

Emmitsburg

NEWS-JOURNAL

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Former mayor James Edward Houck, Jr. dies

James Edward (Ed) Houck Jr., former Emmitsburg Mayor and Korea War veteran, died on Saturday, March 14, at his home in LaPlata, MD at the age of 84.

Houck was elected to the position of Emmitsburg Mayor in 1961 by a mere four votes over the incumbent Clarence Frailey.

Mayor Houck was born in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1930 to the late Agnes Helena Rosensteel Houck and the late James Edward Houck, Sr. He spent the first 32 years of his life living in Emmitsburg and grew up working in the family business, Ed's Place otherwise known as Houck's store. His father had started the store in 1924 on the Northeast corner of the Town Square.

In January 1952 he was inducted into the army and served during the Korean War. During his military service he witnessed the first atomic cannon. He was Honorable Discharged at the rank of Sergeant in 1954 at which time he and his wife took over the family business and kept it running for another eight years.

Don Rodger, who worked in the family store said: "Ed was kind to everyone. In those days, there weren't any credit cards so when a customer

had to "charge" items it meant writing it in the book and keeping track of payments (with no interest) until the debt was paid. In particular, I recall Ed extending credit when it came to someone needing shoes or clothing for their children starting school. I am sure that, many times, Ed had to write off the debt."

Houck was instrumental in many post war improvements to Emmitsburg, including the paving of the town's alleys, the town's purchase of the then privately owned Emmitsburg Water Company, the reestablishment of the town's library, the re-opening of the town's only movie theater – the Gem Theater and the development of Emmit Gardens and its eventual incorporation into the town limits. It was during his tenure that the state put in the Route 15 bypass to the east of town, which cut the planned size of the Emmit Garden development in half.

Along with operating Houck's Quality Clothing store and being Mayor of Emmitsburg, Ed was active in the Vigilant Hose Company; scoutmaster for the Emmitsburg Boy Scouts and Explorer Scouts; a Charter Member of the old Emmitsburg Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the Emmits-



Former Mayor Ed Houck—you could take the man out of Emmitsburg, but you could never take Emmitsburg out of the man.

burg Community Development Committee and was the first recipient of the Emmitsburg Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to the community.

In 1962, at the conclusion of his term as Mayor, Ed served on the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. One of his favorite sayings was "Remember the Boy Scout Motto: Be Pre-

pared." Later after leaving the Boy Scouts, he continued his retail and philanthropic career. In 1967 Ed & Doris moved the family to LaPlata.

While Mayor Houck made the decision to move away from Emmitsburg, his son Joseph said of his father, "He truly loved Emmitsburg. You could take the man out of Emmitsburg, but you could never take Emmitsburg out of the man."

Fairfield Fire & EMS presents service awards

The Fairfield Fire & EMS presented their 2014 recognition awards March 14 at their annual banquet held at the fire house in Fairfield Borough.

Local, County and State attendees packed the meeting hall-turned banquet room, including Fairfield Borough Mayor Robert Stanley and Carroll Valley Borough Mayor Ronald Harris, Adams County Commissioners Jim Martin, and Randy Phiel, and Chris Kimple, from State Representative Dan Moul's office.

Fairfield Fire & EMS firefighters, which provides coverage to the boroughs of Fairfield and Carroll Valley, and Hamiltonban, Liberty, and Highland townships, responded to 177 fire and 793 ambulance calls in 2014.

The Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to 21 year old firefighter Brad Hartdagen at the awards banquet, whom, Chief Bill Jacobs says "has been there to whatever has to be done," including driving the company ambulance and standing-by for ambulance duties. Hartdagen, who

made Lieutenant this year has been in and around the fire house since he was about 16 years old.

Fairfield Fire & EMS President Chuck Haynes, said "Brad is an up and coming guy, he has a lot of dedication. He comes to training and has the drive to learn and continue to better himself. Brad is driving the ambulance for us a couple nights a week, which helps all of us in the firehouse a great deal."

The President's Award was presented to 21 year old firefighter David Metz, who serves the company in just about every aspect. Of Metz, Haynes said, "He's the first one to get here in the morning and usually the last one to leave at night. I've never seen a more dedicated person, we're very fortunate to have him in our community and at our fire house." Metz's dedication to this company is the best I've ever encountered. He does everything from being a support person for the trucks, to doing our fundraisers. There's nothing he won't do, no questions asked," said Haynes.



Fairfield Firefighter of the Year Brad Hartdagen gets a kiss from his girlfriend, Kelsey Dewees, after receiving his award.

Five firefighters were recognized for the number of times they responded to emergency incidences during the year. Leading the charge was firefighter Adam Jacobs, who responded to 137 fire calls. Chuck Haynes was the second highest responder, with 119

responses. The next three highest responders were Brad Hartdagen with 98 responses, Charlie Haynes with 96 responses, and Chad Fogle, with 95 responses.

See page 4 for photos of the Fairfield Fire and EMS Banquet.

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NEWS

House fire on Sixes Road

A two-alarm house fire occurred on Sixes Road on the evening of March 12. One resident and dog were displaced. The house was considered a total loss, with total damages estimated at \$100,000.

The cause of the fire has been attributed to the chimney. Captain Kevin Fox, a spokesman for the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, said a fire was lit in the fireplace at the time the house caught on fire.

The eight units that responded were the Vigilant Hose Company, Rocky Ridge, Taneytown, Thurmont, New Midway, Graceham, Woodsboro, and Union Bridge. The Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company served as overall coordinator of the response.

Captain Fox said by the time the Vigilant Hose Company—the first company to respond—arrived on the scene, the fire was already through the roof. According to Captain Fox, it took the first responders about 2.5 hours to bring the fire under control and secure the area.

Due to the lack of a public fire water source, the eight responding companies were forced to hook together their pumper trucks that carry their firefighting water supply to provide water to the two closest trucks near-



While the old Clara Harner farmhouse on Sixes Road was completely destroyed, the adjoining historic slave quarters were saved.

est the house, until such time Vigilant Hose Company was able to bring its hook-and-ladder unit. Drawing water from nearby Tom's Creek, the VHC unit was able to spray 1,250 gallons of water per minute down through what remained of the roof and into the house, quickly dampening the raging flames. Shortly thereafter the fire was declared under control.

Thanks to the quick work and exceptional coordination of all eight fire companies, the farm's bank barn, which is adjacent to the house, was not damaged, nor was the farm's pre-Civil War slave quarter house dam-

aged. The slave quarter dwelling is the last known slave quarter dwelling in Northern Frederick County.

The displaced resident initially received help from a nearby friend or neighbor, but then did ask the American Red Cross for assistance. According to Brittany Fowler, who is with the American Red Cross, the resident has received assistance with clothing, shoes, transportation, and a temporary residence that is pet friendly. The Red Cross is currently working with other agencies and the displaced resident to find long term housing that is pet friendly.

The cost of winter

Emmitsburg has had a cold, snowy winter. In fact, the average temperature in February was five degrees colder than last year's average. While we did not have as many snowfalls as last year, we did have quite a few, with two especially heavy hitters.

One large storm hit on Saturday, February 21, dropping about eight inches in the area. The other one hit on March 5, dropping about 12 inches in the area.

Along with snow and cold tem-

peratures, there has been a lot of ice. This along with the snow has contributed to a lot of delays and closings throughout the winter, not to mention traffic accidents. This year the town saw 15 winter weather related traffic accidents, while last year the town only had 13.

Even though it seems like we have had a rough winter this year, snow removal costs were actually 31% higher last year at \$16,763.75. This year the snow removal cost is

running around \$13,000.

The town uses about 10 tons of salt on the bigger snowstorms. On average, the town will have 4 – 5 trucks on the road at a time during a snowstorm, with the crews working about 6 – 8 hours for a smaller storm and 8 – 10 hours for a larger storm. The crews do not log all of these hours at once. Depending on the storm, crews will make an initial pass through and then go back as needed, sometimes breaking for lunch or dinner. This is only for the town roads. Main Street, North Seton Avenue and South

Seton Avenue are considered state highway roads. The town does not have anything to do with clearing the road. However, after the storm is finished the town is responsible for clearing the parking spots on Main Street.

The town uses a dump truck, skid loader, backhoe, and a snow blower to clear the parking spaces. According to town manager Dave Haller, since the town purchased the snow blower a few years ago, the job goes by much more quickly. It only takes about a day and half after a big storm

to get the spaces clear. Of course it does not help them out when people shovel the snow from in front of their houses back into the street.

Once the winter season is over, the town is left with potholes everywhere. While the temperatures are still cold, the town cannot repave the roads. So, they will cold patch the potholes until the road can be paved. It will take 3 – 4 town workers about two days to complete all of the winter pothole patchwork on the town-owned roads.

Emmitsburg Area News Briefs...

EHS Alumni Association Offers Scholarships

The Emmitsburg High School Association is accepting scholarship applications. Four one thousand

dollar scholarships will be awarded in May to deserving students. Any Catoclin High School senior or graduate who is enrolled in an institution of higher learning is el-

igible if he/she resides in the Emmitsburg School District. This includes Emmitsburg 21727, Rocky Ridge 21778, and Taneytown 21787 (Taneytown boundary is

determined by Bridgeport on route 140). Applicants may apply each year as long as they are enrolled in an institution of higher learning.

Selection is based on having a 3.0 or higher grade point average, being a full time student, presenting two letters of recommendation, and pursuing higher education (technical school, four-year college, or community college).

Applications may be obtained by contacting the guidance department at Catoclin High School (240-236-8082 Ryan Zimmerman). All applications must be received by May 1.

New photographer in town

The Town Square in Emmitsburg is about to get a little bit busier. Melanie McIntire, a professional photographer and Fairfield resident, has moved her photography business, Retrospect Designs, into

the old Horner Insurance building at 7 East Main Street. McIntire, a professional photographer and Fairfield resident has moved her photography business, Retrospect Designs, into the old Horner Insurance building at 7 East Main Street.

Retrospect Designs offers a wide variety of photograph services such as group and family portraits, graduations, weddings, personal portraits, as well as advertising related photography.

McIntire has been a professional photographer for 9 years. Upon moving to Fairfield in 2014 she decided the time was right to step it up a notch and to run her business out of a real office. She chose Emmitsburg because she already had a fondness for the town and decided it would be a good place for her business.

You can contact Melanie McIntire by phone at 301-992-8539 or through her website www.retrospectdesigns.com.

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Office Number: 301-471-3306
www.emmitsburg.com and www.emmitsburg.net

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Senior Advisers:

Eric Glass, Taney Corporation

Dan Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass

Joshua Hochschild, Dean, Mount Saint Mary's

Bo and Jean Cadle, Former Publishers of the Emmitsburg Dispatch

Executive Editor: Michael Hillman, editor@emmitsburg.com

Managing Editor: Kathryn Franke, *MSM Class of 2013, MBA Class of 2015*

Assistant Editor: Kyle Ott, *MSM Class of 2015*

English Editor: Alexandra Tyminski, *MSM Class of 2015*

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

News Reporters: Teresa Grable, Susan Prasse, Sarah Harrington

Advertising: Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

Graphic Design and Layout: Brian Barth, bbarthdesign.com

Photographer: John Zuke

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Candidates lining up for School Board

There are seven candidates hoping to take five four-year seats and one two-year seat on the Fairfield Area School Board in May's primary election. Board members Pamela Mikesell and Richard Mathews have thrown in their hats again, along with Ian Strahler, Rebecca Bequette, Gregory Murray and Kelly Mays, all of which will be on the Republican and Democratic ballots for the four-year terms. Melissa Cavey will be on both for the two-year term.

An updated list posted by the Adams County Office of Elections did not include current board member Bruce Lefeber for the four-year seat. Lefeber is a registered Independent and is not eligible to

circulate his own petitions for signatures. To appear on the ballot in the May primary, he would need to have registered voters from each party circulate petitions for him, but because he collected and submitted the Republican signatures himself, his petition was deemed invalid, said Office Director Monica Dutko. Lefeber did not respond to an email seeking comment.

In other news, substitute teachers and student transportation were hot topics at the latest school board meeting. Like so many other districts in Pennsylvania, finding reliable, certified substitute teachers has been a huge challenge for Fairfield. Several parents voiced their concerns over the lack of sub-

stitutes and the ability to pay them in line with what others are currently making. Sean Jones suggested that the daily rate for substitutes be raised. "You get what you pay for," said Jones.

Another parent, Ian Strahler voiced concern that his daughter had reported having five different teachers in her classroom because there was not a designated substitute. He asked, "Why can't we raise the daily sub rate to attract more substitute teachers?"

Currently, the district has contracted with Source4teachers, a management firm that contacts and manages substitute lists for many school districts in Pennsylvania. Substitute Superinten-

dent Karen Kugler said that prior to taking her position, many districts across the county had decided as a group to raise the substitute pay rate to \$95 per day. She said she wasn't necessarily sure that more pay would increase the number of available subs. Kugler said she would explore the issue further and report back to the board at a later meeting.

Parents and the board also expressed concern over transportation issues. Sara Laird thanked the board for securing a van to cut down on the travel time for her children and other children living nearby, which recently was a trip of over an hour and 50 miles to and from school. She also asked if seat

belts and booster seats would be available during transport. Business manager, Caroline Dean, said she would find out as soon as possible and inform the parents of children on the van.

Others expressed concerns about transportation within the district, to which Kugler said that the former district transportation officer has volunteered to assist with the continuing issues. In other business, the board approved to advertise and recommend for hire a part time high school and middle school part-time library aide and to hire a Middle School head volleyball coach and assistant volleyball coach.

Editor's Note: See page 33 for position papers from candidates for the Fairfield School Board.

Carroll Valley Citizens Association dissolves

At the latest borough council meeting, it was announced that the Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA), would dissolve this year due to a severe lack of volunteers. "(CVCA) led the drive to incorporate the borough of Carroll Valley in 1973. It is a shame that this is happening," said Mayor Ron Harris. The association was created to help protect the interests of the residents of Carroll Valley.

Manager Dave Hazlett moved to Carroll Valley from the Pittsburgh area. "This was one of the main reasons we came. To see it go is a

rotten shame. I am really upset, because I hate to see this association go away in such a fashion. There has been a better way to keep it here," Hazlett said.

Not only is a lack of volunteers evident within the (CVCA), but throughout the parks and recreation committee. With the folding of the CVCA, Harris and council members are concerned. The parks and recreation committee has eight seats – with only three of them filled. "This is a real worry for us, in this township. We will need to do something and we will need to do it

soon," Hazlett said.

Many believe that the generation gap between older people and youth have significantly impacted volunteering. Younger people don't seem interested in volunteering for committees and this is left to the older population. To this end, the parks and recreation committee probably will be reorganized and "possibly restructured," Hazlett said.

In other news, Jo Ann Myers recently awarded a plaque for her 20 plus years of service with the Carroll Valley borough. She calls the people there "a family." Since 1995, Myers

has worked in several positions at the borough but has worked specifically for Police Chief Richard Hileman for about 10 years now. "(Jo Ann) is a fantastic individual as an employee and as a person. I guess what you are looking for as a boss is someone who is easy to communicate with. Someone who is going to take the work you give them and make it easy. That is what Jo Ann does. She understands things. She is a huge part of the team here and I would be lost without her," Hileman said.

Just returning from back surgery,

Manager Dave Hazlett, echoed Hileman's words. "She is a fantastic individual as an employee and a person. That is what you are looking for, each and every time you come to work. You are always looking for someone who is easy to get along with. "It's a bonus when they know the borough and have the skills to do the job," Hazlett said. After twenty years, Myers isn't quite sure how long she will continue on with the Carroll Valley borough, but says humorously, "probably until I can't remember how to get here," she said.

Scholarship winners announced at BAAC

Many braved the snowstorm in late February to attend the annual 2015 Adams County Home Show, held at the All-Star Events Complex. The show was put on by the Builder's Association of Adams County (BAAC). Attendance was steady on Friday, but the show was cut a little short on Saturday due to the storm. However, there were nearly twice as many vendors taking part in the show as last year and many organizers voicing optimism as the new construction season begins.

There was a wide variety of contractors and services including area

builders, banking, remodeling and home repair services, landscaping, a/c and heating, electronics and certified green specialists.

"This year, we had 69 vendors that took part in the decades-old show, last year we had 39 vendors, it's very encouraging to see the growth," said BAAC President Jeff Zigler, of KPI Technology civil engineering firm. "The vendors came out of the show with promising leads on new jobs in and around the Adams County area. The consumers who came out in the weather were on a mission to find the services they needed, we're happy it

was successful for everyone involved."

This year the student design competition displayed 13 different house plans from the area high schools Architectural Programs. This year's scholarship winners were Jeffrey Bryce Ballard from Littlestown High School, and Brandon M. Hummel from Fairfield High School. There was also a best booth competition, which Hartzell's Home and Garden, LLC won.

The Builders Association of Adams County is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the building trades and education in

the local community. To that end they have dedicated their efforts toward the students in the seven county school districts. BAAC president Jeff Zigler said, "I feel the building industry trades are an important part of our kids' future, and I'm proud that we can be a part of the supporting efforts here in Adams County." Since the year of their first home show in 1980, all proceeds from the show go toward Student Activities. "The foundation of our organization is our annual Home Show, it establishes a baseline for the remainder of the year," said Zigler.

Monies set aside in a Trust Fund are administered by Adams County National Bank. They are loaned out interest-free, to students seeking higher education in a building related field. Since the Student Loan Program started, over 100 students have used the funds. Some have gone to trade schools, some to four year colleges. All have pursued building related fields.

Applications for both programs are available through the area high schools and from the Builders Association of Adams County at 717-337-5144 or visit www.adamscountybuilders.com.



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Fairfield Fire & EMS Award Banquet



2015 Administrative Officers: H. Lawrence Schneider, Director; Derrick Martin, Director; Chuck Schussler, Director; Albert R. May, Director; Cheryl Kulkusky, Relief Treasurer; Betsy Bucher, Director; Chuck Haynes, President; Derek Flenner, Director; Brett Schmidt, Vice President; and Neal Abrams, Director.



2014 Top Fire Responders: Chad Fogle, Charlie Haynes, Brad Hartdagen, Chuck Haynes and Adam Jacobs.



2014 Fire Police Responders Chuck Schussler and Albert R. May.



2015 Line Officers: Brad Hartdagen, Lieutenant; Bill Jacobs, Chief; Adam Jacobs, Deputy Chief; Derek Flenner, Lieutenant; and Chad Fogle, EMS Captain.



Brad Hartdagen receiving the 2014 Firefighter of the Year Award from Chief Bill Jacobs.



Chad Fogle, EMS Captain presenting Betsy Bucher the 2014 EMS Captain's Award.



David Metz receiving the 2014 President's Award from President Chuck Haynes.



Top EMS Responders: Neal Abrams, Chuck Haynes, Derrick Martin, and Bill Jacobs.

Thurmont Senior Center funding

Funding for the Thurmont Senior Center is once again on the minds of the town leaders. Last year the town requested \$25,000 be placed in the county's budget for the senior center. However, the request was not granted and the town only received \$5,000, with a promise from then county commissioners to increase it to \$25,000 this year. However, with the recent change of administration at the county level, Mayor Kinnard and the Thurmont Town Commissioners discussed writing an official request for funds for the center this year. At the town meeting, Commissioner Bueher led

the conversation, explaining the importance of making this request, especially given both the change in the leadership at the county level and the change from a county commissioners based form of government to a county council.

Commissioner Bueher expressed concern that given the new constraints on the County Executive related to budget submissions, the town may not receive the funds promised for the senior center. Commissioner Burns suggested that in their funding request to the county, the town proposed asking the county to match what

the town gives to the senior center to see if the county will match it. "Let's let them know, if you can't match it that's fine; if you can get close to matching it that would be great!" he added. The commissioners and mayor agreed that it would be a great approach and that every dollar the center can get would be helpful.

It is not just funds the center is in need of, however. According to Bueher, the center does not have many of the resources that other centers in the county and surrounding counties have. One major resource brought up by Bueher

was nurse visits. The Thurmont center receives nurse visits quarterly while other centers in the county receive them monthly. Bueher hopes that the request is granted

so that they will be able to provide the seniors who use the center with efficient resources. To rectify this, a request will also be made to the County's Department of Aging to provide the senior center with the same services that are given to other centers in the county.

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HISTORY

100 years ago this month

April 2

Ice Cream Parlor for Ladies

Matthews Brothers have just opened an additional ice cream parlor for the exclusive use of ladies. Is entirely separated from the original one and may be entered directly from the street to the right of the store.

New Bakery Opens

Mr. Harry Hopp, for some time has been conducting a baking establishment in Fairfield, has opened up a business in Emmitsburg in his home that will include a bakery, confectionery, and an ice cream manufacturing machine. A new oven has been constructed at the rear of Mr. Hopp's property on West Main St., but this will not be ready for use at once. In the meantime the baking will be done in Fairfield. Mr. Zacharias will be retained in the new enterprise by Mr. Hopp. Mr. Hopp has also bought a fine looking delivery wagon, which he will use on his bakery route.

Who Sent the Dollar?

One of our subscribers living in Pittsburgh sent us a dollar note but failed to enclose his name with a remittance. If the person sending the same would contact the Chronicle the proper credit will be given the subscriber.

Forest Fires in Catoctin Mountains

Forest fires raging in the Catoctin Mountains last Sunday threatened dwelling houses and farm buildings and caused a monetary loss that has not yet been established. The one above Thurmont was by far the largest and most disastrous of the two. The fire broke out at night and was confined principally to the property owned by St. Joseph's Seminary of Baltimore, where a large dairy farm is conducted and general farming carried out.

The fire started at the foot of the mountain, on the property of Kelbaugh and rapidly ate its way upward, spreading in all directions and threatening to reach the area of the farm buildings. A large area was burned over but the fire was gotten under control. Deputy Forest Warden Howard Krieger, of Thurmont, was on the scene in charge of the volunteers, who turned out to fight the fire, and section gangs of the Western

Maryland Railroad, who were fighting to save the high bridges between Thurmont and Deerfield, right in the path of the fire.

April 9

Fires

The barn owned by Mr. Walter Dorey, near Loy's Station, was completely destroyed by fire Tuesday night. Four cows and one young colt were burned to death. Some machinery, eight tons of hay, and a quantity of seed were also consumed in the fire. Several of the outbuildings were in danger for a while but the fire was extinguished without loss by the hasty work of the men. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Many acres of land were burned over Tuesday by four fires in different sections of the Catoctin Mountains. Three fires raged on the property of Joseph Thorp near Catoctin Furnace. The flames were fought by a force under Forest Warden Frank Fraley and were checked Tuesday afternoon.

What might have proved a serious fire at the home of Mrs. Young, near St. Anthony's Monday, was averted by Mr. John Agnew, of Emmitsburg. Rubbish was being burned in the yard and the flames spread to a quantity of leaves and made their way along the fence in close proximity to the dwelling. Mr. Agnew, who was driving along the pike hastily jump from his carriage and after heroic efforts succeeded in extinguishing the fire.

Fireman's Festival Tonight.

The final arrangements for the big festival which the Vigilant Hose Company will hold tonight and tomorrow at Wagerman's Hall were made at a meeting of the heads of the ladies committee which was held in the public school building.

The object of this year's Fireman's Festival is to raise money to start a town hall fund for Emmitsburg. It is understood that architects are already working on plans for such a building, which will provide room for the Hose Company's apparatus, and a large public hall. Such accommodations have long been desired by the people of Emmitsburg but it remained for the Fire Company to take the onus of raising funds for the purpose. Realizing this, the people of the district

should come together eagerly and by their contributions and their patronage make the festival a grand success.

April 16

Death of Emmitsburg's Oldest Citizen

Nathaniel Rowe, a lifelong resident of this place and one of Emmitsburg's oldest resident died at his home, Saturday afternoon. Death was due to the infirmities of age. Despite his advanced years, he enjoyed unusually good health. He would have celebrated his 94th birthday party had he lived until August 8.

In early life Mr. Rowe took up the occupation best suited for his natural qualities as a mechanic, and he became a gunsmith. Later, when this trade began to be displaced by the inventions of efficient machinery, and fine workmanship by hand was no longer required, he turned his attention to steam fitting and plumbing. About this time, the plans for the present system of Emmitsburg's water works were being developed and he became the supervising contractor and plumber for the local water company.

Mr. Rowe was born August 8, 1821. He became a voter the year after the death of Gen. William Harrison, the hero of Tippecanoe, and cast his first presidential ballot for James Polk in 1845. It all, he voted for 19 presidents, having voted for Woodrow Wilson, the 20th president, on November 1913.

In 1844 he married his second cousin, Miss Elizabeth Rowe, who died 39 years after their marriage, in 1883. The grandfathers of Nathaniel and his wife were officers in the American Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Rowe was a remarkable man for his age. He remained in complete control of his faculties and was perfectly rational up to the time of his death. He was an avid reader of current literature and took a special interest in events and topics of the day.

Fireman's Festival a Success

A substantial sum was realized from the Fireman's Festival, held last Friday and Saturday nights. The festival was open by dress parade of the firemen. On account of the fact that a



Nathaniel Rowe was born in Emmitsburg in 1821—four years before the town was formally incorporated—when the town consisted of just a few blocks and the Square still had a public water well in its center.

number of books have not been returned, the drawing for the automobile, given by the firemen, did not take place. The winner will be decided on May 15 when the Hose Company will give an ice cream and strawberry social.

April 23

Nominations Made

The meeting of citizens at Fireman's Hall last night for the purpose of nominating candidates for Burgess, for one year, and Commissioner, for three years, resulted in the selection of John Matthews, H. C. Harner, respectively.

\$10 Reward

Notwithstanding trespass notices having been posted on the grounds of St. Joseph's College and Academy, unauthorized persons have entered the enclosure and fished, made use of the private boats and destroy property on the grounds belonging to the institution. Notice thus therefore given that a reward of \$10 will be paid to anyone furnishing evidence that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the guilty party or parties.

New Pop Machine

The Matthews Brothers have purchased a new pop machine. It is made of brass and is a model representative of the latest improved machinery. The caps for the bottles indicate the flavor. The new machine places the local firm in a position to sell soft drinks, both in the quality of goods produced and orders desired.

April 30

Celebrates Birthday

Dr. Dan Shorb celebrated his 60th birthday last Saturday with many presents, among them being a Gazooze Bird. It may not generally known that the Gazooze Bird is the Aztec carrier bird which lives on tamales and gunpowder. According to Dr. Shorb, in order to witness its powers one is required to partake in the Aztec ritual of downing a bottle of Scotch. With the help of the Former-Former Boozers Association, the doctor has laid in a large supply of Scotch on a secret island in Tom's Creek inside the property of the St. Joseph's Collage and in conjunction with the Boozers, has been conducting the sacred Aztec ritual there on a weekly basis.

Firemen Going It Alone

A unique feature of the strawberry and ice cream festival, which the Vigilant Hose Company will give on Saturday, May 15, will be the firemen depending on only their own efforts to make the affair a success. Heretofore, the ladies of the community have responded willingly and the citizens have given generously. In view however of the proximity of the coming festival to the one held a short time ago, the Hose Company has decided to excuse the lady from the work this time and not solicit any donations whatsoever. The organization will buy the ice cream and the strawberries and cake and all it asked if the patronage in attendance of everyone in the community at the hall.

To read past editions of 100 years ago this month visit the History Section of Emmitsburg.net.

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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

The Town marquee on South Seton reads, "March is Optimism Month – Think Spring". More support for a sign of spring is that the site work on the General Dollar store is underway (again). Good to see site grading, footings staked out and formed with re bars in place. Only four years ago we were told that a store like this would never come to Emmitsburg...

From dependable sources, we survived the coldest February in documented history. Although several town nightly meetings were cancelled, regular business hour meetings, in and out of the office, were conducted as scheduled. I attended two County Executive - Mayors meetings and two Frederick County Chapter Maryland Municipal League meetings. Significant topics were tax equalization and SHA plans to reduce tourism sig-

nage on US 15. Emmitsburg will receive over \$350,000 in tax equalization funds from the County. With regard to signage on US 15, the town held two follow-up meetings for northern Frederick County tourism stakeholders including Thurmont Mayor Kinnaird. One for a presentation by John Fieseler, the County Tourism Executive and another for five person State Highway Administration staff panel. SHA on possible changes to road signage. Why so important? From John Fieseler, Frederick County Tourism Council: tourism brings in \$361,200,000 a year (almost \$1,000,000/day) and use of 520,806 room nights at county hotels. Demographically, most of our tourism comes from adjoining states and NJ and NY.

In early February Dave Haller, Jerry Muir and I met with the State

Highway Administration staff assigned to the Emmitsburg Square project at the SHA main office in Baltimore. The revitalization project plan was completed for semi-final review in January. Final review is scheduled for May 2016, then go for permits in August 2016, construction bid-out 2016 and start construction in May 2017. Keep in mind that we have secured \$600,000 - 800,000 from SHA for the project. Though I'd like to have snapped my fingers and the project would have been done back in 2012; the project is more and more becoming a reality.

The Frederick County Treasury Department and the Department of Aging have scheduled a Frederick County Senior Tax Credit Seminar for Wednesday, April 29, from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. at the Emmitsburg Branch Library in the Emmitsburg

Community Room. Call 301-600-3520 for eligibility.

Commissioner Blanchard and I intend to assist in deliveries for the 13th "Annual Meals on Wheels." The Frederick County Department of aging participates in the National March for Meals campaign, an annual month long event, sponsored by the Meals on Wheels Association of America, it is designed to generate public awareness about senior hunger and isolation and to celebrate the invaluable services provided by more than 5,000 Meals on Wheels programs across the country. For more information visit mealsonwheels.com.

The Students Homelessness Initiative Partnership of Frederick County (SHIP) estimates that there are 80 homeless students in schools in the Catocin HS district. This is an important issue and I will recommend to the council that SHIP make a presentation in April.

Also in April the town will present its Comprehensive update to the planning commission. After the completion of the 2009 Town Comprehensive Plan the state now requires a more focused sustainability plan; one predicated on US Green Building Council Neighborhood guidelines. To be in compliance, the town enhanced its effort to a sustainable course of action in late 2011. Connectivity: opening roads and making sidewalk connections; securing funding for revitalization of the square; providing impetus for restoration of historic district properties through grant programs for property owners; enhanced recreational use opportunities; and, use of renewable solar energy and energy efficient LED lighting.

Planning commission meetings will be advertised. We welcome your input.

Hoping all will have a Happy and Blessed Easter.

County Council President Bud Otis

April is finally here and I am so glad to see spring coming. I believe spring is coming to your County Council as well. It has taken a while to figure out how this new Charter is supposing to work. We have had to

start from scratch as no road map was left for us to follow. Our policies and procedures have been approved by the Council and now are beginning to work. The members now have a plan in place as how the Council is going

to run and it is beginning to work.

I am trying to keep the Council focused on the issues that are affecting Frederick County and leaving the state issues to the Delegates and Senators. I defend the right of the members of the

Council to write letters to the Delegates and Senators however I feel if we want to do so as a Council it would then need to be by a majority vote of the Council. I don't think the letters will change many votes but will serve a purpose of letting them know our views based on our daily contacts with citizens of the county. Just like letters to the Council by the Delegates and Senators would probably not change the views of the County Council members either.

The word compromise has become a dirty word in government today. Our county government is a divided government now. The county Executive has the responsibility of the Administration of the County and the Council the Legislative side of the County. Both branches of our new government need to be talking with each other in order to come up with the best ideas for the good of our County. I meet with the County Executive, Jan Gardner, every Thursday to make sure we are communicating and not letting things build up into conflicts.

I have told Jan that I will agree when I can agree and when I disagree I will not be disagreeable.

In our Federal government the two sides are talking right by each other and I do not want the rancor in Washington spilling over into our County. With my sitting down to talk over issues with Jan some have felt I was compromising in doing this. I feel I am negotiating with her and letting her know that we must work together for the good of the citizens of the County and that there are two sides to issues and that we need to work through. It is helpful to the citizen that Jan and I get along and we do.

Does that mean we have given up our views of how our county should be run, not on your life, but that doesn't mean we can't be civil and respectful of each other's views. So some say I am compromising with Jan, I say I am negotiating with Jan because I feel we both want what's best for Frederick County we just have different ideas what how that should be done and that is okay if we stay true to our principles. You need to know I stand for principle.

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Emmitsburg 2015 Comprehensive Plan update

An update process for the Town of Emmitsburg Comprehensive Plan will commence at the Planning Commission meeting on April 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Town staff will present an overview of the legislative changes since the 2009 Comp Plan, data updates, and how the update process will be undertaken. It is anticipated that the 2015 Comp Plan Update will be on the Planning Commission agenda each month until completion of a draft document is ready for review coordinated by the MD Dept. of Planning.

All meetings will be broadcast on Ch.99. Any questions regarding the meeting may be directed to Sue Cipperly, Town Planner, at 301-600-6300.

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County Executive Jan Gardener

It's been 100 days! I am excited to share accomplishments of my first 100 days as County Executive.

As Frederick County's first County Executive, one of my top priorities is to ensure a smooth transition to Charter Government. The processes that we are putting in place now are likely to form the foundation for how charter government will function for many years. Working with Council President Bud Otis, we are striving to make sure county government functions well and that the citizens receive effective and efficient services.

I have developed a productive working relationship and good communication with County Council leadership. I meet at least once a week with Council President Bud Otis and Council Vice-President M.C. Keegan-Ayer to share highlights of what is happening in county government and to discuss upcoming agenda items to make sure the information needed for good decision making is provided. Council President Bud Otis and I are also touring county agencies to meet with employees, show our appreciation for their hard work, and to re-invigorate the county workforce. Our employees are the face of county government and do an outstanding job of providing important services to the community.

The state legislature is in session and I am attending many of the weekly meetings scheduled by our delegation. I have once again joined the Board of Directors of the Maryland Association of Counties and have been included in substantive meetings with other County Executives with state leadership. It has been wonderful that some well known former elected officials are now in Governor Hogan's cabinet including Secretary of Budget, David Brinkley who has provided insight into the state budget process and has provided a conduit for important advocacy for Frederick County needs.

I am very pleased to have a strong partnership with our municipal leaders. I meet monthly with municipal mayors. We are advocating together with the State Highway Administration to retain the tourist attraction signage on major road-

ways. Tourism is an important part of our local economies and we want travelers to stop to visit, shop in our local stores, and eat in our local restaurants.

Working with Delegate Carol Krimm and our municipal mayors, we have built consensus on a tax equity bill to make sure there is tax fairness between the county and municipalities. It is a great example of municipal, county and state officials working together. One of the delegates on the house committee that heard the bill noted our unique ability to work together in Frederick County.

One of my campaign promises was to restore trust in government. One of the ways to accomplish this is through a strengthening of the county ethics ordinance. I have appointed a task force to evaluate the creation of an independent ethics commission, to strengthen our ethics conflict of interest provisions, to consider adding back penalties for serious ethics violations, and evaluate campaign finance reform. This diverse task force will report out by the end of June. Their work will lead to legislation to strengthen our ethics laws to hold elected officials accountable and to assure the public that decisions are being made in the best interest of the community.

Another campaign promise was to support job creation and a vibrant local economy. To that end, I recently announced several economic development initiatives. First, I have renamed the Business and Retention Department to the Office of Economic Development to better reflect its mis-

sion. Additionally I moved it under the County Executive's office so that it reports directly to me. I am advertising for members to create a Business and Industry Cabinet. This cabinet will consist of business owners and top decision makers in all walks of business and industry to advise me and the Office of Economic Development. I want business leaders to have access to the County Executive and to keep me informed of what government can do to be supportive or where government needs to get out of the way. I am also re-establishing the small business revolving loan fund, looking to restore support to our business incubator and establishing a new incubator in downtown City of Frederick. I have started advertising to fill the Agriculture Business Specialist, an important position to support our agricultural industry.

We know our senior population is going to grow exponentially over the next 10 years. In fact, the over 65 age group is expected to grow in Frederick County at twice the rate of the state of Maryland and twice the rate of the country. This presents opportunities and challenges. We need to engage active seniors and their wealth of experience to address community needs. It is my intent to revitalize the department of Aging, to expand the service areas for Meals on Wheels, to appoint a steering committee to implement the recommendations of the 2013 needs assessment, and to work with our federal and state partners to advocate for more funding for in home services.

The move to sell and privatize Citizens Care and the Montevue home created a lot of community opposition and was a key campaign issue in the race for County Executive. A group of citizens appealed the sale to court. The court has suspended the legal action for 90 days to allow time for the parties to negotiate a settlement. It is my intent to work toward a resolution that will allow the county to continue to own these facilities and to continue to mission of the Montevue Home to provide assisted living services to the indigent elderly.


On April 15th, I will present the County Budget and transmit it to the county council for their review and consideration. I will present a balanced budget that sensibly meets the needs of our community without any increases in tax rates. It is my intent to fund education above the state mandated minimum, known as maintenance of effort, to begin re-

storing our longstanding partnership with our non-profit human service agencies, and to support the needs of our seniors.

The County Council will hold public hearings on the budget on April 20 and April 21 and will then deliberate on the budget. The County Council under our new form of Charter Government can only subtract from the budget with the exception of funding for the Board of Education. The County Council must adopt a budget by May 25 or the County Executive's budget will go into effect.

The transition to charter government is going well. To learn more, you can watch weekly press briefings and a new Community Conversations program on Channel 19, visit the county webpage at www.frederickcountymd.gov, or follow me on Facebook at Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner or on Twitter @JanGardnerExec.

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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

County Commissioner Marty Qually (D)

Four years ago I announced my intention to run for County Commissioner, with your vote you put your trust in my ability to move Adams County forward. Before and during that election our National, State, and local economies were limping along. Locally, there was a lack of trust in our County government and a subsequent feeling that County government didn't matter. The County was a storm beaten ship moving into uncertain waters. That being said I understand why Jim Martin and Randy Phiel were elected. Randy had a proven record of leadership and is the sort of person you want holding the rudder when the waters get rough. Jim Martin with his steadfast principles and hard work ethic also made sense. He's the one quietly working below decks making sure that the crew is pulling as one and keeping everyone on task, knowing that no matter how far or difficult the journey we make it through together.

Your vote for me was an act of faith for which I will always be honored to have received. My goals four years ago were simple ones. I wanted to be accessible to the public, not just a bureaucrat pushing paper, but someone as open to your

concerns in the Courthouse as in public. I pledged to work to build consensus with local officials, community leaders, and my fellow Commissioners. Lastly, we knew that it wasn't enough to simply preserve and grow tourism and agriculture, we had to start planning for the future. Before we could start planning, we had to fit our ship and start moving forward again. Over the past three years this Board of Commissioners has done just that. We secured an improved Bond rating, found ways to save money and improve our computer and vehicle infrastructure. Our ship is ready and it's time to set our sails to face the challenges of tomorrow.

This year my campaign will continue to build on our strengths and focus on the goals for which you have been asking. My message is three fold. Primarily, our success as a County requires community input. I have been so impressed by the number of volunteers working to improve our community from those serving on official boards to people serving on church committees. In small and large ways there are thousands of people dedicated to making their neighbors live better lives. Too often they receive few

thanks, but while I am Commissioner they will never lack for a place to make their voice heard. Elected officials must listen to the people and residents must feel that their voices can be heard. I ask is that we voice our concerns respectfully and that our discussions always aim towards improving our community. We may not always agree, but we should always be respectful to one another.

Four years ago I promised to build consensus among both leaders in our community and my fellow Commissioners. This is not just a bland campaign promise, this is how I was raised. Truth be told I had no choice. I am the sixth child of seven children, you had to work together. It's as simple as trying to watch TV together, pick a game to play, or choosing pizza toppings. We all learned that if we didn't work together our parents made all of the decisions, which meant a lot of cheese pizza, kick the can (mostly in an attempt to get all of us outside), and nature shows. When we build consensus, we do not guarantee that everyone gets their way, instead we guarantee that everyone has a voice and that we move forward together. A little give and take moves us forward as a community

and Adams County deserves more than the political gridlock we see in Harrisburg and Washington DC.

Over the past three years Adams County has taken great strides to set into motion a plan for smart growth. Homes, agriculture, tourism, and other businesses can coexist. We must plan wisely to create a balance between our existing strengths, our residential needs, and future growth. We cannot ignore any of these areas, or we risk losing control of how our community grows. This process began as soon as we took office with the creation of the new Planning Department. Our new Planning Department was created by merging Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping staff, Rural Resources staff, traditional Planning staff, and the addition of an Economic Development Planner. The new Planning Department is a holistic team, that views preservation, planning, and economic growth as vital elements of the future of Adams County. This new team is the foundation of every success that has followed. I have provided periodic updates on their successes in this newspaper, so please take the time to visit their website at www.emmitsburg.com and look

up past editions for more information. Now it is time for Democrats in Adams County to determine if their faith in me remains and if the path this Board has charted is a good one. I believe we are on the right path. The County's financial foundation is strong, we have developed the tools our staff need to serve you, and we are solidifying cost effective plans to reduce our expenses. Where there was mistrust between municipal governments and County officials there are now partnerships. Where there was poor communication between the County and our economic development partners, now there are open lines of communication. We have instituted evening public meetings on a regular basis throughout the County to improve communication with residents. The people of Adams County deserve all of these things and I firmly believe that the best is yet to come.

I ask you to continue to have faith in me and my vision for Adams County. I ask for your vote on May 19th. You have two votes in the Primary, I'd be honored if you cast one of them for Marty Qually. If you have any questions or would like to help on my campaign, feel free to contact me at 717-339-6514 or marty@marty-qually.com. Don't forget to keep up with the campaign on Facebook at Marty Qually for County Commissioner.

State Senator Richard Alloway

It is hard to believe, but I'm already in the middle of my second term in the Pennsylvania

Senate. Time flies quickly. Serving in the Pennsylvania Senate is truly a great opportunity

and a unique experience. Over the last six years, I've met many interesting people and have had the privilege to gain some insight into their lives. I've also realized that this position is about more than voting on legislation – it's about helping people, understanding their needs and affecting our community in a positive way.

Over the last six years, I have spent many hours in the 33rd district. Some of those hours were spent supporting important causes that are near and dear to my heart – and I hope yours. As I prepare for the 2015 senate session I want to share with you my

excitement and optimism.

Our challenges as a state this year include a \$2.3 billion budget shortfall, pension funding issues, education funding shortfalls, and finding creative solutions to hold the line on taxes; just to name a few.

One of my main intentions for this legislative session is to reintroduce a "Pet Protection" package. I am planning a hearing which will take place at the Gettysburg Recreation Park on March 17th where these issues will be discussed.

There are an estimated 164 million dogs and cats in American homes, and approximately 47 percent of households in the U.S. include at least one dog.

While these statistics are impressive, there is no way to quantify what these animals bring into our homes in terms of love, companionship, and affection. Young and old, large and small, quiet or loud, these furry friends have earned not only a treasured place in our homes, but also in our hearts.

The purpose of these bills is to ensure these cherished members of our families are never subjected to cruel or inhumane treatment at any stage of their lives. From the time a puppy first opens its eyes to see the world, until the day that they close their eyes forever, they deserve every measure of care and affection we can offer.

Measures that I sponsored will close a loophole to ensure dishonest and abusive kennel owners cannot continue to operate after being shut down for violations of the Dog Law.

Another of my bills will set standards for tethering dogs to ensure they are not tied or chained without access to shade, food, water, and other necessities. The vast majority of pet owners don't need these kinds of laws to ensure that their pets are treated properly. We are only targeting those who abuse animals through negligence or greed.

A third bill in the package will ensure that the Office of Dog Law Enforcement will have the resources they need to continue to protect animals.

It is my hope that these bills will generate attention in the 2015-2016 legislative session and we will help our furry friends by enacting this important legislation!

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

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Spring has sprung! What? I do not think so. On March 20th, the first day of Spring, our community received about 4 inches of snow. The last snow for this season? Hope you made it through the pranks and hoaxes of April Fool's Day. There are a number of special days in April. April 4th Passover is celebrated. Passover is a seven day Jewish festival which celebrates the Israelites fleeing from Egypt about 3300 years ago. April 5th is Easter which is the highest holiday in Christianity. April 15th is Tax day – enough said. April 16th is Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a day set aside to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust during World War II. April 22nd is Earth Day which promotes efforts dedicated to the protection of the environment.

Are you aware what happens when you are stopped in Pennsylvania for speeding? When you see police car lights flashing in your rear view mirror, you need to slow down pull over to a safe area. Do not get out of the car. The officer will approach you and explain why you were stopped. Upon request, you should render to the officer your driver's license, registration

and proof of insurance. Your driving record is checked for any outstanding warrants. The officer prepares the citation. The officer then explains the charge, the nature of the offense and your rights that are documented on the back of the citation.

In Pennsylvania, if you do not take action on the citation within 10 days, a warrant for your arrest is issued and your driver's license no matter the state will be suspended. You have two options when mailing in the citation. You could plead not guilty and request a trial or plead guilty. In either case, you must include an amount equal to the total due as specified on the traffic citation.

If you wish to make payments rather than paying the entire citation at once, you can go to the Magisterial District Judge's office and set up a payment plan. You can also pay online. All credit card payments must be paid using the online method. Be aware, if you plead guilty or are found guilty, points may be assessed against your driver's record by PENNDOT. If you choose to go to a hearing, the judge cannot change the points, he can only find you guilty or

not guilty as the points are controlled by PENNDOT. Naturally, you can avoid receiving a citation by watching your speed when driving in Carroll Valley and Fairfield. Please slow down.

Had the pleasure to attend the Fairfield Fire and EMS Annual Appreciation Banquet on March 14th. I presented a Certificate of Appreciation for the service they provide our residents. In 2014 there were 177 fire calls of which 32% or 64 were in Carroll Valley. The total EMS calls were 793 of which 36% or 287 were in our Borough. Go to www.ronspictures.net to see the pictures of the event.

On March 15th, Troop 76, in Fairfield, celebrated their Court of Honors and a number of Scouts achieved new ranks and merit badges. To see the pictures go to www.ronspictures.net. The Troop is chartered by the Fairfield Lion's Club and they are blazing new trails with a record increase in leadership and scout attendance. The Troop has undergone many changes in order to support the booming number of Assistant Scout Masters and Junior Assistant Scoutmasters added to the roster. Additionally, the

Troop will be expecting eight new scouts set to bridge from Cub Scout Pack 76 on April 11th. Recently Dr. James Hammett, the Charter Representative, appointed Herb Milligan to be the new Scout Master at Troop 76. Herb has many years' experience with scouting and is truly compassionate about providing thrilling and instructive outdoor adventures for the boys. Since the start of the New Year, the Troop has had several encampments, one of which was on the USS New Jersey Battleship.

With the revitalization of the troop, there will be even more outings scheduled for the boys to look forward to for the remainder of the year. The Troop is hold a car wash event on April 18th to support the Troop in attending summer camp. The car wash will held in front of the Fairfield High School at 8 am to 2 pm. During summer camp, they will learn many different skills that will help them better serve the community. If interested in joining the Scouts, contact SM Herb Milligan at hwmeagle.h8@gmail.com.

The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 4th in the Carroll Valley Park. It starts at

11:00 am. There are 4 age groups: (1) 2 years and under; (2) 3-4 year olds; (3) 5-7 years old; and 8-10 year olds. Please be sure to be there at 11. On Saturday, April 11th the Firecracker Four-Ball Tournament will be played to raise funds for the Carroll Valley July 4th Fireworks.

This year the golf tournament will be played at the Mountain View Golf Club 717-641-7380. Registration is at 8 am and the Shotgun start will be at 9 am. Admission is \$60 per golfer. If you have any questions, call Gayle Marthers 717-642-8269 Ext 31. This is a Senior Project. The seniors working on this project are: Nick Biller, Johnny Griffin and Brad Stephens. Come out, play and help these students help their community. Dave Hazlett, our borough manager, is a mentor to these young people performing these Senior Projects being performed in Carroll Valley. Thank you Dave for your involvement.

The Borough meetings in April are: Planning Commission (April 6th); Finance Committee (April 13th); Council Meeting (April 14th); and Parks/Recreation Committee (April 22nd). If you have any questions, please contact me by calling me at 301-606-2021 or email at Mayor-RonHarris@comcast.net.

State Representative Dan Moul

I have received numerous phone calls and emails from constituents concerning Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed \$33.8 billion budget. While I have responded to these inquiries, I am sure there are many others who have questions, but have not yet reached out. Rest assured, I share many of your concerns and hope the following helps to put the budget situation in perspective.

Governor Wolf has proposed spending of \$33,784,351,000 of your tax dollars in the next fiscal year, beginning July 1. You are right to think that is a very large number. In fact, it is \$4.78 billion more than the current year's budget – 16 percent more.

Given that we have a \$1.5 billion budget deficit and the governor is proposing to spend \$4.78 billion more than we did last year, we would need to raise \$6.78 billion more revenue than

any other time in history. To generate anything even close to this kind of revenue would require massive tax increases, which the governor has also proposed. The governor's budget would increase the sales tax, which we all pay on retail purchases, from 6 percent to 6.6 percent. This represents a 10 percent increase. He has also proposed increasing the earned income tax from 3.07 percent to 3.70 percent – an increase of about 20 percent.

If you think Pennsylvania has a sluggish economy now, I assure you that tax hikes of this magnitude could absolutely stifle our economy. The truth is you cannot tax yourself into prosperity. This was attempted in New York and it failed. The plan was to tax the wealthier segment in that state at a much higher level to generate what was called a "robust revenue stream." In fact,

many who were targeted by the tax grab declared residency in another state, choosing to pay taxes there instead – and at a much lower rate. The lesson learned in the New York example is that if you tax the wealthier segment of your population an extraordinary amount in order to redistribute wealth or to pay for special programs, you will wind up losing revenue in the long run.

Television commercials are airing that are begging businesses to come back to New York state and promising years of tax-free operation. New York is literally spending tens of millions of dollars on a campaign to regain ground lost in the aftermath of the tax hike.

The average family income in Pennsylvania is \$52,000 per year. In Adams County, the average blue-collar worker makes less than \$30,000 per year. I have a

hard time believing that raising taxes, whether sales tax or personal income tax, on someone who makes less than \$30,000 per year and who is trying to feed his or her family, keep a roof over head, pay heating costs and put gas in a vehicle, would be a good thing for families and our economy. In fact, it is regressive.

We in the General Assembly have done substantial work to adopt policies that will attract businesses to locate in Pennsylvania and put our citizens to work. Our persistence has paid off. Today, our unemployment rate is just 4.8 percent – down from 7.3 percent in January of last year, and well below the national average. While we would like that number to be lower, it is moving in the right direction.

What suffocates job growth more than anything in this Commonwealth are the rules and regulations put into place by bureaucrats who are not

elected, but put into office by various administrations of both political parties. We are, in a sense, regulating ourselves right out of business. In one example, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently visited wineries across Pennsylvania to inform them the rinse water from their fermentation tanks is now considered industrial waste, under new DEP rules, and must be treated as such. Of course this will mean additional expenses for these small businesses and could have a chilling effect on anyone thinking about starting a winery in Pennsylvania. Our dairy farms have milk holding tanks. Could they be next?

For more information on the proposed budget and what it could mean for you, visit www.RepMoul.com. As always, feel free to contact me at 717-334-3010 if you have questions or need assistance with any state-related matter.

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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

Commissioner Candidate David Bolton (R)

My name is David Bolton. I serve on the McSherrystown Borough Council, chairing the Civil Service Commission, as Vice-President and Legislative Committee Chair of the Adams County Boroughs Association. I also serve the county as a voting delegate to the Adams County Transportation Planning Organization, as the county representative to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, serving on their Board of Directors, Resolution & Policy Committee and Nominating Committee, and have served on the Hanover Regional Economic Development Committee since its inception three years ago.

I have represented Adams County as an active voice in the affairs of state in Pennsylvania, penning and promoting the adoption of several resolutions, which have been individually adopted at the municipal level by Boroughs and Townships alike, which have made changes for the better for The People.

I will make reference to the efforts towards reforms to Small Games of Chance laws. Two years ago, we wrote a resolution for these reforms which

resulted in increased weekly payouts. This meant there was more money available for public donation, as the clubs must return 60% of their SGOC income to the community. These funds may be given to local fire and police departments, public works or schools. This reduces the amount of dependency locals have on state and federal budgets; by keeping local money local. Our efforts to eliminate those ceilings while keeping the state content with additional revenue generation will hopefully result in small fee per bag, purchased through the current PLCB system, and the same percentages split between community and club, while increasing the operations costs eligible for their 40% share, and supplying our communities with more and better services, like the active K9 unit in McSherrystown, the new Delone Catholic scoreboard and a speed sign to alert drivers when they are exceeding the limits, keeping our citizens safer.

My current efforts through the ACBA Legislative Committee to bring industrial hemp back to our county through a provision of the 2014 US Agricultural Act will provide

for economic growth, cleaner water and soil, more productive farmlands, and an increase in business and job opportunities for The People of our county. Investing in and improving the county's infrastructure will help us compete for and attract relevant manufacturing industries, so that we don't lose opportunities like we did to Lancaster County in 2014 when a French applesauce company, the Charles and Alice group, built a \$10M facility, creating 50 new jobs.

I am steadfast in my pursuit to allow local and regional police the use of radar to protect those in areas where VASCAR and other systems fail. I will continue to help move forward the right to municipal referenda during primary and general elections. I represent Adams County as an active influence on the PSAB's Municipal Policy, providing legislation and leadership For The People!

I am a fiscal conservative. While drafting the 2013 McSherrystown budget, I developed a plan to stave off a proposed tax increase and sewer base rate increase (which I voted against) by increasing the sewer usage rates

temporarily. This would have protected seniors and those on fixed incomes, and would promote responsible water conservation, while affording funds for the necessary infrastructure repairs to our system. The proposed usage rate increase was set at the 2007 Hanover Borough rates and would expire in three years, after providing the funds needed, at the end of which the rates would have been lowered to their original levels. As County Commissioner, one of my first actions would be to put a moratorium on an Ordinance passed Feb 6, 2013 by our current Commissioners to increase the pay of the three Commissioners, saving the county over \$18K in salaries.

I will state briefly that I am concerned over the current discussions revolving around the TIF projects in the county. Originating in California in the 1950s, these programs were designed to improve blighted properties and restore economic opportunities in established districts. (Due to much litigation over the misuse and abuse of these programs, California no longer employs them) I do not feel comfortable with using such funds to pro-

vide corporate welfare for companies to produce new, suburban facilities, nor for private 'for-profit' developments. While it is true that a Wal-Mart would create some immediate part-time, low-wage, no-benefits jobs or that a home retirement community might bring some additional property taxes into the coffers 10-15 years down the road, I do not believe that this is how the TIF program is most efficiently utilized.

You can research more about my voting record and my level of service to The People of Adams County on my website, www.Bolton4Commish.com. Anyone can contact me directly at councilmanbolton@gmail.com, should questions concerning my service record arise.

I believe in the God-given rights protected by our Constitution. I believe in Property Rights and responsible Gun Ownership. I believe in reducing regulations that inhibit the success of our businesses. I believe in lowering taxes by creating an environment conducive to job creation and expansion of the tax base.

I believe in the future of Adams County, and I hope you will believe in my demonstrated abilities to serve The People, and consider me for your next Adams County Commissioner.

Commissioner Candidate Bruce Hollinger (R)

Many of you are aware of the immense battles that I have waged with Adams County Officials in my quest to bring truth, transparency and justice to our quaint county. I have fought long and hard to attain tax fairness and helped to give each of you the tools to fight your assessed property values after a horrid, county-wide reassessment through my politically incorrect (yet, brutally honest) website, www.spreadthemustard.com.

The struggle commenced in 2010 and after devoting thousands of hours of research into county affairs, tax law, and assessment data. It is my opinion, that our County of Adams practices a complex, sophisticated, and extensive scheme of real property tax assessment tactics that is unfair and unlawful, depending on what real property

you possess. The Pennsylvania Constitution requires that all of us be taxed equally and a Pennsylvania Statute requires that a strict construction of the law be applied (regarding taxation) to each and every real property owner.

After failing to correct the issues through litigation, I have decided that I must run for office to bring about the changes that need to take place, to bring tax fairness to each and every real property owner in Adams County. The Judicial system summarily dismissed my litigation due to improper filings and lack of standing. I filed pro se (without legal counsel) and was certain to make amateurish pleadings as it was my first foray into the legal arena. As for the lack of standing, the Court ruled that I was not harmed more than anybody else, so I lacked stand-

ing. That is akin to saying that if I suffered a black eye due to a government agent, I was not harmed by that government agent, as long as everyone else in my class, also suffered a black eye. It is important to note that the Court never rejected nor disputed, the reams of evidence, exhibits, and/or legal arguments, in my filings.

My toughest opponents are the incumbents who, within days of taking office re-opened the budget before the ink was dry, increased taxes to the tune of 5.1%. Two years later, they increased taxes again another 5%. That's an increase of 10.1% across three years. This year (an election year; surprise, surprise), taxes remained constant. Keep in mind, around the time the incumbents took office, the county received a shot in the arm, in the form of approxi-

mately \$10 million from the sale of the county nursing home.

According to the County Manager, Albert Penksa, approximately \$6.1 million currently remains of that \$10 million in the General Fund. Additionally, the county attained a \$10 million dollar line of credit, which they've exercised approximately \$2 million. My math shows a difference of almost \$6 million, or an approximately a \$2 million dollar hole in the budget annually, across three years, despite the rosy picture the incumbents may portray.

As the Primary is set for Tuesday May 19, it is extremely important for all my friends, family, and supporters to show up at the polls that day and cast your vote for me to bring about an honest, transparent and responsive local government, to Adams County.

The top two vote getters in each party will move on to the General Election in November. If you are seeking all the qualities mentioned above, in your candidate, you need me, to be one of the top two vote getters. If you seek change in Adams County, there is no better time than May 19th, to send a message to your local officials. I will expend all my energies to move Adams County forward and will strive to fulfill my constituents' wishes.

You may learn more about me, and/or ways to contact me to lend support by visiting my websites at www.ElectHollinger.com. You will not find a more honest, forthright, determined and relentless candidate than myself that seeks to bring trust back into local politics. Due to those qualities, I have discovered that I attract interest from Democrats as well. I appreciate all your love and support and look forward to serving our collective interests.

Commissioner Candidate Paul Kellett (D)

Many people have asked me why I have chosen to run for the office of Adams County commissioner. My answer is that I look forward to being your voice in Adams County's future. The voice that says saving our farms is important, that says by being more efficient, we can and should be more compassionate. The voice that says we can protect our water and promote real economic growth. The voice that listens, debates and discusses the problems and opportunities in public and with the public - so that the best path will be taken. Unfortunately, your voice appears to have been sacrificed on the altar of unity. For the three years the current board has held office, the votes have all been 3-0. Your voice has been that zero. Zero debate, zero discussion.

Even though voters in 2008 voted 3 to 1 to levy a \$10 million bond to

protect our water and save our farms, the current board in 2014 budgeted zero dollars for that protection. In 2015, an election year, they have budgeted \$265,000 for ag land preservation; at this higher 2015 rate, it would take 38 years to use the \$10 million - not exactly what voters had in mind. It is also about 1/8 of the amount of the proposed TIF gift to Walmart.

But preserving agriculture is more than purchasing easements; it is supporting the conservation district and the extension office, respecting their autonomy and supporting them in their efforts. Remember, all development does not lower your taxes. If it did - New York City would have the lowest taxes in the country. As my doctor reminds me - not all growth is good.

TIF financing is a gift to a developer-in the current proposal, a \$2

million gift to the developer of a Super Walmart shopping center. They call it financing because the gift is financed with a bond paid back with real estate tax dollars. Now, the difference between a super Walmart and a Walmart is groceries. So, to believe that super sizing Walmart is going to bring new jobs to Adams County, you also have to believe that people are not currently buying groceries. To legally give this \$2 million gift, you have to believe that the farm that will become this shopping center is blighted, and that this gift is the only way that it will become un-blighted. A few months ago, the developer purchased the first 10 acres for \$3 million - makes you wonder what land that is not blighted is worth. But we do have blight in Adams County, and we do have a need for good jobs but not the kind that Walmart brings. Shuttered factories,

such as Boyd's Bears, Tyco, Schindler and Herff Jones, are all great locations for TIF financing and would be economic development we all could support.

We need to openly debate the direction in which our county is heading. Too often, we, the public, hear only the praise that the current board lavishes on itself. "Commissioners credit unity for year's success" read a recent headline. Yet, that "success" has not always been what you might call "successful".

The County's annual payment on debt has increased by \$750 thousand dollars, even as they re-finance to lower interest rates. The county's debt has skyrocketed in the past three years, even though taxes have been raised. This current board received a \$6 million dollar windfall from selling Green Acres, our county nursing home, yet

despite this windfall, our debt payment since 2011 has increased by \$62,500 a month. This increase has occurred even as short-sighted budget decisions are being made.

As an example, take 3 of the row offices, Prothonotary, Registrar & Recorder, and Treasurer. Their combined budgets for minor equipment was \$36,221 in 2011, but in 2015's budget that combined number is only \$193. This was a move done to "trim" the budget in an election year; one that deflates morale and costs taxpayers more, even the short run. Yet, over the same period of 2011-2015, the commissioners own budget for "professional services" has nearly doubled from \$105,000 to \$202,000. They have "set aside" politics to embrace poor management.

For these reasons, and many more, I ask for your support to be your voice in the commissioners' office.

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioners Randy Phiel and Jim Martin (R)

Having entered my fourth year in office as Adams County Commissioner Chairman, and with the Primary Election less than two months away on May 19, Emmitsburg News Journal Editor Mike Hillman suggested that I use the column this month to recap the past 3 1/2 years. It is my pleasure to accept that offer as I submit to you the following thoughts, accomplishments and goals. My first general thought is that I am very, very proud of this Adams County Board of Commissioners for a variety of reasons.

To give you a short refresher on my background I am a life-long native of Adams County. During my youth I spent many memorable hours with my cousins in Cashtown at my grandmothers Kuhn's Fruit Farm. I received my BS in Administration of Justice from American University and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University. At Shippensburg I was also a Graduate Assistant in the Government Department. From 1977 - 2008 I was a career U.S. Law Enforcement Ranger for the National Park Service. I was stationed at Gettysburg NMP for almost thirty years; and was also sent around the country on homeland security, dignitary protection and wildfire suppression details. Prior to being Adams County Commissioner, I served Cumberland Township on the planning board, the municipal authority and as a supervisor. I have also been a principal and the operations manager for the annual Gettysburg Reenactment for the past 22 years. I am a small business owner and have served on a variety of community boards.

When this Board took office it was a very tumultuous time in government across the nation, and especially in Adams County government. This Board's first order of business in November/December 2011, before even taking office, was to engage in a series of planning meetings to set goals and get to know one another so we could walk in the door and get right down to

work. The county had just completed a court ordered reassessment and frustration among residents was running at a very high level with thousands of reassessment appeals. A critical and much needed 911 emergency radio project was languishing and previously contracted costs and contracts were being threatened by the delay - not to mention the potential cost in human safety. County residents and staff were anxiously seeking accurate and consistent communication from their Board of Commissioners.

We have strived to make sure the tax appeals and reassessment process is fair and equitable. It is not the county's role to increase or deflate taxes. The county role is to facilitate what is statutorily fair and equitable in each case - with appropriate documentation. The Board also passed a new reassessment ordinance with an economic trigger that insures millions of dollars will not be spent on a reassessment unless changing economic conditions warrant it. The ordinance also supports any reassessment be conducted in-house, hopefully with less cost, more local control and more accuracy. The radio project is now reaching its final stage with the radio equipment staged, towers being completed and testing scheduled to be done late spring. The new digital system will be run parallel to the old system until the new system is certified in early fall. I believe we have taken communicating with Adams County residents, staff and media to a new level with continuous media releases, opinion/fact articles, fourteen Adams County Commissioners Community Forums moving to all corners of Adams County, a public State of the County presentation each January, monthly articles in the Emmitsburg News Journal, participation in a monthly radio show and a TGIF Newsletter to all staff and community partners distributed every other Friday that has been extremely well received.

One of our first acts that I am most proud of was moving the Commis-

sioners Public meetings into the Adams County Historic Courtroom with the cooperation of the Courts. This not only resorted decorum, order and dignity to the proceedings; but gives our residents the opportunity to experience this iconic and historic civil war venue once every two weeks.

Beneficial dialogue with our legislators also reached a new never seen before level. This Board understood from the outset that open communication and dialogue with our legislators not only made practical and political sense, but was an essential tool for obtaining resources for our residents. These relationships were quick to pay off when a \$3.25 million RCAP grant for the Radio Project became the first of many awards. It was followed by grants of \$1,000,000, \$500,000 and \$450,000. This happened because your Commissioners and your Legislators understand that working together brings results for Adams County residents. We are extremely proud of the excellent working relationship and communication between our four Legislators and this Board of Commissioners. This also includes the Adams County Council of Governments.

After analyzing county operations, by the end of the first year we re-organized the Tax, Planning, Rural Resources, Mapping and Emergency Services Departments to increase efficiency and enhance service to Adams County residents. I am proud to say having had time for practical reflection, these department re-organizations have been very successful. We have hired six new Directors during our tenure in Children & Youth Service, IT, Veterans Affairs, Planning, Building Maintenance and an Assistant Solicitor. Every one of them is still in that role and they all have proven to be outstanding selections.

We have been able to improve our Bond rating two times to Aa3 during our tenure. That is a huge deal for municipal governments. That has enabled us to receive favorable financing for the

911 Radio Project and to improve and amortize an undependable aging vehicle fleet that was costing too much for repairs. That fleet included a 180,000 + mile van to haul prisoners. It also allowed us to go from an antiquated collection of IT equipment to an IT Department and IT services that any county in the state would be proud of.

In December we passed a balanced budget, with no tax increase and a reasonable reserve that finally has some of the aforementioned issues behind us and paves the way for a solid fiscal future with sound fiscal management - while still providing outstanding service to our residents! I have been supporting the consolidation of emergency services in Adams County, and just last week we announced the formation of Adams Regional EMS which I feel will be a springboard to further emergency services consolidation in Adams County. We continue to work for an alternative to paying high rents and leases for several departments by having a county owned building that is fiscally more responsible and operationally more effective. The Human Services Building may also result in much needed mental health services finally being brought to Adams County.

This Board fully understands and supports our agrarian, historic and rural heritage, while balancing Adams County's need for mixed economic development. The Adams County Economic Development Corporation Board recognized this Board of Commissioners for our contributions and consistent support for economic development in Adams County by awarding the J Frank Sapp Award to the Board at the end of 2013.

On December 7, 2010 I could not have envisioned I would be selected Adams County Commissioner Chairman and also did not quite envision all the responsibilities that come with that title. It has been an honor for me to serve in that role and hopefully both the public, our staff and my colleagues would agree

I have served professionally and effectively. For the past two years I have been selected by my 29 commissioner peers in Adams and 9 western counties to be their Region 3 County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Board of Directors representative. This is a personal honor to serve these 10 counties, but more importantly the position also allows me to better serve Adams County residents. I am also pleased to have been requested to serve on the Penn State Mount Alto Advisory Board. This is an institution that many Adams County young adults attend and where numerous residents are employed.

I could not have imagined or predicted that this Board of Commissioners, although having dramatically different personalities and backgrounds, would work together so well for the good of Adams County residents with such a sense of Respect, Civility, Communication, Vision, Common Sense and Leadership. You don't lead from behind - you lead by example. I think this Board has done that - and it is recognized and appreciated by most Adams County residents. Residents want to see results without all of the drama that often takes place government! As I stated at the beginning of this column, I am extremely proud of this Board and what we have accomplished in 3 1/2 years. Our work is certainly not done and these accomplishments are simply a springboard to further progress, stability and cooperation.

I would like to thank and acknowledge my colleagues, Commissioners Martin & Qually, as well as our county staff, for their contributions and commitment to Adams County. I would like to express to the readers of the Emmitsburg News Journal what a distinct badge of honor it is for me to serve this community, and to use my experience and resources, and the experience and resources of this Board of Commissioners, to maintain and improve our quality of life in Adams County.

Christina Simpson, Candidate for Court of Common Pleas

Gettysburg area attorney Christina Simpson recently announced her candidacy for Judge of the Adams County Court of Common Pleas, to fill one of two vacancies which will be left by retiring judges at the end of 2015. The 44-year old Straban Township native is a graduate of Gettysburg High School, obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Mount St. Mary's College, and her law Degree from the Dickinson School of Law. Her candidacy is endorsed by Fraternal Order of Police - Keystone Lodge #41 and the Gettysburg Business and Professional Women's Club.

Common Pleas Court Judges hear a wide variety of cases, both civil and criminal. Among the many types of cases they handle within those divisions are family law, juvenile dependency and delinquency, adoptions, guardianships, termination of parental rights, real estate matters, and estate administration. They preside over hearings and trials for major criminal cases. Simpson has gained extensive experi-

ence in all of those areas during the past 18 years.

Early in her career, she served as a Prosecutor in the Adams County District Attorney's Office, primarily handling domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse cases, followed by 14 years in a general private practice. She is trained and experienced in mediating family law matters. Simpson currently serves the court in a quasi-judicial capacity as a Divorce Master and Arbitrator. She is also appointed by the Court to represent children in high-conflict custody cases and the elderly in guardianship matters. Simpson received the Callie Award for Exceptional Woman in Public Service in 2002 from the United Way of Adams County for her work as a Prosecutor. She is a former Assistant Solicitor for Adams County Children & Youth Services.

Active in the Adams County community throughout her life, Simpson has served as a director on several non-profit boards, including NOVIS,

Survivors, Mediation Services of Adams County and is a member of the Children's Round Table. She resides on her family's farm in Straban Township with her husband, Phil Trostle and their son Jacob. She is a life

member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Gettysburg, where she served as Co-Chair of the committee to raise funds to build a new parish school in 2011.

Simpson will be cross-filing on the

Republican and Democratic ballots. The primary election will be held May 19, 2015. If you would like to learn more about Simpson or assist with her campaign, please visit www.SimpsonForJudge.com.

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

The (new) fear of terrorism

Shannon Bohrer

Things have changed since 1911. If the attackers on that day wanted us to be afraid, or fearful on an everyday basis, maybe they were successful. It seems like every day we hear something on the news about terrorism, the ISIS and al-Qaida threats along with the kidnappings of Boko Haram. On a somewhat regular basis we are informed of gruesome deaths at the hands of the terrorist. We also have some elected political leaders, although some would question the word "Leaders," that dwells on our lack of leadership in combating the threats. Some of the same politicians believe that if we had a stronger leader we would have more allies and we, the United States, could defeat the dark lords of the world. Really!

Personally, I question the idea that the threats are new. Terrorism, either by individuals, groups and even countries has existed in all of our written history and that includes the United States. I also question why we don't examine, or at least look at other things that threaten us. Terrorist is bad, but we can die from a lot of other things. I also question the idea that simple solutions can resolve some of the problems.

Terrorism is not new, a short

history of terrorism in the United States would include that on September 16 at 12:01 there was an explosion in New York. The blast killed 38 people and seriously injured 143 and several hundred more were injured. Most people don't remember the event because it occurred in 1920. At noon on that day a horse drawn wagon stopped at 23 Wall Street. The wagon was loaded with 100 pounds of dynamite and 500 of cast iron weights. The horse and wagon were in bits and pieces and it was believed the driver left before the explosion. The perpetrators were never caught, although they were thought to be anarchist and anti-capitalist. Terrorist bombings are not new.

Prior to the Wall Street bombing there was another bombing of note, this one in California at the Los Angeles Times. The Times published anti-union articles and reportedly ran an anti-union campaign. The Times belonged to the Merchants and Manufacturers Association which favored hiring non-union workers. An Iron workers union from the midwest was credited with bombing the Times, along with 70 other (That's right - 70) bombings of factories, bridges and railroads that occurred from 1907 to 1911. The Iron workers in Los Angeles

went on strike on June 1, 1910 and the bombing occurred on October 1, 1910, at 1 A.M., causing 21 deaths.

While terrorism is not new it is still a threat. We can all be afraid that we can be injured or killed by terrorism but the numbers tell us that we will die from something else. After all, many of the other threats we face like health issues are long term prospects. Heart diseases often take years to develop so we don't see the threat - in our immediate future.

I do think it is wise to examine all potential threats and I believe the government would not be responsible if they did not. But sometimes, it seems we only look in one direction. And when you only focus in one direction you may only see one problem. In 2013 over 2 & 1/2 million people died from heart diseases. Over 130,000 died from accidents, 35,000 of which were motor vehicle accidents. Alzheimer's accounted for 84,767 deaths, Parkinson's was 25,196 deaths and suicide was responsible for over 31,000 lives lost. Remember, these numbers don't cover everything and they are just for one year.

In our immediate future - we do see terrorism, not medical or other problems. The killings, beheadings and burnings are repulsive and reflect real evil. One news story on ISIS estimated their army

to be 30,000 to 50,000, which is a concern. Some have estimated the numbers at twice that. Conversely, while ISIS is over there, we have our own hate groups here, and a good example is the Sovereign Citizens. Sovereign Citizens are estimated to be around 300,000. Sovereign Citizens are not unlike many other hate groups, in that they don't believe in paying taxes and they don't believe the federal government has any rights over them. They believe that citizens created under the 14th amendment have no rights. And they also believe that if you have any government issued permit or license the government makes you a 14th amendment citizen. I did not make this up. And, since they don't believe the federal government has any control over them they don't believe they have to obey the laws. Since 2000, 31 police officers in the U.S. have been killed by right wing extremist, in 22 separate incidents.

That does not mean that the threats from foreign terrorism are not real. Between January 1983 and May 2013 there were 3,487 deaths, attributed to their attacks in this country. Of course the majority of them are from the attacks on 9/11. Since going to war in Iraq and Afghanistan, over 6,800 soldiers have been killed and over ONE MILLION have been injured. The suicide numbers in our military is another issue. Over 20 percent of all suicides in this country are military veterans. The long term consequence for our military

involvement in the Middle East is unknown, but we already know it won't be good.

Do we have an obligation to fight terrorism? I believe we do, but how is the problem. The president of Israel; Benjamin Netanyahu thinks we should be harder on Iran and Iran is in the collation fighting ISIS. He also that told us that if we eliminated Saddam Hussein the Middle East would experience peace. That did not work to well. Saudi Arabia wants us to attack Iran and Syria. They said they fear Iran more than they fear ISIS. On a good note, the Kurdish forces are doing well against ISIS, so they have many strong voices for support. However, with a simple computer search I found 168 terrorist organizations listed by the United States. The Kurdish Democratic Party/North and the Kurdish Workers Party, or the PKK is a terrorist group on that list. It seems that every time we support one group in the Middle East, we annoy and displease another.

The list of terrorist organizations and the dark lords that lead them is very long. Yes, we have an obligation to do something, but the talking heads that have simple solutions are not helping. Where we are today - is related to the roads we traveled yesterday to solve yesterday's problems. Using the same roads and going in the same direction - may just make history repeat itself.

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

Common Cents

Wavering friendships

Ralph Murphy

The United Kingdom is scheduled to conduct Parliamentary elections 7 May of this year with seemingly intransigent debt and leadership problems that may not be readily resolved. The Conservative governing coalition of Prime Minister David Cameron is teamed with a center-left, Liberal Democratic Party - both of which are opposed to the left of center, Labour Party. They are, however, unable to work together for effective and coherent government.

Cameron took control of the British government in 2010 following the short lived, Labour party rule of Gordon Brown from 2007. The Brown government had been preceded by the lengthy Labour reign of Tony Blair from 1997. That timeframe witnessed a further institutionalization of British participation in the European Union (EU), a trade and political alliance led by Germany and administered through Brussels. It is now mired in debt issues with up to 87.4% of total 2013 earnings valued at \$17.37 trillion.

The EU debt is associated with 18 eurozone nations that share a common currency. Britain nev-

er joined the currency alliance as then Prime Minister John Major received an "opt out" in the 1993 agreement that came into effect in 2002. The British Sterling is one of the top three reserve currencies in the world following the US dollar and the euro. A 19th century world leader, London remains a strong finance center on a par with Tokyo, but well below New York in terms of assets and trade. The reserve role as well as political factors of domestic comfort with an established trade medium appears to have trumped EU pressure to adopt their currency shared by 18 of the alliance's 28 members.

That could have changed with a Labour or Liberal Democrat-led government winning in May, but as things stand at present it appears the EU's Frankfurt-based European Central Bank (ECB) cannot withstand its debt issues and the British could be an example of historic continuity in a domestic currency serving a local economy. Major currencies are occasionally used widely for circulation in relatively primitive, dependent and tied economies, but nothing like the euro has ever been historically tried- nor debt so

utterly manifest.

Britain has its own debt issues as well. The nation owed 90.6% of \$2.678 trillion in 2013. Much of that is held in inter government loans that can be written off as non-asset based, but it will be painful to decide who gets the smaller percentage based on actual production. The ECB that Britain snubbed, issued its debt in euros and can far more easily erase it with a return to host currency. The Bundesbank of Germany issued most of that debt as future and current asset-backed money.

Britain also has concerns for immigration problems tied to the EU's Schengen treaty that allows a free flow of inter-member-nation, nationals for work or passport free travel. Many are unskilled, don't speak English (relevant to UK) and foment unrest. That political agreement also has had to bow to the reality of a region's preference for common religious, race or historic cultural ties. There is usually some need for foreigners, but to the UK it's a political issue of concern as unemployment is at about 8% and the influx even includes terrorist elements.

There is serious infighting between the Conservative (Tory) and coalition partner, Liberal Democrats in Britain. Cameron's par-

ty won 306 seats (36.1% of MP's) in the 2010 Parliamentary election but needed 23 more to form a majority in the 650 seat House of Commons. Liberal Democratic Party leader Nick Clegg provided the Tory's 56 additional seats (23% of the MP's), but it came at an enormous political price.

The Liberal Democrats are center left politically. The euro unionists are very closely tied to the Scottish National Party, that is also left of center and pro EU. When the Scottish referendum on independence was held last September, Cameron was opposed, but his government would have fallen without Clegg and his opposition. He noted it would "break his heart" if the northern third of the nation was ripped from the UK.

Westminster as a whole was opposed to the EU-backed Scottish independence issue, but almost all the government was publicly silent during the period leading up to the vote. The Scottish population of 5 million people controls the top third of the island. The land swath of the bottom two thirds would have given the remaining 56 million citizens one of the highest population densities in Europe.

The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) as a "EU skeptic" would be a natural Conservative Party ally, but to date is domestically quite weak having only two seats in the 650 seat

Commons and 3 of 754 members in the relatively powerless House of Lords. What's odd is that the UKIP has 23 of Britain's 73 ascribed seats in the 751 seat European Parliament that helps legislate for the EU. They are willing to actively participate despite their policy loathing.

Britain's political uncertainty- and at times even hypocrisy- may be symptomatic of a larger unchecked, cultural phenomena such as an unbridled tabloid press and culture. It is able to freely attack official government institutions as if they were sundry entertainment. It may be humorous to be able to do that, but social degradation has been the result and policy coherence has been moot to the point where that nation very nearly ceased to exist last fall.

The British culture has offered so much to the world in the way of disciplined lifestyle and taste, but its politics of routinely "mud slinging" is at odds with the norm. May 7th may see a return of the Labour government and a center left platform, but they're not a panacea or proven social progression. Policy continuity would be lost amid debt, political, and other EU-focused issues without consistent leadership that is now largely lacking.

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

Pure OnSense

The Iran Nuclear Deal

Scott Zuke

After 18 months of meetings, March finally brought a crucial deadline on the nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States and other world powers. The precise deadline is later than my own, and at the time of writing the Los Angeles Times is reporting a deal may be reached two days early while the Wall Street Journal says talks could be extended by another two weeks. This level of mystery in high-level negotiations is often a good sign. It shows that the parties are working with each other and not attempting to sabotage the talks by leaking details that ignite public debate and make deal-making all the more difficult.

Nevertheless, the lack of information on the specifics of the deal didn't prevent an intense display of political theater as the talks approached the finish line. The main event of course was Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's controversial, State-of-the-Union-like speech before Congress, in which he warned against making any concessions to Iran and said the deal under negotiation, "will inexorably lead to a nuclear-armed Iran whose unbridled aggression will inevitably lead to war."

Many of us surely watched that speech with either a sense of nostalgia or familiar unease. Netanyahu is employing the same neoconservative rhetoric and thinking that characterized the Bush administration, seeking security through force, nationalism, and a maximalist "with us or against us" attitude. He was taking an especially far-right line because he was in the middle of a tight campaign for reelection and calculated—correctly, as it turned out—that bluster and fear-mongering would help turn out voters back in Israel.

However it also had the effect of resurfacing old wounds of America's experiment with neoconservatism and turned Israel, which has long enjoyed broad bipartisan support here, into a new front in the Culture War. That's a risky move. Under Netanyahu's leadership, marked by relentless and provocative settlement construction in the West Bank and a flare-up in Gaza with a disproportionate casualty count that caught the attention of the International Criminal Court, Israel has gained no new friends and internally divided its one reliable ally. Unlike the United States, Israel does not have "indispensable nation" status and should be deeply concerned about any ac-

tions that further isolate it within the global community.

Just ask Iran. While it has had strained relations with the West ever since the 1979 revolution, its last exercise in far right ideological foreign policy under President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad resulted in damaging economic sanctions as well as domestic political unrest that posed a significant threat to the Islamic Republic. Hassan Rouhani's rise to the presidency was not a ruse by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to lull the West into naively trusting its intention to reform, but rather a necessary experiment in using moderation to avert economic disaster.

As it is only a cautious test, Rouhani's mandate only really covers his role in pursuing a nuclear deal in order to relieve the economic sanctions. If we want to see moderation applied to other aspects of Iran's foreign and domestic policy, Khamenei must first see it pay off in the nuclear negotiations. If the talks fall apart, the opportunity for a significant rapprochement could be lost for the foreseeable future.

The value of moving toward a normalization of relations is clearer than ever as both Iran and the United States are committed to combating the regional threat of ISIS. In Iraq they are essentially on the same side, but when the United States recently launched airstrikes on ISIS

positions near Tikrit, some 10,000 Iran-backed Shiite militia fighters withdrew from the ground offensive to boycott American involvement, putting the whole operation at risk.

Iran will also have an important role to play in reaching any kind of negotiated political settlement in Syria, where it has defended and bankrolled the Assad government out of fear that a Sunni regime could arise in its place if he falls. Tehran exercises significant control on Israel's border in Lebanon, and has some influence in the developing crisis in Yemen, so despite the pariah status often attributed to it, Iran is an established regional power and stakeholder. As I heard one analyst put it recently, the United States and Iran may not have shared values, but they certainly have shared interests, and that may be sufficient to establish a pragmatic working relationship over time.

However for anything to move forward, we need to better understand Iran's internal political dynamics, which are too easily ignored in the West (especially by neocons who absurdly are still arguing that the United States should bomb Iran despite the negotiations still being in progress). Like most nations, Iran has its own sense of nationalist pride. It is simply unreasonable to expect it to swallow a humiliating deal in which it doesn't receive significant

concessions that allow its leadership to save face.

It also matters who in Iran gets the credit for a nuclear deal. The political schism in Tehran between hawkish hardliners and the moderates is very real, but the moderates have more to prove. This means yes, we will have to accept a "bad deal" from the nuclear talks—that is, one in which we make tough concessions in exchange for those that don't come easy to Iran's negotiators—but as long as it's made with the right people, the West may yet seize the bigger prize of reopening relations with an old enemy. This approach should look sensible to all except those who hold a dogmatic certainty that Iran would risk anything to destroy Israel.

To be sure, however the nuclear deal turns out, there is a long way to go before Iran can be trusted as a responsible regional stakeholder. But after Netanyahu effectively ended hopes for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal in order to seal his reelection, it now stands as perhaps the last prospect for a major Middle East policy win during President Obama's remaining time in office. However it's not for his benefit, but for that of the people in the region, including the Israelis, that I hope this effort succeeds.

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

Creative Destruction

Who was Boris Nemtsov?

Edmond Pope

I only met Boris Nemtsov one time and that was during a conference several hundred miles east of Moscow in the city of Nizhny Novgorod back in the 1990's. He was young, obviously very intelligent and had a strong, yet warm, demeanor. I certainly cannot say I knew him well from that short introduction, but I do feel I know him and have a strong admiration for the man and his ideals. My opinions of him are based on two primary observations from my many travels to Russia.

He was known widely both inside and outside the scientific-academic community throughout Russia and was extremely well respected. I think I got to know the real Russian soul in my 26 trips before the year 2000. I also learned far more than I ever wanted to during my last trip. While I believed several of my cellmates at Moscow's Lefortovo Prison were informants for the authorities, most were there as true "enemies of the state" as Putin's Russia viewed us. I learned some frightening things from them.

My travel in Russia primarily involved work with academic institutes and individuals with whom I had become acquainted while working at the US Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR).

Literally dozens of renowned world-class scientists had come to us seeking work and cooperation before the August 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. That flow soon became a flood in the summer of 1991. I had hosted many of them at my home and accepted numerous individuals as personal friends. In turn, when I began my travel to Russia in 1992, many of these individuals reciprocated and were eager to introduce me to some of the very best of the Russian Academy of Sciences to include a Nobel Prize winner. Almost everywhere I would go, the name of Boris Nemtsov would come up and my Russian friends would praise his character and talents. One such person was Nemtsov's doctoral advisor, as well as being a brilliant and compassionate man in his own rights.

While Boris Nemtsov had not been a household name in the West until the last weekend of February 2015, his heritage tells me a lot about him and how the Putin thugs-goons would view him. Nemtsov's heritage is Jewish-German and he was brilliant scientifically and a true humanitarian. He was never afraid to speak out. That is also part of the reason he was educated in the city of Nizhny Novgorod where anti-Semitic feelings are far more subdued and, in general, people are accepted for

their intellect and merit.

Dictatorial Russian leaders have historically feared and attacked intellectuals and any semblance of freedom of speech. Boris Nemtsov is certainly not the only one almost certainly murdered directly or indirectly by Putin's reinvigorated secret police—the FSB (formerly KGB). In fact, it was Boris Yeltsin who restructured the Russian security organizations and eventually dismissed thousands of them. With little training in anything except how to be a common, street criminal—these former KGB employees began forming their own "private security" companies and formed ever closer ties with their former comrades in the FSB. This act created deep resentment which only resurfaced in the summer of 1999 as Putin was first appointed Prime Minister under Yeltsin.

While Yeltsin will perhaps be best remembered for his many drunken antics in public, his administration did push through some significant changes in human rights and other sectors. Many of these positive steps were, in fact, orchestrated by Nemtsov. This is the time that the powerful and harsh "cabal" took control of Russia and began the march backwards toward a harsh dictatorial leadership under Putin's control. Throughout the years since then, Boris Nemtsov remained an outspoken critic and agitator for dig-



nity and human rights in Russia.

Putin is believed to have been behind many of these crises that seemed to suddenly fall on the Russian populace. Crises that possibly included a series of apartment bombings in four different Russian cities that killed over 250 people, and were blamed on Chechen rebels. I consider it more likely that these acts were backed by government authorities with the intention of placing blame. Soon thereafter, the second major offensive against Chechnya commenced with thousands killed.

Nemtsov is only one of many who have almost certainly been targeted by Putin's FSB. One of the more notable assassinations involved Anna Politkovskaya a noted journalist who had been a harsh critic of the Putin administration, in Moscow in 2006. Several others, including two high profile Americans, were gunned

down by unknown "thugs (former KGB)" almost certainly backed by the Russian FSB.

In many ways, Russia continues to search for its soul. They do not want to be accused of mimicking any other culture, but do not seem to know what they want to be—other than "different".

Much of their confusion stems from a great loss of prestige that they associate with their former Soviet rivalry with the West. With the loss of Boris Nemtsov, the segment of Russia hoping for positive change and greater freedom of personal liberty has been dealt a significant blow. Unfortunately, my reading of the tea leaves tells me that Putin is becoming more aggressive by the day and is poised for trouble in Europe sooner than we think.

To read past editions of Creative Destruction visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

“I am the resurrection and the life”

Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

This time of year is so beautiful, so full of hope, and so ripe with expectation; it's as if all of creation is rejoicing; celebrating together the greatest event in the history of the world, the resurrection of God's Son, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. The very fact that the tomb was empty that triumphant morning changes everything, but what's really amazing to me is that some people were surprised, some people were perplexed, and some even doubted (John 20:3-9). You see, Jesus teaching was very pointed and purposeful, because he said things like, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). His teaching far surpasses other teachers, because he made claims like, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry...” (John 6:35). He said, “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved” (John 10:9). He said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shep-

herd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness” (John 8:12). He said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). And the thing that is so astounding is that he wasn't just talk; Jesus Christ performed miracle after miracle; making the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the mute to speak, and the dead to rise again.

The raising of Lazarus from the dead most certainly evidenced the truth of his great claim, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26). The account of Lazarus' resurrection is found in the Gospel of John at chapter eleven, where Lazarus a close friend of Jesus had become deathly ill. Friends and family had called for Jesus, supposing that he would come to help, but Jesus replied, “No, it is for God's glory so



that God's Son may be glorified through it” (John 11:4). So for two days he hangs out while everybody else is stressing out until finally he says, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up” (John 11:11). Upon his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Jesus goes to the tomb where Lazarus was buried and tells his disciples, “take away the stone” (John 11:39). Then he called, “Lazarus, come out” (John 11:43) and the dead man came out with his hands and feet wrapped in strips of linen and a cloth around his face. Jesus then said to the bystanders, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go” (John 11:44).

Lazarus' resurrection caused quite a commotion, arousing the response of both friends and enemies; because he was a well-known man and there had been great mourning among sympathizers in the community. This

miracle near the end of Jesus earthly ministry was very public and could not be denied or avoided by his enemies who rejected his claims of deity. Even now, when you're doubting and discouraged... when it's as if all your hopes and dreams have been in a tomb for days; let me assure you that Jesus Christ, the one who said, “I am the resurrection and the life,” can roll that stone away for you. The same voice that called Lazarus to come out, is calling you to “Come out.” Even now, when everything looks impossible, we have a God who says, “All things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). Even now, when you're facing that which seems dead and hopeless, the resurrection power of Christ can bring it back to life. You see, it's not just what he does, but it's who he is (John 11:25). It's undeniable because dead things don't stay dead when the Lord calls their name.

This is important, because this is

something only God can do; and we are totally incapable of doing for ourselves. You see, the Bible tells us that “we were dead because of our sins” (Ephesians 2:5). Yet in his love and mercy God became one of us, God in the flesh, born of a virgin, born without a sin nature, and yet having the Divine nature. Therefore, Jesus Christ could be the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins on the cross. He suffered and died at the very hands of those he created. He was laid in the tomb and those who called him Savior fell into despair. They didn't realize that God was about to be glorified and on the third day those who believed would be transported from despair to everlasting hope. And today when the Savior says, “Come out” the resurrection can come alive in your life too. The tomb is empty, the Lord has risen, and the resurrection changes everything. Jesus asks a simple question that can change everything for you. “Do you believe this?” (John 11:26).

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

A group of old ladies



Died at Edinburgh, on the 2nd of April 1856, Miss Elizabeth Gray, at the age of 108, having been born in May 1748. That cases of extraordinary longevity are seldom supported by clear documentary evidence has been very justly alleged; it has indeed been set forth that we scarcely have complete evidence for a single example of the centenarian. In this case, however, there was certainly no room for doubt. Miss Gray had been known all her life as a member of the upper circle of society in the Scottish metropolis, and her identity with the individual Elizabeth Gray, the daughter of William Gray, of Newholm, writer in Edinburgh, whose birth is chronicled in the register of her father's parish of Dolphington, in Lanarkshire, as having occurred in May 1748, is beyond dispute in the society to which the venerable lady belonged.

It may be remarked that she was a very cheerful person, and kept up her old love of whist till past the five score. Her mother attained ninety-six, and two of her sisters died at ninety-four and ninety-six respectively. She had, however, survived her father upwards of a hundred years, for he died in 1755; nay, a more remarkable thing than even this was to be told of Betty Gray—a brother of hers (strictly a half-brother) had died so long ago as 1728. A faded marble slab in the wall of Dolphington Kirk, which records the decease of this child—for such he was—must have been viewed with strange feelings, when, a hundred and twenty-eight years later, the age-worn sister was laid in the same spot.

Little more than two years after the death of Miss Gray, there died in Scotland another centenarian lady, about whose age there could be no ground for doubt, as she had lived in the eye of intelligent society all her days. This person was the Hon. Mrs. Hay Mackenzie, of Cromartie. She died in October 1858, at the age of 103; she was grandmother to the present Duchess of Sutherland; her father was the sixth

Lord Elibank, brother and successor of Lord Patrick, who entertained Johnson in Edinburgh; her maternal grandfather was that unfortunate Earl of Cromartie who so narrowly escaped accompanying Kilmarnock and Balmerino to the scaffold in 1746. She was a most benevolent woman—a large giver—and enjoyed universal esteem. Her conversation made the events of the first half of the eighteenth century pass as vividly before the mind as those of the present day. It was remarked as a curious circumstance, that of Dunrobin Castle, the place where her grandfather was taken prisoner as a rebel, her granddaughter became mistress.

It is well known that female life is considerably more enduring than male; so that, although boys are born in the proportion of 105 to 100 of girls—a fact that holds good all over Europe—there are always more women in existence than men. It really is surprising how enduring women some-times become, and how healthily enduring too, after passing the more trying crises of female existence. Mrs. Piozzi, who herself thought it a person's own fault if they got old, gives us in one of her letters a remarkable case of vigorous old-ladyism.

'I must tell you,' says she, 'a story of a Cornish gentlewoman hard by here [Penzance], Zenobia Stevens, who held a lease under the Duke of Bolton by her own life only ninety-nine years—and going at the term's end ten miles to give it up, she obtained permission to continue in the house as long as she lived, and was asked of course to drink a glass of wine. She did take one, but declined the second, saying she had to ride home in the twilight upon a young colt, and was afraid to make herself giddy-headed.'

The well known Countess Dowager of Cork, who died in May 1840, had not reached a hundred—she had but just completed her ninety-fourth year—but she realized the typ-

ical character of a veteran lady who, to appearance, was little affected by age. Till within a few days of her death she was healthy and cheerful as in those youthful days when she charmed Johnson and Boswell, the latter of whom was only six years her senior. She was in the custom to the last of dining out every day when she had not company at home. As to death, she always said she was ready for him, come when he might; but she did not like to see him coming. Lady Cork was daughter of the first Lord Galway, and she lived to see the sixth, her great grand-nephew.

Mr. Francis Brokesby, who writes a letter on antiquities and natural curiosities from Shottesbrooke in 1711. (published by Hearne in connection with Leland's Itinerary, vi. 104), mentions several instances of extremely pro-

tracted female life. He tells of a woman then living near the Tower in London, aged about 130, and who remembered Queen Elizabeth. Hearne himself subsequently states that this woman was Jane Scrimshaw, who had lived for four score years in the Merchant Tailors' alms-houses, near Little Tower-hill. She was, he says, born in the parish of Mary-le-Bow, London, on the 3rd of April 1584, so that she was then in the 127th year of her age, 'and likely to live much longer.' She, however, died on the 26th of December 1711.

It is stated that even at the last there was scarcely a grey hair on her head, and she never lost memory or judgment. Mr. Brokesby reported another venerable person as having died about sixty years before—that is, about 1650—who attained the age of a hundred and forty. She had been the wife of a labouring man named. Humphry Broadhurst, who resided at Hedgerow, in Cheshire, on the property of the Leighs of Lyme. The

familiar name she bore, The Cricket in the hedge, bore witness to her cheerful character; a peculiarity to which, along with great temperance and plainness of living, her great age was chiefly to be attributed. A hardly credible circumstance was alleged of this woman, that she had borne her youngest child at four score. Latterly, having been reduced by gradual decay to great bodily weakness, she used to be carried in the arms of this daughter, who was herself sixty. She was buried in the parish church of Prestbury. It was said of this woman that she remembered Bosworth Field; but here there must be some error, for to do so in 1650, she would have needed to be considerably more than 140 years old, the battle being fought in 1485. It is not unlikely, however, that her death took place earlier than 1650, as the time was only stated from memory.

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Can science explain everything?

Bill Meredith

"May the road rise up to meet you; may the wind be always at your back; may the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall gently on your fields; and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

—beannacht traidisiunta
na hEireann.

My great-great grandfather came to America from Ireland in the early 1840s, a fugitive from the potato famine. Fortune brought him to a farm in West Virginia, where there were no parades or green beer; but there was good, rich soil, and he used it to preserve some of his ancestral customs. He taught his children and grandchildren that potatoes must be planted on St. Patrick's Day, come rain or shine (unless it fell on a Sunday; in that case, one day earlier or later was acceptable). In the course of time, that bit of wisdom was passed on to me by my grandmother. So when March 17 arrived this year, the temperature passed 60° for the first time, and the birds responded with a lilting song, the March wind blew gently at my back, the sun shone warm upon my face... and I got the shovel and headed for the garden.

The rain had fallen gently on my field a few days earlier and I knew, even without asking Dave Elliot, that it was too wet to plow. Normally, digging or plowing wet soil will cause it to get packed into a consistency like concrete, and seeds planted in wet soil tend to rot; but with potatoes planted on St. Patrick's Day, it's different. The ground will freeze and thaw several times in the next month, and that will keep the soil soft if we don't walk on it. And potatoes don't mind a bit of dampness; even the ones we missed when we dug them

last summer will sprout this spring without rotting. It would be nice to think St. Patrick told my ancestors that it worked this way 1600 years ago; but, since potatoes didn't arrive in Ireland until several years after Columbus brought them from America, I guess the Irish must have figured it out by themselves. However it happened, it works.

There was a time, not too long ago, when spading a 30-foot row and planting one-eyed slices of potato in it would have been a pleasant way to pass half an hour in the spring sunshine; but I have reached the age where it is a day's work, so I put the shovel away and went inside for a nap. In hindsight, that may have been a mistake. I inherited a vivid imagination and an affinity for storytelling from both sides of my family... Mom's folks were Irish, and Dad's were Welsh... so when I go to sleep tired, I often dream a bizarre mixture of their stories and things I have read. And it happened again.

In both Irish and Welsh folklore, once upon a time there was a young God named Llew Llaw who fell in love with a human girl and resolved to marry her, even though that was against the rules for Gods in those days. Llew Llaw's mother created a curse which prevented the marriage, and he was despondent; so, to cheer him up, his uncle, who was a magician, combined nine spring flowers and produced a new goddess named Blodewedd, who so charmed Llew Llaw that he married her. History does not record what became of the earthly girlfriend, but Blodewedd went on to become the Celtic Goddess of Spring; and I am told there are those who say she is still around, in the form of an owl. Personally, having spent 60-odd years studying ecology, I have to doubt it; but if you think about the weath-

er we have had for the past couple of months, the influence of a mischievous Irish goddess could explain a lot.

The next couple of days were clear and pleasant, and it actually looked like the weird weather patterns that have ruled our lives since 2015 began might be moving toward a more normal climate; but behind the scenes, strange things were going on. About the time I was planting the potatoes, a solar flare erupted on the surface of the sun, and the following night there was a spectacular display of the aurora, or Northern Lights. I don't think it was visible in Emmitsburg, but the papers said it was seen as far south as Tennessee. And then the following day the paper reported a total eclipse of the sun; it wasn't visible here either, but you could have seen it if you were in the Faroe Islands. So that got me thinking. Will Rogers was still on the radio when I was born; I was too young to remember him, but my parents set great store by his wisdom, and they told me that all he knew was what he saw in the papers. And then when I got up the next day, which happened to be the first day of Spring, it was snowing.

I don't always think clearly that early in the morning. I had the vague idea that if it was the first day of Spring, it shouldn't be snowing; but it was, and seriously, too. It was logical to ask, "What's going on here?" but the answer that followed was not logical at all. It was what logicians call the "post hoc fallacy" ...that is, when several events occur in sequence, the first event is the cause of the others. Applied to the present situation, it would mean planting potatoes in wet soil on St. Patrick's Day had caused the solar flare, the Northern Lights display, the eclipse, and the un-seasonal snowstorm... and goodness knows what might happen next! I'm ashamed to admit that for a few minutes it gave me an exhilarating sense of power; but it didn't



Blodewedd—the Celtic goddess of spring—takes the form of an owl in Irish and Welsh folklore. Photo by Dr. Nat White, DVM

last. It wasn't long before I realized that it would make just as much sense to assume Blodewedd did it all... but since I haven't heard any owls, I guess I will have to fall back on some dry, boring scientific explanation.


Except for that confusing start, spring has been quiet, but not uneventful. There have been several mornings when large, V-shaped skeins of geese flew overhead as I went out to get the paper; they don't seem to honk as loudly as they used to, but I can still hear them, and I always watch until they're out of sight. There were a few robins around all winter, but the first wave of migrants arrived during the biggest snowstorm we had in February, and now I see them every day. After that same snowstorm I looked

out of the bathroom window one morning to see a young deer standing there, munching on a euonymus bush; and around the corner, in the edge of the Great Forest was a herd of them. They were nibbling at the leaf buds that were just starting to appear on small trees and bushes; some were lying down and chewing their cud. My wife and I watched them all day, and counted a total of 15, about half of which were last year's fawns. They will be glad to see Spring arrive; winter was colder and snowier than usual, and their food supply is running short.

Deer are browsers; their preferred foods are new growth on woody plants such as shrubs and tree seedlings, and they also eat nuts, fruits and broad-leaved weedy plants. They can eat grass, but it is harder for them to digest than woody growth. Late winter is a hard time for them; they will have eaten most of the twigs they can reach, weedy growth has stopped, and grass is often covered with snow. Where the invasive English ivy has grown up into large trees, the deer have eaten all of the leaves they can reach; and in places where the deer populations are overcrowded, some will starve if Spring doesn't arrive on time. So we watch them, and wait. I'm glad to get rid of the English ivy, and I don't mind if they prune some of the saplings; but if they decide to browse on my crocuses, pussy willows or potatoes, there will be war, and I'll be out there throwing rocks and banging on garbage can lids... and listening for owls.


The read past editions of the Retired Ecologist visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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Science . . . Learning to be a scientist

Michael Rosenthal

What is it that makes a student decide to be a scientist? What is it that makes a student enjoy science enough to be successful at it? What makes a student understand science well enough to make intelligent evaluations and decisions about how science affects one's life? All of these questions have the same answer, which is a combination of individual interest and level of scientific talent, fueled by stimulating teaching at home and in school. I never had much special stimulation in science in my first eleven years of public school education. My science education was competent, and I did well at it, but it was the wonderful stimulation I received in my senior year chemistry class from Mr. Gillespie that made me want to become a scientist.

I recently attended the Science Fair at Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg. I counted 79 presentations, consisting of three-section stand-up cards upon which the nature of the experiment was explained, and often some of the experimental apparatus. Each experiment consisted of a hypothesis, a procedure, the materials used, data obtained, and the conclusion reached. There was often an accompanying journal in which the details of the experiment were spelled out. This presentation model is the same procedure that a college student or a scientist would use in sharing a solution to a scientific problem, - very professional indeed!

What makes this science fair so very special is the fact that the students are mostly 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, with one 2nd grader, seven 3rd graders and four 4th

graders also presenting. The projects included forays into human and animal behavior, food chemistry, physics experiments, and biology studies. Here are a few of the topics explored:

Can music lower blood pressure? What can I do to make flowers last longer? Does a mouse rely more on its sense of smell or sight? Seeing different images in optical illusions; is it a boy or girl thing? Do people of different ages read facial expressions better than others? How far can sparks jump? Does the age of a dog affect the dog's willingness to try a new trick? Can plants that react to mechanical stimuli be anaesthetized with Lidocaine?

This Science Fair is the most sophisticated science presentation that I have ever seen with this age group. I fully expect that some students will decide to follow a career in science as its result.

In my many years of teaching college chemistry, I have taught both science majors and non-science majors across the whole college curriculum, including potentially publishable undergraduate research. In my opinion the most important course is Chemistry 101-102, the first two courses in the curriculum, usually taken by college freshmen or sophomores. Over my fifty years or so of teaching, this course is the moment of truth for beginning college students who seek careers in science, engineering, or in the medical sciences. The results of this course tell an important story: whether the student is a logical, quantitative thinker. But just as important is whether the student enjoys the study of science. I always have told my students that you have to find a path toward a career that is defined by an activity that you enjoy

and in which you have talent, and that both components are equally critical. It is not enough to seek a career in medicine simply because that is what your parents want or just because you want the prestige. And a career in research chemistry will not be possible for a person who is not a logical and quantitative thinker.

Every science student does not start out as a star. A lot has to do with her or his level of preparation, the study habits that have been developed, whether the student is a logical and quantitative thinker, and how hard he or she is willing to work. There are majors easier than chemistry!

At this point I have to make a pitch for small liberal arts and sciences colleges or for honors programs in large universities. I believe that one cannot learn science well in a lecture section of 300 students. One needs the opportunity for discourse, both with the instructor and with fellow students. It is also important, I feel, for the instructor to get to know the strengths and weaknesses of individual students and to help them grow in their individual ways. There are students whom I recognize are likely MDs or PhDs after knowing them only a few weeks, and others that I know are unlikely to finish the science major successfully no matter how hard they try. But every student deserves the chance and the support to make the effort to grow and succeed, and that is much harder to do at the large, impersonal university, where much of the introductory science teaching is done by bachelor degree teaching assistants. I was one of those TAs in my graduate school days at the University of Illinois. And that is why I chose to seek a small liberal arts college for my teaching career.

My second topic this month is a continuation of our discussion of pseudo science. The world is filled



6th grader Natalie Bosche took first place (for 6th grade) at this year's Mother Seton School Science Fair for her study on how cleaning one's clothes affects bacteria.

with such nonsense, and let's talk about one example.

Have you ever passed through a shopping mall and seen a kiosk selling magnetic bracelets? The sellers claim that these bracelets reduce various kinds of pain (arthritis, strained muscles, tension pain) by projecting magnetic fields into the body. Well, I'm sorry to tell you that the magnetic field in such a bracelet is not strong enough to even penetrate the skin. The good news is that they won't hurt you (as long as you don't swallow the magnets!), but they do no good either. I have even seen magnetic dog collars offered to help dogs reduce their pain!

This is a good moment to introduce the Placebo Effect. This effect is operative when a person believes that a remedy will work. Some relief may be temporarily found as the brain is fooled into thinking the problem is being taken care of. However, disease will not be cured,

relief will be temporary, and worst of all, the phony remedy deters the individual from seeking medical treatment that scientifically seeks to remedy the problem.

We will talk more about specific applications of pseudoscience in future columns, and if you have any specific subjects that you'd like me to address, please let me know. Meanwhile, I have an excellent book to recommend to you on the subject. *Voodoo Science, The Road from Foolishness to Fraud*, by Robert Park is a wonderful foray into the world of pseudoscience. Dr. Park, whom I know personally, is a retired Professor of Physics at the University of Maryland - College Park. The book was published by Oxford University Press in 2000.

Michael is a former chemistry professor at Mount St. Mary's and will be joining us a regular columnist to share his insights into the world of science.

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IN THE COUNTRY

April showers

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

The Potomac River is often called the “Nation’s River”, and every year there is an assessment compiled by a non-profit clean water advocacy organization, the Potomac Conservancy. The overall state of the nation’s river has been turbulent throughout recent years and decades. As recently as 2011 the Potomac River was classified with a ‘D’ grade. American Rivers, another clean water advocacy group, listed the Potomac as the nation’s “Most Endangered River” in 2012. There has been some progress though, and the Potomac Conservancy upgraded the state of the Potomac from a ‘D’ to a ‘C’ in 2013. This annual “State of the Nation’s River” report has not yet been released for 2014. This assessment is based off of fish populations, overall quality of habitat and water, and surrounding land use.

While all roads lead to Rome, our regional rivers lead to the Chesapeake Bay - the largest and most productive estuary in the United States. The most recent report, released in 2014, denotes the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay at a ‘D+’ grade. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation releases an updated report every two years based on fisheries populations (crabs, Rockfish, and oysters primarily), acreage of bay grasses, total poundage of estimated pollution emptied into the bay and its tributary waterways. While the overall report card seems dismal the report itself highlights a mixed bag of takeaway themes. On the bright side: overall water quality is improving, bay grasses and oyster populations saw a +2 point increase. However, there was an overall decline in blue crab and rockfish populations, and forested buffer zones. This report highlights areas of progress and areas that need improvement. Restoration is costly, but failure to do so

would be catastrophic.

There is a path to restoration called the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. This is a provision of the Clean Water Act enacted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 2010, the EPA began to legally enforce the “Total Maximum Daily Load” (TMDL) which is a scientifically derived basis of the acceptable amount of total pollutants the water system can handle while still being productive and meet water quality standards. Six states (Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, W. Virginia) and the District of Columbia are now required to incrementally reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution over two year periods through 2025. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment are the top three pollutants contaminating the bay. Farms and agribusiness are responsible for 41% of the polluted runoff, but urban and suburban areas are responsible for 15% of the total deposited amount.

In order to ensure shared responsibility of a clean and productive estuary each state must meet the scientifically derived limits by 2025. The blueprint defines the parameters of what must be done, but it’s entirely up to the states to decide how to go about doing it. The task falls to each state to figure out how to best reduce the pollution generated through runoff. Maryland has its very own specific blueprint to reduce our TMDLs with several robust and progressive initiatives. One of these initiatives was established by MD House Bill 987: Stormwater Management - Watershed Protection and Restoration Program. This law gave us the infamous “Storm Water Remediation Fee,” often derided as the “Rain Tax.” Currently the fate of this law is uncertain. Court battles have already reduced the impact and jurisdiction of the law, and Gov.

Hogan has introduced legislation to repeal the law altogether. The spirit of the law was to create revenue specifically allocated to combat the leading source of pollution and biggest threat to the Chesapeake Bay. Whether Gov. Hogan is successful or not may make little overall difference. Each state is federally mandated, and subsequently each county and locality, for reducing polluted runoff - this will likely require tax dollars.

Stormwater runoff undoubtedly holds one of the biggest pieces of the puzzle to the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay. So, what’s a homeowner to do? Regardless of whether or not you’re getting taxed on the rain you can help mitigate the effects. The issue with runoff is that the stormwater picks up pollutants and chemicals from impervious surfaces like roads, sidewalks, and roofs and carries them to drains and rivers instead of through the ground where those nasties get filtered out through the soil. Governments certainly play a role in remediating this problem, but citizens can help reduce the overall impact as well.

Citizens can’t prevent rain, but they can prevent run off. Collecting rain in rain barrels or by constructing rain gardens you can strategically utilize rain, reduce runoff, and save on your utility bill. A rain barrel is a storage system used to collect rain from downspouts and roofs. They are inexpensive and collected water can be used for anything. All you need is a 50 - 60 gallon drum (sold at hardware and outdoor stores), PVC coupling to connect to downspouts or roof drainage areas, screening to keep insects and debris out of the barrel, and a hose is optional.

For many homeowners up to 40% of summer water usage is dedicated to watering gardens and lawns, this can help to reduce that number and your water bills. A slightly more ambitious do it yourself project would be to plant a rain garden. Rain gardens are a landscaped area that hold storm-



Natural buffers along stream borders—like the one pictured above between two adjoining pastures—greatly minimizes both water and nutrient runoff, preserving the health of the local creek.

water so it will infiltrate into the soil as opposed to becoming runoff. These shallow depressions are low maintenance and beautify homes and neighborhoods. Other benefits include reducing erosion and flooding, recharging the water table, and increased property values. There are many how-to guides online or a local landscaping company can assist you with installing one.

We drink it, we bathe in it, we play in it, and we need it. Our water is invaluable and irreplaceable. The quality and state of the nation’s river and the most productive estuary the country has been in jeopardy for some time. Things are getting better, but the

call to action is still ringing. By doing what we can and playing our part on a local level we can make that 15% difference. Collecting rain water so we use less from the infrastructure, planting rain gardens to reduce runoff and filter water, or participating in river clean ups are all small tokens that can add up to big impacts. Ensuring we have the cleanest possible water pays dividends for our wallets, our ecosystems, and ourselves. Here’s to the April showers that bring May flowers!

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

Preserving the quality of local streams

Information about the Clean Streams Law and the Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act will be presented to the public at 7 pm on Friday, April 17th at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve Nature Center.

Speaker Sarah Winner of Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services will present helpful information for community members who might be affected by mining activity by explaining the regulatory requirements for stream protection, water supply damage claims, as well as public participation opportunities in the noncoal surface mining permitting process.

“Communities often face complex environmental challenges, and when policy, permitting, and enforcement decisions are anticipated

that can affect a community’s way of life and natural environment, community members can be better prepared to meet those challenges if they know how to participate effectively in that decision-making,” said Winner.

Topics to be discussed include: protection of High Quality and Exceptional Value streams, protection and replacement of private water supplies, and public participation in the environmental decision making process.

“Because our water starts here in Adams County, and does not arrive here from other jurisdictions, protecting our water resources in Adams County is of utmost importance. We want to be informed citizens because meaningful community participation helps ensure

that the standards that are already in place are implemented and enforced here,” said Sue deVeer of Friends of Tom’s Creek.

This meeting is open to the wider Adams County/Franklin County community, as well as folks “downstream”! Please bring family, friends and neighbors!

Friends of Tom’s Creek is a Pennsylvania-incorporated, not-for-profit organization with federal Internal Revenue Service §501(c)(3)-status recognition. Friend’s of Tom’s Creek’s mission is to protect the headwaters to Tom’s Creek, a rare high quality cold-water fishery in southwest Adams County.

For more information visit www.strawberryhill.org, www.friendsofomscreek.org, or www.fairshake-els.org



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IN THE COUNTRY

Dogs and humans—an old friendship

Laurie Stover
Strawberry Hill
Nature Preserve

Sometimes the only “person” I can stand to be around is a dog. Dogs understand me in those moments when I don’t want to talk or when I just want to sit on a hillside and stare at the sky. I like to imagine that I am one of the first humans, I have befriended a wolf and we have an intra-species connection. The reality is that I’m a modern human and my wolf pack is a Labrador and a Boston terrier. They may walk heel nicely on a leash and listen to my commands just like I’ve trained them to do but if given the opportunity they will immediately run to the nearest dead animal and roll in it. That’s what we love about them; dogs enjoy living with us but their wild instincts are just beneath the surface. “They are a wild and tame; from nature but can join our culture,” Marion Schwartz.

The reason it feels so natural to walk with a dog, sleep beside a dog or sit and stare at the sky with a dog is because humans and dogs have been doing these things for a long time; 20,000-30,000 years to be exact. One popular belief is that a now extinct wolf-type canid (the ancestor of all current dog breeds) was drawn to human encampments by the animal carcasses that were being discarded. They may have also enjoyed the food and the protection they received by staying nearer to the human groups. Eventually the relationship grew to become beneficial to humans as the wolves aided in hunting. As hunter-gatherer groups migrated, the wolves followed, a history that can be traced

through fossil records.

The early humans and dogs would have been both highly observant and adaptable in order to survive. Both would have needed to travel great distances in search of food and shelter if the environment became uninhabitable. As humans and dogs migrated and traveled together to new areas, the attributes and behaviors of both species changed and adapted to the demands of environment. Peoples that settled in the coldest areas of the world needed dogs that could survive cold temperatures and pull sleds across snow. Those who inhabited warm climates would have needed dogs to be specialized in other areas. Hence the careful selection and breeding of dogs began.

Today we see such a vast variety of dog breeds that it’s hard to believe they are all the same species, *Canis lupus familiaris*. Humans have bred dogs to meet many needs from hunting, herding, protection, tracking to just simple companionship. Some dogs breeds of the Native Americans such as the little bear dogs, a small dog which was used to track and “worry” bears until the hunter arrived, have not survived to current day. But other native dogs like the Eskimo dog have survived. These dogs were used for pulling sleds filled with fish, walrus and seals. They could survive with very little care or food in the harsh environment of the far north.

“Our domestic dogs are descended from wolves and jackals and though they may not have gained in cunning, and may have lost in wariness and suspicion, yet they have progressed in certain moral qualities,

such as affection, trust-worthiness, temper and probably in general intelligence.” This is a passage from Charles Darwin’s, *The Descent of Man and the Selection in Relation to Sex*. Darwin’s observations about what has occurred as we have domesticated dogs can be confirmed by anyone who has ever lived with a dog. Dogs are highly responsive to humans; inarguably more so than any other animal. In their book *The Genius of Dogs*, Brian Hare and Vanessa Woods discuss that dogs are similar to human infants in the way they watch us and pay attention to us. Dogs are more in-tuned to us than even our closest relatives, the chimpanzee, and are able to detect even the slightest change in our eye movements.

It is the intelligence; eagerness to please and close observation of humans that makes dogs so easily trainable for jobs that aid us. It gives a dog great satisfaction to do the job that he was bred to do. In actuality, giving a dog a job or purpose in life is the highest respect you can pay to him. Over time we have learned how we can use a dog’s keen sense of smell, alertness and intuitiveness to perform jobs such as search and rescue, bomb and drug detection, alerting owners to seizures, calming people with PTSD and bringing comfort to sick children and the elderly. Work gives dogs so much pleasure and satisfaction that they will often work until they are completely exhausted just to please their handler.

Daily walks with your dog are not only good exercise for both of you but it also fulfills the wolf-like instincts of a dog. In the wild, dogs wake every morning and walk as a



Need a dog to walk on the Strawberry Hill Hound Walk? Consider adopting Maria, a 7-year-old pitbull mix who has really captured a lot of hearts at CVAS. She has a lot of love to give. Because she’s a little older, she does have some special needs and we’re looking for a home for her with children older than 8. If you have the spot for Maria, please come meet her. For more information about adopting Maria, contact the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791.

pack in search of food. The alpha dog leads the way while the rest of the pack follows. This can be carried over to the human and dog walk. Leading the walk and feeding your dog upon return fulfills two basic wolf-like instincts: migrating and working for food. During the walk, dogs release immense amounts of energy by sniffing, making connections about what has changed in their territory, and concentrating on following the alpha. There is no greater way to create harmony, respect and peace in your relationship with your dog than to simply walk together as we have for thousands of years.

On April 26th at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve we will be hosting a Hound Hike. A local dog-train-

ing group will there to give an obedience demonstration as well as guide you and your dog through an obstacle course. A naturalist will lead a guided hike on the beautiful trails of the preserve. You and your dog will enjoy this afternoon together out in nature, walking, exploring and socializing. There is no fee for the event however a \$2 donation for the hike is welcomed. Activities begin at 2:00 and the guided hike will leave at 3:00. For more information visit our website at www.strawberryhill.org.

Laurie Stover is a naturalist at Strawberry Hill and a dog handler with a local canine training group.

Please visit www.strawberryhill.org for more information.

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PETS

Becoming more sentimental

**Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter**

I must confess something. Both of my parents are holding their breath right now (heh), but I must assure them and you that it's nothing terribly shocking or headline worthy.

I think as I age I become more and more sentimental. Is that possible? I tear up at the drop of a hat. Just about anything can get me going.

The passing of Leonard Nimoy a few weeks ago had me welling up at my computer screen, reading all the comments about how he inspired a generation of students to become scientists. It helped (more than a lot) that my dad is a Trekkie of old and would show my siblings and me all the episodes when we were growing up. We'd even have quizzes at the lunch table, no joke. Star Trek for me will always be a source of nostalgia and to lose someone from that franchise is always hard.

There are certain episodes of Modern Family that I absolutely can't watch without tissues. When Haley goes to college? Ugh. Bawling. Every time. Any time Jay treats Manny like a son when his own father doesn't. Gone. I'm just gone.

Just the other night I caught The Untold Story of the Sound of Music. Oh. My. Word. The

crew went to Austria, where the movie was filmed and we actually saw Julie Andrews now walk down the aisle of the church, just like she did in the movie 50 years ago. They split the screen to show both moments. She also apparently had a short-lived show called the Julie Andrews Hour where she sang Edelweiss with the real Maria Von Trapp. I cannot tell you what that did to me. I was sniffing the rest of the night.

Don't even get me started on the holiday cartoon specials. When the Grinch's heart grows, or Charlie Brown's sad little tree is fully decorated? It's crazy.

Working at an animal shelter certainly adds to the poignant moments in my life.

Just recently we had a senior dog show up in our outside kennels. Someone had dropped her off overnight with no information. She had gray around the eyes and nose and before we even checked her teeth, we knew she was older. We noticed she had a protrusion on her right, front leg. We assumed it was likely cancer.

My guess is someone didn't want to (or was unable to) face the decisions that had to be made and instead left her in an outside kennel overnight.

We were thinking that she was 8. Turns out the vet said she's closer to 12. We named her Sophia (the people hadn't provid-

ed us her name) and worried a lot about her. We opted to take a chance and remove the lump on her leg and pray that someone would open his or her heart to a senior (very senior) dog.

I'm telling you, that girl's face was a real heartbreaker. And every day I saw it in a kennel, I'd get a clench in my chest even more.

The news that started up the water works for me was the day she got adopted. A real sweet couple came in and looked beyond her graying fur and slow gait and saw the amazing spirit beneath and decided to take a chance on her.

They said she's a real cuddlebug and is so good with their cats. The wife said she hadn't intended to adopt an older pup, but her heart had other plans.

We are all so happy that our girl Sophia didn't have to spend a whole lot of time in a kennel.

Then, oh my word, last week I went into cat adoption to take a photo of our Pet of the Week, a black kitten (growing up the shelter) named Fiddy. This boy was just too much. He didn't want to get his photo taken. Oh no. Instead, he wanted to climb all over me.

Now, keep in mind, when I say climb, I don't think I ever once felt that cat's claws at all (and he's got them) and he did more head-butting and purring than any real ascension. A sweet-er feline you'd be hard-pressed to find, let me tell you.

I had to get a video for our Facebook page to show people how amazing Fiddy is. Once he's in your arms, he's difficult to put back down because he literally doesn't want to go. I swear, he would cling to me to continue holding him.

So vastly different from my brats at home who seem to have the attitude of, "Mom, didn't we just cuddle this morning?" which is teamed with the leg kicks to get away. Sigh.

When Fiddy had his nose



Jade is a beautiful grey-and-white, 2-year-old girl who is one of our long term residents. We can't understand why she's been in the shelter since February 2014, but that's the case. She's a unique-looking lady with a great personality and will make an awesome friend. Please come meet her!

against mine and just rubbed all along my cheek, there went my heart, yet again.

Fiddy got adopted today and I gave him a kiss goodbye and wished him well in his new life. It's sad that I won't get to feel that nose against mine anymore, but I'm glad that he'll have a place to run and play and snuggle.

It's easy to fall for the four-legged babies at CVAS and we've got a lot of them looking for homes.

So if you're like me and have or are developing a sentimental streak, how about visiting the animal shelter for an afternoon and seeing how many of our pets steal your heart?

I'm betting there will be more willful giving than any real thievery going on – and you'll walk away with the biggest smile on your face and a warmth all the way to your soul.

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

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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


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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown



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Planning for the their future

Dr. Kim Brokaw, DVM
Woodsboro Veterinary Hospital

Is your horse prepared for you to die? What about your dogs and cats? You can't watch tv for any length of time without seeing advertisements for life insurance. They ask questions about will your family be able to cover funeral expenses, the mortgage, etc. However, what about your pets? Are they even prepared if you were to simply get injured?

While dogs and cats are sometimes relatively easy to re-home, large animals such as horses are much more difficult. You see advertisements on the internet for free horses all the time. Even horses that are sound and healthy have difficult times finding a loving home. The daily cost of keeping a horse means that they are a large financial commitment. Most rescues are full and have limited space for taking an unwanted horse. Many family members assume that they can take the horses to the auction and they will be bought by good people who will provide them with good care. Unfortunately, there are very few fairy tale endings for horses who end up at the auctions.

Over the years I have been out to several farms where children were left with a herd of horses that they don't want or can't afford to keep. As non-horse people they are unaware of the risks with simply advertising the horse over the internet or taking it to the auction. While they would never intentionally sell their deceased parent's horse to slaughter, that may in fact be the end result.

Maryland will allow you to establish a trust fund for your horse, I'm not advocating cutting your family out of your will (although you can if you want). For most of us, even if we cut our families out of the will, there still isn't enough money for a trust fund for the horses. There are a few basic things you can do to increase your horse's chance of finding a loving home should something happen to you.

When you buy a horse, ask your-

self if he will be easy to rehome if you are unable to keep him. Have him well trained. If you are a good rider and will methodically do the training, you don't need a professional trainer. If you are a timid rider, or too busy to train the horse, get a professional to do the training. The horse who happily packs a rider around on a quiet trail ride one day and is well behaved at a local show the next day, may find a good home fairly easily. A pushy horse who bites, kicks and doesn't know how to load in a trailer, is far more likely to end up homeless than a slightly lame yet very sweet horse. Have your horses health records in order. Your horse should have his teeth done, hooves trimmed, have a current coggins test, and be up to date on vaccines. Make sure you have an emergency fund for your horses, and talk with your relatives so they know there is a fund specifically for the horses. If your relatives know there is enough money in that fund to support the horses for a year, they have more time to find each horse a good home. If they are struggling to find enough money in your estate to pay your last electric bill and keep the mortgage up to date until the house sells, the horses' care will suffer. Even if you simply get injured and can't take care of your horse for a couple months those things are important. Good boarding barns won't take your horse if his coggins and vaccines aren't current, and if there is no money to pay the board.

This brings me to the story of Mrs. Greenacre. Mrs. Greenacre kept her horses in her backyard and took care of them herself for years. She broke her hip a few years back and while the recovery

had been slow, she was back out at the barn taking care of her horses. This winter she slipped on the ice and broke her hip again. At 70 years old, she was skeptical that she would heal well enough that she should be taking care of her horses. She decided she would find them homes.

I was called out to the farm to float the horses teeth and pull coggins. The horses had been on a routine vaccination and hoof care regimen. The teeth and coggins test had lapsed since Mrs. Greenacre had been unable to ride and the horses didn't leave her property. She told me her husband would meet me at the barn to help hold the horses.

The visit went smoothly and I talked with the husband about where the horses were going to go as I floated their teeth. He laughed about the process of trying to find them homes. He said he never would have thought but the 24 year old horse with arthritis, who was missing teeth, and blind in one eye had found a home immediately. The family down the street had been eager to get the old horse for their youngest child to start learning on. The older sister's horse was too spunky and had scared the youngest daughter so this old horse was looking like an excellent acquisition. This old horse was calm and quiet and the young girl could brush, tack up, and ride the horse without fear of being run off with. It sounded like a perfect match to me too.

The younger horse was proving more difficult to re-home. Mrs. Greenacre had bought the other horse as a two year old with every intention of training the horse



After years of faithful service, this sport horse's retirement is provided for in his owner's will so he'll never end up wanting in his old age.

herself. However, when she broke her hip for the first time, training was side tracked. She never sent the horse to a professional for training as in her mind she had always planned to start riding again and would eventually train the horse herself. Now she had an 8 year old gelding that had never been ridden, barely knew how to lunge, was pushy on the ground and a bit flighty. Further hindering the horses ability to find a home was the horses size. Mrs. Greenacre was a petite woman who purposely selected small horses. So while this horse would be a great size for a child, his lack of training and spookiness meant that he would be better situ-

ated with a skilled adult rider.

As I left the farm I told Mr. Greenacre that if I knew of any potential homes for the second horse I'd let him know. Truthfully I knew that I was unlikely to find any. While the horse was sound, he was too old to be untrained and finding a home would be difficult. Most of us want our horses to have good lives, even after we are unable to take care of them. We need to think about what we want for our horses, and make plans so they have a chance of a comfortable future.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

April gardening

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener
High Priestess of Blodewedd

What a winter! After the polar vortex of 2014, I didn't think we could beat it. I was wrong! This winter felt just as long as last winter. Too much snow; too many school delays; too many dreary days. But April is here and announcing that spring has arrived!

I'm sure I'm not unlike any other gardener. I've created this to-do list throughout the late winter months, just waiting for an opportunity to celebrate the gardening season!

List of my gardening chores:
Soil test. Knowing the soil pH helps greatly in growing just about every kind of plant. This will help in determining what amendments you may need to add if it's a vegetable garden, and what shrubs, trees and perennials you can select if planting a landscape.

The soil test will also give recommendations for fertilization needs according to the crop you are growing. Soil test kits are available at

your local extension office.

Find my gardening tools! I have a few tried and true gardening tools that I use everywhere in the garden, be it the vegetables, perennials or containers. Throughout the gardening season, I'm pretty good at putting the tools back where they belong, but my husband tends to use my tools and they seem to disappear! A good search and garden shed clean-out is at the top of my chore list. This is the perfect start to the season: organizing and cleaning out!

Cut back perennials. I always let my perennials and grasses stand for the winter months. They provide a needed food source and shelter for birds and insects. But as these plants begin to grow again, the stalks of last seasons' growth must be removed for an attractive garden.

Prune broken branches from trees and shrubs. The snow is gone and buds are just beginning to push. We can easily see what has been damaged or is dead on our trees and shrubs. Pruning these branches lead to a healthier plant. Remem-

ber to cut branches to just outside the branch collar. This is the wrinkly part at the base of any branch. Don't cut into the collar otherwise the wound will not callous over and heal. If a cut is made into that collar zone, access to disease and insect issues are much more likely.

Start some vegetable seeds inside. Starting tomato and pepper seeds indoors can be done now. This offers us more varieties than what is being sold in the garden centers. This will allow ample time to grow transplants ready for the garden. When the soil is warm (recommended soil temperature is above 60 degrees) the transplants can be planted in the garden, usually by the end of May. Below 50 degrees and the growth of the plants will be impaired.

Work the soil in the vegetable garden. I've worked on the soil in my vegetable garden for many years. Adding compost year after year has made for great soil that just needs loosened in the spring with a pitch fork, and I'm ready to plant. But before I do that, weeds must be removed. Some of the winter annuals like henbit, chickweed and speedwell are all happily growing where the veggies need to be. They were comfy under the snow since January and have gotten a very good start in my garden. A good weeding is imperative before loosening the soil and planting seeds.

Plant "cole" transplants and "cool" season crops. Soil temperature requirements for crops like cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower are 40 degrees. Cabbage, broccoli, cau-



When planting bare rooted trees and shrubs, make the hole wide and deep enough to handle all the roots.

liflower, Brussel sprouts and kale are called "cole" crops. It's best to use transplants if growing these vegetables. Starting from seed this late will result in a summer crop, and they don't like the summer heat, forcing them to bolt or taste bitter.

As soon as the soil is workable, "cool" crops can also be planted. Lettuce, arugula, spinach, beets, radishes, and peas all prefer cooler temperatures and are, therefore, considered "cool" crops. These vegetables can all be direct sown as seeds into the garden.

Most of the cool season crops do very well in containers too. When planting in containers, use a soil-less mix, not garden soil. The mix allows for good drainage in containers and does not carry pathogens. If trying to garden in a container, be sure to fertilize frequently as nutrients in containers run through the pot quickly. My sister grew lettuce in a container on her shady deck last year and had great success. Some-

thing I am going to try this year is planting lettuce in my perennial bed as an early ground cover. I'll let you know how that works out!

Pull weeds. And so it begins. Lucky for me, I don't typically mind pulling weeds; I usually find it relaxing. The winter annual weeds that are found in the vegetable garden will also be lurking in the perennial garden. April just begins the season long chore of weed control.

Plant strawberries. I ordered strawberries this year and am ready to get them in the ground. The strawberry patch that I had was about three years old and I'm pretty sure a skunk dug up the plants last fall. A new location in the fenced in garden will be there home for a few years. There's nothing quite like fresh strawberries from your own patch! Although we won't be getting any berries this year, since it's the first year, next year we'll be looking forward to a bang up crop!

Visit the local garden center. Although I enjoy all the tasks on my chore list, this one has got to be on the top! Checking out new cultivars of trees, shrubs and perennials is lots of fun. It's always interesting to see what's new in the industry and try to grow some new plants to see what they'll do.

Plant pansies (because I know I'll buy some). While visiting the garden center, I know pansies will be out in full force. Who can pass up a couple of market packs? Planted in containers, they welcome spring to the deck and patio. There are other cool season annuals that can be mixed in these containers for additional interest. Plants like nemesia, snapdragon, lobelia, and osteospermum are options that can be mixed with pansies to add texture and additional color.

Re-visit perennial garden design created during the winter. Usually after visiting the garden center, lots of new ideas surface. Trying to determine how or where to plant some of those new introductions may take a little re-do. When adding plants that are new or different, be sure you do the research first. There's nothing worse than planting something new and having it suffer, die, or get too big because the placement and selection was wrong.

Maybe you have a chore list of your own. If not, it's time to make the list because spring has arrived!

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Becoming a Penn State Master Gardener

The Penn State Master Gardener program is accepting applications for the fall, 2015 training. The Master Gardener program began in Adams County in 1990 with two Master Gardeners in the program. It is now 65 volunteers strong! As a Penn State Master Gardener, volunteers commit their time and knowledge to assist Penn State Extension in educating groups as well as individuals on proper horticultural practices and environmental stewardship. They are trained in horticulture by Penn State Extension educators.

To become a Penn State Master Gardener, one must complete an extensive course that covers information on botany, plant propagation, insects and diseases, plant identification, diagnostics, native plants and much more. Upon completion of this course, the Master Gardener trainee must dedicate 50 hours of volunteer time to the Mas-

ter Gardener program throughout the following year.

The Master Gardener training program will begin September 3, 2015 and wrap up by January 28, 2016. The first ten classes will take place at the Agricultural and Natural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. The last eight will be taught at the Ag Heritage Center, 185 Franklin Farm Lane, Chambersburg. These classes will take place Thursday evenings from 6pm – 9 pm.

If you are interested in participating in these classes and becoming a Penn State Master Gardener, please e-mail Mary Ann Ryan at mar35@psu.edu for an application, or call Penn State Extension, Adams County at 717-334-6271. The application and additional information will be sent to you. After we receive your completed application, an interview will be scheduled prior to the first class.



When pruning, cut back to just outside the branch collar.

Small Town Gardener

Wanted seed or wicked weed?

Marianna Willburn

At any given time in the garden, seeds are germinating at an alarming rate, but how to choose between those you want and those you despise? Experience informs much of the decision making process when one is down on one's knees, trowel in hand – but it would be fibbing to maintain that experienced gardeners can identify the first true leaves (much less the cotyledons) of all garden weeds. What's more, these sneaky greens often put themselves right where you seeded something exotic last autumn; forcing you to order a stay of execution due to lack of evidence.

Thumbing through Garden Flowers from Seeds by Graham Rice and the late Christopher Lloyd, I was happy to see that these two horny handed sons of the soil had just as much difficulty as the rest of us plebs trying to distinguish weed from wanted. Rice advocates sowing in rows and exterminating all seedlings deviating from the straight and narrow; Lloyd felt that broadcasting seeds thickly worked much better – working under the principle that there will be more of the wanted than the weed.

I tend to agree with my idol. Straight rows of anything besides vegetables rarely work in a cottage garden setting, so the seedlings will eventually need to be transplanted (read: more work). A large amount of anything germinating at the same time is easy to identify, and providing you have marked your spot with a stick (and your terrier has not used that stick as a convenient chew toy), you have a pretty good chance of keeping the right seedlings.

Of course, there is the question of "what is the right seedling?" In the above case, it's whatever you bothered to shake out of a seed packet when normal people were thinking how cold it is outside. But Mother Nature has a unique sense of style and other plans for your garden, and it is always worth looking to see what she may have in mind.

Annual flowers such as nigella, larkspur, poppy, lunaria, hesperis, zinnia, cosmos and marigold are rampant self-seeders (though the poppy needs a bit of a push 'round here). Once you have

a good idea of what the underage version looks like and can edit appropriately, you may be delighted by the variety of flowers that you didn't plant, not to mention the out of the ordinary places you didn't plant them. Self-seeded volunteers are some of the hardiest little seedlings around, and almost always seem healthier than those you intended to plant – most probably because they germinated in just the right conditions...which are not necessarily yours.

Too much of a good thing is to be avoided. Although a few poppies are fabulous, fifty poppies in a clump are going to fail. Whether it was your idea or Mother Nature's to be profligate in spreading seed, see that you quickly use those editing fingers to give seedlings the best in the way of spacing, water and light. Without quick action you will end up with a whole mess of stunted, spindly plants with not a respectable bloom between them.

As for the unwanted seedling? The miserable plant with nothing more to recommend it than its remarkable powers of reproduction? Get to know your space. You'll soon get to know your own weeds, even if you don't know their names. Right now I am battling bittercress and chickweed, but a friend near the river fights ground sorrel and garlic mustard. And if you are stumped by a mystery seedling, no harm will come from letting it grow for a few days. Not only will it clear up any identification errors, it will also give you something tangible to grasp when you pull it out by its wicked little roots.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

FMH promoting health and fitness



Kelsey Shupe
Frederick Memorial Hospital

Seven years ago Jack Gorman found himself in need of a change. Having recently undergone triple bypass surgery, Jack was told that he needed to get his activity level up and lose weight. Jack was no stranger to these types of suggestions from doctors, “I’ve been on thousands of diets in my life...for a week. But I knew this time that I had to do it...for myself.”

Jack reached his turning point while attending cardiac rehab after his surgery. During a rehab session at FMH, an employee suggested that Jack

check out ProMotion Fitness+. Having never been a member of a gym before, Jack didn’t know what to expect, “I’d heard about the intimidating environment at gyms before.” However, he was pleasantly surprised to see that a lot of the people working out at ProMotion were just like him.

“The first day I walked into ProMotion, I was in awe, my jaw dropped. I couldn’t believe how nice the equipment was.”

ProMotion Fitness+ isn’t like your regular gym. With a mantra of “exercise is medicine”, the staff at ProMotion will work with you and your healthcare provider to develop an exercise prescription tailored to your individual needs. Getting started was easy for Jack, “I just walked in and gave them the name of my doctor. They took care of signing me up, finding out what I could and couldn’t do, and worked out a regiment that made sense for me.”

This individualized, medically-monitored approach has proven to be a huge success for Jack. Today he’s 98lbs lighter, no longer requires insulin for his diabetes, and has quit smoking. “I owe a lot of my health improvements to the staff at ProMotion Fitness+.”

When asked about the staff at ProMotion, Jack couldn’t speak any higher of them. “They know their stuff!” ProMotion Fitness+ is committed to providing the most highly qualified, degreed and credentialed staff. At ProMotion, Degreed Exercise Specialists, in combination with Registered Nurses, provide a standard of care and supervision unlike any other exercise facility in the region.

According to Jack, it can be difficult to stay on track at times. “The first hard part about exercising is getting there in the morning; the second hard part is leaving.” Jack has found support, encouragement, friendship, and improved health at ProMotion Fitness+. “They’re like family.”

If you’ve been thinking about starting an exercise program, or have been encouraged to do so by your healthcare provider, ProMotion Fitness+ offers a medically supervised exercise program unlike any other facility in the region. It’s easy to get started, and costs about the same as any other gym. Please stop by or give us a call today, let’s make this year a healthy one!

To learn more about ProMotion Fitness+ visit www.fmh.org/promotionfitness or better yet, drop by the center at FMH Crestwood, 7211 Bank Court, Suite 220, Frederick, or call them at 240-215-1470

Gastric Bypass surgery at FMH has given John a new lease on life.

John Billé had always been successful at losing weight. Unfortunately, he was more successful at gaining it back. At 400 pounds, John often felt “out of breath,” had no energy, and suffered from sleep apnea. Having already tried so many programs, John researched his options for weight loss and began attending classes at Frederick Memorial Hospital to learn more.

Understanding the importance of diet and nutrition—and incorporating an exercise program into his daily routine—have allowed John to maintain his new healthy weight for two years.

“I never thought I’d be the type of person to enjoy going to the gym every day, but now I feel bad if I don’t. I would recommend the FMH bariatric surgical team to anyone. I feel reborn!”

—John Billé,
200lbs and holding



Dr. Stephen McKenna
Medical Director,
FMH Bariatric Surgery Program

To learn more about the FMH Bariatric Surgery Program and to see a list of surgeons who perform bariatric surgery, visit fmh.org/bariatrics.

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War comes to an end!

John A. Miller

Coming out of the winter of 1864-1865, hopes for the Confederacy were dim. In the South, Major General William T. Sherman conducted his march to the sea through Georgia. After capturing Savannah, Georgia, plans for the Carolina Campaign were underway. Major General Sherman formulated a campaign, to which Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant agreed, consisting of Sherman moving northward through the Carolinas. Originally, Grant wanted Sherman's men to board ships and move for Virginia.

By mid January of 1865, Sherman's army was moving toward South Carolina. This move would try to finish off the Confederate army. General Robert E. Lee knew that since Lieutenant General Jubal Early's Confederate army in the Shenandoah Valley was defeated, Grant would receive even more troops from Major General Philip Sheridan. The last major battle with Lt. Gen. Early was in March of 1865 at Waynesboro, VA.

In Virginia, around Petersburg, Lt. Gen. Grant's Union armies were bogged down in trench warfare. The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee, had their backs against a wall. They had been besieged since June of 1864. Now, several months later, it was only a matter of time before the Confederacy crumbled and fell. Once Sherman was moving from Georgia into South Carolina, the last port that was a lifeline to Lee and the Confederate army was lost. This was the day that Wilmington, North Carolina fell.

General Lee asked Brigadier General Joseph Johnston, who was in retirement, to take command of the Army of Tennessee. Johnston took command in March. He was tasked with the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, the Army of the Tennessee, and the Department of North Carolina and Southern Virginia. After several major battles in North Carolina in March, Johnston was forced to move back to Raleigh, North Carolina.

By late March, Lee attempted to break out of Petersburg, but the attack was a major blow to the Confederate army. By April 1, the Battle of Five Forks turned out to be another Confederate disaster, and the following day portions of the Union army broke through the Confederate line. This forced Petersburg and Richmond to fall on April 3. Forced to flee, Lee decided to head west and try to link up with Brig. Gen. Johnston in North Carolina. But instead, this led to several hard battles, and eventually the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

On April 9, after reading and sending several dispatches to Lt. Gen. Grant, General Lee decided to meet with Grant. Lee made this decision after looking at all options, and hearing from several of his top commanders. The Confederate army was almost completely surrounded. After send-

ing a dispatch to Grant, Grant replied to Lee agreeing that the two will meet at a place of Lee's choosing. After looking over the area, Appomattox Court House was picked. Lee and his staff rode out to meet with Lt. Gen. Grant.

General Lee arrived at the McLean House and waited for Grant. Once Grant arrived and met with Lee, the two talked about their days during the war with Mexico. But eventually, Lee reminded Grant for the reason that the two were there, and that was to talk about the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. The terms were simple:

Virginia on the following terms, to wit: Rolls of all the officers and men to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer to be designated by me, the other to be retained by such officer or officers as you may designate. The officers to give their individual paroles not to take up arms against the government of the United States until properly exchanged; and each company or regimental commander to sign a like parole for the men of their commands. The arms, artillery, and public property to be parked and stacked, and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers



General Lee surrender to General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865 for all intents and purposes brought an end to the American Civil War.

From U.S. Grant To R.E. Lee
Appomattox Court-House, Virginia April 9, 1865.

General: In accordance with the substance of my letter to you of the 8th instant, I propose to receive the surrender of the army of Northern

Virginia on the following terms, to wit: Rolls of all the officers and men to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer to be designated by me, the other to be retained by such officer or officers as you may designate. The officers to give their individual paroles not to take up arms against the government of the United States until properly exchanged; and each company or regimental commander to sign a like parole for the men of their commands. The arms, artillery, and public property to be parked and stacked, and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers



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After Grant had wrote this, the document was taken from Grant's table and delivered to Lee's table where Lee read over the document. Lee then wrote his response.

From R.E. Lee To U.S. Grant

Head-Quarters, Army of Northern Virginia April 9, 1865.

General: I received your letter of this date containing the terms of the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia, as proposed by you. As they are substantially the same as those expressed in your letter of the 8th instant, they are accepted. I will proceed to designate the proper officers to carry the stipulations into effect.

On April 9, 1865, at 3 p.m., Lee surrendered his army accepting the terms. The war for the Army of Northern Virginia was over.

After being reelected for his second term of office, President Abraham Lincoln was grateful to see that General Lee and his Confederate army had surrendered. Peace was being achieved. However, the peace that Lincoln dreamed of, he would never see, as he was assassinated at Ford's Theater on April 15, 1865.

Two days after Lincoln's death, at the Bennett house in North Carolina, Confederate Brigadier General Johnston met with Major General Sherman. During the first conversation, Sherman was handed a tele-

gram and after he read it, he gave it to Johnston to read; this was how they both learned of the assassination of President Lincoln.

The next day, Johnston and Sherman again met and terms of surrender were signed, but rejected by the Presidential cabinet. Lieutenant General Grant arrived on April 24, and explained to Sherman that the terms had exceeded those that he had given Lee.

On April 26, Sherman and Johnston met again. This time the terms were again discussed and Johnston agreed, surrendering over 89,000 soldiers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

On May 4, 1865, Confederate Lieutenant General Richard Taylor surrendered 12,000 troops within the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana to Major General E.R.S. Canby at Citronelle, Alabama. Lieutenant General Taylor retained control of the railways and river steamers to transport the troops as near as possible to their homes.

On May 26, more Confederate soldiers, who were under the command of Lieutenant General E. Kirby Smith, surrendered. The last major surrender of Confederate soldiers came on June 23, 1865, in Indian Territory with Confederate Brigadier General Stand Watie. Now that the Civil War was over, Reconstruction would officially begin.

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WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

April 1

The German merchant raider Prinz Eitel Friedrich remains in Newport News guarded by sailors from the battleship Alabama. The ship's captain is now negotiating for supplies sufficient for a trip to the nearest German port, which is permitted under neutrality regulations governing naval vessels of the belligerent nations.

The time limit granted the ship to remain in Newport News has not expired. After the date of expiration the German ship will have 24 hours in which to leave American waters. If in that time a merchant ship of an enemy should leave the harbor, the Prinz Friedrich would be held 24 hours more, in order to give the merchant ship a head start.

British warships off the Virginia coast are taking no chances of the Prinz Friedrich slipping out to sea at night. They are overtaking and boarding every ship up and down the coast.

The Prinz Eitel failed to cease the opportunity to escape her hunters during the howling gale that drove a blinding snowstorm over the Virginia Capes April 3rd and 4th. The storm drew a curtain between the outside world as it ripped down telephone and telegraph wires, resulting in most of the Virginia coast being entirely cut off from communications.

The storm made every lane out to sea a comparatively safe route, and many admirers of the German commander, recalling his daring exploits in seven months of sea roving before he came to Newport News, would not had been surprised if he had accepted the fortunate opportunity the elements afforded.

According to reports ten German submarines are now engaged in carrying out warfare against Allied shipping. The Captain of the German Submarine U-10 received praise in the British press for his handling of recent sinkings. The Captain insisted on waiting until all the members of the crews of ships he was sink-

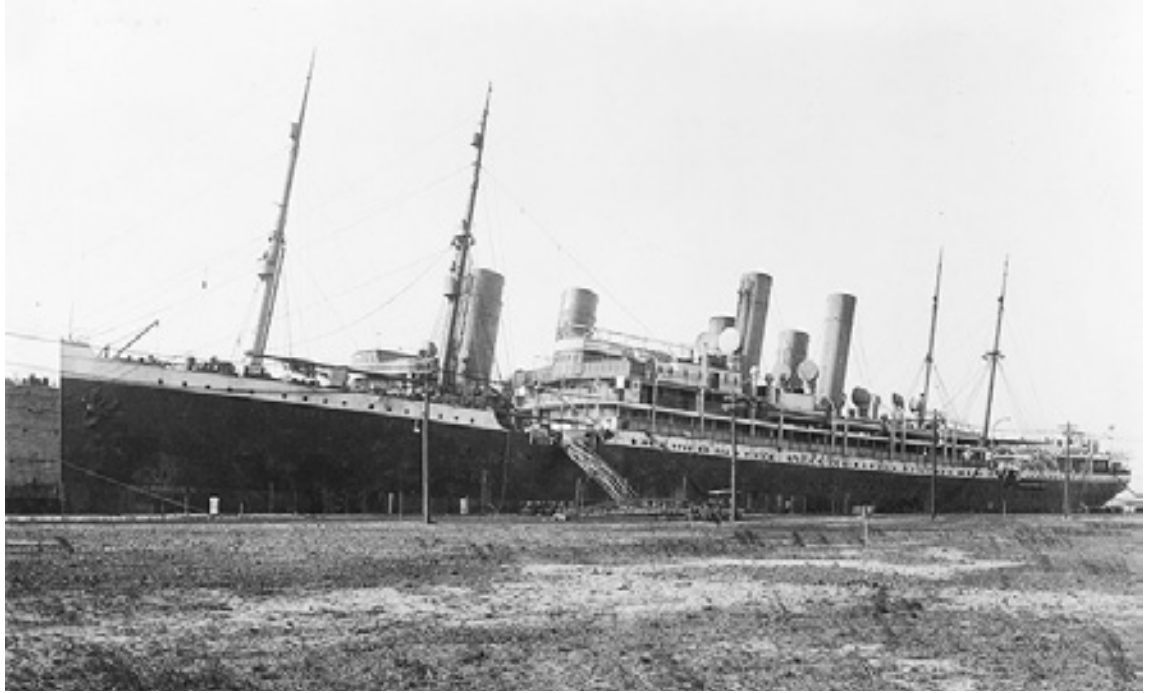
ing were safely in small boats before blowing up the ships. He then towed the crews towards the coast until they encountered fishing craft, which brought the men ashore. The crews said the commander was quite congenial. He supplied hot coffee and tobacco to them, and told them: "We have orders to sink everything. It is war, and England started it. Please don't take my sinking of your ship personally." "He was a right nice bloke," said one rescued crewman.

The German offensive movement in the northern section of Poland has come to close. The Russians Austrians and Germans are now centering their efforts in the Carpathians, where the Russians are moving down the southern slopes towards the plains of Hungary, and where fighting are the most vicious character has been proceeding for days. The losses in the Carpathian passes have been enormous for both sides.

The Austrians are said to be throwing every available man into the fight at this point. The Russians assert that they have taken 260,000 prisoners on the Carpathian front since their advance began January 21. The defense of the Carpathians as the last effort Austria-Hungarian can muster and if her troops fail there is nothing to prevent the Russian invasion of Hungary. Hungry is in a state a fear least the Austro-Hungarian forces fail to check the events of the Russians.

The Russian success are so menacing that the Germans are hastening reinforcements to the aid of their hard-pressed allies. Germany is said to be moving soldiers from Belgium. Should Russia succeed in completely routing the Austrian armies and thereby gain a victory, which in all probability would hasten the end of the war by eliminating Austria as of potent factor, it would enhance the possibility of the Western allies in their proposed spring drive towards Berlin.

The internal situation in the dual monarchy is increasingly grave. Op-



Pictured above is the German merchant raider Prinz Eitel Friedrich in Newport News. Its captain eventually opted not to challenge the allied warships blocking her escape and the ship was interned. Upon the United States' entry into the war in 1917, she was turned into a U.S. troop transport.

position to a continuation of the war is said to be growing stronger among the lower classes, which are suffering most from the scarcity of food. Violent antiwar demonstrations are reported to have occurred in several cities

An effort by Austria to conclude a separate peace is considered highly improbable as the military organization of the dual monarchy is in the hands of Germany. Austria, represents so large a contingent of men and materials diverting the Russian avalanche from Germany, Germany might permit negotiations only if she desired them to be the first step towards a general peace.

Russian and Turkey have emphatically asserted that there was no foundation to the reports that the countries are negotiating a separate peace treaty. The Russian's said they would never peace especially when they were on the eve of realizing the oldest Muscovite ambition of gaining control of the Dardanelles.

30,000 British and French troops have landed on the island of Lemnos near the entrance to the Dardanelles. An article appearing in a Constantinople newspaper says the reason for the British occupation was to ensure that if the English were unable to reach Constantinople before the Russians, occupying the island will allow the British to control the southern entrance to the Dardanelles and thus be able to checkmate Russia in the future.

In the West, conditions bordering on stagnation prevail. The allies are keeping the Germans in the dark as to when and where their big spring thrust will come.

April 7

The nations now at war have lost 5,950,000 men in the first eight months of the conflict. A loss equal to that would wipe out every male inhabitant between the ages of 18 and 45 years in the District of Columbia, and the states of Maryland, Virginia, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

A second German cruiser has dashed into Newport News seeking refuge from allied warships chasing after her. Aid to the crippled and exhausted German merchant raider Kronprinz Wilhelm, was immediately extended. 50 tons of fresh water and three-day of supplies of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables for use while in port were taken aboard.

The navy increased patrols on the James River near the vicinity of the Wilhelm's anchorage to prevent Allied ships from entering the river and sinking the German raider.

Experts from the Newport News Shipyard examined the ship in order to determine repairs necessary to make her seaworthy. It is expected the captain will ask for at least three weeks time to repair the ship. That the Wilhelm is leaking constantly was evidenced by the continuous throbbing of her pumps and also by the fact that the ship lies low in the water despite lack of cargo.

The fact that the Wilhelm will require considerable attention before she can be a seaworthy may eventually cause her to be interned. Her Captain however, insist that he is anxious to have the ship repaired as

quickly as possible, in order that he may renew his merchant rating expedition.

Upon dropping anchor, 61 British officers and men were taken from the Wilhelm and rushed down the river to the British warship HMS Cassandra. The harbor was lined with British merchant ships as the captives of the German raider were released. More than a thousand British sailors lined the decks of the ships and cheered. The cheers could be distinctly heard in the streets of Newport News.

Evidence that the United States is determined to prevent the departure of merchant ships of belligerent powers so long as the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich remains in port was backed up by British agents who said that 25 ships are being held in Newport News, some of them loaded with horses for the Allied armies.

Port authorities said they are not thinking about internment of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich at this moment but are waiting expectantly for the German sea raider to leave the port, now that the allowable time the ship is allowed to stay in Newport News has expired.

Moving out her fastest speed, the Prinz Eitel Friedrich could make the 20 miles from her pier to the open sea less than two hours. Their only hope to escape the enemy warships would be for her to round Cape Henry and slipped down the coast well inside the 3-mile limit until the enemy patrol had been passed. Success for such attempt they asserted could be hoped for only under the cover of darkness. The longer she stays in port, the higher the probability she will be forced into internment.

In the Carpathian mountains, the Russians are bringing up reinforcements to push their attacks. The Russians, who are now fighting on unfavorable ground in the Carpathian, are experiencing the same difficulty in bringing munitions and supplies from the rear that previously beset the Austrians. Deep snow, impassable roads, and impenetrable forest are said to prevent military operations on a large scale and permit only intermittent fighting in which the Russians are suffering enormous

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Pictured above is the German merchant raider Kronprinz Wilhelm in Newport News. Its captain also opted not to challenge the allied warships and the ship was interned. Upon the United States' entry into the war in 1917, she too was turned into a U.S. troop transport.

losses, while the difficulty experienced in keeping open communications to the rear increases with every step advanced.

The Russians have some way to go before they reach the plains of Hungary, and the Austrian and German forces are placing every obstacle in their way. The southern slopes of the Carpathians have been strongly fortified and troops are being poured into the region. It is said there are now 24 Austrian and six German army corps facing the Russians, and that more are on their way. On the other hand, the Russians are still bringing up reserves, and, according to Austrian reports, they are attacking without regard for loss of human life.

The Russians believe that the German answer to the Russian offensive will be the development of a new front in Poland, but the invasion of Hungary is regarded in Russia as a foregone conclusion, unless the Germans are able to transfer formidable forces a first line troops to stiffen the Austrian armies.

In view of these conditions rumors that Austria is about to conclude a separate peace with Russia is growing more persistence. A special dispatch from Petrograd says that negotiations for a separate peace with Austria are based upon the ceding of the province of Galicia and

probably some other territory would be exchanged with Russia for guarantees of peace.

With the announcement that the allied troops are probably being disembarked along the Turkish coast, the ground assault upon the Dardanelles fortifications, which protects Constantinople, is expected to begin within a day or so.

On the Western front, the French have begun an offensive, but the Germans are making fierce counterattacks. Whole German trenches had been left choked with dead, it is declared. The French advance is being pressed in three different directions. French forces have occupied new ground measuring from several hundred yards to 2 miles deep.

The Italian press has taken up the question of the conditions under which Italy might abandon her neutrality and entered a war. Among the conditions mentioned is a guarantee other possession of the Italian provinces now held by Austria, supremacy in the Adriatic, and a share in the partitioning of Turkey enabling Italy to protect her interests in eastern Mediterranean.

April 14

Reports from Austrian headquarters describe the four weeks battle in the Carpathian Mountains as the most gigantic in the history of the world,

three and a half million men participating. This battle reached a climax several days ago. The Russian offensive was halted and repulsed with the most appalling losses. One correspondent places these at half a million killed, wounded, sick, or prisoners.

Each day a large number of trains convey the Russian wounded to the interior of Russia. On some days as many as 600 of these trains were used. The field hospitals are overcrowded with wounded and sick, and thousands succumbed without adequate medical attendance. Captured Russian officers described conditions as unbearable.

Russian armies have lost 50,000 killed and 10,000 prisoners in desperate fighting which has been raging since Easter. Berlin reports that the main Russian offensive has been brought to a halt by reinforced Austrian and German armies. The Russian endeavor to get through the passes have been repulsed with heavy losses.

The desire for peace is the overwhelming sentiment noticeable in Hungary the past few days. How absorbed the people are in this idea can be seen in the newspapers, which in almost every issue contains prominent illusions, editorials and expressions of opinion along this line.

For several days there has been scarcely any public speech or statement on the war, or the political situation, which did not touch on the subject. Interestingly, the government newspapers are leading the peace campaign. It is not yet easy however to say what terms would be acceptable officially.

While denying categorically that Austria has made any direct peace advances to Russia, Russian officials here have admitted that peace suggestions have come from the Pope. The Pope's communication merely asked whether if Austria were willing, would Russia enter into negotiations with a view to peace.

The believe is becoming general in Rome that Austria will make a sudden attack upon Italy as soon as she becomes convinced that Italy has determined to intervene in the war.

The Bulgarian Premier has acknowledged the possibility of Bul-

garia's impending participation in the war and support of the Triple Entente. This attitude was brought about by German refusal to deliver munitions of war, which Bulgaria has paid for. It is realized, that time is on the side of the Entente powers and the attack on the Dardanelles has caused all parties to recognize the fact that a change is at hand.

The bombardment of the Dardanelles has resumed. The Turks are building wire entanglements and making other preparations on both sides of the Bosphorus against a land attack in case the Russians renewed their assault upon the Bosphorus. A rail way is being pushed along the coast for the purposes of carrying guns from place to place as they are needed.

Berlin official circles are keenly interested in the attitude of Italy, Rumania, and Greece which are commonly called the Triple Entente, and who Berlin believes are waiting for the results of the Dardanelles activities before they chose sides.

There has been considerable criticism in London about the non-interference of British forces with the departure of the Turks from the Suez Canal. Why was no effort made to harass the retreating enemy? To cut off his artillery? To capture his munitions and supplies is the question frequently asked.

But military men generally appear satisfied with the way in which the campaign was managed, pointing out that pursuit of the Turks would have cost the British forces many killed and wounded, while not seriously increasing the losses which the Turks suffered from their retreat across the desert.

From accounts of prisoners the British learned early that the Turks were hoping they would be pursued, and were awaiting the coming of the attacking force in defensive positions out of range of the fire of warships. From these entrenched positions they hoped to rout the British forces and then advanced quickly against the disorganized army on the canal.

The Turks waited for the expected British attack as long as they dared, lack of supplies finally compelled

them to drop back into the desert. Fresh water was a long way behind them, the only local well-yielded brackish water only. The final defeat of Turks, officers say, was due to the desert, and to the British there was no necessity of risking the trials of a desert march.

In the western front the Allies have done little beyond the consolidation of the positions now in their hands.

German aeroplanes dropped bombs within 30 miles of London. The aeroplanes were shot at by local marksmen, but their aim apparently was poor. The only result of the bombs was the digging of a hole in an orchard.

An exciting 25-mile chase in the air between a French airplane and German machine, in which the French aviator was victorious, has been reported. The German used over 100 quick firing cartridges without doing damage against the wings of the French machine. The 11 shots fired by the French aviators caused the German airplane to fall. The German officers escape injury but were taken prisoner.

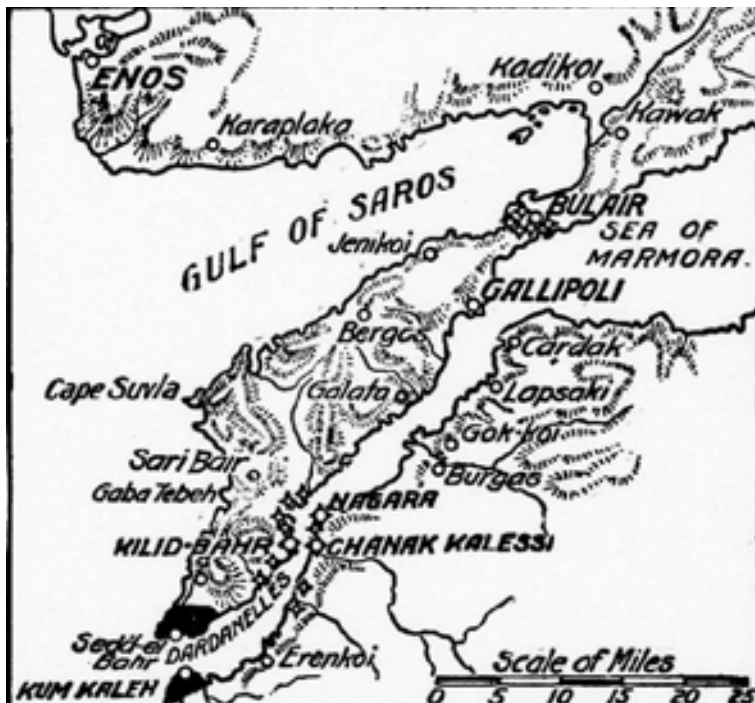
April 21

Repairs on the German auxiliary cruiser Kron Prinz Wilhelm, which has been in Hampton Road for two weeks undergoing repairs to make her seaworthy, have been completed and the ship's is now in a position to attempt to escape the enemy warships lying in wait off the Virginia Capes or give notice that he desires to intern within the next few days. It is believed that the time limit allowed by the government for repairs to the sea raider expires on Friday or Saturday.

A general German offensive movement is underway along the entire Prussian border. The German advance this time evidently is aimed at the Baltic provinces, which are rich in crops and other food supplies.

Despite torrential rains, the Russians appear to have renewed their attacks in the Carpathian passes. Austrian troops have fortified the entire frontier, with entrenchments made of concrete, behind which have been

continued on next page



On April 26, the ill-fated invasion of the Dardanelles began. Many neutral nations, like Italy, Greece and Bulgaria, opted to sit out the war until the outcome of this campaign was decided.

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WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

continued from previous page

placed cannon of large caliber.

On April 26, a general attack on the Dardanelles began. The disembarkation of an army of 80,000 men, under cover by the fleet, began on before sunrise at various points on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and despite of serious opposition from the enemy in strong entrenchments protected by barbed wire, the landing was completed successfully.

Official statement regarding the fighting going on all over the peninsula still are very much contradictory as to the successes gain. According to

the British war office the Allied troops have succeeded in establishing themselves across the end of the peninsula and that in spite of attacks by the Turks, allied troops are steadily advancing.

The London Times noted that Great Britain now, with the attack on the Dardanelles in progress, has seven campaigns on her hands, and that the defenses of the Dardanelles promised to be the most costly in men and material, especially, it declares, as blunders made in the spring have deprived the allies of all the advantages of surprise, and gave the Turks able time to

strengthen their defenses.

The Germans are pouring troops into Flanders to press the attack, which at the beginning has forced the allies back. The movement according to reports reaching Holland, has assumed even greater dimensions than those which preceded the battle that raged for more than two weeks in the same region last October, and which ended in the discomfort of Germans.

The Germans launched the sudden advance after stupefying and killing men in the first trenches with deadly gases. The enemy made use of a large number of appliances for the production of asphyxiating gas. The quantities produced indicates long and deliberate preparations for the employment of the devices contrary to the terms of the Hague convention.

The asphyxiating bombs used by the Germans in their attack were thrown at numerous points along the 3-mile front. The contents of these missiles was largely chloride, mix with other chemicals. The Germans threw these bombs when the wind was blowing with them in the direction of the French trenches. The fumes caused uncomfortable breathing and a smarting of the eyes at a distance of nearly 2 miles behind the trenches, and they were so powerful that the Germans had to wait themselves a considerable time before they could occupy the evacuated trenches. The bombs themselves are thrown by means of a hand sling such as boys use when throwing stones

French soldiers who survived the attack are suffering from inflamed bron-



The debut of the first poison gas. In this instance, chlorine came on April 22, 1915, at the start of the Second Battle of Ypres.

chial tubes and their eyes are swollen from the poisonous fumes. The men say that as soon as they breathed the noxious gases released by the Germans, they suffered acutely. Their eye stinging in their throats contracting. Some of the French soldiers became unconscious almost immediately. Others, scarcely conscious, acted on instinct and crawled out of the trenches and staggered away from them.

The connecting trenches were so choked with unconscious soldiers that many soldiers were compelled to climb over their fallen comrades and make their way towards the rear over the open ground. As soon as the Germans perceived that the French are leaving their trenches they opened up an intense rifle and machine gun fire along that portion of the front, killing thousands of retreating men.

Asphyxiating gas was also used by the Germans in their attack Monday night against the Belgian positions, but had little effect, because preventative measures have been taken by the Belgians, who had learned of the effects produced by the fumes from reports from the French and the British. The Germans, confident the gases would prove effective, advanced in compact masses but were greeted with a hail of bullets from the trenches. A furious bayonet charge was then launched by the Belgians and the German's retired. Losses are said to have been very heavy on both sides.

The read prior month's editions of WWI News Reports from the Front visit the Historical Society Section of Emmitsburg.net.



Early gas attacks only caused uncomfortable breathing and a smarting of the eyes, which was a far cry from the devastating effects of later chemical warfare elements like phosgene and mustard gas

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HISTORY / OBITUARIES

Rebecca "Becky" Riley Bollinger



Rebecca "Becky" Riley Bollinger, age 64, of Gettysburg, entered into God's eternal care after her courageous battle with uterine cancer. Born Jan. 2, 1951 in Gettysburg, she passed away Feb. 23. She was the daughter of the late Doctor Joseph Riley and Lorraine (McDermitt) Riley. She was a devoted wife to Garry Bollinger for over 30 years and a loving mother to her two sons, Nicholas and Andrew Bollinger.

Becky graduated from Gettysburg High School and was a proud member of the

class of '69. She graduated from York College of Pennsylvania in 1984 with a BS degree in Therapeutic Recreation and a minor in Elementary Education. In 1986 she received her teaching certification from York College. Becky also attended the National Aquatic Training Institute for extended aquatic training.

Rebecca served in the United States Navy for 12 years, from 1974 to 1986. She served five years active duty and seven years in the Reserves as she attended college. Upon graduation from college, Becky was employed by Lincoln Intermediate Unit as an ESL teacher in the Upper Adams School District. While raising her family, Becky continued her career as a substitute teacher in the local school districts and was a reading specialist in the Carroll County School District in Taneytown. Becky also worked several years at Saint Catherine's Rehab Center in Emmitsburg, specializing in aquatic therapy and adaptive aquatics. Aquatics was Becky's true passion. She was a Red Cross swimming in-

structor for almost 50 years at the local YWCA and other local swimming facilities. She taught swimming to non-swimmers of all ages.

Becky was an inspiration and an encourager to anyone who knew her. Those who knew Becky, knew they were touched by a ray of sunshine. She loved life. She loved her family and friends. But most of all, she loved her Savior, Jesus Christ. She loved to study the Bible with the women's group at the First Baptist Church in Gettysburg and her Mom's in Touch group. Becky enjoyed traveling and seeing new sights and meeting people from all walks of life. She loved gardening, camping, bird watching, reading, writing and practicing yoga. Every summer she looked forward to spending time at Fenwick Island, Del., with the Bollinger, Gilbert, and Riley clans for family bonding.

Rebecca is survived by her husband, Garry; sons, Nicholas and his fiancée Morgan Reilly, Andrew and friend Samantha Harders; two sisters, Connie Vossbein,

widow of Vincent Vossbein, and Amy Gilbert and her husband Ted; one brother, David Riley; a maternal aunt, Rita Gates; aunt, Ann McDermitt; father-in-law, Ivan Bollinger Sr.; three brothers-in-law, Steven Bollinger and his wife Linda, Dan Bollinger, and Ivan Bollinger Jr.; three sisters-in-law "plus one": Sondra Bollinger, Bonnie Huggins and her husband Edward, Susan Bollinger, and Joan Kootz.

Many thanks and gratitude are expressed by the family to the Lutheran Home Care and Hospice program, Pastor and Mrs. David Dunn, Pastor Michael Allwein, and Father John Bateman for guiding Becky through her illness. Thanks also to Dr. David Kamsler, The Oncology Wellspan Group, and to friends and family who were supportive to the fami-

ly during Becky's illness.

Entombment will be held at the Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery with full military honors.

Becky always said that she wanted to have meaning for her life. Because of her passion for swimming and children, a trust fund has been established to honor this remarkable woman. This fund will provide swimming lessons to underprivileged children between ages five to twelve for years to come. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to this fund. Checks can be made payable to the "ACCF, Becky Bollinger Aquatic Fund" and mailed to: Adams County Community Foundation (ACCF), P.O. Box 4565, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Anna Duncan



Anna Louise Duncan, 85, of Emmitsburg, Maryland died peacefully Monday, February 23, 2015 at Gettysburg Hospital in Gettysburg, PA. Born December 31, 1929 in Washington, D.C., she was the daughter of the late Frederick and Wilhelmina (Nuthall) Richardson. She was the wife of Robert F. Duncan, to whom she was married for almost 67 years.

Anna was a Pharmacy Technician, and was employed for many years at the former Chandler Drug Store in Landover Hills, MD, and at Whitesell Pharmacy in Frederick. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Emmitsburg, and was a member of St. Mary's Sodality in Landover Hills for many years. She enjoyed arts & crafts, cooking, making desserts, and spending time with her family.

Surviving in addition to her husband are daughter, Dana Cornett and hus-

band Danny of Atlanta, GA; son, Alan Duncan and wife Julia of Emmitsburg; daughter, Roberta Fifield of Jacksonville, FL; brothers, Frederick Richardson and wife Katherine of Wescosville, PA, and John Richardson of Greenbelt, MD; grandchildren, Danny, Jack, and Kelly Cornett, Sara Duncan and husband Michael Barrett, Bradford Meyers, and Logan Fifield; as well as many nieces and nephews. Anna is also remembered by special long-time friends, Barbara and Harold Knuckles. She was predeceased by sister, Mary Daniels, and grandson,

Christopher Duncan.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 28 at St. Anthony Shrine Parish, 16150 St. Anthony Rd., Emmitsburg, MD with the Rev. Charles F. Krieg, C.M. as celebrant. Interment will follow at New St. Joseph Cemetery. The family will receive friends 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. on Friday at Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home, 210 W. Main St, Emmitsburg, MD with the Rosary shared at 7:30. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

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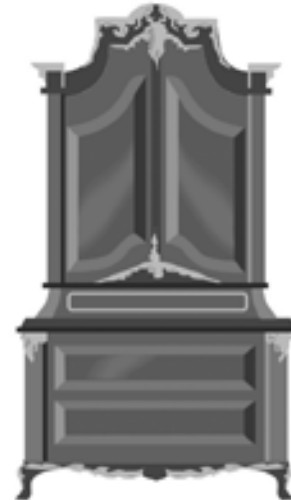
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COMMUNITY NOTES

Seton students take on science fair

Sarah Harrington
MSM Class of 2014

“Does Interest Affect Memory?”
“Does Age Affect Your Ability to Hear Higher Frequencies?”
“Which will Develop Mold Faster, a Sandwich from Burger King, McDonald’s, or a Homemade Sandwich?”

These are just a few of the questions students at Mother Seton School set out to solve for the school’s annual Science Fair.

Each year, students in grades three through eight get the chance to try their hand at being scientists by putting together their own experiments. Students received their Science Fair letter, describing the requirements and a participation and topic approval paper, in early January. This gave the students two months to create the best projects they could. Once students had proved or disproved their hypotheses at home, it was time to bring their projects in to be displayed and judged. On the morning of March 9, they arrived at Mother Seton School with their tri-fold boards and headed to the gym, ready to show off their hard work.

Judging day was Wednesday, March 11 and the judges were not disappointed! Students spent the day explaining their findings and interpretations of their projects. After

a long day and many projects, the judges came together that afternoon to decide which place ribbons students would receive.

Students anxiously returned to school Wednesday evening at 7pm to find out how they did. The gym filled with chatter as students discussed their projects with each other and their parents. Excitement and interest filled the gym. Second grader Brady Koenig happily explained his first place project with fellow students and parents. Koenig was the only second grader to participate in the fair. When asked what made him want to do it he answered, “I just wanted to do it. I’m thinking of doing it next year too. I’m thinking a volcano!”

Koenig was not the only student to enter the fair when it wasn’t required for them. Each year sixth and seventh graders are required to participate in the fair. For grades two through four, participation is optional. This year, there were nine students from those grades that decided to give the fair a try this year. For eighth grade, they received a little extra credit initiative to participate from science teacher Danielle Kuykendall.

This year was a little different for fifth graders. In past years, students in fifth grade prepared projects and presented them for a grade in front of their class. This year, their projects were submitted into the fair to

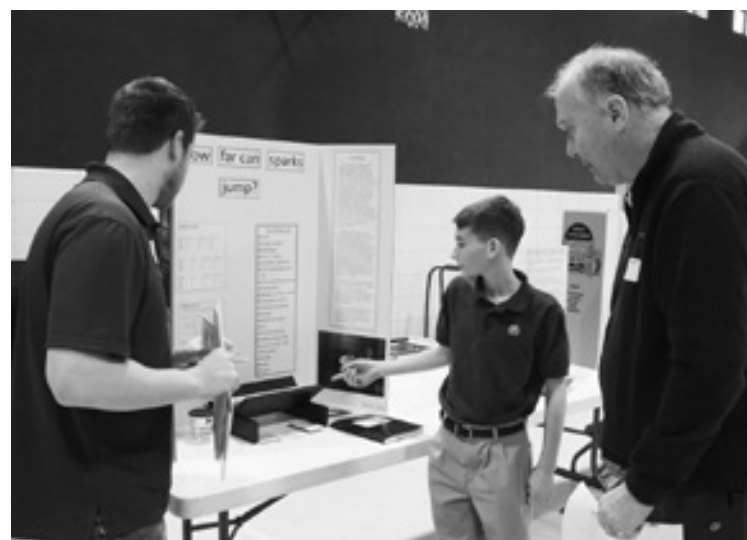
be judged. Fifth grader Keola Evans talked about her experiment, getting electricity through food and liquids, and what she enjoyed most about the experience: “I liked doing the experimenting part of the project.” This seemed to be true for many of the fifth graders; they enjoyed getting to do the experiments and finding if their predictions were right or wrong.

There was a great amount of creativity shown this year. The projects ranged from electricity to mold. Fifth grader Megan Adams tested who had more bacteria in their mouths, humans or dogs. Adams was able to prove that a dog’s mouth did in fact contain more bacteria than a human’s, earning her a first place ribbon. An eighth grader took on the topic of mold, seeing which type of sandwich grew mold first, ones from a fast food restaurant or homemade ones. It turns out a homemade sandwich grows mold faster. That experiment had Science Fair goers asking, “Really?”

The Science Fair has been giving Mother Seton students the chance to be scientists for years now, and each year the students prove to be up to the challenge. Some students are already preparing their ideas for their projects next year. The students’ hard work showed through again this year, making the Science Fair a success once again.



Pictured are the winners of this year’s science fair.



7th grader Brede Laug explains his research on how far electrical sparks can jump and what influences them to judges Kenneth Getzandanner (L) and Gordon Love (R).



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Welcoming the Furnace Bar and Grill

Sarah Muir
MSM Class of 2018

A brand new restaurant is now open for business in Thurmont! The Furnace Bar and Grill is now happily situated right off of Route 15 on Catoctin Furnace Road. It is ready to serve the citizens of Thurmont and the surrounding areas with great food, a relaxing warm atmosphere, and a good time. It is sure to provide a great experience without burning a hole in your wallet.

The establishment is open, bright, and tastefully decorated with historical artwork created by local artists. Some of the pieces feature the Catoctin Furnace, a historical local landmark. The remaining stone structure is a remnant of Thurmont's historical past that lies perhaps five minutes from the restaurant that has taken its name. The Catoctin Furnace was in operation for one hundred and twenty seven years; after its construction started in 1774, it was finished and began manufacturing in 1776. The Furnace was a local economic hub that processed iron and iron ore; it was a pillar of the community and the local economy, and, among other things, it was attributed in providing the Rebel Army with ammunition during the Revolutionary War. It closed in 1903, but it still stands proudly nearby its modern namesake.

As for the building's own history, it was once called Dale's Place Bar and Grill. Having been completely renovated by its new owner Ron Chen, it bears little to no resemblance to the old establishment. The once low ceilings have been elevated and hardwood floors have been added along with stone and brick accents. The space is warm and welcoming. These dramatic changes along with a fresh coat of paint and a new contemporary classic bar that has been built, have made the establishment almost unrecognizable from the previous restaurant.

Manager Greg Martinez is a local of Frederick and was a chef at Liberty Road Seafood. He takes after with his inspiration and passion for what he does. His father was a chef at a pizza restaurant, and Martinez continues on his father's work and recipes through the hand-tossed pizzas at the Furnace.

The sense of family runs deep throughout the staff and hard work is put into making sure the ingredients are fresh. The restaurant serves classic American pub food at reasonable prices. The ingredients are all fresh and the specials include hand-tossed pizzas (complete with fresh dough made daily, homemade sauce and a wide range of toppings), hot dogs (such as the cheese and pickled jalapeño stuffed, bacon wrapped Furnace Dog), flat-

bread, salads, and sandwiches (everything from po' boys to the classic cheeseburger).

Martinez says that along with its extensive kids menu, The Furnace Bar and Grill is the kind of "place where you can bring your kids and have a good time." The portions are big and the prices are affordable, which makes it the perfect place for college students who want a pleasant dining experience without turning out their pockets.

For those who enjoy watching sports, The Furnace Bar and Grill provides a relaxing and friendly environment to enjoy the entertainment on one or several of the flat screen televisions that are dispersed throughout the restaurant. If you are looking for a laid-back, fun night out with friends, they have karaoke nights and will soon be booking bands for entertainment. If you are looking to unwind after a long day at work, stop on by and relax during happy hour, which starts at 3 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m.

So come on in! The friendly and efficient staff, paired with the delicious food and welcoming, relaxing atmosphere might just make you a regular. Whatever you are doing, whether it is having a nice family meal, a cheering on your team at sports night, enjoying a fun night out with friends, or just coming for a great meal and the friendly service, you will not




The Furnace Bar and Grill offers a casual and comfortable dining environment.

leave disappointed. The Furnace Bar and Grille's hours are 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. from Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. To find reviews, photos and their menu or to


events such as bands, DJs and karaoke nights, check out their

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

What's new at the library

Linda Frydl
Frederick County Public Libraries

STEM Curiosity Academy: Children entering Kindergarten in fall 2015 are invited to apply for the library's very own STEM Curiosity Academy! These 10-day programs, designed by Professor Marisel Torres-Crespo, director of the Onica Prall Development Laboratory School at Hood College, will engage children in science-themed activities such as racing balloon rockets, learning about circuits, building structures, making flubber, and much more. Applications will be accepted until each session is full, or until 5 days before the academy is set to begin. Applying does not guarantee acceptance to participate in the program. Children must be able to attend all 10 sessions, and be entering Kinder-

garten in fall 2015, to participate. Apply online through the FCPL.org website. The Academy will be held at the Thurmont Regional Library April 20-24 and April 27-May 1, 1 - 3 pm.

Robot Roundup: In honor of National Robotics Week, April 4-12, join us to create your own unique robot from recycled materials. Ages 3-12 with an adult. Saturday, April 4, 11:00am-12:00pm. Register online at fcpl.org, or call 301-600-6331.

Rice Paper Decoupage – Teen Program: Decoupage is the art of decorating an object by gluing colored paper cutouts onto it. We'll be using rice paper to decoupage a vase for spring! Tuesday, April 14, 4-5pm. Register online at fcpl.org, or call 301-600-6331.

Little House Adventures: Join us for an afternoon adventure

with Laura and Almanzo from The Little House books. Enjoy learning about pioneer life and participate in hands-on activities related to these classic stories. For ages 3 - 5. Saturday, April 18, 11-11:30 am. Register online at fcpl.org, or call 301-600-6331.

Frederick History with American Girl Dolls: Bring your favorite doll and discover the role women played in history. We'll meet one of the dolls from Rose Hill's collection, learn about a major historical event and its impact on women and participate in a craft time. Ages 6-11. Tuesday, April 21, 4-4:30 pm. Register online at fcpl.org, or call 301-600-6331.

NEW! Staff Picks Alcove: Take time to visit our cozy "Staff Picks" alcove at the Branch. There you'll find books that have been loved and reviewed by book-loving li-

brary staff members. Library Associate Cynthia Wintermyer has had a highly successful staff picks area at the Thurmont Regional Library for several years, and recently introduced this service for the patrons at the Emmitsburg Branch. So when you're looking for something new and different, a visit the Staff Picks Alcove is a must.

Community Toy Swap: Are you ready for spring-cleaning? Drop in during our community toy swap and freshen up your toys without spending a dime. Bring a new or gently used toy and swap it for another. Any leftover toy donations will be donated to Goodwill. Advance drop-offs are being accepted now! Guidelines: Children must be accompanied by an adult. Games and puzzles must include all pieces. Anything cloth

(i.e. stuffed animals, etc) must be laundered before bringing in. Thurmont Regional Library, Sunday, April 19, 1 - 4 pm.

Crafting with Friends – Adult Crafting Series: Join friends and neighbors on Thursday evenings in April at the Thurmont Regional Library to work on crafts you enjoy with other crafty people. This free series is being arranged as a community service through the Friends of the Thurmont Regional Library. Meet-ups are 6 - 7:30 pm. No need to sign up - just drop in to the session of your choice and bring your own project and supplies. Work on your projects, share and trade ideas and supplies with other crafters and plan for future crafting events.

Schedule through April:

Fiber Arts (Knit, Crochet, Needle Felt) - April 2
Scrapbooking, Card making and Stamping - April 9
Jewelry and Bead Making - April 16
Quilting - April 23.

Annual School board conference

Katie Groth
Frederick County School Board

This past weekend, five members of the Board of Education of Frederick County and Superintendent Theresa Alban attended the national conference of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) which was held in Nashville, TN. This is an annual event during which school board members from all over the United States meet to receive professional development training, to network with colleagues from all 50 states and to enjoy time together as local board to share new information and develop innovative strategies for their work in their home communities.

Nashville turned out to be an excellent venue for the national meetings. It has a world class conven-

tion center and plenty of activities to enjoy. The center is built around and is an integral part of the Country Music Hall of Fame. The city itself is an interesting combination of historically significant architecture alongside a downtown that is developing modern facilities and great entertainment venues. We didn't get much of a chance to enjoy those as we spent most of our time in meetings, but the local restaurants were excellent.

There were keynote speeches by such luminaries as Montel Williams, Jane Pauley and David Pogue. Other featured speakers were Sean McComb, National Teacher of the Year (from Howard County, MD); Adora Svitak a student at University of California at Berkeley; and David Zach, a futurist from the University of Hous-

ton. There were site visits to STEM schools in Nashville; US Army Leadership center at Fort Campbell, KY; The Hermitage where the Rachel Challenge was being held; and a tour of the Nissan plant to showcase STEM innovation in action.

Conference attendees enjoyed musical entertainment provided by high school music groups from across the nation: The Revolution Strings from Abilene, TX; The Central High School Jazz Band, from Baton Rouge, LA; and The Siegel High School Chamber Orchestra from Murfreesboro, TN. These young people showcased their incredible talents and energies and received standing ovations from the thousands of conference attendees.

The highlight of the conference, however, and the biggest reason we all came to the conference was the

exciting array of workshops and short courses available to us to pique our interests and attract our participation. Each of us attended a variety of workshop sessions and then in the evenings we gathered for dinner and discussed the day's topics and the new ideas we wanted to bring to the attention of one another. As a board, we came together around several important topics, such as new technology, new research on testing and assessment, new ideas for good boardsmanship, ways to motivate students, and new ideas for board and superintendent relationship building. (This last one was a presentation from the Board of Education of Red Clay, DE, and their superintendent.)

The five of us from Frederick County had spirited conversations about the current testing contro-

versies as well as how to handle our budget challenges. These conversations were rich and challenging, and a wealth of new ideas was gathered from many school boards from across the US. We have come back to Frederick energized by our experience and believe we are a better board now that we have shared those days together, working on important challenges even as we learned about what other school boards do to face similar challenges. We have come away knowing that what we face here is not unlike what other boards face, even though the places and people are different. This was an empowering experience for all of us. What we learned will surely inform our thinking and will make a difference for our school system and our 41,000 students in Frederick County.

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Position papers from candidates for the Fairfield School Board

Richard Mathews

I am an incumbent of the Fairfield Area School Board; albeit a short term incumbent, having taken office in October 2014. I am seeking a full term as School Board Director.

As a School Board Director, I must balance my responsibility to provide educational programs with my responsibility to be an effective steward of your tax dollars. The primary responsibility of the board is to adopt policies by which the school is administered.

The school superintendent and staff are responsible and accountable for the delivery of the educational programs and conduct of school operations. I have a responsibility for ensuring a through and efficient system of education. Accordingly, I must ask the hard questions and insist on accountability.

I pledge to work for an increased quality of education for all of our students and an improved learning environment. I also pledge to oppose any attempt to raise your taxes. These are not opposing goals. All organizations can benefit from periodic evaluation of their systems. Accordingly, I support a thorough evaluation of the school system to identify any and all sources of inefficiency, waste and abuse. Identification and elimination of inefficiency, waste and abuse should be the first step toward identifying additional dollars for education.

The spending per pupil for school year 2013-2014 was \$14,408. The spending per pupil for school year 2014-2015 is anticipated to be \$15,959. As a reminder this school year is the first year in at least 10 years that your school taxes were not increased.

I worked nearly 34 years serving American agriculture through various USDA positions and programs. I am currently Executive Director of a 501(c)(5) Corporation. I have over 35 years experience in professional leadership positions and nearly 30 years of Board experience.

I am experienced, managing programs; leading paid staff and volunteers; creating budgets and plans; providing government oversight of Boards, advising Boards, and serving on Boards; meeting with and speaking before interest groups, including Congressional members and staff; writing and interpreting regulations and statutes; developing and implementing review and evaluation programs; conducting reviews and evaluations; coordinating and leading meetings; and performing training

My youngest of four graduated from public school in 2002. I held positions of PTA Vice-President and Book Sale Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman School Citizens Advisory Committee, Civic Association School Committee Chairman, and County School Board Nominating Convention Delegate. As a member of Toastmasters International, I provided leadership training to students. I

coached girl's softball with the Boys and Girls Club and worked with a team of students who won two league chess championships.

I humbly request your vote for Fairfield Area School Director on May 19, 2015.

Melissa Cavey

I would like to announce my candidacy for the office of School Board Director (2-year term), for the Fairfield Area School District, in the upcoming municipal election in November.

As a resident of Carroll Valley Borough for the past 17 years and a preschool teacher for over 10 years, I have been fortunate enough to work with children and their families in our community throughout much of my residency here. From 2003-2011, I directed a summer camp for children ages 6-13 at a local church in the area. My experience has given me the opportunity to connect with families in Fairfield and understand their values, their concerns and their needs.

This is my fourth time running for the School Board Director position. A good friend has asked me to run to fill the 2-year term for school director. I previously served on the Fairfield Area School Board from 2001 until 2013. During that time, I saw a lot of changes, some good, some not so good. Change can be good, as long as it is in the best interest of our children and those we serve. I was a member of the School Board when Mr. Bill Chain was hired. When I handed the baton to someone else, I felt that the District of Fairfield was in good hands with Mr. Chain at the wheel. Unfortunately, Mr. Chain resigned his Superintendent position at Fairfield.

I have two grandchildren, one that attends school in Fairfield and one that will start in the fall. Both of my daughters also attended Fairfield schools. I have always enjoyed the Fairfield Area School District's teachers and staff and their commitment to our children. It has always been exciting to see the things that they are doing with kids to enhance their learning experiences.

It is important for the community to trust in the School Board and to know they are being heard. Being transparent will help with that. We live in a remarkable community, filled with talented and educated people who share a deep appreciation for our School District and its children. We have what it takes to make this a thriving, economically viable, sustainable environment for our families, students, and teachers.

I thank you for your support.

Becky Bequette

Two months into the local elections, and I'm still learning something daily. Petitions have been circulated, notarized and turned in. The order of names on the ballot will have been decided mid-March. The next important date is April 20th. This is the last day to register or change parties before the May 19th municipal primaries. Voters must be in either the Republican or Democratic party to vote in the primaries.

March has turned out to be a great month. Spring sports at Fairfield High School and Middle School started practices in the first week of the month. My children are getting a lot of practice in getting along since they are both throwers on the track and field team. Thank you to the coaches, student managers, and parent volunteers for all the hard work they put into providing these wonderful extracurricular activities for our students.

I had the chance in March to chaperone a field trip to the annual 10th Grade Career Fair on the campus of Gettysburg College. The Career Fair hosted sophomores from ten schools over the course of the day. Each student selected three career areas they wanted to hear about. It went well, and we managed to return to Fairfield with all of our 10th graders and no extras. What amazed me was the number of presenters in different careers, occupations and career fields that the organizers were able to line up. There were over 50 career fields represented. They had everything from accountant to welder. There were pharmacists, scientists from several fields, nurses, construction, and ministers, just to name a handful.

The other thing that struck me was that this variety of careers included many different pathways that students could follow after their high school graduation. Some careers took many years of college and post-graduate work, such as doctor or veterinarian. Some careers took a four-year traditional degree, such as accounting. There were careers where a two-year degree would suffice. Then there were careers where apprenticeships were available such as construction, iron working and HVAC. When it comes to life after high school, there is no one size fits all path.

Mike Rowe, from the television series Dirty Jobs, is often quoted as saying "We are lending money we don't have to kids who can't pay it back to train them for jobs that no longer exist. That's nuts." He was speaking about the drive to

have each and every student attend a four-year college. I come from a family where my grandparents had high school diplomas. My parents and in-laws all attained Bachelor degrees. My sister and I both earned Master degrees. So I value a higher education. I also understand that not everyone wants to follow that path.

I believe it is important to keep options open for our students. The high school provides a well thought out path for those whose goal it is to attend a four-year university, along with seminars on college planning and financing. There are also course clusters designed for students wanting to pursue a career in General Agriculture or Accounting Technology. It is wonderful that our students can also take advantage of the Adams County Tech Program.

It is an important function of the school board to provide opportunities so that the school can match classes to the individual student, rather than expecting each student to fit in the same box. Our students all have different talents, skills, and aspirations. We, as a community, need to be furnishing the educational means for our students to succeed in whatever path they choose.

Ian Strahler

As our late winter snow finishes melting away and the early spring flowers continue their push to bathe in the warm spring sunshine, we start to see a similar transition at our schools. Our elementary students emerge from their long stretch of winter indoor recess, eager to race around the playground and swing through the air with their coats unzipped and hair blowing in the wind. Our student athletes exit the gymnasium from their indoor practices, able to finally lace up their spikes and get back to their fields. Just the other day I saw a coach out on the track with a rototiller prepping the sand for the long jumps. This time of year brings the feeling of rebirth.

A fresh start, a new adventure for some of our students, and what may seem like the end of long journey for our seniors at Fairfield Area High School. However, it is really only the end of the first chapter for graduating students. They are getting ready to enter a new, exciting, and definitely unknown part of their life. I urge you to take some time this spring and go out and support your local students. Spend an evening or afternoon at the the-

ater, Annie premiered this weekend in Fairfield and my girls absolutely loved it. Catch a baseball or softball game, cheer on our students at a track and field meet, and don't forget the junior high teams, they also need our support. If you see one of our seniors, shake their hand, wish them luck, and give them a hug or pat on the back. Encourage them, build them up, give them the confidence they need to enter into their future with their heads held high.

If you have been following the Fairfield Area School district, and its board in the news, one of the terms you have seen and heard tossed around quite frequently is transparency. The public has voiced their concerns with the current board and their lack of transparency and communication methods. School directors have the ability to change the course and direction for an entire population of students. They have the ability to right the ship, or run it a ground. To keep things running smoothly, they have to be transparent. They have to communicate with each other, and with the community; however, the same goes both ways.

If community members have concerns, they have to take them to the school. Talk to your children's teachers, to the administration, and to the school board. If you are concerned about transportation, school lunches, the school calendar, anything at all, then talk to someone. Online forums, like Facebook, are great ways to inform and educate others, to spread information and get feedback quickly. Social media is an incredible tool and I highly recommend using it. What I also encourage you to do is attend the school board meetings, bring your issues and questions to the attention of the administration and to the people that you, the public, elected as your representatives. Hopefully I will be one of those elected representatives, and if so, I absolutely promise to listen and communicate openly. That is the only way anything can be resolved, it is the only way progress can be made.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions about why I am running for school director, ianforfasd@gmail.com. Remember, April 20th is the last day to register, or change your party affiliation. You have to be a registered Republican or Democrat to vote in the primary election on May 19th.

Preschool Registration Begins

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22, so we asked our writers to reflect on the environment. We hope that after reading their articles, you will be inspired to make a difference this Earth Day, and every day, by showing your appreciation and care for the world around us. We can all do our part simply by picking up litter or planting a tree. What will you do this Earth Day?

Freshman Year Through the fence

Sarah Muir
MSM Class of 2018

Once there was a little boy who lived in a happy suburban community. The people of this community were polite and friendly. They lived in modest houses that all looked the same, except for small differences between having brick and stone detailing. Their lawns were perfectly groomed with shrubs, trees, and flowers. It was a cheerful place; there were always children playing on the playground or people walking their dogs or simply saying, "Good morning!" to each other in passing.

The little boy's name was Thomas; he had lived in this happy little community for the entire ten years of his life. He liked the houses and the lawns, the playground and the nice people with their friendly dogs, but something never sat right with him. The houses were too much alike and the lawns were a little too manicured. It almost seemed to the boy that his surroundings were made of plastic.

There was one thing that he did

love dearly, and that was the small woodland that was just over the fence in his backyard. He liked to watch what he considered to be the untamed wilderness from the window in his room. He would imagine that tropical birds and exotic animals that lay beyond the fence, the kind he had only seen in books. Sometimes, when the breeze would blow through the treetops, he would envision that the trees themselves were dancing. He wondered who might live within the woods; he had read stories of candy houses and honest woodsmen, of dwarves, faeries, and gift-giving witches. Part of him knew that what lay beyond the fence was just trees, but it was exciting to think that there was something that was not perfectly trimmed and sheared.

It was the type of summer where the air is so heavy with humidity you can scarcely breathe; everyone searched for some sort of respite from the stifling heat. One morning, on the hottest and most humid day in summer, Thomas was outside trying to play in the roasting air. He was in his back-

yard leaning against the back fence, trying to stave off the boredom threatening to overtake him and attempting to stay in what little shade entered his yard from the forest.

He soon noticed that one of the slats in the fence was loose and, if shaken back and forth, it created a hole just big enough that he could pass safely to the other side. He was overwhelmed by excitement at this seemingly clandestine opportunity and was far too curious to stop himself from squeezing through the narrow opening. He landed, not so surreptitiously, in the mixture of leaves and earth on the other side with the trees swaying above him. A wave of unbridled delight rose in his chest as he gazed at the sprawling wilderness that lay before him; he took a deep breath and entered the forest, ready for whatever adventures awaited on the inside.

He slowly made his way through the woods, savoring the untamed wildness around him. He walked just until his house was no longer visible through the trees. He paused and looked up at what sky was visible through the summer leaves. It was so dizzying how clean the air was and how tall the trees were. Thomas found himself sprawled on the ground, soaking

up the sunlight that had found its way through the canopy. In the shade of the trees, the temperature was cool; the surrounding trees seemed to have filtered the humid air and by some miracle known only to nature, made it breathable again. The forest was quickly becoming more and more like a peaceful oasis from the suburban desert. Taking a deep breath, he stood and continued picking his way through the underbrush.

As he walked, he marveled at how different it was on the other side of the fence, different from the manicured shrubs and loud playgrounds and heat-radiating blacktops. He wondered exactly how far the wood spread and imagined that it went on for miles and miles, maybe even stretching so far as to reach the ocean. He listened to the birds in the trees as he ambled along, creating a temporary path in the undergrowth. As he passed the trees, he would lay his hand on their cool, moist, mossy surfaces and pondered just how long they had been there and what they had seen; he wondered how many housed dryads, nymphs, or faeries, and if at this very moment they were conversing about this strange boy from the other side of the fence.

He continued on, stumbling

every now and then. He knew that even though he had been walking for the better part of two hours, he had not gone very far, but that fact did not bother him because he had no destination in mind. He could walk in this place for hours more; he loved it so much and he had just had that thought when he stumbled and fell in what he first assumed to be a clearing. As he stood up, he thought that he had gone in a circle because the view that met his eyes was just like the one he saw before he went through the fence. Houses, all in neat rows with little perfect shrubs and nicely manicured trees. It took Thomas a while to realize that this was another suburban community that bordered his. The scene before him was a shock to the senses, the "perfect" orderly rows, muffled noise, and concrete heat assaulted him after the peace of the forest. It was like being thrust from lush seaside to a harsh desert in the span of a second. Thomas turned his back on the suburban desert and walked back into the beautiful safety of the forest.

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

Sophomore Year

Return to nature

Leeanne Leary
MSM Class of 2017

When asked to consider the environment, my friend, the environmental science major, would start talking about going green or invite me to come to the next Environmental Club meeting. Don't get me wrong, I'm lucky to have her in my life to yell at me for littering or tell me strange details about the Chesapeake Bay when I just want to go swimming, but my mind doesn't go in that direction. Instead, I reflect on the return to nature that is ever-present in romantic literature.

During the Romantic period (1785-1832), there was a distinct revolution of what it meant to be human in the works as people experienced and rejected the shift to-

wards industrialism. The happenings of the time period resulted in a focus on nature in most romantic literature, especially poetry. Poets focused on what it meant to be human through a focus on all that is natural and all that was simultaneously slipping away from them as they watched London begin to be characterized by modern industrialism. People were desperately clinging to nature and poets focused on it. They realized even as it was happening that their environment was changing. They knew that they were losing the world as they knew it.

Can we say the same?

With Earth Day approaching and recycling bins going into all the dorms around campus, there's slightly more awareness and conversation than usual, but it can't be

enough.

Every day we drive out of small town Emmitsburg and see the way industrialism changed the world that used to exist. No longer is it abnormal to see a shopping center erected where a farm used to sit, or see smoke billowing into the sky on a clear day. But do we write about it the way Romantics did? Do we sing about it or talk about it? I don't think so, and it's not because we don't care; it's because as a society we aren't consciously thinking about it as we live our daily lives. We aren't surprised at the way cities look or upset when we see a plastic cup on the side of the road. We don't muse over seas of daffodils as William Wordsworth does in the famous poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," and we don't hate the way dangerous jobs in crowded cities harm lives the way William Blake does in "The Chimney Sweeper."

Maybe some of us do. May-

be some of us do not walk past a pond without stopping to reflect on the air of peace around it. Maybe some of us pick up trash as we walk along a sidewalk. But there has to be more. The Romantic poets got it right—in order to evoke change or maintain the environment we have, we have to start to care more. We have to start to feel.

Wordsworth says it best when he says, "All good poetry [is] the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling." Pair this with the idea that these poets focused on nature more frequently than most issues. They cared about losing their environment. They wanted to return to a sincere appreciation of all that is natural, and that's what we need—more people to care and feel something about the environment.

I don't think that we're in the same state that London was in the early 19th century; in fact, I think we're in very different places. How-

ever, at the core, we're not that different.

I don't think we have it all wrong, I just think we can take it a little further.

There are thousands of people and groups working to protect our environment, but as a whole there isn't enough talk about it, not enough care. We need more awareness, more conscious thought about the environment.

Earth Day is coming up and on April 22, we'll celebrate the 45th anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement. Born as a result of the overwhelming presence of industry and air pollution, Earth Day serves each year as a reminder that we have started to care. We, as a society, have made a move in the right direction. No longer is pollution accepted as a sign of prosperity or industrialism viewed as the answer to all of our problems.

That is incredible to consider. What's even more incredible is all of the clubs meeting on college campuses and the organizations devoted solely to sustainability. It is all in the works; now we just have to take the final step and make conversation about the environment widely circulated on a daily basis. We do this by getting people to care, to talk about it, to report on it on the evening news, or to write poetry about it, and we do this by starting to feel something about it.

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

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IN HONOR OF EARTH DAY

Junior Year Where's Australia?

Lydia Olsen
MSM Class of 2016

When I was little I didn't understand much about the world. The layout, size, and logistics didn't mean much to me and weren't high on my priority list of things to know at the time. I wasn't even exactly sure what a planet was. I knew I lived on one and that it was called Earth but that basically summed up my knowledge of anything greater than Maryland and greater than the United States up until first grade.

I remember distinctly sitting in my first grade classroom at my little desk in a chair that had tennis balls on its legs to keep it from scratching the new floor. Surely I was wearing a dress, the only thing fitting for someone who never gave up on the belief that she could be a princess, and I'm sure my long, dirty-blonde hair was braided

down my back in the type of perfection only my mother could create. Anna sat to my right with her hands placed perfectly on her desk and Chris sat to my left searching through the mess of papers in his desk to find the worksheet we were working on.

My teacher walked to the front of the room and pulled down the screen then walked to the middle of the room and turned on the overhead projector. She placed the copy of the worksheet we were working on onto the machine and got out her colored markers. The worksheet we were going over had all the planets on it with facts about each of them. We went over them all together in sequence, learning about their position to the sun and their characteristics. We each learned the phrase "My Very Eager Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas" as a way to remember the order of the planets based off of

the first letter in their name. We all marveled about Jupiter's size, went crazy drawing Saturn's rings, and empathized for Pluto being the smallest (at this time...) planet. Being the knowledge-hungry six-year-old I was, I soaked it all up, wanting to know and wanting to understand. I could barely comprehend a world so much larger than me but I tried to imagine it as best as I could. Yet, I couldn't exactly grasp all that my teacher was telling my class. It seemed like there were some things that just weren't matching up...

Now, I must admit that I had some strange interests as a child and at this time my main fascination was over platypuses. I thought they were the coolest things that have ever existed because they are mammals but they lay eggs and because they are so tiny. I knew that there were no platypuses in any bodies of water near me and I had been told that they only lived in Australia. The concept of Australia didn't really mean anything to me but I accepted it with the sadness that meant I wouldn't be

able to see any platypuses swimming in the bay beside my house, so this nonsense of planets was confusing me.

With scrunched eyebrows and a perplex mind I raised my hand to ask my teacher a question. She called my name and in a hesitant voice I asked, "Well, what planet is Australia on?" My teacher looked at me surprised by my question and answered, "Well Earth, of course." The perplexity must have still been written on my face because she went to the board and pulled down a map of the continents and said, "All of these continents and countries are on the Earth".

At six years old, my mind was blown. All of them? On one planet? How was that even possible?! You see, up until that point I thought that whenever someone went to another country, they were going to another planet and as the naive child that I was, I thought only the United States existed on the earth. Boy was I wrong!

I remember this moment so distinctly because it was a specific time when my world grew in an instant.

Before I had been convinced that it was so condensed and so nearby, I had no idea that our world encompassed all of the beautiful countries, nations, and people outside of the United States. In that moment, I was more amazed by our world than I had ever been in the previous six years of my little life.

As I continue to grow up, the earth we call our home planet constantly amazes me. There is so much beauty to be found and it can be seen just outside your window or literally around the world. We are so lucky to live on such an astonishing planet that makes life possible for human kind, animal kind (especially platypuses), and the vast array of plants. As we celebrate Earth Day, and everyday, let us be grateful for the planet we live on and all that it offers us. My hope for you is that you all have a sense of such amazement with our planet that it is as if you first discovered just how big our world truly is.

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

Senior Year Nature that nurtures

Kyle Ott
MSM Class of 2015

In honor of Earth Day and a renewed focus on the environment, we here at the *Emmitsburg News-Journal* have decided to place a renewed and creative focus on the vibrant world around us. In that regard, I have decided to take some time and journal about my personal experience with and appreciation of nature. It is my fondest hope that through these stories, you may come to an appreciation for the world around us in the same way.

Breeze Stars

Maybe I am a little weird, but there is something that makes me ludicrously happy about heavy winds. When my brother and I were little, we would run out in clothing that was six sizes too big for us and trapeze through our muddy backyard giggling like fiends. Or perhaps it was the time that we decided to take our Razor scooters on a pleasure cruise across our asphalt driveway. Overhead, Hurricane Isabella dumped rain and howled above us, but our joy made us oblivious to the tempest above.

Even now in college, my enthusiasm for the wind has gone almost completely undaunted. After a few days of being sick and forced to remain in the 20ft by 20ft confines of my single, I finally felt well enough to wrap myself in fleece and flannel and make a trip to the Mount Café with my friends. Despite the short distance between Terrace and the land of warm food and faux leather booths, I came prepared for the

worst that sickness and cold could throw at me. A bundle of tissues was stuffed into my left coat pocket, a massive wool hat with ear flaps was strapped securely around my noggin, and I had chosen my most stalwart companions for the journey. The fellowship of the Café was prepared. Had I known what we would have encountered, I would have avoided all the preparations. As we opened the door to the outside world, a cool crisp breeze touched our faces, filling our nostrils with the clean scent of rime. The wind had brushed aside the clouds ahead and revealed a kaleidoscopic field of stars. If you've never enjoyed a sliver sky at night I highly suggest that you walk out in the middle of the night, or immediately after a windstorm, and just marvel at what you see. Finally, after days of being trapped inside with nothing but an electric fan, the feel of the wind on what little bits of exposed skin woke me up more than any cup of coffee ever could.

My love affair with the wind continues even now, in the dead of the cold when it cuts through layer after layer of insulating clothing. Perhaps it is the simple reminder of times shared with good friends on the way to get food, or of times spent with my brother. Or maybe, it is the signal of stars and amazing calm.

One Long Thin Line

Once, when I was in high school, someone told me that friends are the family that we choose for ourselves. At the time it was something that I paid as much attention to as my weekly horoscope.

However, as time stretched on, the idea of choosing a family for myself has grown in my thoughts as surely as the most stubborn of moss.

The last time that I was truly aware of my decisions and how they impacted the life I made was due almost entirely to nature. My friends and I were returning from a late dinner after an evening spent inside playing board games. As we finished our meals, snow began to fall, coating the trees and the roads of our school like frosting on a gingerbread house. Outside, the lampposts emitted a welcoming golden shimmer through the endless stream of crystal flakes. Around the table we joked about how our friend, John, a good-natured bear of a guy, had face planted in a snowbank the year before. We all laughed as we imagined John making a sound that was something in between the forlorn cry of a walrus and the roar of a lion as his body made a solid "thunk" sound against the powder. I jokingly remarked that this year I would do it with him. At first he was hesitant, but as we left Patriot Hall and returned to our rooms, the "thunk" of my body colliding with the nearest pile of snow seemed to reassure him. Within five minutes, all of us were plunging into the snow in some way shape or form, or at the very least, writing messages in the ice.

Finally, as we neared the front entrance of Terrace, I saw it. The most perfect patch of untouched pure white that I had ever seen. "Guys!" I called out. "We've got to do something with this, some kind of giant snow angel or something." The group came over and inspected the earth, as hesitant to take one family size drop into the snow as John had been to repeat his graceful plunge. Finally, how-

ever, we settled on linking hands and, on the count of three, plunging into the snow and leaving one giant imprint of figures, linked to one another hand in hand.

The rest of that week, no matter how far it was out of my way, I made a point to pass by to see if the massive snow indent we had made still remained. In addition to seeing if the small mark that we

had made on the world around us was still there, there was a part of me that wanted and needed to be reminded of one night where the snowfall gave my friends and I a chance to be as one, if only for a short time.

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



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FASHION

Children's fashion

Valerie McPhail
MSM Class of 2015

Long gone are the days of regular visits to Old Navy and a closet filled with outfits from the Gap. There seems to be a new and interesting culture shift in fashion. Around the time my best friend declared Coco Chanel her role model and obsessed over the Dior travel make-up case her mom bought her (I think we were around 13 years old), a new age of customers began to express their interest in the fashion industry—that is, children.

In response, the industry has turned to design luxurious fashion for children. Ugg makes baby boots, Nike produces mini Jordan's, and Marc Jacob has a clothing line for kids. These transitions should make sense and follow the phrase "fashion forward." If the industry is clearly making efforts to engage with the world, children's fashion is a product of these efforts.

After all, fashion consistently innovates. Yet, is this just a marketing stint in the business of the industry or is it an effort to further explore the art of fashion? Either way, parents are faced with more choices in the children's clothing department. When shopping, parents should consider the various options the fashion industry offers while keeping in mind the practicality of the clothes they buy for their children. For the sake of the purpose of clothes, fashion is essentially functional. The nature of children's clothes reflects this truth.

If you were to Google search through children's clothing ads,

brand name companies including Ralph Lauren and J. Crew would eventually pop up on the computer screen. These brands occupy an interesting role in the business of children's clothing because they also work between the runway and retail world of fashion. They have runway shows and presentations during Fashion Week and then sell in department and factory outlet stores. These brands are involved in all areas of the world of fashion. For instance, in addition to the functional use out of a "Sunday dress," or a kid's size tie, children's clothes have become works of art on the runway. Luxury brands are advancing this trend. Their contribution in the business of children's clothing makes the fashion industry more accessible to the world.

Consider Dolce & Gabbana's Fall 2015 runway show in Milan. Creative Directors Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana sent models down the runway with their children, matching mommy and child outfits throughout the show. This was more than just an event that brought heartwarming smiles to its audience. The show was an expression of love and childhood sentiment. Graphics of roses and children's artwork were printed on dresses as a way to convey the world of motherhood. This point of view declared a new perspective on fashion. Its message: clothing brands should start designing for their future, children.

Perhaps this new direction is more visible in the retail world. Children's clothing has become synonymous with the new age "lifestyle brand." That is, a brand that caters

to an interest in the various needs of the customer's life. "Lifestyle brands" connect the fashion industry with the world. The industry is changing. Fashion is no longer exclusive or completely private from customers' everyday lives. Rather, it is an industry that seeks to relate to the public. One reason for this change is due to the industry's interest in providing for the various needs of the customer's life. Children's clothing lines have become a part of shopping the lifestyle of the brand. Mothers and fathers can shop for their children simultaneously as they shop for themselves.

Lifestyle brands bring a sense of ease to shopping. Think about how J. Crew's graphic tees are sold alongside water bottles while Brooks Brother's shot glasses and flasks are paired with dress shirts and ties. It is not a coincidence that both brands have also developed children's clothing lines. This addition provides an understanding of the new direction of children's fashion. Kids are an aspect of the customer's life that the brand designs for. The future and success of these brands requires knowledge of their customers. With this in mind, a market for children's clothes becomes a reasonable path to pursue. Just as Dolce & Gabbana insist, why cannot babies be as fashionable as their moms and dads who shop their brand and walk their runway?

Rather than insist that these luxury runway shows only serve to entertain the guests that attend, one should consider how they are relevant to the rest of the world. Dolce & Gabbana clearly presented a perspective. At a time when the public is curious about celebrity parents who dress their children to match their own outfits, the message of this runway show could not be any more clear. The lifestyle of famous moms and dads includes the fashions their children are wearing. The concept of fashion news in the tabloid magazines has now made an appearance on the runway. People enjoy seeing how the outfits of mamma, dad and child all match. Fashion Week not only offers fashionistas/os with a list of trends, but also a perspective on the world. This past runway season, children's clothing became a part of this conversation. The idea about how children wear clothes is changing.

Children wear clothes to grow out of them. They run around at recess, ruin their jeans with grass stains, and spill soda pop on their favorite shirt. At least my childhood was filled with these memories. Clothes become a uniform for their adventures at school and a way to express their favorite cartoon character on their t-shirts and sweatshirts. There is practicality in this approach to children's clothes. Clothing becomes a fun way to express personality. High fashion enables this method of dressing. Yet, there should be a reason for why children need to wear expensive clothes. Fashion brings meaning to the practicality of clothing.

Handmade outfits, a popular pas-



At the Fall 2015 Dolce & Gabbana runway final, mothers and their children walked down the runway together.



time for some young families, is another approach to keeping children's fashion practical yet creative. This hobby is the pinnacle of the creative pursuit of fashion. It encourages parents and children to design for their own needs. Handmade fashion adds a personal touch to clothing items and outfits. It is an opportunity for parents to feel comfortable in dressing their children in clothes that will work for in their child's lifestyle while also allowing room for personal expression. Handmade clothes reveal the relationship between designers and customers. These lifestyle brands present pieces that allow customers to communicate themselves, and their children, by the way they dress.

With the endless options and current trends in children's fashion, parents should consider how their child

will wear the clothes they buy. For the springtime, bright colors, floral prints, and stripes are consistently trendy for the season. Layers are key items that create outfits during the transitions into warmer weather. Light windbreakers and sweaters are among these basic items that will bring more comfort in unpredictable weather patterns. Practicality is the key part to the art of dressing younger children.

The fashion industry is currently developing ways of relating fashion to life. There is trend in societies' obsession with fashion-forward parents who use their own sense of style to dress their children. Fashion has responded through the development of lifestyle brands and designs from the Fall 2015 fashion season. Happy shopping!

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Failing never questioned me

Alexandra Tyminski
MSM Class of 2015

It is often that we learn the most from our elders. We enjoy listening to their stories, experiences, and where they came from because within all of that comes words of wisdom and joy. It seems that we can easily forget what it is like to stop and get to know others when we are so busy doing what we know best: our own routine. My daily college routine was introduced with a new opportunity. Last month, I had the greatest opportunity to interview a man by the name of Joseph Welty. Joseph was temporarily residing at St. Joseph's ministries and during our time together, I was beyond enlightened by our conversation.

Joseph Welty is 87 years old and has many historical ties to Emmitsburg as well as business skills and knowledge that would blow anyone away. Because I myself am a senior business major, my conversation with Joseph felt even more special. As a young man, Joseph began his own business in Emmitsburg. The business consisted of a slaughterhouse and butcher house. He owned this business for three and half years before he decided to purchase a general store in 1950. However, this was not like any other general store. It was combined with his butcher house. It became the first general store in Emmitsburg to combine business with the meat industry. Joseph saw the opportunity here and took a strong lead in Emmitsburg's business community. He started the store when he was 23 and owned it for twenty four and a half years. Could you guess what the store was called? He smiled at me and said, "Welty's Market," when I asked.

This is not the end of all of Mr. Welty's accomplishments. Have you ever heard of the famous road, Welty Avenue, in Emmitsburg? This road was built by Joseph and his brother. Joseph built the left, and his brother built the right. It is still there today. Joseph's story still continues. He got his brokerage license and later went

into the real estate and rental business. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Welty has accumulated 15 homes and townhomes as well as 23 apartments. Joseph learned to keep loving business throughout his lifetime because he expressed how he really loved investing his money. Mr. Welty said that he taught himself everything he knows about investing and managing portfolios. Today, Joseph still manages two investment portfolios. He is proof that even though we might get older, our passions and minds are still strong.

Joseph retired just over twenty years ago in 1994. He sold Welty's Market to the Frederick Hospital after giving a large donation to the hospital. Joseph was both a businessman and a giving, selfless man. He reminded me that his wife played a major role in his success. Joseph's wife, Miriam Welty, was a registered nurse, loyal wife, and caring mother. The couple has four children, two of which are lawyers, one of which is a retired schoolteacher from Frederick County, and the last of which owns a beauty shop. Miriam passed away, but Joseph informed me that this April 15th would be their 67th anniversary of marriage. Mr. Welty said that it was because of his wife that he was pushed to succeed in his business endeavors and in his life.

I asked Joseph what kept him going during his life and all of the things he accomplished. He told me, "It never ran in my mind that I could fail." He said that his wife and a motivated, unfailing mindset was what kept him going.

"My life was business," Joseph said. Mr. Welty is a superb example of what it means to set your mind on certain goals and accomplish them. I was truly encouraged by his hard work throughout his life. Although Joseph recognizes that his life has been great, he is very humble about it. He was extremely grateful to be able to live in a community town such as Emmitsburg. In fact, Joseph was one of the most thankful men I have ever met. He raved about the town and the

place he was residing. He reminded us that we, too, should be grateful for what Emmitsburg offers.

"The people of Emmitsburg have to be most grateful to Mother Seton and the Daughters of Charities for establishing such a wonderful campus here in town. It is not only a wonderful campus, but they also hire people from 50 miles around. I would say they are one of the largest employers in Frederick County. Bill Gates is a genius, but think about what Mother Seton did, and our accomplishments look small."

This quote from Joseph Welty reminds each and every one of us that although the world is constantly changing, growing, and becoming more innovative, we have to be thankful for the people who have made big marks on our society. Mr. Welty also reminds us that we can never let thoughts of failure keep us from success.

I have constantly let the fear of failing keep me from trying new things. I have felt that it can cripple me or people I know from accomplishing the goals that they want. However, Joseph is a living example of how if we want to do something, it takes effort and a positive attitude. We cannot let the possibility of failure or uncertainty stop us from trying and keep trying to succeed. I was enamored by Joseph's humble attitude when we spoke. He carries this sense of calmness and delight in him. It is obvious that he is a driven individual, and I was impressed when he said that he was still managing his investment portfolios.

Joseph and I connected over business and was thrilled when he found out that I was a business major. He even told me that he was sure that my parents were proud of me. He was a man of many words, and it was amazing getting to hear his story. He is a humble man who has dedicated his



Emmitsburg native Joseph Welty is a superb example of what it means to set your mind on certain goals and accomplish them.

life to making Emmitsburg a better place. Mr. Welty has showed me and confirmed through our conversation that it is through motivation, perseverance, and the help of our loved ones that we can succeed. However, it is also through people such as Mother Seton that we have such a loving and caring Emmitsburg community.

Ultimately, Joseph Welty is a man who has had many successes, but he teaches that business and kindness go hand in hand. I am grateful to Joseph for his sharp mind, smart business perspectives, and caring heart. He sees the world in a way that is a land of opportunity, especially for those who want to change it in a way for it to become more affectionate and focused on unity. As a business student, Joseph inspires me to keep trying and keep aiming for my goals throughout my own future career. As a person, Joseph, the kind and humble human being I met, encourages me to make a difference in the world just as Mother Seton did. When I left St. Joseph's Ministries, I couldn't stop smiling. I hoped that Jo-

seph knew how his words touched me. He spoke with truth in his voice and a sparkle in his eyes. I hoped that I could take his motto of never feeling like he could fail with me wherever I went. I am sure that people such as Mother Seton may have thought about their fears from time to time as well. But, it was not only her dedication to succeed, but also her commitment to help others that has made the campus Joseph has fallen in love with so special. Mother Seton had a business plan too, and Joseph helped me see why we should be grateful for it.

Joseph said something to me that I will never forget. It is something that can keep anyone going, whether a business oriented person or not. Maybe, just maybe, it is this phrase that can bring alive the most beautiful businesses, innovations, people, communities, and change. As Joseph Welty reminds us all to think, "Failing never questioned me."

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

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ARTS

Land Conservancy Art Auction

Chris Little

On Sunday, April 26, the Blue Parrot Bistro in Gettysburg will host the Land Conservancy of Adams County's 18th annual Art Auction, featuring a wide variety of original artwork created by local and regional artists—everything from painting and drawing to ceramics and other three-dimensional work.

New this year, the event will feature both live and silent auctions, and in addition to original two-dimensional art, the auction will include high-quality collectible Americana, such as fraktur, stoneware, redware, ironware, baskets, quilts, and more.

"For the past 17 years, the Land Conservancy's art auction has been one of our most exciting and highly anticipated social events of the year," said Land Conservancy President Norma Calhoun.

"Our volunteers have always made it such a fun, festive event. Every year the bidding is lively and good-natured, the refreshments are great, and there is a strong sense of community and conviviality in the room because we're all there to support the Land Conservancy."

Over the years the Art Auction has become one of the most significant fundraisers for the Land Conservancy, which works to preserve the rural character of Adams County by partnering with landowners to create conservation easements preserving land from unplanned development. Since its founding in 1995, the Land Conservancy has worked with county landowners to preserve more than 9,300 acres of rural Adams County land.

The Blue Parrot Bistro, located at 35 Chambersburg Street, Gettysburg, has long hosted the Land

Conservancy's auction event. Auctioneer Randy Hilker will again present the artwork for auction. There will also be door prizes, raffles, and more.

Doors for the auction will open at noon, with bidding beginning at 1 p.m. Admission to the event is \$15, and all proceeds will benefit Land Conservancy programming.

Donated art will be on display at the Blue Parrot Bistro throughout the month of April. The Blue Parrot will also host a First Friday Artists' Reception from 4-6 p.m., Friday, April 3, showcasing the artists who donated work to the auction.

"We're so grateful to the artists and donors who have supported the auction every year with beautiful donations, and of course we look forward to seeing what they will offer this year," said Calhoun.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County is an accredited non-



profit land trust dedicated to preserving the rural lands and character of Adams County. For

more information about the Land Conservancy or its upcoming art auction, visit lccacnet.org.

Totem Pole Playhouse's 2015 season

Sue McMurtray

Totem Pole Playhouse, America's beloved summer theatre located in Caledonia State Park between Gettysburg and Chambersburg, PA, has announced a slate of two large cast Broadway musicals, an acclaimed one-man show from PBS, the return of a beloved farce, and the World Premiere of a tribute concert featuring the music of Hank Williams, Sr. and Patsy Cline as part of the playhouse's 65th summer season of continuous operation. For the third year in a row, the Franklin County Visitor's Bureau acts as the season's sponsor.

Opening the season will be the

return of one of the most popular and successful comedies in Totem Pole's 65-year history, *The Nerd*, May 29 through June 14. The comedy about an unexpected guest who turns out to be a bumbling oaf with no social sense, little intelligence, and even less tact set box office records 27 years ago when it first played Totem Pole. David Hemsley Caldwell will direct the comedy.

The Broadway musical, *Shenandoah*, directed by Totem Pole Playhouse's Producing Artistic Director, Rowan Joseph, will run from June 19 through July 5. Chad-Alan Carr, Artistic Director of the Gettysburg Community Theatre will cho-

reograph. The award-winning Broadway musical ran for over 1,000 performances, winning several Tony Awards

Based on the well-known film starring Jimmy Stewart, *Shenandoah* tells the story of a strong willed Virginia farmer trying to keep his family neutral as the Civil War rages around them. The musical will feature a cast of 24 actors and is suitable for the entire family.

Twenty five years ago this year, acclaimed stage, screen, television, and as a voiceover actor, Granville Van Dusen, premiered his one man play, *The Memoirs of Abraham Lincoln* at Gettysburg College's Kline Theater. The original production was directed by Academy Award-winning film director, Delbert Mann. During the last 25 years, Mr. Van Dusen has performed the play to great critical success across the U.S. and for the PBS network. This third offering in Totem Pole Playhouse 2015 season runs from July 10 through July 26 and will mark Mr. Van Dusen's final performance of the play, coming full circle and ending where it all began. The Lincoln Leadership Institute at Gettysburg is sponsoring the return production which will also mark the 150th Anniversary of the death of President Abraham Lincoln.

Presented for the first time at Totem Pole Playhouse, *Grease*, the long-running Broadway musical which became a smash box office movie will close out the regular 4-show subscription season running from July 31 through August 16. The show will feature such hits as "Summer Nights", "Hopelessly Devoted to You", and "You're the



One That I Want." New York director/choreographer Nathaniel Shaw will stage the show. Totem Pole's musical director for the season, Darren Server, will handle the musical chores and lead the band for the show. The production has themes and dialogue which are not appropriate for audience members under the age of 12.

In addition to the 4-show regular season, Totem Pole will also offer the world premiere of a special tribute concert, *Love-sick Blues*, featuring the music of country western legends Hank Williams, Sr. and Patsy Cline. Totem Pole audience favorite, Robbie Limon, will portray Williams and Denise Patton who worked on last season's *Johnny Cash* musical, *Ring of Fire*, will return to play Cline.

Backed by a 6-piece band, the duo will cover dozens of classic country western hits made popular by each singer as well as several duets of songs which had been sung by both artists. The show will run from August 18 through August 23 and for 8 performances only.

Subscription prices which had been substantially lowered last season from the previous year will remain the same. In addition, a FLEX subscription plan will be offered whereby subscribers have the flexibility to choose the performance they wish to attend rather than be locked into

a set date for each production. The popular FLEX subscription plan had been discontinued during the 2013 season.

For the second year in a row Totem Pole will also offer any unsold seats one-half hour before each curtain for \$10 each to anyone 16 to 22 with a valid driver's license or ID.

Also new this season in addition to a line-up of Broadway and TV stars, union, non-union, and Equity Membership Candidates Totem Pole is actively seeking local actors for roles in both musicals. For *Shenandoah* they are seeking two boys 10 to 13 years old, one Caucasian and one African American, for the leading roles of 'Robert' and 'Gabriel' and a few 25 to 40 year old men and women for small chorus parts. For *Grease* they are seeking 20 to 26 year olds for several of the smaller roles and chorus parts. Auditions will be Saturday, March 28th from 10am to 12pm for boys ages 10 to 13 and 1pm to 3pm for 20 to 26 year olds interested in being in *Grease*. Some roles will be paid a small performance stipend.

Those interested in subscribing to the season or purchasing tickets for single shows may do so either on line through Totem Pole's website at www.totempoleplayhouse.org or by calling the playhouse's box office Monday through Friday, 9am to 4pm at 717-352-2164.

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Mount SPARC Festival

Caroline King
MSM Class of 2015

Spring is finally here. From allergies, to warmer weather and sunshine, to the sun staying up past 4pm, we're all starting to recognize the indicators that mean... we did it! We survived another very snowy winter and are about to reap the benefits of warm weather! But for the students of Mount St. Mary's University, spring doesn't just mean they get to get out of their dorms and enjoy the outside world again. It also means the annual SPARC Festival will be held! The SPARC Festival, which stands for "Scholarship, Performance, Art, Research, and Creativity," is a three-day festival filled with presentations, music, performances, and demonstrations around campus by students and faculty. The annual festival is completely open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to come see all the hard work our students and faculty have put into the festival.

This is the time of year when Mount students from every grade and facet of college pull together to present their projects and works to the public and their fellow students for the enjoyment and education of others. From the school's literary magazine to poems, foreign language films made by students, a collaboration of student art for a gallery exhibit, plays, and even scientific studies, the SPARC Festival offers something for everyone, with many students from every major participating. The university is preparing to enjoy the nice weather with academic achievements. Classes will be rearranged so that students can attend presentations pertaining to what they're learning in class, or maybe even something completely new. The SPARC festival is completely open to the public, and the festival will be held on April 21, 22 and 23 in various locations throughout the Mount campus.

The SPARC Festival covers a whole range of interests, but particularly admirable is its dedication to the arts. The wonderful thing about SPARC is that it gives students who are not in the art program an opportunity to explore and get involved in art in non-traditional ways. During the very first SPARC Festival I attended, I saw a presentation of a silent French film a student had made, followed by a reading of a Japanese children's book a student wrote, illustrated, and read. Students are encouraged to work in their majors and interests into their presentations, inspiring creative, nontraditional ways that are always just fascinating to see.

One of the highlights of the SPARC festival is the student art gallery. This calls for open submissions from any student, regardless of their major or if they've had any art classes or not. It's one of

the first events on Tuesday, April 21st in the Williams Art Gallery in the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center. The gallery will open and reveal for the first time the works that have been accepted into the show. The range of pieces, mediums and stories in these art pieces make it work going for that alone, but the exposure to the arts doesn't end there...or even that day. Continuing Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m., there are student recitals in Horning Theater, which is also located in the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center. Then, from 8 to 9 p.m., there will be a concert held in the same location. Viewers are welcome to come to some or all of these events. The campus is open to all friends, family, and supporters of the arts!

The integration of the arts continues throughout the festival. On Wednesday, April 22nd from 2 to 5:30 p.m. outside the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center, there will be a ceramics demonstration. This is a great way to get outside and enjoy the newly warm weather and learn about an art form you might not have known much about before! And then, after the demonstration from 7 to 9:30 p.m. there will be theatrical performances back in the Horning Theater. The SPARC Festival is an amazing blend of every side of art. What's amazing is that even though it is lead and guided by the faculty, everything you see presented is purely done by the students. Faculty-student collaboration helps make this event an incredible experience for all involved.

The SPARC Festival ends with a presentation of something that follows the trend and is completely done by the students. On Thursday, April 23rd from 1 to 2:30 p.m., the Lighted Corners literary magazine will have their publication premiere in the Phillips Library. This magazine is the embodiment of the arts on Mount St. Mary's campus. Completely run by students, this magazine



The SPARC Festival, "Scholarship, Performance, Art, Research, and Creativity," is a three-day, campus-wide festival filled with presentations, music, performances, and demonstrations by students and faculty.

features art of every medium and writing ranging from short stories to poetry. Students submit their best work, a panel of students vote on submissions of art and writing, and then students do the layout of the whole magazine. Lighted Corners has won awards and is always a huge moment of anticipation for the campus. At the premiere, copies of the magazine will be available for free. There will also be selective readings from the student authors and a word from the editor. After the magazine's revealing there will be a closing celebration from 3 to 5 p.m. on Founder's Plaza that all are welcome to attend.

If you find yourself free on any of the dates in April during the festival, grab your family and friends and make the trip to Mount St. Mary's. The entire campus and student body will be alive and traveling between events and they'd love to see you there. There's no better way to enjoy the warm weather of spring than

coming out and supporting the students in their endeavors and maybe learning something along the way. The students have been hard at work with their research projects, art galleries, and performances all semester long, with many of the presentations being the culmination of all of the students' four years of study at the Mount. If you want to see a wide variety of art and projects, the exposure to the arts you will find at

the SPARC Festival is an experience you can't really have anywhere else. Between the wide array of events and student involvement in the arts, the SPARC Festival will have something for everyone. For a full list of events or for more details, please visit <http://msmary.edu/academics/SPARC/schedule.html>.

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

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The local diamond is back

Michael Donahue

With the winter coming to an end, leather gloves and baseball bats are pulled out of storage and are re-broken in while the rough dirt diamond and grass are tended to for the first time in months. America's pastime is back with the spring weather buzzing in the air. Practice and games have started throughout the region. Catoclin has a strong opportunity to thrive in the league in their strongest sport while Fairfield has strong aspirations for the season. Emmitsburg's recreation league is impressive. The community surrounding the local teams is a strong one and should not be ignored. In fact, coming out on a Saturday morning to support the community and feel the small town, passionate sensation of their favorite sport should be an experience one should not miss out on.

Catoclin baseball had their first game on March 20 when they faced

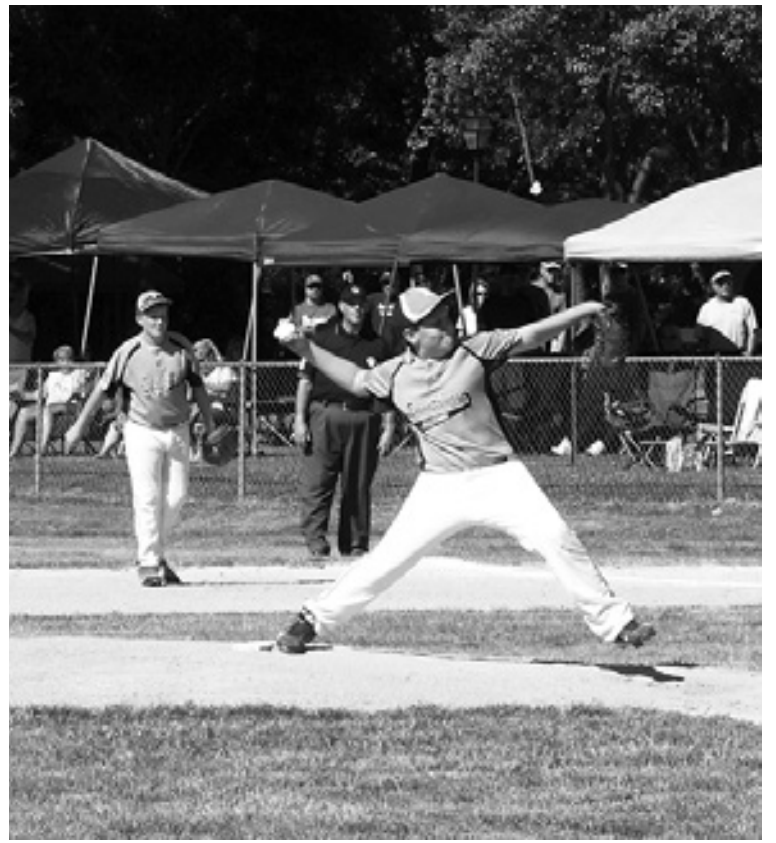
Frederick. Their hopes are high heading into the season. Their goal is to head into the playoffs with a positive record plus a top seed in their region, 2A West. Their next few games will be an interesting test for the Cougars. Their next game is against Linganore, who is always a difficult team, followed by a game versus Williamsport. Williamsport, who beat the Cougars by 12 last season, will be one of the hardest games on the schedule for the Cougars. If they did in fact improve over the off season and plan on making a run deep into the state playoffs, Williamsport will be the match to see how they rank against one of the best.

The Cougars softball team also kicks off on the 20th when they play Frederick. The Cougars had an impressive record last season when they won more than three quarters of their games. They dominated their season last year, using offensive power followed by reasonable defense. In their first week last year, they de-

stroyed Tuscarora by nine runs. In the middle of the season, they had an extremely impressive game against Brunswick, who they beat by 18, and a great weekend against Smithsburg, who lost the doubleheader by a combined score of 27-1. This season the Cougars look to copy their previous form and impress once again. A deep run in the state playoffs is not too far-fetched for the Cougars this season.

Fairfield baseball and softball are both taken off. Both teams took on Eastern York on the 26th. Both teams struggled last season and this season is not looking promising. In terms of the baseball team, they have a more experienced team than last season; however, they do not look too promising after their poor season last year. One of their worst games last year finished 17-2 when Bermudian Springs dominated the diamond. That game was not an anomaly. Delone Catholic crushed Fairfield 14-4 and York Catholic shut Fairfield out when they won 15-0. The softball team is not in much better shape. They also had a poor season last year and could follow the season with another disappointing one. The softball team will obviously be faced with difficult games against the better teams in the league like York Catholic, but will have chances to win against Hanover and possibly even Littletown. Overall, it will be a difficult season for Fairfield.

Aside from the high school teams, Emmitsburg's Little League has begun as well. The atmosphere surrounding the small town league is surprisingly electric and should not be missed out on by baseball enthusiasts. The Little League has a following that expands past most recreation leagues, where the spectators are often made up completely of family members. Instead, community members who enjoy baseball come and experience the younger side of



Spring is finally here, and that means baseball is too!



the game. The teams are also very talented. Last season, the U12 team shattered a path through the regional championship when they stole the last bag for a walk off steal in the championship game and quali-

fied for the tournament in New York City. It is a great time and a great experience watching Emmitsburg's Little League team. Spring is here, and you know what that means...baseball is back!

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Mount St. Mary's baseball team

Bridgette Nitza-Buwala
MSM Class of 2015

Though the first day of this spring season began with snow, the Mount St. Mary's University baseball team strongly hopes it will end in victory out on the diamond.

The team consists of many strong players and many returning upperclassmen, including seniors Kory Britton #2, Chris Campbell #18, Andrew Clow #3, Jay Knight #11, and Scott Nickerson #7, and juniors Austin Bonadio #5, Chad Diehl #37, Connor Graber #14, Jordan Lawson #23, Kevin Myers #9, Ryan Owens #34, Tommy Quealy #1, Ben Smallbrook #49, and Thomas Williams #13.

Quealy has based these high hopes off of what he has seen from his teammates thus far. "This off season has been the best one yet as far as guys working extremely hard," he explained.

Not only does he believe in the power of his fellow juniors and all remaining seniors, but also in the potential and drive of underclassmen athletes.

"This team is extremely close and has an excellent blend of senior leadership mixed with young talent. Our seniors have been through the program and know what is expected and the freshman have fed off of that," Quealy stated.

With this in mind, he did emphasize, "My favorite thing about competing for the Mount is the camaraderie between the players. We all have the same goal in mind and want to succeed. Between the coaches and players, the dedication and extra work put in is extremely high. This season should be very successful for Mount St. Mary's baseball this season."

Coach Thomson, who has been with the Mount for 17 seasons, shared Quealy's confidence. "We are expecting to challenge for one of the top four spots to qualify for the Northeast Conference tournament," he clarified. "Our strengths this year are a deep pitching staff and a solid batting order with a good mix of speed and power."

Aside from working for success this season, both Quealy and Thomson stress that they are also working to contribute to their community. The baseball team is proud to have dedicated this season to autism awareness.

Coach Thomson explained how the idea to do this grew: "Ryan Owens, a junior outfielder, came to me one day before practice in January and asked me my thoughts on dedicating our season to autism. I said that would be an awesome idea. We are taking donations and selling autism pins and t-shirts for the Arc of Frederick County. We will present them with a check before our game on May 2 with the amount of money we raised. This is a good cause and a lot of our players and coaches have family or close friends with autism. This is a chance for us as student athletes and coaches to give

back and help someone else. During the May 2 game we will have all the children with autism at the game take the field during the National Anthem with our team, have someone from the Arc throw out the first pitch, and then present them with the check."

If you cannot wait until May 2 to support the men and this crucial cause, consider attending one of their April tournaments. Thursday, April 2 through Saturday, April 4, the Mount baseball team will be competing against Central Connecticut State here at home on the Emmitsburg campus. They will also compete at home on Friday, April 24 though Sunday, April 26, this time against Sacred Heart. During each of these tournaments, live stats can be seen online at www.mountathletics.com.

Mount senior catcher Andrew Clow will be one to watch at these events. After much success during his last baseball season, Clow is proud to be on the "Official Watch List" for the 2015 Johnny Bench Award, presented by Baseball Savings.

Though all seniors still have this season ahead of them, Thomson wishes to leave Clow and the others who plan to graduate in May with a few encouraging words: "This year's senior class brings a lot leadership and experience. Most of these players have been in a starting role ever since their freshmen or sophomore seasons. We will have a lot of big shoes to fill next season. If there is one piece of advice I could leave for them, it would be to never give up, to always be on time, and to live every day like it's your last."

For more information regarding the Mount St. Mary's University baseball team or any aspect of Mount Athletics, please visit www.mountathletics.com.



The Mount baseball team comes together out on the diamond during a day of competition.



Kory Britton is up to bat for the Mount men's baseball team.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Aaaachoooo!

Renee Lehman

Have you started sneezing? In the past, have you had itchy, red, watery eyes; itchy nose; runny or stuffy nose; and sneezing during the spring? Then it sounds like you have spring seasonal allergies.

From a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) viewpoint, spring seasonal allergies are a result of the body's reaction to nature's energy change from winter into spring. We are meant to move smoothly with nature's energetic change, and when we do not (because of a lack of energy within us), we experience allergy symptoms.

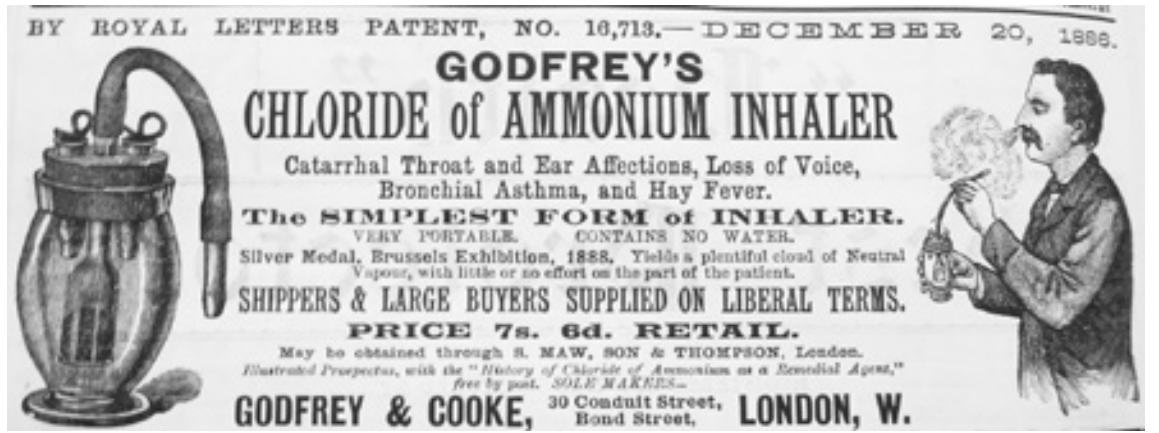
What do I mean by energy and nature's energetic change? Remember that TCM deals with balancing the flow of the natural vital energy, or Qi, which flows through all living things. Each organ of the body has Qi, and this Qi flows through the body on specific pathways called Meridians and is essential for health. When the Qi is balanced, moving smoothly, and in sufficient quality and quantity, health and wellness are promoted. When the Qi is unbalanced or blocked in any way, disease or diseases, will occur. This disease may show up as symptoms on a physical, mental/emotional, or spiritu-

al level.

As stated above, TCM considers spring seasonal allergies to be a result of insufficient or imbalanced Qi, which does not allow for a smooth transition from the energetic nature of winter into the energetic nature of spring. TCM understands that seasonal allergies are rooted in a Qi imbalance in one or more organs. The location of one's allergy symptoms provides the clues as to which organ has an imbalance of Qi.

If one has symptoms related to the eyes, this mainly relates to an imbalance with a person's Liver Qi, and Stomach Qi. Nasal symptoms are usually related to an imbalance in a person's Lung Qi. Underneath all of these symptoms is the root issue, the bottom line underneath why seasonal allergies occur: a deficiency in a person's Kidney Qi, and the fact that the person has a "cold energetic essence" inside of the body.

In TCM, the Liver is considered to be the "architect of your life" or the "commander of the armed forces in defense of life." Just as an architect creates a blueprint for a home, and a commander creates a plan of attack based on observing what s/he is up against, the Liver is responsible for assessing the circumstances within and around us,



and creating a plan on how to flourish in life given these circumstances. We do this in part by having clarity and "vision." In TCM, the eyes as a whole are considered to be closely linked to the liver: "Liver qi communicates with the eyes," states the Neijing (ancient TCM text) "...If the liver receives blood, we can see." Therefore, a person's eyesight, and any eye symptoms may serve as an indicator for Liver Qi functioning.

In TCM, the Stomach is considered to be the "Official of Rotting and Ripening." It is considered to be a granary or storehouse that receives liquids and solids from the food that we eat. It breaks them down (transforms them) into a "soupy mix" from which nutrients are absorbed into our blood stream. The Stomach can only work with what we put into our mouth, so quality food and water will allow the Stomach to work most efficiently. When the Stomach Qi is out of balance one may experience increased sinus congestion. This is from the excessive "dampness" that your body was challenged to disperse.

In TCM, the Lungs, on a physical level, literally receive the pure Heavenly Qi (also known as, air). The Lungs then release the waste product of carbon dioxide to the outside environment (so that more oxygen will then be taken in). When the Lungs are in balance, you will have a strong voice, breathe easily, and have no problems with phlegm/mucus.

In TCM, the Kidney is considered to be the foundation for the entire body's Qi! The Kidneys are at the root of all of our physical functioning. They are the source of our potential (they are considered to be our "battery pack"). The energy from our "battery pack" activates our metabolism and motivates us to live (think about surviving through the winter). The Kidney is the organ associated with the season of winter. During winter, nature is resting and conserving energy. We are also to be resting and conserving our ener-

gy (Qi) in the winter. When we don't rest enough and exhaust our Qi during the winter, then our body won't have enough Qi available to transition into the energetic season of spring. Thus, our body will not be able to handle the exposure to allergens.

Finally, what is meant by "cold energetic essence" in the body? Think about when you step outside and it is colder than you expected. You "contract" and tighten up. Cold food slows the metabolism and causes Qi to stagnate. What would be considered "energetically cold foods?" Obviously, cold beverages and foods come to mind (ice water, iced tea, ice cream), and also, raw vegetables. After years of consuming foods that have a cold energetic essence, the cold begins to affect the Liver, Stomach, and Lung Qi. Sneezing occurs. The eyes water, become red, and itch (Liver Qi). Clear mucus is produced by a weakened Stomach Qi, and this becomes post-nasal drip (Lung Qi).

Treatment of Spring Seasonal Allergies

So, the best way to treat seasonal allergies is to PREVENT them. Support your Liver, Stomach, and Lung Qi. Conserve your Kidney Qi in the winter! How can you do this? Make some lifestyle changes, practice Qigong, and make dietary changes.

Lifestyle Changes: Balance the amount of activity and rest (work, rest, & play). This is a great example of using your resources wisely. Go to sleep earlier. Exercise wisely (do energy building exercises like yoga, Qigong, and tai chi), versus performing exercises that use up a lot of your energy and run your "batteries" down. To watch a video on simple Qigong exercises, go to: http://taoofhealing.com/selfcare/healing_gates.php. Take time to meditate or have time for quiet contemplation. This will help keep you from depleting your resources.

To Support your Liver Qi: Eat foods like dark green lettuce and vegetables

(eggplant, broccoli), sprouts, and sprouted foods (like bread). Eat sour foods like lemons, dandelion greens, etc. because they will stimulate tissues to contract & release toxins. Avoid saturated fats, over-salted and over-processed foods (they will congest your Liver). Learn how to handle your stress better.

To Support your Stomach Qi: Eat foods that are sweet tasting like carrots, squash, red beets, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, fruit, and grains like rice. Eat well-cooked foods and roasted nuts. Eat until you are 70% full. Avoid sugars and use artificial sweeteners sparingly. Sugar will suppress your immune system.

To Support your Lung Qi: Eat foods that are pungent flavored foods/spices like onions, ginger, horseradish, and cayenne pepper. Decrease rich, fatty foods and processed foods because they create phlegm in your respiratory system. On a physical level, BREATHE! Consciously bring your awareness to your breath. Practice diaphragmatic breathing.

To Support your Kidney Qi: Eat foods that come from saltwater (fish, seaweeds); seeds; salty-flavored foods (if you don't have blood pressure problems); and dark colored foods (red/black beans). Drink appropriate amounts of water. This keeps you hydrated and allows for you to move smoothly. On a physical level, implement the lifestyle changes above!

To Warm the Body: Heated foods expand and promote the flow of Qi. Vegetables should be cooked, steamed, or roasted, to add warmth to the body. Beverages should be room temperature or warm. Add warming spices like ginger and cinnamon to your diet whenever possible.

Here's to an allergy free spring!

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

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FITNESS AND HEALTH

Keep moving

Exercise vs. Alzheimer's

By Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer/
Fitness Therapist

Alzheimer's and dementia are diseases that are increasing more and more each day. Those diagnosed may have been living with it for several years before realizing what was wrong. Little things change in our lives every day and we learn to adapt or at least function enough to get by without others noticing or even realizing it ourselves. Most of the time it is just the normal aging and changing in our lives, but there comes a point when symptoms cannot be ignored. Family members and friends are usually the first ones to see changes and sometimes they are not familiar enough with the disease to relate the changes in a person with the problem. Admitting that there may be a serious problem is also very hard for people to accept. There are many causes for these diseases and the medical profession is still working on finding them and ways to treat them. Research has shown that exercise and healthy eating

may help in the fight against memory and brain problems. Nothing has been proven, but studies have been conducted to find a connection between nutrition, exercise and lifestyle that may shed some light on preventing or learning to live with brain and memory problems. Living a healthy lifestyle from an early age is the best way to keep you in the best health possible. Sometimes even that won't prevent disease from invading our lives but it is the best defense we have to help. Eating fruits, vegetables and lean meat and fish are a great start in the fight against obesity, heart disease, diabetes and memory problems. Exercise is also a needed tool to stay as healthy as possible for as long as possible. The earlier we start to take care of ourselves, hopefully the longer we will be on this earth and with our loved ones. Most of us do not think about living a long life or what it takes to help live a long life when we are young. I'm not saying to worry about how long you will live, but with all the knowledge and information we have today that we need to teach our children the importance

of eating well and exercising from an early age. Children who eat fruits and vegetables from the start usually grow up liking them, whereas trying to get them to eat them when they are older is sometimes a losing battle. Children who see the adults in their lives exercising and participating in sports want to keep active themselves. Mom and Dad are the best teachers in the world and many times don't realize that what they do will influence their children for the rest of their lives. Example is the best teaching tool we have and I know it may be hard to set a good example when all you want to do is sit on the couch and relax when you get home from a hard day at work. Taking a little time to reboot is also important to teach our children too, but get back up and show them how important it is to keep moving. You'll feel better about yourself and be very happy that you passed on the motivation and knowledge of how to be the healthiest you can be to your children and grandchildren. Remember they learn by example and you are the teachers they see the most. Warm weather will be here soon (I hope, it's been a long winter) so be thinking of things your family can do outside while sharing time together. If you have any questions or need some ideas call me at 717-334-6009. As always Keep Moving!

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George Puvel
Anytime Fitness Owner

Question: I have started playing on a basketball league and want to improve my quickness and footwork. I feel that I have a good variety of strength exercises for overall basketball conditioning, but I need suggestions on exercises to help my foot speed.

warm up or before your basketball practices and games. Over time work your way up to 8-10 minutes of continuous jumping rope for 2-3 days a week as part of your workout. Keep in mind that improving your agility is not only good for basketball, but it's good for life. The ability to regain your balance in everyday activities will keep you safe for years to come.

Answer: Jumping rope is one of the easiest ways to improve your foot speed, which is important in basketball. The sport requires you to be light on your feet and have the agility and quickness to move in multiple directions and the simple act of jumping rope can significantly improve your footwork. Jump rope for a few minutes as part of your strength training

Question: I like to chew gum when I am working out, but when I'm training with my personal trainer I have to discard it. Is there a reason why chewing gum might be dangerous when working out?

Answer: Chewing gum could be potentially dangerous while working out for a variety of reasons. There is a

chance that you could choke on the gum if you are performing any type of vigorous exercise. With vigorous exercise, you will need to shift your breathing from the nose to the mouth. Breathing through your mouth provides a greater oxygen intake, which helps you work out longer but having gum in your mouth might make it difficult to breath without the gum falling out. Dehydration is also a possibility when chewing gum. Many people will chew gum to prevent their mouths from drying out, but actually, chewing gum uses water to create saliva, which causes the body to become dehydrated. Drinking plenty of water during exercise is a more effective way to stay hydrated.

About the author: George Puvel is the Club Owner. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of April

For April 2015, the Moon will be full on April 4th; this is the Paschal Moon, or Passover Moon, right after the Vernal Equinox, and sets next Sunday as Easter. This year it also is a total lunar eclipse, of which we locally will only see the beginning at moonset. Clear skies permitting, we will set up telescopes outside the Pensacola State College Planetarium about 5 AM, with the partial eclipse beginning at 5:16 AM, and totality starts at 6:58 AM, but for Pensacola, the Moon will set and sun will rise while the moon is only about half way into our shadow.

On April 8th, the waning gibbous moon passes 2.1 degrees north of Saturn. The last quarter moon is on April 12th. New moon is April 18th. The waxing crescent moon passes 7 degrees south of Venus at dusk on April 21th. The first quarter moon is April 25th, and the moon passes five degrees south of Jupiter overhead on the next evening.

Venus dominates the southwestern twilight sky. On April 1st, she is 78% sunlit, 14" of arc across, and mag. -4, and by the end of the month, she pulls farther away from the sun, now 17" across, up to mag. -4.1, and appears 67% sunlit. She will reach greatest eastern elongation on June 9th, when she appears half lit.

Mars is behind the sun now, but Jupiter is high overhead in the evening as April begins. It now sits just



The Pinwheel Galaxy (also known as Messier 101 or NGC 5457) is a face-on spiral galaxy 21 million light-years away in the constellation Ursa Major.

west of the Sickle of Leo. Its four moons are a treat with any small telescope, and larger scopes will reveal a lot of detail in Jupiter's clouds, including its famed Great Red Spot.

Saturn rises in the SE about 10 PM as April begins, and reaching opposition on May 23rd. The ringed wonder is at its best in the east in the claws of Scorpius. This is the best time to observe the most beautiful object in the sky. When viewed with a telescope, the rings are open 23 degrees open, to reach their greatest tilt of 27

degrees wide at its solstice in 2017, and Titan and several smaller moons fall on either side of the most beautiful telescopic sight in the sky. In addition to its glorious rings, Saturn hosts a huge moon, Titan, visible in most any telescope, and several smaller ones needing at least a 6" scope to spot.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the northwestern sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster; one of the finest sights in a telescope.

In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major

and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky as darkness falls. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from West Florida.

To the northeast, look for the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars of the bowl, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Look for Mizar-Alcor, a nice naked eye double star in the bend of the big dipper's handle. North of the handle is the fine spiral galaxy M-101; this photo was taken by local amateurs Chris and Gina Gomez with their new 8" telescope; what a fine sight!

Take the pointers at the front of the dipper's bowl south instead to the head of Leo, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The

bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star".

Now take the curved handle of the Big Dipper, and follow the arc SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of the spring sky. Recent studies of its motion link it to the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a companion of our Milky Way being tidally disrupted and spilling its stars above and below the plane of the Milky Way, much like dust falling away from a decomposing comet nucleus. So this brightest star of Bootes the Bear Driver is apparently a refugee from another galaxy!

Now spike south to Spica, the blue-white gem in Virgo rising in the SE. Mars lies a little to the west of Spica in April, and is much brighter than anything else in the SE evening sky at opposition this month. Virgo is home to many galaxies, as we look away from the obscuring gas and dust in the plane of the Milky Way into deep space. To the southwest of Spica is the four sided Crow, Corvus. To the ancient Greeks, Spica was associated with Persephone, daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. She was abducted by her suitor Pluto, carried down to Hades (going to Hell for a honeymoon!) and when Jupiter worked out a compromise between the newlyweds and the angry mother-in-law, the agreement dictated Persephone come back to the earth's surface for six months of the year, and Mama Ceres was again placated, and the crops could grow again. As you see Spica rising in the SE, it is time to "plant your peas", and six months from now, when Spica again disappears in the sun's glare in the SW, you need to "get your corn in the crib"...so was set our calendar of planting and harvesting in antiquity. In the arms of Virgo is a rich harvest of galaxies for modern astronomers.

Meteor Showers in April

April 4 - Kappa Serpentids - near Corona Borealis. 4 or 5 per hour

April 10 - Virginids - near Gamma in bowl of Virgo. 20 per hour.

April 22 - Lyrids - near Vega. 15 per hour, bright and long lasting meteors. From Comet Thatcher.

April 25 - Mu Virginids - near Libra. 7 to 10 per hour of medium speed meteors.

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Farmers' Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Fair and mild (1, 2) turning colder with showers, some possible snow in the northern part of the region (3, 4). Periods of rain, storms (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11). Fair and mild (12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17) with more showers, cooler (18, 19). Storms mainly in the south (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27) returning to fair and mild weather (28, 29, 30).

Full Moon: April's Full Moon has often been called Fish Moon as fishing starts to improve as the weather warms. It has also been referred by many Native Americans as Pink Moon because of the many pretty flowers displaying their bright pink hues as they bloom throughout the month.

Special Notes: April Fool's Day falls on Wednesday, April 1st in 2015. Be on the lookout for pranks, spoofs, and practical jokes that may be coming your way! Earth Day is observed on Wednesday, April 22nd. With a little added effort each day, we each can do much more to protect her today and for the future. Call the Earth Day Network at 202-518-0044 or go to www.earthday.net for some nifty ideas and fun and easy activities for you and your family that will help promote a healthier relationship with Mother Earth!

The Garden: Look for and remove any tent caterpillars that have appeared (or signs of their presences like the start of webs in branches. Water

new plantings and blooming shrubs (such as azaleas & rhododendron) regularly. Don't forget to water plants under overhangs. To keep your Easter lilies blooming longer; place them in indirect sunlight in a cool room. When the flowers open up, pinch off the yellow anthers. Once your blooms have faded and all danger of frost has passed, remove the lily from its pot and plant it in a sunny spot in the garden. Easter Lilies like lots of water and good drainage. Be sure to mulch the roots of the plants over winter and remove the mulch again in spring. You'll enjoy your Easter Lilies for years to come. The best way to control pests in your garden is to plant resistant varieties. Garlic and pepper sprays, row covers and wood ashes are other effective natural methods for guarding your garden against unwanted visitors.

COMPUTER Q&A

The importance of updates...

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Tutor

...and why you should consider an alternative to Internet Explorer

Microsoft and individual software makers release updates for their products to patch security holes and improve functionality of the software. If you are not updating the software when prompted, you are leaving your computer vulnerable. Some windows updates require a system restart and even after restarting there may be additional updates that need to install.

Windows updates

Microsoft regularly releases system updates the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Any critical system updates will download and install as they are released. To check for windows updates you can follow the instructions below:

1. Windows XP is no longer supported and will not receive regular system updates. If you are still using Windows XP you should consider upgrading your computer to help minimize the risk of online threats.
2. Windows Vista / 7 – Click on your start menu and type in windows update the windows update option will populate in your start menu list and once selected you can check for Windows updates. Be sure to install any critical system updates and restart the computer if necessary. You may also see some additional recommended updates which you can install at your convenience.
3. Windows 8 / 8.1 – Press the windows and S keys together (located to the left of your space bar between ctrl and alt) or locate the search window by moving your mouse to the top right hand corner of your screen to bring up the charm bar.

Now press the magnifying glass (search) and make sure "everywhere" is selected in the drop down box. Type Windows Update in the box and choose check for Windows updates.

Software updates

Programs may also need updates to add additional features, improve performance or patch security vulnerabilities. Users are being targeted through false update prompts for popular programs such as Adobe Flash player. To ensure you are receiving the update for your programs and NOT a virus you can update directly through the application or by visiting the software developer website.

To update through the program open up the program that

is prompting you for an update. For example Adobe reader. Once you locate and open Adobe reader you will see an option to check for updates in the program under the "help" option. If you are unable to find where to update through the software visit the developers website for adobe you would visit www.get.adobe.com. Another program that frequently updates is Java you can visit the java website to look for any updates by visiting www.java.com/download

Alternate web browsers

All Windows computers come pre-installed with Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browser. Since Internet Explorer is used throughout Windows we find that many times the program becomes broken or unusable. We recommend installing a third-party web browser such as Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. Each of these are used independently from Internet Explorer and can be used in place of Internet Explorer.

Be sure to verify that you are downloading any applications from a trusted website before continuing. To download one of these browsers visit the websites below from the developers trusted link.

Chrome - www.google.com/chrome
 Firefox - www.mozilla.org/firefox

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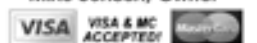
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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 4
 Carroll Valley Easter Egg Hunt - This years Egg Hunt will feature 4 age group areas and over 5,000 Eggs! As always, our large cotton-tailed friend will make a special appearance to greet the children.

Christ Community Church's Community Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt at the Emmitsburg Community Park. Suggested donation for lunch: \$1 kids and \$2 adults.

Hollabaugh Bros. Farm Market annual Hop Along the Bunny Trail event. For \$5 per child, participants are invited to join us for Egg Hunts in the orchard, hear an Easter story, and make a fun craft. We'll also have games, photo opportunities, live bunnies (weather permitting) and more! We will be offering tractor rides through our

beautiful orchards for \$1 per rider. Registration is not required for this event which will be held rain or shine. We look forward to seeing you! Visit www.hollabaugh-bros.com or call 717-677-8412 for more information.

April 9
 Bells Across the Land: A Nation Remembers Appomattox - In lieu of the traditional, collective Bell & History Day bell ringing throughout Frederick, bells throughout Frederick County will ring on 3:15 p.m. The National Park Service has invited partners across the country to ring bells for four minutes - one minute for each year of the war - to commemorate Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. Bells will ring throughout the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area -

at churches, fire halls, and public buildings.

April 11
 Bell & History Handbell Festival at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Hundreds of bells and chimes will perform with the theme "Gladness of Heart," recalling President Abraham Lincoln's last public address of which his opening statement was, "We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart." There is no charge, no reservations are necessary, and the public is invited. The concert will last approximately one hour.

WorkCamp Bingo at Mother Seton School, 100 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg. Advance ticket sales for \$30; Tickets at the Door for \$35. Tickets price includes an All Inclusive 9 Pack and a Free Spaghetti Dinner. For tickets call: John Dowling 301-271-4439, Patty Goff 301-271-4555 or SAS/OLMC Parish Office 301-447-2367. Benefits Saint Anthony Shrine, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joseph Parishes WorkCamp. 1st Annual Gettysburg Firkin Fest. The Fest will attract craft beer enthusiasts and active consumers from throughout the Mid-Atlantic and beyond to

Gettysburg for an upscale beer sampling experience.

Unlike many other brew festivals, the Firkin Fest is a more exclusive event, limited to 250 guests per session. The 250 ticketed guests will enjoy three hours of unlimited sampling, receive a premium sampling glass (not a standard pint), catered cuisine, and a cool Firkin Fest laminate to make friends jealous! For more information call 717-334-0853 or visit www.gettysburgfestival.org.

April 13
 The Majestic Theater presents A View From the Bridge. The great Arthur Miller confronts the American dream in this dark and passionate tale. In Brooklyn, longshoreman Eddie Carbone welcomes his Sicilian cousins to the land of freedom. But when one of them falls for his beautiful niece, they discover that freedom comes at a price. Eddie's jealous mistrust exposes a deep, unspeakable secret - one that drives him to commit the ultimate betrayal. 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org/

April 19
 Music Gettysburg! presents Wayne Hill & Friends. Music,

Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. The Seminary Chapel is on Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, please call 717-338-3000 ext. 2197 or visit the Music, Gettysburg! web site: www.musicgettysburg.org

The Majestic Theater presents Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee. Lancelot, Guinevere, Merlin and Mark Twain himself (as Hank) come tumbling your way in this satirical tale from America's favorite humorist. Wander with Twain as he time travels from the 19th Century to 6th Century England's medieval times through the eyes of Hank Morgan of Hartford, Connecticut who, after a blow to the head, awakens to find himself transported back to the time of legendary King Arthur. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

St. Mary's in Fairfield all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast in the church hall. Pancakes, eggs, hash-browns, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea, iced tea, and orange juice. The cost is \$6.00, \$3.00 for children 6 to 12, under 6 free.

April 21
 Mother Seton School Young Authors Night. We invite you to come out and encourage the next generation of Faulkners, Poes, and Seusses! Enjoy literary works by MSS student authors in grades Pre-K through 8, meet the authors, and leave them a message in their guestbooks. For more information, call 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

April 23 - 26
 17th Annual Greyhounds in Gettysburg. Greyhounds in Gettysburg is a 3-day event designed to celebrate the retired racing greyhound! More than 60 vendors selling dog items (not necessarily all greyhound related), fun activities, a costume contest and games, and several educational sessions

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**Saturday,
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 (Across From Getty)
Chicken BBQ - 11:00 am 'til sold out
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 Plenty of Yard Sale spaces
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\$5.00 Donation Appreciated!
 All proceeds benefit our Scholarship Fund and
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 Apple Blossom
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UPCOMING EVENTS

by dog professionals in the areas of health, nutrition, and behavior. Any dog lovers may attend and well-behaved dogs over 50 pounds are welcome inside the Expo Center. Adoption groups will have adoptable greyhounds available. Visit our web site for details, and to register for the other events offered. Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center and Gettysburg Family Amusement Complex, 2638 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg. For more information call 814-933-6981 or visit www.greyhoundsggettysburg.org

April 24
Taneytown's Grace United Church of Christ Basket, Bag & Cash Bingo Fundraiser to support the church and local food bank. GUCC would like to thank the community for their support of the last bingo. This year proceeds will also help with the hosting of the Willet Searchlight Worship & Meal Packing Spring Tour Grace UCC will be helping the Willet Band by packing 10,000 meals for hungry children living in poverty as part of their 1 Million Meal School Feeding Program Initiative in partnership with Stop Hunger Now & New Mission Systems International. The Bingo will be held at the Taneytown Fireman's Activities Building located at Memorial Drive in Taneytown. For more information call Michelle at 410-756-2898 or Joan at 410-756-2043.

April 25
Frederick County Career & Technology Center's Fourth Annual Spring Fling/Fundraiser! Our well attended Yard, Craft, Greenhouse/Nursery Plants, and Used Book Sale fill a bag for \$5. To reserve your Yard & Craft Sale space,

please call 240-236-8517. Costs for one space \$15.00/\$25.00 two spaces. Bring your own tables/setup. Rain or Shine. 7922 Oposumtown Pike, Frederick. Your generous donations support students competing at SkillsUSA Local and National Championships.

April 26
Music Gettysburg! presents Boston Shawm & Sackbut Ensemble. Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, regional and local musical

artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. The Seminary Chapel is on Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, please call 717-338-3000 ext. 2197 or visit the Music, Gettysburg! web site: www.musicgettysburg.org.

April 30
Historic East Berlin Antique Show. Americana dealers from many states offer early sam-

plers, quilts, folk art, country furniture and smalls, paintings, textiles, books and much more. Held at the East Berlin Area Community Center, 405 North

Ave (1/2 block from the National Historic District; 12 mi. west of the York Fairgrounds). For more information visit www.ebhpspa.org.

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Emmitsburg Lions Art Contest

Calling all school-age artists in Frederick County! Entries are now being received for the Lions Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day Art Contest! The contests theme this year is "The Heart Of The Civil War In Emmitsburg".

The contest is open to all Frederick County school age children in divisions. Division 1: 1st-4th grade (ages 6-9); Division 2: 5th-8th grades (ages 10-13); and Division 3: 9th-12th grades (ages 14-18).

Monetary bonds for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded in each division. The awards are a \$500 savings bond; \$100 savings bond; and \$50 savings bond respectively. The application submission deadline is 1 PM on Friday, June 19th.

Contest rules and the application submission form is available at EmmitsburgEvents.com. For more information, call 301-447-6467. Inquiries made by mail should be addressed to the Emmitsburg Lions Club, P.O. Box 1182, Emmitsburg, MD 21727

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