, it's safe to say that most of my favorite college memories were formed around grills. When there was nothing else to do we grilled, and that activity in itself was reason enough to start a party. When we had an actual reason to celebrate, such as a football game or a gorgeous day or, eventually, graduation, we always went straight for the grill. Grilling with friends was (and still is) the ultimate source of good food, bad decisions, and great friends. It is one of the truest testaments to the good life.

For the early-morning champions: Happy fruit kabobs

Are you a professional early-morning tailgater, seasoned almost as well as the steaks that you grill? Then this recipe is for you: the perfect light side dish for that mostly-champagne AM mimosa.

Ingredients

- 8 12-inch wooden skewers
- 1/2 cup apple jelly
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 of a medium fresh pineapple, peeled and cored (about 9 ounces)
- 2 cups large fresh strawberries
- 1 nectarine, seeded and cut into wedges
- 1/2 of a 10-ounce loaf frozen pound cake, cut into 1-1/2-inch cubes
- 8 small firm kiwi fruit, peeled and cut in half crosswise

Instructions

1. Soak wooden skewers in water for 1 hour. In grill with cover, arrange preheated coals around drip pan for indirect grilling.
2. For sauce, combine apple jelly, lemon juice, and cinnamon in a saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally until smooth and bubbly. Remove from heat and set aside.
3. Cut pineapple into 1 1/2 -inch pieces. Thread pineapple, strawberries, nectarine wedges, and cake cubes alternately onto skewers, placing kiwi halves on each end. Leave a lit-

tle space (about 1/4 inch) between each piece so that all pieces cook evenly. Transfer kabobs to a baking sheet or tray for easy transport to the grill.

4. Place kabobs on grill rack over drip pan.
5. Cover grill and cook kabobs for 2 minutes. After 2 minutes, carefully turn skewers over.
6. Use a long-handled brush to sweep a portion of the sauce over the kabobs. Grill for an additional 1 to 2 minutes until heated through. Turn kabobs again and brush with sauce.
7. Remove kabobs from grill and serve on skewers. Makes 8 servings.

Recipe courtesy of Better Homes and Gardens.

Recipe courtesy of allrecipes.com, by Fleischman's Yeast.

For the white-meat traditionalist: Spicy turkey burgers

Okay burger ambassador, it's your time to shine. You might not get out to the tailgate field until it's almost game time, but cook up these turkey burgers and your grill will be the most popular in no time. Better make extras!

Ingredients

- 1 lb ground turkey
- 1 Tbsp dark soy sauce
- 1-2 Tbsp sweet chili sauce
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 2 spring onions, finely chopped

Instructions

1. Mix the ground turkey, dark soy sauce, sweet chili sauce, spring onions, lemon zest and juice with plenty of salt and fresh pepper until the ingredients are well-combined
2. Divide the mixture into four equal portions and shape into burgers
3. Cook on a preheated hot grill for 8 minutes on each side until cooked through. If cooking on a charcoal grill, cook burgers away from the direct heat of the coals for 6-8 minutes,

turning frequently until just beginning to char. Makes 4 servings.

Recipe courtesy of 101 Low-Fat Feasts by Good Food Magazine.

For the post-tailgate deck party: Grilled oysters

Envious of the other guy's amazing turkey burgers that made him the most popular individual at the tailgate? One-up his efforts with this unique offering of grilled shellfish. Remember: the guy who throws a party after the tailgate will always be the most popular.

Ingredients

- 10 tablespoons softened unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
- 2 tablespoons minced parsley leaves
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh chives
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce, optional
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 24 shucked oysters, half of each shell reserved and washed

Instructions

1. In a mixing bowl, combine all ingredients except the oysters and mix thoroughly to combine. Transfer butter mixture to a piece of plastic wrap. Roll up to form a tight log and freeze until firm.
2. Preheat grill on high.
3. Place the washed oyster shells on a baking sheet and top each shell with 1 oyster. Remove the butter mixture from the freezer and unwrap. Slice the butter into 24 rounds and place 1 round on top of each oyster.
4. Place the oysters on the preheated grill and cook through until they are curled around the edges and the butter is melted and bubbly, about 4 to 6 minutes.
5. Serve immediately.



5525 Taneytown Pike
Taneytown, MD 21787
(410) 756-1080

Hours:
 Tuesday - Thursday 11am - 11pm
 Friday & Saturday 11am - Midnight
 Sunday 12:30pm - 9pm

“Comfort Food with A Twist”

Appetizers - Soups - Salads

Soup du Jour - New England Clam Chowder - Chili
 Salads Including Crab Salad - Wings - Pork Pops
 Jalapeno Poppers - Steamed Shrimp, Clams & Mussels
 Crab & Artichoke Dip - Lettuce Wraps & Much More!

Sandwiches & Burgers

Gunner's Grilled Cheese - Salmon Cake - Deli Sandwiches
 Lemon Dill Shrimp Salad - Grilled California Chicken
 Grilled Chicken Salad - Hot Roast Beef or Turkey
 Chicken Cheese Steak - Veggie Burger
 & Build Your Own Gourmet Stuffed Burgers!

Side Dishes & Desserts

Seasoned Steak Fries - Asian Cole Slaw
 Mashed Potatoes & Gravy - Parsley Red Potatoes
 Sweet Potatoes - Wild Rice - Roasted Broccoli
 Vegetable of the Day - Homemade Applesauce
 Lemon Raspberry Cake - Double Chocolate Cake
 Peanut Butter Heath Cake - Ice Cream

We Also Have:

Full Service Catering - Weekly Meal Plans
Private Room Available - Party Planning

GUNNER'S GRILLE
 At Taneytown

Visit us At:
www.gunnersgrille.com

Great Grilles of Fire

THE BUILDER'S NOTEBOOK

Leaded or unleaded?

Andrew Wivell

I have chosen the topic of "Remodeling with Lead Paint" for this month's article. It is currently a hot topic in the remodeling industry and there many older homes in Emmitsburg and the surrounding communities. On January 1, 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rules for Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP Rules) went into effect. The RRP Rules attempt to establish a standardized national method for Contractors performing remodeling projects that are disturbing lead paint. Homeowners renovating their primary residence are exempt from the new RRP Rules.

A Little History

Lead was added to paint to enhance its color and durability. It was banned from residential use in the United States in 1978. It is extremely unlikely that your house contains any lead paint if it was built after 1978. Testing shows that lead paint, if present, is concentrated on trim and doors, and in Kitchens and Baths in pre-1978 built homes.

Approximately 25% of the homes built between 1960 and 1978 contain lead paint. Approximately 66% of the homes built between 1940 and 1959 contain lead paint. Further, roughly 86% of the homes built prior to 1940 contain lead paint. As you can see, the older your home is, the higher the probability is that your home contains lead paint. (Source of the data above is from the "American Healthy Homes Survey: Draft Final Report for Peer Review: Lead and Arsenic Findings, October 7, 2008.)

Confirm the presence of Lead

The first step for any remodeling project, due to the new RRP Rules, is to determine the age of the property. If the homeowner does not know when the structure was built, property information can be accessed from tax records. In Maryland, go to http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/, type in the county and search by street address. If research does not reveal the age of the structure, I (as a contractor) must assume that it was built before 1978. The next step is to test the impacted areas for the presence of lead paint.

Certified Renovators, of which I am one, may do their own lead testing using a "EPA recognized" test kit. Another option is to hire a third party to do the testing. Most third party testing agencies will use X-ray Reflective Technology (XRT) to test for lead. The "gun-shaped" instrument tests by bombarding the paint film with gamma radiation that causes the lead in the paint to emit x-rays that can be read by a sensor in the instrument. The amount of lead in the paint is directly related to the x-rays read by the sensor. A computer program in the instrument calculates how much lead is in the paint film. A reading equal to or greater than 1.0 milligram/centimeter squared is defined by the EPA as

Lead Based Paint (LBP). In Maryland and the District of Columbia, LBP is present if the test result is greater than .7 milligrams/centimeter squared.

Why Now?

Lead Based Paint has not been legal in this country since 1978. So why the apparent sudden interest by the EPA to make this a national issue? Here is the short answer. Generally, "Baby Boomers" in the '70's and '80's with fewer kids and more money than the previous generation started fixing up older homes. As a result, many more of their children were exposed to LBP, primarily in the form of dust thru inhalation or by hand to mouth as toddlers do so well. This higher exposure to LBP led to higher incidence of health problems. These health problems were eventually traced back to the ingestion of LBP that had occurred during renovation or remodeling.

The health problems were and are serious enough for the EPA to develop a set of procedures to be followed during renovation work in the presence of LBP. According to the EPA, the hazard to children is damage to the brain and the central nervous system that can cause decreased intelligence, reading and learning difficulties, behavioral problems and hyperactivity. The damage can be irreversible, affecting children throughout their lives. The hazard to adults is cardio vascular problems resulting from high blood pressure, loss of sex drive and/or capability, or physical fatigue. In addition, pregnant women risk damage to their fetus. A secondary danger is construction workers who unknowingly take home lead dust via shoes and clothing and spread it around their own home during the course of normal activities.

What to Do?

The focus of the EPA's RRP rules attempt to educate both the contractor and homeowner to perform a safer renovation. Don't be scared out of doing your renovation work. Just realize that slightly different procedures will be required during the course of the renovation. The mere presence of LBP is not the cause of the problem. The cause is the ingestion and inhalation of the lead dust that is disturbed and scattered

about during a renovation project. The RRP rules concentrate on minimizing the dust (ex. no power sanding), contain the dust to the impacted area, and clean-up the impacted area.

The lead dust is heavy, relatively speaking, so the focus at the clean-up end is on horizontal surfaces such as floors, mantles, window sills, etc. A shop vac with a HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) rated filtration system will be most effective at this stage of construction. Also, regular wet wipes are a vital tool of the trade for LBP clean-up. Successful containment during renovation leads to a easier and better clean-up.

The RRP certification that I have allows me to renovate or remodel in the presence of LBP. However, it does not give me (or anyone with only this certification) the ability to do lead abatement. The interesting thing here is that the remodel or the "Abatement Project" could have the same result, but I'm allowed to do the remodel, but not the abatement. For Example: Harry Homeowner calls me to replace his front door that is covered with lead paint. If Harry's motivation is to upgrade the door for thermal efficiency and aesthetics, then I can follow the RRP Rules and complete this project. But, if Harry calls and says "I want to get rid of my front door because it is covered with lead, then this is an abatement project that I am not allowed to complete.

In Summary, lead is a dangerous substance that is harmful only when inhaled or ingested. Renovations involving LBP can be safely done by following the RRP Rules and using the proper tools and common sense. There are pre-project and post-project testing and a fair amount of record keeping involved. This, along with license fees will increase the cost and time completion of a RRP project. Education and hiring the right certified contractor will go a long way to successfully completing your project.

To learn more about renovating in the presence of LBP, please call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD (5323). If you are ready to begin planning your project, please visit our website at www.wivellhomes.com or email me directly at andrew@wivellhomes.com.

Need more room, think outside!

Laura Meredith

Looking for a vacation paradise, but can't get away? Think your outdoor space has no personality? Relax. It's in the back yard—or the front. You can breathe life again into any dead space, and create your new favorite haven.

Winter has said goodbye, springtime welcomes us, and the days and nights are growing longer. We are ready for the fresh air! It's only natural to want to bring the indoors—out. So, as our love affair with backyard barbequing and garden living heats up—it's time to take it outside.

When redesigning any space, whether indoors or out, it should start with a clean slate. So, first clear away debris and declutter as much as possible. Whatever your style, formal, or rustic, keep it simple. Focus on setting up a space that is attractive, comfortable, functional, and affordable.

Before you start buying, visit your own rooms to shop. Your outdoor haven doesn't have to be uncomfortable or empty looking. Renew, refine, and redesign your space with a few furnishings and artifacts from the indoors. Repurpose with what you already have. Of course, it's always fun to buy something, whether old or new! With the selection of one-

of-a-kind items to purchase at local boutiques, and warehouse sales, it's easy to set up a charming space that can serve as your perfect backdrop for small family get-togethers, to a big bash.

Consider how the space will be used, and create a focal point or theme.

For a basic outdoor room, incorporate perennial shrubs and flowers into your landscape design. For maximum color, group interesting containers along with annual flowers for the most impact. Take advantage of a shady tree! Add a small table and chairs for a useful focal point.

Add lamps, candles, or chandeliers for additional light. For a splash of color, add rugs, paint, or new cushions, and mix it up with contemporary artwork. Bring in music for a cozy retreat, or a special event.

With just a little work, your outdoor space of comfort and function could be your next favorite stage for entertaining!

If you can't find the time to create your special outdoor living room, consider the low-cost option of hiring a professional redesign specialist for a consultation. For more information for help to renew refine redesign your space, contact:

www.meredithdesigngroup.com or 877.465.4975



Central Maryland Sunrooms
5241 Taneytown Pike * Taneytown, MD 21787
410-751-1512
www.centralmarylandsunrooms.com

SUNSPACE
Let the Sun Shine

"Call Us, Checkout Our Website"
Visit Our Showroom, Display Rooms On Site!

SUNROOMS * DECKS * HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Owned, Operated and Installed By:
KISER & SONS CONSTRUCTION, INC.
A Family Owned Business

Serving The Community Over 35 Years!
**Terry, Doris
Mark & Dave Kiser**

Showroom Hours:
Tues.-Fri. 10am to 5pm * Sat. 10am to 1pm
Closed Sunday, Monday by appointment only

MIHC #3901
PA 01804
\$500 OFF
A Total Room Package
One Coupon Per
Room, Not Valid
w/prior Purchases
Offer Exp. 7/31/11

Rt. 140, Just Outside Town Limits
Across From The Taneytown Park & Football Field

Time To Redesign!
Your Treasures...Our Talent...
A Winning Combination!

THE Meredith Design Group LLC
renew...refine...redesign!

Room Makeovers ~ Redesigning ~ Staging Solutions

877-465-4975
www.MeredithDesignGroup.com
ljr@meredithdesigngroup.com

COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Stay grounded

Renee Lehman

No, I don't mean that you should not fly anywhere this summer! I mean be mentally and emotionally stable, and have a firm foundation (www.merriam-webster.com) while being surrounded by the concerns, worries, and fear-laden information in our modern world.

When I think of being "grounded," I think of being deeply and vastly rooted to the earth like a tree. Trees have a balanced root structure with roots distributed relatively evenly around the trunk, and normally grow outward to about three times the branch spread. This is especially necessary to provide support for larger trees.

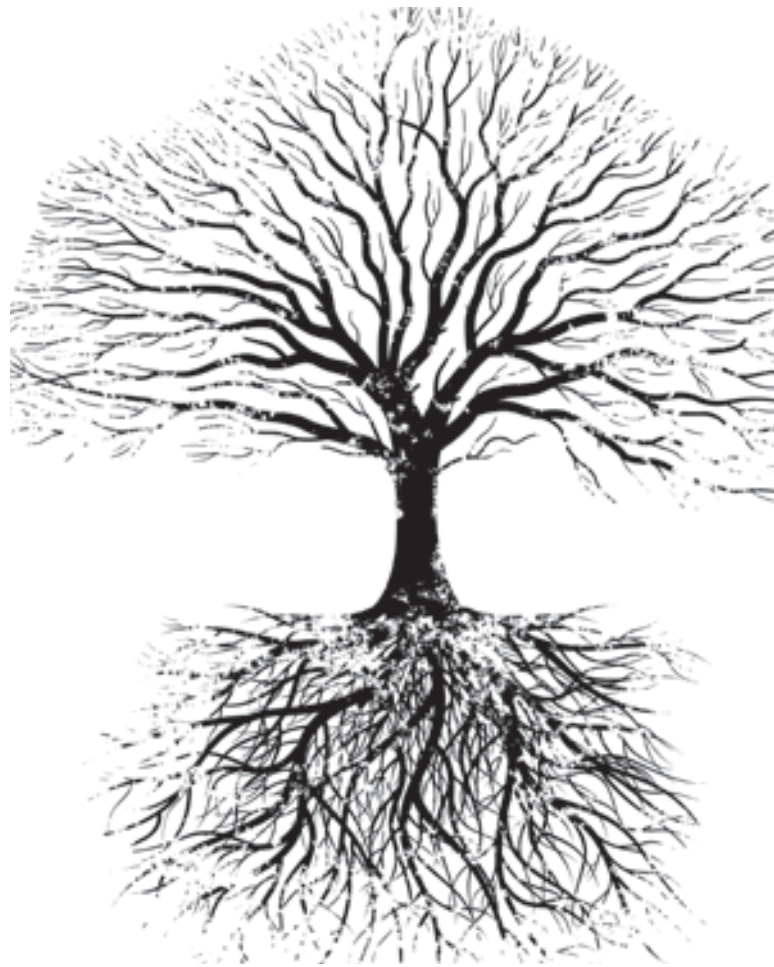
I never saw a discontented tree. They grip the ground as though they liked it, and though fast rooted they travel about as far as we do. (John Muir)

By staying "grounded" and deeply rooted like a tree, you can withstand any strong winds or storminess of life. AND, who does not have times of "unsettled weather" in our lives? Plus, our current-day culture promotes living at a fast pace, and has us processing overwhelming amounts of information daily. For example, search for a topic on the internet – there could be thousands of websites listed with information relevant to the topic. Walk into the grocery store – how many variations of a product are there? Watch the news on TV, and while you are listening and watching the story, read the continuous scrolling of news across the bottom of the screen.

Many of us spend count-

less hours watching reality TV (which by the way is NOT real), playing video games, using the Wii to "play" a sport, "surfing" the internet, watching endless videos on YouTube, "Tweeting" or posting information on Facebook, listening to iPods, playing with electronic devices like iPads, and texting on smartphones. We spend so much time "in our heads" – thinking and processing information faster and faster, and at a much more superficial level. Are you aware of your posture, your breathing, your surrounding while absorbed in these activities? We get "pulled" out of the wholeness of our body when we do these activities. Then once you are done using these devices at the end of the day, how much of a challenge is it to "turn off" your mind to fall asleep at night? In general, how long does it take for you to quiet yourself? Where is balance in the examples above of constant mental activity and processing? Don't those examples begin to make your head spin? They do mine! I believe that as a culture we are becoming less "grounded" and "rooted" in our daily lives.

Remember the Yin-Yang symbol to describe the balance in the natural world? The Yin-Yang symbol consists of a circle divided into two teardrop-shaped halves - one white and the other black. Within each half is contained a smaller circle of the opposite color. One could not exist without the other, for each contains the essence of the other. In the universe there is a constant movement between Yin and Yang. There is an ebb and flow between peace and turbulence, winter and spring, and rest and activity. However, our



modern world tends to encourage and reward Yang over Yin activity.

The Importance of Grounding to the Earth

Do you remember hearing about how the physical condition of early astronauts deteriorated severely while in outer space? These astronauts became weak, sick, and lost bone density. When they returned from the moon, they could not stand up. This happened because they were away from the electromagnetic field that is formed between the ground and the lower part of the ionosphere located about 62 miles above us. This field has a vibration or resonance (called the Schumann Resonance – named for the German physicist, W.O. Schumann who observed this in 1952) of approximately 7.83 pulses per second (hertz). It has been proven that all vertebrates

and our human brain vibrate at this same frequency. The problem was solved by introducing the "Schumann Simulator" into all space shuttles, a magnetic pulse generator mimicking the Earth's frequency. When the astronauts used this simulator they recovered their equilibrium and health. Electromagnetic emissions from computer monitors, cell phones, and other electrical devices also cover up the Schumann Resonance, thus leading to stress and fatigue. This demonstrates the simple fact that we cannot be healthy if disconnected from the "natural biological frequency" (www.SchumannWaves.com).

How can you stay grounded?

1. Take a walk outside and notice the trees around you. Trees are a wonderful example to us - their roots firmly planted and branches reaching high.
2. Do a Grounding Meditation. Imagine roots coming from the bottom of your feet into the ground to firmly tie you to the core of the earth. As you breathe in feel the energy coming up from the earth into your body and as you breathe out let any excess flow back down into the earth.
3. Observe your thoughts. Yes, just stop and notice what you were thinking. Are you off in the ozone or present to your current experience.
4. Try yoga, qi gong, or tai chi. These ancient practices get

us into our bodies and slow us down to become aware of our movements.

5. When the weather is nice, go outside and garden. There is nothing like getting your hands in dirt to get you grounded.
6. Stand without your shoes and feel your feet touching the ground. Grounding or Earthing is defined as placing one's bare feet on the ground whether it be dirt, grass, sand or concrete (especially when humid or wet). Regular grounding restores the body's natural electrical state, calms the nervous system, reduces inflammation, and improves circulation. "No pill on Earth can do what Mother Earth does!" (Cardiologist, Stephen Sinatra, M.D).

Now, doesn't it make sense why spending more time outside, or hiking in the mountains, or walking on the sand at the beach makes you feel better? You are resonating with the earth's vibration! By being barefoot, you can make better contact with this vibration, since rubber soles act as an insulator, and resist the flow of electric current.

Finally, I believe that the more frantic and expansive our culture becomes, the deeper our own roots must be. I invite you to begin deepening your roots – go outside... NOW!

"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves." (Gandhi)

"The deeper the roots of a tree reach, the higher the peak. You can see the tree, you cannot see the roots, but they are always in proportion. If the tree is reaching to the sky the roots must be reaching to the very end of the earth. The proportion is the same." (Osho)

"I have always argued that change becomes stressful and overwhelming only when you've lost any sense of the constancy of your life. You need firm ground to stand on. From there, you can deal with that change." (Richard Nelson Bolles)

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 20 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.



FATHER'S DAY

Sunday June 19th

Give Dad A Gift Certificate!

MED ONE

Father's Day Drawing!

Win 2 Orioles Tickets

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Join us at Med One Pharmacy - 4 Convenient Locations

- No Waiting • Friendly Customer Service
- Locally Owned
- Great Prices

\$5.00 Off

Any New Prescription

Not Valid On Medicare or Medicaid Prescriptions.
No cash value. No cash back.
Void where prohibited by law.
Expires 6/30/11 - Med1 Pharmacy

58 Water St.
Thurmont, MD 21788
301-271-2223

101 Silo Hill Rd.
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301-447-6226

610 9th Ave.
Brunswick, MD 21716
301-834-9715

4317 Old National Pike
Middletown, MD 21769
301-371-8145

FAMILY DENTISTRY
TIMOTHY B. BRINGARDNER, D.D.S.
Serving Emmitsburg for over 25 years



101 South Seton Avenue
P.O. Box 538
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

(301) 447-6662

New Patients Welcome

FITNESS AND HEALTH

Improving your health with exercise

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

In the past I have written several articles about how exercise helps prevent or improves many health conditions. In this article I am able to share with you some personal experiences from someone who was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and how they feel exercise helps in improving this condition. They have been involved with the local MS walks for several years but were unable to participate in the year before last because of a persisting plantar fasciitis problem. The recommendation of a po-

diatrist was following a program of regular stretching exercises to regain flexibility and exercises to strengthen the muscles of the heel. Orthotics were also recommended to help keep the foot and arch in good alignment. Several months later, after following the stretching and strengthening exercise program, they decided to enroll in a Zumba class. As many of you may know, this class is challenging and keeps you moving through the whole hour. They wanted to help improve joints and muscles as well as help with energy and endurance. Now, one year later, they were able to do the MS walk and feeling much bet-

ter with the heel and muscles. They even found more energy to complete the MS walk. They contribute the big improvement to the special exercises and getting more activity over how they felt a year ago. I am so glad they were willing to share their experience with me so that I can get the word out to all of you. I hope that reading this person's experience may help you find the strength you have been looking for to get moving in whatever capacity you are able to get started. I realize getting started is very difficult but once you do you will feel so much better. Just think, in a year you could be feeling a big improve-

ment too. A year sounds like a long time, and I am not trying to make any of this sound really easy, but one year of your life to give you a longer, happier and healthier life is worth it.

Multiple Sclerosis is just one of the health conditions that exercise can help. I have listed them in the past, but I think a reminder is worth it. Diabetes, heart conditions, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, depression, knee and hip and joint problems are only a few of the health conditions we are faced with. Obesity is probably the biggest problem that we need to control and some of the oth-

ers problems I mentioned would not develop. I am sure we all know someone or we ourselves are faced with at least one of these conditions. Take a few minutes

to really be honest with yourself and maybe, if you need to work on one of the above mentioned problems, think about checking with your doctor to see if you are able to start an exercise program. Exercise will help improve energy, reduce weight and hopefully give you a long, healthy life to look forward to.

Remember, keep moving, you'll be glad you did!

Give me a call at 717-334-6009 if you need help getting started.

Fitness Matters

Inga Olsen
Anytime Fitness
Personal Trainer

Question: I keep hearing great things about these antioxidant super fruit juices, and I even have a few friends that decided to become distributors. Am I missing out on something? Should I be adding these juices to my daily regimen?

Answer: These products are definitely popular these days, but here's the scoop. Most of these products are exotic fruit juices marketed as super antioxidants, which supposedly have beneficial effects on the body. Unfortunately, many of these claims come from distributors or the elaborate marketing materials developed by the companies themselves. Research is often touted, too, but most of the studies that are referenced have been done on a specific fruit or an extract of that fruit, not the actual juice being sold to you. Plus, many of the manufacturers add other juice concentrates as well, so you have no idea how much of the supposed active ingredients are actually in the final product. This is pretty standard, though there may be a few exceptions. The other issue with these juices is the cost. Many of them sell for \$20-\$35 per bottle, with a typical serving being only a few ounces per day. The high cost is usually attributed to highly paid consultants and the distribution network itself, since everyone involved gets a piece of the monetary pie. The bottom line is these juices don't appear to be harmful, but are they actually making you any healthier? That question is hard to answer. Before making a purchase, it would be wise to gather all the facts you can and ask a registered dietitian if you have any questions about a specific product.

Question: Is it better to do cardio first and then lift, or the other way around?

Answer: The fact of the matter is different people do different

things. Some might say that you should do cardio first because it's a nice way to warm up your muscles before a weight training session. Others would argue that doing this will cause too much fatigue, which might lower your workout intensity and make lifting with proper form more difficult. There really isn't a right or wrong answer. The best advice is to pay attention to your goals. If you're focused a bit more on the endurance side of the equation, try to do your cardio first, when you'll have the most energy. If your goal is to pack on some muscle mass, hit the weights first, before getting some heart-healthy cardio into your workout. And if you're really looking to push yourself in a particular area of fitness, make sure to break up your cardio and lifting sessions, so you feel energized during each and every workout.

Question: I'm having a hard time with nighttime eating. Any tips, hints, or other advice to help me curb this seemingly routine habit?

Answer: The first thing you need to do is determine whether you're actually hungry or not. Appetite and hunger are very different concepts, and it's important to differentiate between the two. Appetite is the psychological need for food, and it's influenced by your senses, your emotions, and your environment. Hunger is the physiological need for food, meaning your body desires food to function normally. To simplify things even further, appetite deals with the sight or smell of food and your desire for it. Hunger deals with those pangs and growls you get in your stomach when you actually need food. Generally speaking, you should try to eat when you're hungry. Take this example...after having a big meal for dinner, you might want some dessert, but are you actually hungry for it? You may just want it because it looks good or smells good, or because eating dessert is what you typically do after dinner. Essentially, your eyes are playing tricks on you. If you think you might be hungry in the evening, try drinking a glass of water and then waiting ten to fifteen minutes. If you're still hungry at that point, try to figure out

why. Did you have a big lunch and a small dinner, and now hunger is catching up with you? Or did you skip dinner altogether? You'll often find a logical reason for being hungry, and if this is the case, be sure to remedy that situation the next time around. In the meantime, find something light to snack on in the evening. Some popcorn, a piece of fruit, yogurt,

or even some string cheese would work just fine.

About the author: Inga Olsen is the Club Manager and NSPA Conditioning Specialist and Nutrition and Weight Management Specialist at Anytime Fitness in Thurmont. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at email@anytimefitness.com.

ANYTIME FITNESS
130 Frederick Road, Suite C, Thurmont, MD (301) 271-0077

Get ready for summer
... enough said!

**No Enrollment Fee,
Plus First Month Free!**

Limited to the first 20 new customers in June!

ANTIETAM EYE Associates
Dr. Jerzy S. Kornilow, O.D.
"Quality Eyecare, Quality Eyewear"

*Comprehensive Eyecare *Diabetic Eye Examinations
*Glaucoma Evaluation & Treatment *Cataract Evaluation
*Contact Lens Packages *Glasses For The Whole Family

1051 E. Main St., Waynesboro, PA 17268
717-387-5657
AntietamEYE.com

amber hill PHYSICAL THERAPY, INC.
where patients come first — since 1985

Patients Come First at Amber Hill Physical Therapy

We have built our reputation as one of the area's most respected practices by giving patients quality, compassionate care in a friendly, comfortable setting.

- Orthopedic, sports, neurological and automobile injuries
- Pediatric Speech Therapy*
- A Pediatric PT/OT Clinic
- We accept & are in-network with most insurances to save you money

Thurmont 301.271.9230
Frederick 301.663.1157
Jefferson 301.473.5900
Damascus 301.253.0896
www.amberhillpt.com

Find us on Facebook

New patients usually seen in 24 hours in private rooms
Early a.m., eve. and Sat. hrs.

Donald J. Novak, P.T., D.P.T., owner

"Recently I received physical therapy at your Thurmont location. I wish to commend your staff for their professionalism, care and help. I hope that AmberHill stays in Thurmont for many years to come."
—M Rice, Thurmont

*Speech Therapy Services offered through Frederick Pediatric Therapy LLC at the Frederick Pediatric Clinic.

• Our Knowledge & Experience Get You Back to Enjoying Life! •

ASTRONOMY

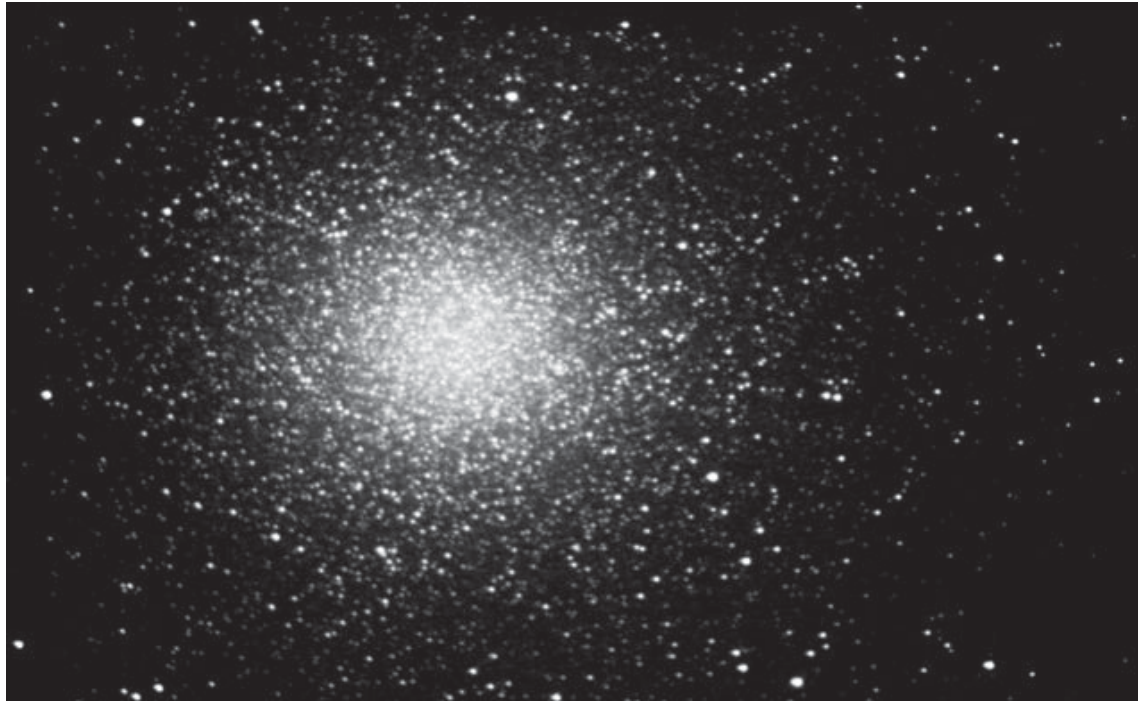
The night sky of June

Professor Wayne Wooten

For June 2010, the Moon will be new on June 1st, so the two weeks finds the moon waxing in the evening sky. On the 9th, the first quarter moon passes is high overhead at sunset in the evening sky. The waxing gibbous moon passes seven degrees south of Saturn in the SE on June 10th. Full moon, the Honey Moon, is June 15th, and produces a total lunar eclipse for the other side of the world. We had our turn last December 21st, you may remember. The beginning of summer occurs at 12:37 PM CDT on June 21, the longest day of the year, with about 14 hours of daylight for the Gulf Coast. The last quarter moon is on June 23rd. The waning crescent moon passes five degrees north of Jupiter on the morning on June 26th, and 2 degrees north of Mars in the morning twilight on June 28, and one degree west of Venus on June 30th, but both will probably be lost in the sun's glare then.

High up in the southern sky is the most beautiful planet, Saturn, just northwest of Spica, the brightest star in Virgo. Saturn's rings are now open about ten degrees; they will continue opening up wider until 2017, when they are tilted 27 degrees toward us and the Sun. You may also see some belts and zones on the planet's disk. The largest, Titan, will be seen in any small telescope, but others will need larger scopes to spot.

The winter constellations are being swallowed up in the Sun's



Omega Centauri

glare, but you might spot Sirius low in the SW as June begins. Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare by mid-June, and this sets the period as "Dog Days", when Sirius lies lost in the Sun's glare. In reality, Sirius is about 20x more luminous than our star, but also lies eight light years distant, while our star is eight light minutes away from us.

The brightest star in the NW is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon. By the end of June, all the winter stars, like Sirius, are

vanished behind the Sun.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another

smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. It is above Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years away from us. Much closer, in the back yard of our own Milky Way, is the closest globular cluster, Omega Centauri. It is faintly visible to the naked eye directly below Corvus,

and is a telescopic treat as seen in our photo of the month. It approximates how this great "star ball" will appear in the larger telescopes in our club, and will be one of the most impressive things you can glimpse through the eyepiece of any telescope. This huge cluster is now suspected of being the surviving remnant of a dwarf galaxy, like our deep southern companions, the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, but with most of its gas and dust long ago stripped away by repeated passes through the disk of our own Galaxy.

To the east, Hercules is rising, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. While not as close as Omega Centauri, it is much higher in the sky, and also one of the top telescopic sights in good sized scopes. Several other good globular clusters are also shown and listed on the best binoc objects on the map back page.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega (from Carl Sagan's novel and movie, "Contact"), rises in the NE as twilight deepens. Twice as hot as our Sun, it appears blue-white, like most bright stars. Its constellation, tiny Lyra, looks like a parallelogram just south of Vega, but was the harp of Orpheus in Greek legends.

In the southeast, Antares rises about the same time as Vega does, in the brightest of all constellations, Scorpius. Antares appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit!

Almanac

Weather Watch: Fair and very warm (1,2,3,4) remaining fair but not so warm (5,6,7,8,9). Showers and storms (10,11,12) turning fair again but hot and humid (13,14,15,16,17). More showers and storms, some severe in the southern part of the region (18,19). Fair and hot (20,21) with more showers and severe storms, mainly in the north (22,23,24). Fair and warm (25,26,27,28) with more showers and storms to end the month (29,30).

Full Moon: June's Full Moon occurs on June 15th at 3:14PM EST. Because rose blooms appear during this month, it has become known as FULL ROSE MOON. Also during the month of June, strawberries ripen and are ready for picking (and eating!) hence it being called Strawberry Moon.

Special Notes: Summer officially starts with the Summer Solstice that occurs on Tuesday, June 21st. June is graduation month for many students so be sure to honor your "favorite stu-

dent" with a special gift or a memorable event.

Holidays: Flag Day is celebrated on Tuesday, June 14th. Father's Day falls on Sunday, June 19th in 2011. Plan to do something really nice for the "old man" like breakfast in bed, an outing to his favorite sporting or cultural event, or a special dinner out.

The Garden: Transplant when

the rainy season starts. Prune flowering shrubs after their flowers begin to fade. Continue to pinch flower up until the beginning of July. Deadhead and remove fading leaves from spring bloomers. Remove fallen fruit from below trees to prevent the breeding of insects. Regarding insects; wash them or pick them off plants before they can lay eggs and multiply. Check the

underside of rose leaves for rose slugs. Watch for scale infestations on Euonymus and pachysandra. Remember to cut flowers for fresh in-door arrangements early in the morning and they will stay fresher and more vi-

brant longer. Plan to mow your lawn only once a week but never mow when the lawn is wet! Varying the pattern of mowing (on the diagonal one week, length-wise the next) will help develop a velvety thick lawn.

RE
S+

ROGERS

Engraving & Stamps
+ Plus, LLC



Handle Stamps, Self-inking Stamps with Re-inkable Pad, Corporation & Notary Seals. Engraved Products. Name Badges, Desk Name Plates, Interior Signs, Plaques & Awards, Bridal Gifts.

9 E. 13th Street, Frederick, MD (Rear)

Tel: **301-663-4311** Fax: **301-698-9013**



Willow Valley Farm Market

~ Fresh Local Produce ~ Crafts
~ Herbs (Fresh, Dried and Plants)

Open Daily 10 AM to Dark

717-642-5180

845 Pecher Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320

Just Follow the Signs!



LOOKING FOR QUALITY AUTO BODY REPAIR?

We Can Make Your Car Look New Again!

Before



After



We repair dents & dings as well as major damage from accidents!

PROFESSIONAL, COURTEOUS
SERVICE FROM THE OFFICE
TO THE SHOP!

Complete Auto Body & Full-Time Restoration Service!

SERVING OVER 20 YEARS IN THURMONT	All Major Insurance Carriers Accepted Lifetime Warranty On All Repairs Car Rentals Available On-Site All Makes And Models	24 HOUR TOWING SERVICE
---	--	------------------------------

MIKE'S AUTO BODY

Collision & Restorations, Inc.

12917 Catoclin Furnace Rd., Thurmont, MD



301-271-7626



COMPUTER Q&A

When to upgrade, when to buy new

By: Aysè Jester

There are many reasons why you may want to consider upgrading your computer instead of buying a new one. If there is life left in your current machine you may be surprised how much of a difference upgrading some of the hardware can do. It is possible that your hardware is doing just fine, the software may need some attention. Upgrading your computer is generally less expensive than buying a new computer and in some cases can prevent you from having to reload your existing software. In other situations where the hardware or software is just not worth replacing you may be better off looking into a new or refurbished computer. Whichever situation you are facing read on to help determine if your computer is worth upgrading or how to begin your search for a new or refurbished computer.

How old is your machine?

Is it worth upgrading?

If your computer is running a Microsoft Windows operating systems prior to Windows XP (DOS) Windows 95, Windows 98 Windows ME, or Windows 2000), it

is very unlikely that the hardware in the system will be able to support any newer software. Much of the hardware that was used in the past is no longer manufactured, therefore it is likely that only used parts would be available. Any parts you are able to replace will not come close to the speed of hardware that is available today. If your system is running Windows XP, you may want to consider upgrading to Windows 7 to avoid losing Microsoft's support including security updates which will discontinue in April of 2014. If you do decide to upgrade your operating system, it is likely that you may need to upgrade some hardware in your computer as well.

What can be upgraded to make my computer run faster?

If your computer is running slow there are several reasons for the sluggishness. One cause could be that you do not have enough resources available for the computer run correctly causing slowness and potential freezing. If you are receiving an error about system resources or virtual memory you may just need to upgrade the memory in your computer. It

is also possible that your processor and/or memory are being used up by software that should not be using as much as it is. Many things can cause this including broken software, bad hardware, and viruses. In any case it is always best to have a professional give you suggestions after they take a look at your computer.

If my computer has a problem is it worth repairing or should I just go for a new computer?

Sometimes the solution to the problem is piece of faulty hardware conflicting with normal processes. Other times software may be the cause of the problem and your computer may just need to be updated and cleaned-up. Unless your computer has special or hard to find parts, has persistent un-diagnosable problems, has serious system failure or damage you may find repair to be a viable option. Good professional repair technicians will assess the damage and recommend either replacing fault hardware or replacing the entire system. Some things that should be considered is are life expectancy for the remaining hardware. You should weigh not only the difference in cost between up-



grading or replacing parts and a new computer but also the difference of quality and speed that the two options present.

How do I know what kind of computer to get if I decide to replace mine?

It can be difficult to trust companies when deciding what to buy when making such a large pur-

chase decision. You may be surprised to find that you can get better customer service and deals at smaller businesses if you look around. No matter where you go it is best to do some research on your needs before going out to shop. There are plenty of buying guides to be found online to help you think about what your needs and wants are to make an informed decision.

If you are interested in computer repair or are looking to purchase a new or refurbish computer please visit Jester's Computer Services located at 5135 Fairfield Road in Fairfield, PA. They offer professional friendly customer service and will assist you with recommendations associated with your needs. 717-642-6611

DAVE & JANE'S
CRABHOUSE
Restaurant & Lounge
Fairfield, PA

Sunday, June 19th
FATHER'S DAY!
Give Dad A Gift Certificate
& Bring Him In For
One Of Our Delicious
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
SPECIALS!
Don't forget to make reservations!

HOURS:
Mon.-Wed.
4:00pm - 10:00pm
Thurs.-Sun.
11:00am - 10:00pm

717-642-5025
717-642-6574
www.daveandjanes.com
Reservations or Walk-Ins Welcome
Come Check Out Our Page On Facebook!

2989 Tract Road,
Fairfield, PA 17320
Take-Out / Delivery
Catering
Major Credit
Cards Accepted

Real Estate Teams_{LLC}
50 Citizens Way, Suite 400,
Frederick, MD 21701
Office: (301) 644-2671

**Don't Settle For Less
Get The
"Little-Moore" Team!**

Fax: (301) 644-2673
Email: Littlemoore@Littlemoore.com
www.littlemoore.com

Tony Little & Jane Moore
Direct: (301) 662-2468

Associate Brokers MD
Licensed in MD & PA

ABC Sales, Inc.

Family Owned and Operated

New!

The "BEER CAVE"

Is Now Open!

We Are Your Full Hardscape Store!

We supply all your outdoor needs!

**~SPAS ~PATIO FURNITURE
~SHEDS ~GRILLS
~CONCRETE PAVERS
~MULCH ~TOPSOIL
& SO MUCH MORE!**

Whatever you need ABC Sales can supply!

Summer Hours:
M-F 8 am - 6 pm, Sat. 9 am - 4 pm, Sun. By Appt. Only

301-447-6222

882 W. Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Jesters Computer Services

SERVICE & REPAIR

YOU CAN COUNT ON SINCE 1996

CALL US:
717-642-6611

COME VISIT US:
**5135 FAIRFIELD ROAD
FAIRFIELD, PA**

ON LINE:
WWW.JESTERSCOMPUTERS.COM

Computer Repair

Upgrades

Trouble Shooting

Networking

Custom Built Systems

Maintenance

customerservice@jesterscomputers.com

Ten Signs Your Co-Worker Is A Computer Hacker:

You ticked him off once and your next phone bill was \$20,000.

He's won the Publisher's Clearing House sweepstakes three years running.

When asked for his phone number, he gives it in hex.

Seems strangely calm whenever the office LAN goes down.

Somehow he/she gets HBO on his PC at work.

Mumbled, "Oh, puh-leez" 95 times during the movie "The Net"

Massive RRSP contribution made in half-cent increments.

Video dating profile lists "public-key encryption" among turn-ons

When his computer starts up, you hear, "Good Morning, Mr. President."

You hear him murmur, "Let's see you use that Visa card now, jerk."

LIBRARY NOTES

Word after word among the stacks

Caroline Rock

I love used books. I love to hold a book in my hands that someone else has read, to imagine my eyes touching words some other eyes have already experienced and love or hated.

Going to used book stores and sales is something I do as often as possible, especially when I am feeling restless or agitated. In a used bookstore, I can walk through the aisles touching the spines of books that may have sat on a solitary professor's shelf for decades. I can hold in my hands a book that a child might have been holding at the exact moment she discovered she absolutely loved to read. I can see a mysterious thumb smudge on a page, or notice the print of one beautifully written sentence is a little faded, perhaps from a finger passed over it repeatedly.

But now and then, the aura of a new book entrances me. The pristine dust jacket, the clean pages pressed tightly together, the whispered sigh of the spine as it opens for the first time.

In the morning at the library, before the doors are unlocked and the patrons begin to trickle in, we receive the delivery. Gray bins full of books are brought to us. These are materials that have been returned to other branches but belong on the Emmitsburg shelves, or materials that belong to other branches that Emmitsburg patrons have requested. Or they are new materials—books, cd's or dvd's that have been ordered for our collection. These new materials are marked with a small blue dot on the spine.

Every day is like Christmas. Sometimes the delivery delights with a new title by Mo Willems, or an intriguing book by an unknown author, or the next in a thrilling series the world has waited two years to read. This is similar to opening

a gift you have never known you always wanted, and that you will cherish for the rest of your life—a piece of jewelry you were not expecting, or... a really good book.

Other times, the bins are full of vapid romances by “crank-‘em-out” authors, or top selling picture books one can hardly believe would appeal to a child, or the latest bio of a celebrity who took so long to write it, no one cares anymore. This is similar to opening a gift of hard, crumbling soaps in the shapes of seashells that you know the giver gifted from years past, or a box of chocolate covered cherries (you can insert any other confection that makes you shiver or gag—I just happen to loathe the chocolate covered cherries!).

This past week, a new book caught my attention. The title on the spine struck me first: Word After Word After Word. I turned the book to see the cover, because, contrary to the popular proverb, you most certainly CAN judge a book by its cover. The cover art was beautiful—a large, shady tree with light filtering through the leaves onto four children, who were focused with anticipation on a fifth child, a girl, who was writing something in a notebook. (I later found out that the artist was Irwin Madrid, who is one of the artists working on the animated Shrek movies, as well as Madagascar, Megamind, and various comic book and computer game projects.)

Then I noticed the author. Patricia MacLachlan. Patricia MacLachlan, author of Sarah, Plain and Tall, which won the Newbery Medal in 1986. Author of Baby and Grandfather's Dance and, my personal favorite, The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt. I snatched the book and checked it out to read.

On my lunch break, I began the book. Before I had read two pages, I grabbed my notebook and wrote this quote:

Ms. Mirabel had long, troubled hair, and a chest that pushed out in front of her like a grocery cart.

Ms. Mirabel, in Word After Word After Word, is a writer who has come to a fourth grade class to give them a new perspective on creative writing.

Two pages later, I copied this into my notebook:

Outlines are silly. Once you write the outline, there's no reason to write the story. You write to participate...to find out what is going to happen!

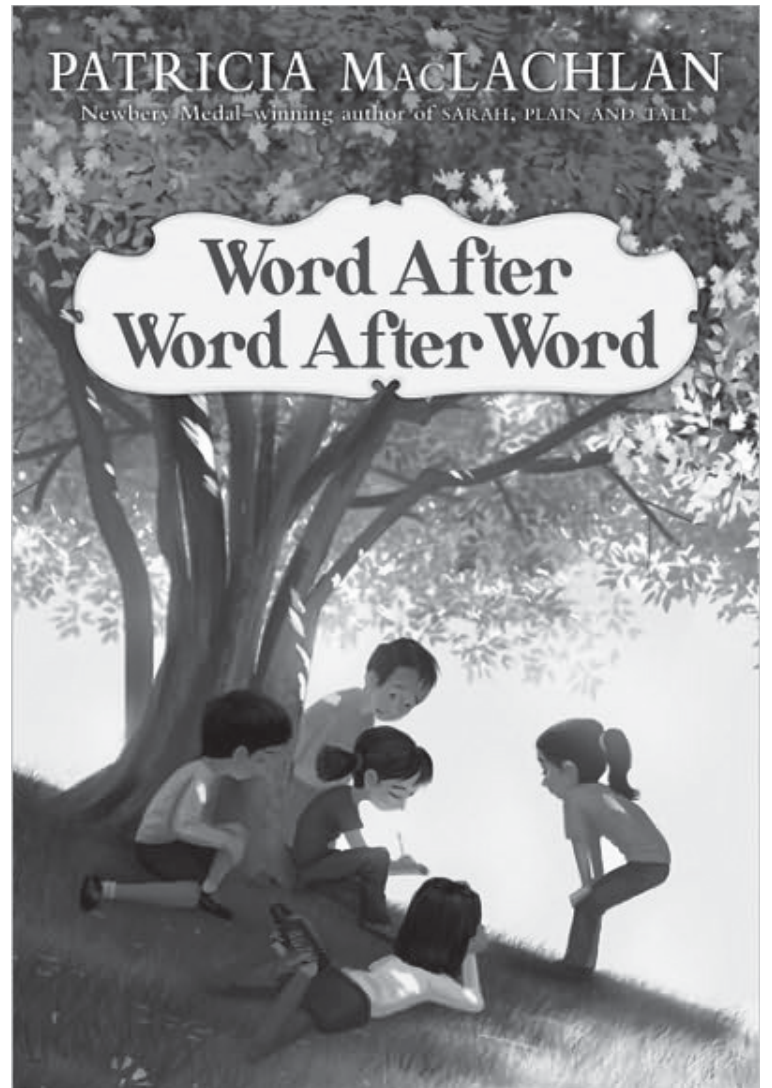
A few pages after that, this description: He was short and stocky, like a rain boot.

At this point I put down my pen. It was clear that there would be too much that was worthy of quoting. I might end up copying the entire book, slim as it was.

Patricia MacLachlan's story involves five children who each bear a burden too great for their years. One is watching her parents divorce. Another's mother is sick with cancer. One little boy just lost his beloved dog. Another little girl is crushed that her parents are adopting a new baby. And one, whose life is happy, fears he, like the others, will someday lose what he loves most.

Ms. Mirabel begins to quote to the children beautiful pieces of writing, first from Charlotte's Web, then from Tuck Everlasting. One quote, the longest, was from the author's own award-winning Sarah, Plain and Tall. I thought this was vain of Patricia MacLachlan, to use her own words as examples that would mesmerize a classroom of fourth graders on a breezy April morning. But then I decided, why not? Her words were beautiful, were they not? They served their purpose exquisitely. They mesmerized.

Through use of magical words, characters, landscapes, and metaphors, Ms. Mirabel shows the children that writing can make them



happy or sad or angry or think. But no matter what, writing can make them brave.

The book did not take long to finish. Patricia MacLachlan writes slim books that are printed with large font and very wide margins. And as soon as I closed it, I sensed the faintest fragrance of Newbery Medal in the air.

Throughout the book, the characters explore their lives using the map Ms. Mirabel creates for them, and each chapter ends with a free-verse poem written by one of the children. As an adult reading this book, it was hardly credible that a concrete-thinking fourth grader could have written something like

Fold tears up and
Put them in a box
So they don't see
Light
Laughter
Joy!
Send sadness far away
So that even if you
Send for it
It doesn't hear you call.

But that's not the point. Through her own beautiful writing, Patricia MacLachlan has created a mini-writing workshop for children who may just be discovering that creative writing can be an exciting form of expression. Or for jaded adults who may have forgotten.

Emmitsburg's Community Day Events

Come enjoy Emmitsburg's annual celebration of all that is fun about small-town life. Emmitsburg Community Day will be held on Saturday, June 25 in Community Park. The theme for this year's celebration, which is sponsored by the Emmitsburg Lions Club, is Today's Youth, Emmitsburg's Gateway to the Future. The games, fun for all ages, start at 10 am tug of war, the 3-legged race, balloon toss, and raw egg toss are some of the favorites in the competition. Quick eating is necessary for the pie-eating and watermelon contests. Face painting, an annual favorite, will be from 12:30–2 pm. Vigilant Hose Company will be offering free ladder truck rides from 1–3 pm.

Register for the Tommy West Memorial Car Show from 10 am till noon. For a fee of just \$10, you can enter your prized car for the

public to judge at the show itself between 1 and 4 pm. Make sure all your friends and family come to vote for your favorite!

Register for horseshoes from 12:15–12:45 for just \$5. The horseshoes contest begins at 1 pm. You can also try your hand at bean bag horseshoes and closest-to-the-pin golf without registering.

A number of events will continue throughout the afternoon, such as the Tommy West Memorial Car Show and musical performances by local musicians. You can try your luck in the 50/50 raffle. Tickets will be sold all day with an 8 pm drawing. The Lion's Club famous Chicken BBQ and other refreshments will be sold all day.

Emmitsburg's community deputies will be leading a five-mile bike ride around the area for kids up to age 17 (1–5 pm). When you get back from the bike ride all hot and

sweaty, you can cool off in the Emmitsburg Community Pool, which will be open and offering free admission for the day.

The annual Community Day parade returns this year after having been canceled last year since part of South Seton Avenue was closed. It begins at 6 pm so line the streets and watch the fun. Three different categories of entries are available: Bicycles or wagons – for children and families, Floats or walking units, and Classic Cars. Parade registration is open until June 17 so get your application at www.ebpa.biz. Reflect the theme of youth or a patriotic theme and have some fun!

The program will begin at 7 pm. Following the program, other local musicians will serenade those in Community Park. Closing out the day's events will be a fireworks show beginning at 9:45 sharp!

EXPERIENCE PERFORMANCE WITH CONFIDENCE!

FREE Mounting & Balancing!

HydroEdge
Get more miles for your money with less tire hassle along the way.

Cross Terrain SUV
Handle curves and potholes with confidence.

We are the area's largest dealer of

Quality Tire Service

17650 Creamery Rd.
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301-447-2909

418A E. Baltimore St.
Taneytown, MD 21787
410-756-4552

Call Toll Free
1-800-717-2909

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Evenings

Jazz/Pop Quartet on the Patio. 8:30-10 pm on the McGowan Patio at Mt. St. Mary's University Free and open to the public. Held rain or shine. For more information, see story on page 38.

Thursdays

Hauser Estate Winery's Thirsty Thursdays. For more information call 717-334-4888 or visit www.hauserestate.com

Fridays

Adams County Farm Fresh Markets - Conveniently located at The Outlet Shoppes at Gettysburg, this market locations offers easy access to Rt. 15 and Baltimore Pike with lots of free parking. New Expanded Hours. For more Information visit www.acfarmersmarkets.org

Saturdays

Adams County Farm Fresh Markets - On the Square in Downtown Gettysburg. Saturdays 7 am - noon now through October. www.acfarmersmarkets.org

June 4

Strawberry Hills' National Trails Day. Help us clean-up the trails for your summer hikes. Join us as we remove some fallen trees, mend some bridges, clear some brush, make new friends and enjoy a lunchtime cookout For more information visit www.strawberryhill.org

June 5 & 19

Saint Anthony Shrine Yard Sale and Flea Market located at corner of US

15 and St. Anthony Road. For more information, please call (240) 529-2737.

June 5

E. W. Clabaugh Reunion at the Senior Center in Thurmont. Bring a dish to share, your drinks & setups. Meat is furnished. Come out and meet your relatives.

Adams County Arts Council's Annual Garden Party . For more information. Call 717-334-5006 or visit at www.adamsarts.org.

June 10 - 20

The Gettysburg Festival - Including The Gettysburg Brass Band Festival and History Meets the Arts. The Gettysburg Festival is a comprehensive 10-day arts festival presenting world-class artists and performers in a variety of free and ticketed events. For more information call 717-334-0853 or visit www.gettysburgfestival.org

June 11

Mt. Tabor Church of Rocky Ridge will hold a festival at Mt. Tabor Park, home of the big slide. Come enjoy good home-cooked food: Soup, Sandwiches, Iced Tea and Ice Cream & Strawberries beginning at 4:00 p.m. Also enjoy games including BINGO. Music by "JR Country" from 6 - 9 p.m. Come join us in Christian Fellowship - surely a good time for everyone of all ages.

CYA football & cheerleading registration forms available at www.

catocinfootball.net. All registrations are held at the Thurmont ambulance building (upstairs).

Saint John's Lutheran Church Community Dinner at the Parish House, 8619 Blacks Mill Road, Creagerstown, MD.. Proceeds to benefit Creagerstown Lutheran Church

June 12

Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph Taneytown Council 11631 Country Style Breakfast Buffet (All you can eat): St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 44 Frederick St., Taneytown.

Strawberry Hills' Father's Day Fishing Rodeo. Take dad fishing at the pond at Strawberry Hill! For more information visit www.strawberryhill.org

June 13

South Mountain Audubon Society "Migration Ecology of North American Turkey Vultures" by David Barber, research biologist with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Building located at 670 Old Harrisburg Road in Gettysburg. The meeting is free and open to the public.

June 17 - 19

Willow Pond Farm's: Pennsylvania Lavender Festival - The only such event in the eastern U.S., the three-day Festival offers sensory delights and a wide variety of experiences

for participants including tours of the farm's lavender fields and demonstration gardens, lectures and workshops by nationally known experts, and cut-your-own lavender from the farm's 2.5 acres of plantings.

June 18

New Oxford Outdoor Antique Market & Craft Show Antiques Dealers, Food, Crafts, Entertainment, over 160 Antiques Dealers plus permanent shops. For more information call 717-624-2800 or www.newoxford.org

June 24

Emmitsburg chorus will sing songs feature with summer thammuz summer at the Emmitsburg Park. The Emmitsburg Community Chorus has been an Emmitsburg institution for more than 45 years,

June 24 - July 4

The International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival - A 10-day celebration of the comic operas of British duo W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan, including full scale performances at the historic

Majestic Theater in downtown Gettysburg. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org/

June 25

Emmitsburg Community Day - Form information see story on front page.

June 25 & 26

Maryland Shakespeare Festival performing Shakespeare's classic comedy. "As You Like It" at Echo Field at Mt. St. Mary's University. Advance tickets \$15; at the gate \$20. Children 10 and under are free. Bring your own chair. Free parking shuttles. Gates open at 6:30 pm; Pre-Show 7:15 p.m.; Curtain at 8 p.m. For more information or to order tickets: www.msmary.edu/shakespeare or call 301-447-5825.

June 26 - 30

29th Annual Civil War Institute Conference at Gettysburg College. For more information call 717-337-6590 or visit at www.gettysburg.edu/civilwar/institute/annual_conference.

Seton Center Thrift Shop



\$5 BAG SALE

Friday, June 3rd - 10am to 4pm

Saturday, June 4th - 10am to 3pm

16840 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727

The Thrift Shop of Seton Center, Inc. is a non-profit ministry of the Daughters of Charity. For more info or to make donations please call: **301-447-6102**



Summer Sizzling Deals!

20 lb. Bag Ice

\$2.50



Shurfine SPRING WATER

24/16.9 oz.

\$3.29



Shurfine Hamburger Or Hot Dog Rolls

16 ct. Pkg.

\$1.65



Hardwood Charcoal

20 lb. Pkg.

\$12.99



New At Jubilee Foods - Javataza Bulk Coffee!

This Summer Think Jubilee - We're Just around the Corner

Jubilee Foods Honors the Class of 2011!

Jubilee Foods would like to wish all the best to the following employees and children of employees on their 2011 Graduation!

Zeth Smith
Fairfield High School

Cody Ott
Catocin High School

Samantha Goetz
Mansfield University
Degree In Teaching

Bridget Hoffman
West Virginia University
Degree in Agriculture & Extension Education

Ericka Renn
Harrisburg Community College
Degree In Business

Nicolas Myers
Mount St. Mary's University
Degree In Accounting

Christopher Boyd
Messiah College
Summa Cum Laude
Degree In Biology

MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

OPEN TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OF EMMITSBURG AND SURROUNDING AREAS:



MARYLAND
SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL

*Summer
Tour 2011*

presents william shakespeare's

June 25 & 26, 2011

8-10 p.m.

Echo Field

Mount St. Mary's University

\$15 in advance; \$20 at door

Children 10 and under free

AS
YOU
LIKE
IT

Gates open at 6:30 p.m., pre-show at 7:15 p.m. Rain Location: Knott Auditorium
Discounts are available for groups and members of the Mount community. All
tickets are general admission with open air seating. Patrons are free to bring
lawn chairs or beach towels to sit on. No refunds. For more information or to
order tickets online:

www.msmary.edu/shakespeare



Maryland Shakespeare Festival's 2011
Summer Tour is sponsored in part by



FAITH ÷ DISCOVERY ÷ LEADERSHIP ÷ COMMUNITY