

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Snow hits Mason-Dixon line

Normally, Frederick and Adams counties are reading about occasional frost advisories during the closing days of October, not significant snow events.

However, during the weekend of October 29, the region was hit by what AccuWeather described as a "significant, rare October snowstorm," which moved across the area traveling out of the southwest, resulting in many prospective Halloween revelers switching from pumpkin carving to snowman making.

The arrival of The "trick or treat" snowstorm began around midnight and lasted through 11 a.m. Saturday morning. Snow continued to fall throughout the day and into the evening, and lasted into the early hours Sunday, leaving behind an estimated eight inches or more of slushy, wet snow.

Thousands of storm-related, momentary and lengthy power outages were reported in Adams and Frederick counties during the event.

The snowfall proved to be an inconvenience for many around the area, while others just decided to sit back and enjoy the Christmas card aura.

Brian D. Glass, owner of Oakridge Farms off of Toms Creek Road in Frederick County, stated he was concerned more with the weight of the snow. Oakridge Farms has about 700 acres of farm land and also keeps livestock. "We might have to check the fences pretty good," he stated, indicating that the weight of the snow on tree limbs could cause the heavy branches to fall and crush any fencing beneath them. He was also concerned about snow damage to the farm's un-harvested soy crop.

Liberty Mountain Resort had a different take on the snow event. Marketing Director Anne Weimer said, "Naturally, we at Liberty Mountain love the snow, and it gets us very excited to see it happen so early. We hope it is a sign of a great winter season ahead of us."

Bill O'Toole of Emmitsburg stated that the snow "will not have much impact unless the power goes out. Some have asked me how this jives with the Hagerstown Almanack. I had predicted rain for our area, but snow only in New England."



The scene at Toms Creek Bridge was more reminiscent of deep winter than mid fall during the surprise October snowstorm.

Emmitsburg area resident Michele Brown said, "My kids are in awe of the sight out the window. They said they have never seen so many beautiful red leaves on the trees and so much snow at the same time. They are absolutely glowing with excitement."

Brian Barth, a Brookfield resident, said, "The kids' games are canceled, golf is postponed, and our youngest is running around the house yelling and screaming. Meanwhile, our other two children have begun fighting. It is just 8 o'clock in the morning. I looked at my wife and said, 'It is going to be a long day.'"

Olivia Sielaff, who along her parents own the Holy Grounds Coffee Shop on the Emmitsburg square, is home from college for Fall break. On the day of the storm Sielaff said, "I thought for sure that I would see my first snowfall of the season up in Steubenville, Ohio where I attend college, but it turns out that mother nature wanted to give me a welcome home present."

However, she stated, "instead of running errands and visiting as many family and friends as possible, I can stay at home, relax with my family, and enjoy little, old Emmitsburg in the snow."

Candidates discuss county issues

Four candidates vying for three positions on the Adams County Board of Commissioners discussed their concerns and visions for Adams County at the October 19 forum held at the Fairfield Fire & EMS firehouse.

The event was sponsored by the Emmitsburg News-Journal, with Carroll Valley Borough Mayor Ronald Harris and Fairfield Borough Mayor Robert Stanley serving as moderators.

Participating in the forum were county commissioner candidates Jim Martin and Randy Phiel, both Republicans, and Democrats Paul Kellet and Marty Qually.

Mayor Stanley presented the assemblage of candidates with three questions relating to the responsibilities of the county Board of Commissioners and the candidates' skills that would qualify them to hold a position on that board, implementing a single communication system for emergency responders, and the county's 2012 budget.

Regarding the duties of the board of commissioners, all four candidates generally agreed that the duties included managing the county budget and providing for the health, safe-

ty, and welfare of their constituents. Phiel added that the commissioners should also act as "advocates and ambassadors" in pursuing matters for the good of the county residents.

Regarding qualifications, Qually said, "I believe I have the experience and work ethic" to serve. "We need that work ethic to move Adams County forward." Phiel said, pointing out his business and organizational abilities, "I believe I bring proven and professional skills to this job in challenging times."

Kellet stated that, when it came to certain matters, such as the re-assessment controversy, he would have had the ability to say, "Stop. We have a problem". These are the things a commissioner needs to do, consider all the needs of the community." Martin said he had "extensive management skills" and budget experience, and that his forestry experience prepared him for resource management issues.

Regarding the acquisition of a communication system for emergency responders, Phiel noted that some of the responders have "three or four radios" in their vehicle "so they can talk to each other," using the present system of incompatible communi-



cations equipment. As for any uniform upgrade, he said, "The current board left the final decision to the new board," but with a potential \$10 to \$30 million price tag for a new system, "We need to explore options."

Kellet said, given the potential cost of an upgrade, "We have to get this right," even if it means the county responders "might have to wait a year or two. We need to make sure

technology will help our firefighters (and not become obsolete before it is even paid for)." Martin stated, "You have to make sure you have the right product (when making a purchase decision). This is not a light matter... We have to come up with a way of financing the system." Qually said, "The more we delay, the more expensive it gets. A delay is not helping the emergency responders."

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NEWS

Mayor Briggs sworn in

Newly-elected Emmitsburg Mayor Donald N. Briggs assumed his new role as the municipality's chief administrator after being sworn-in October 3 during the town council meeting by state Delegate Kathy Afzali (R, District 4A).

Briggs, owner of Briggs Associates, Inc., as well as a member and former president of the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA), defeated incumbent Mayor James E. Hoover in the town election, ending Hoover's nine-year run as town mayor of Emmitsburg.

Mayor Briggs told the council following the swearing-in ceremony, "This is an honor and I am humbled."

To Mayor Hoover, Briggs stated that, regarding Hoover's political future, "This is not a door closing. This is a door opening (to continue to serve)."

Briggs stated his objectives remain, as promulgated during his campaign, dealing with local crime, economic development, the creation of jobs, the establishment of more activities for youth and the elderly, and the beautification of the Town Square.

"My cadence (in pursuing the stated objectives) will be quick



Delegate Kathy Afzali swears in Mayor Briggs

time," the new mayor said. "We must scrutinize everything. Everything must be put on the table."

Mayor Briggs said he is going to establish several new committees to contribute towards the management of the town, including a Police Committee, an Economic Development Committee, and a Neighborhood Action Committee.

"It's time to definitely articulate what our town is," he stated. "We're not anywhere, U.S.A. We're Emmitsburg."

Outgoing Mayor Hoover said, after congratulating Briggs on his victory, "I enjoyed it (serving as mayor). It's been a great time," describing his defeat in the town election as "bittersweet."

Hoover, who is also employed as a deputy director for the Maryland Transit Administration in Baltimore, stated that he planned to continue to serve the community, although, he said, "I'm not sure what I'm going to do (in that regard). I'll stay involved one way or another. I am very passionate toward the town."

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In the meantime, the former mayor said he planned "to take a little break."

Also sworn in by Delegate Afza-

li was incumbent Councilman and council President Christopher V. Staiger, who ran unopposed in the election September 27 election.

Emmitsburg sewage spills continue

As efforts proceed to build a new wastewater treatment facility for the Town of Emmitsburg, the existing infrastructure continues to fail, resulting in the existing treatment plant exceeding its permitted treatment capacity by 24,912,000 gallons in September.

The system, overwhelmed by storm water run-off breaching the system during the same period, also produced two untreated wastewater spills amounting to a total of 26,400 gallons.

According to a report filed by Town

Manager David Haller with the Town Council at their October 17 meeting, the collection system was overwhelmed on 14 separate days during the month of September, with spillages occurring on September with spillages occurring on two occasions.

In his September report, Haller noted that, of the total 1,086,000 gallons per day (GPD) treated by the sewage plant, 74.9 percent of that was "wild water (of storm water run-off that has worked its way into the sewage collection system.)."

The sewage spills that occurred

took place at Emmit Gardens (21,000 gallons) on September 23 and North Seton Avenue (5,400 gallons) on September 27, according to Haller's report.

Council President Christopher V. Staiger pointed out that efforts should be redoubled to find the cause because the infiltration could drive up the cost of operating the new facility, as well as old, if it continues.

"If 75 percent of the water (treated) shouldn't be there, that's going to drive up the costs," he said. "It's

important that we really get a handle on this."

Council balks at park smoking bans

The Emmitsburg Town Council declined to adopt an ordinance implementing a smoking ban at town parks at their October 17 meeting and, instead, directed town staff to create signs to be posted at certain areas within the parks requesting people to refrain from smoking in those areas.

The signage would not be backed

with the force of law. Compliance would be voluntary, or rely on peer-driven enforcement.

The concept of imposing a smoking ban was placed on the October 17 council agenda by Councilman Glenn Blanchard. Blanchard also suggested the less aggressive approach of simply asking people (through signage) to not smoke in certain areas.

Areas of concern regarding smoking included the town pool, playground areas, and seating areas at the baseball fields. The town parks involved will include Community Park, Memorial Park, and the Silo Hill park facility.

Emmitsburg adopts ethics changes

The Emmitsburg Town Council unanimously adopted proposed changes to the municipal ethics regulations at their October 17 meeting.

Changes in the existing ethics rules had been considered since the 2004 and 2005 investigations of the

town Ethics Commission into allegations lodged against then council members William B. O'Neil, Jr. and Arthur Elder, during which some aspects of the guidelines seemed to some to be unclear.

O'Neil, Jr. and Elder were determined by the commission in 2005 to

have violated ethics mandates. The commission then approved a recommendation to the town Council that the accused be issued cease and desist notices regarding the alleged violations (see Report of the Emmitsburg Ethics Commission, April 18, 2005, Emmitsburg.net).

Town Attorney John Clapp stated at the October 3 council meeting that the changes being proposed at this time were compelled by the state to bring county and municipal ethics regulations closer into compliance with the state ethics rules regarding elected officials.

Among the key changes, the council voted to hold the positions of town manager and town clerk equal in terms of financial disclosures on the same level as those required of elected officials, and included the position of town planner and members of the ethics committee, the planning commissions, and the town (zoning) Board of Appeals to less stringent financial disclosure mandates.

The changes also forbid an elected

official, or an individual appointed to temporarily fill a vacated elected position, from representing entities that have had business before the town for a period of one year after that official has vacated their position.

Also, the new regulations provide a concise direction for conducting ethics investigations, including the process of advancing a finding of guilt to the council and, if necessary, to court.

Violations of the impending regulations could carry a fine of up to \$10,000, or imprisonment of up to a year.

Council President Christopher V. Staiger said the process represents "what we (council) tried to do the last time (during the 2004-2005 ethics investigation)" but it was "not laid out" with clarity.

The new set of ethics guidelines must now be approved by the state.

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Carroll Valley looking at 2012 tax hike

Plunging revenues may compel Carroll Valley Borough to enact a real estate tax increase to help support the impending 2012 general fund budget.

Borough Councilman Bill Reinke, also a member of the borough Finance Committee, told the council at the October 11 meeting that a tax hike for 2012 may be unavoidable.

The borough Finance Commit-

tee is presently working on a draft of the 2012 budget, which will potentially be adopted in the amount of around \$1.7 million, or about the same size as the 2011 general fund budget.

But while the budget will likely remain about the same as that of last year's, Reinke said, "We're almost certainly looking at a tax increase (for 2012). We are looking at a tax increase unless

someone can win the lottery and donate the money to the borough.

When asked how much of a tax increase might be on the table, Reinke told the Emmitsburg News-Journal, "As small (a tax increase) as possible."

Reinke cited declining revenues as the primary reason for the apparent need for the potential tax increase. Specifically, he said the

shortfall is due in a large part to decreased income and real estate money.

Carroll Valley Borough residents have an average per capita income \$33,940 (2009 numbers), with the average resident age of 35.4, according to city-data.com.

The current tax rate of eight mills was set in 2008, effective for the 2009 budget, this at a time when the total real estate value in the bor-

ough approximated \$89,699,051.

The borough tax rate has only been increase once (2008) in the past 14 years, Councilman Reinke noted.

A current, working draft of the 2012 general fund budget, produced by the borough Finance Committee, was distributed to the council members at the meeting, but the council took no formal action regarding the draft.

Fairfield endorses county run-off plan

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission voted unanimously at their October 10 meeting to indicate their support for the adoption of a county-generated storm water management plan.

On a motion by borough Councilman, Carroll Smith, who serves as liaison to the planning commission, and seconded by commission member Ralph Bender, the commission voted to indicate their support of the county's proposal to promulgate new rules that would supersede the Monocacy Watershed Plan.

Robert Thaeler, Adams County Office of Planning and Development (ACOPD), stated previously that the county developed a "bare bones" storm water management plan option for the county's 34 municipalities to consider.

Thaeler stated that state Act 167, enacted in 1978, requires all counties in Pennsylvania to develop a storm water management plan for each watershed in their jurisdiction, but, he said, "The state had never fully funded the program."

The state subsequently decid-

ed it wanted to move away from watershed-based plans and wanted the counties to do county-wide storm water management plans that addressed run-off issues in general.

Thaeler stated at the October 10 borough Planning Commission meeting that the county sought to reduce the impact the Monocacy Plan was having on small property owners, and on developers, as the result of excessive, Monocacy Plan-driven engineering requirements.

The county planner said the county proposal would not sig-

nificantly change the ratios between water that must be retained on a site to recharge the immediate groundwater supply and treated storm water allowed to be released from a particular site.

The main difference between the existing Monocacy Plan rules and that which the county has proposed primarily changes the permitting process to ease engineering expenses, especially on small property owners looking to build something as simple as a garage.

The county Board of Commissioners will hold a public hear-

ing on November 2 to receive additional comments. The county will then advertise the county storm water management plan for possible adoption at the commissioners' November 23 meeting. Thaeler stated that, once approved by the commissioners, the plan would then go to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for their sign-off.

After the county is notified of the DEP's approval, the municipalities will have six months to adopt a form of the plan applicable to their specific needs.

Hamiltonban nixes media funding

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors voted unanimously at their October 4 meeting to deny a funding request submitted to the township by Community Media, a New Oxford Borough-based public service cable station.

Community Media (CM), classified as a public, education and government (PEG) media service, asked the township in a letter dated September 20 to consider shar-

ing a portion of the municipality's Comcast cable television franchise fees with CM.

According to township Board of Supervisors Chairman Robert L. Gordon, CM, formerly Adams Community Television (ACTV), noted in their request for money that "Comcast has stated that the franchise fees (derived from Comcast) are the typical source for PEG channel funding."

The board approved a draft let-

ter submitted by Gordon at their meeting, to be sent to CM, stating, "The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors disagrees with that (CM's) statement."

The chairman said, "It is our understanding that the law requires Comcast to provide funding for PEG channels and it is not the township's responsibility to give up a share of our franchise fee for that purpose."

"We understand that Comcast

does not have to provide unlimited resources, but we believe they have the basic responsibility to fund PEG channels," he wrote in a draft letter to CM.

Supervisors Vice chairwoman Coleen N. Reamer noted, "They (CM) told us last year they would not request part of our franchise fees," to which Gordon added, "We told them right up front" they would not be given township

franchise money.

The board previously voted to support the network on September 7, 2010, but also stated then it would not provide funding through the use of township franchise fees.

Gordon noted that the board also indicated when it had voted to support the network that "we reserve the right to withdraw our support."

Commissioner Candidates

Continued from page 1

Regarding the 2012 budget, Kellett stated it was important to screen the budget for any signs of waste because "there is not (in and of itself) a line item that is a waste here.... We can and should be doing our homework every day (to learn to spot waste buried in the budget)."

Martin said, "There's much to do" regarding trimming the 2012 budget. He also noted that available state and federal money is dwindling for even state and federally-mandated programs and services. Qually stated, "This is the most important document the county commissioners come up with," but cautioned that cutting the budget has to be done wisely. "You can't simply look at the expense side of things. Cutting some programs would not change the tax rate (would not represent a savings)."

Phiel stated that the budget can be trimmed once a set of priorities is established, which would be created as the result of a board that was willing to "listen to the residents and determine what their priorities are... In these times we need to make sure we are spending wisely."

The candidates generally agreed that expensive consulting services need to be examined and eliminated where possible. Qually said, "No doubt our county staff can rise to the task (of accomplishing some of the project assessments)."

Incumbent county commissioners Lisa Moreno and George Weikert failed to win the approval of the voters to run for re-election in the May primary, while incumbent R. Glenn Snyder elected not to run. Martin, Phiel, Kellett and Qually led the field of ten prospective commissarial candidates in the primary, thus securing their participation in

the November election in the contest to fill the three board seats.

During his opening remarks at the forum, Qually noted that this coming election would mark the "first time in 50 years" that every seat on the board was up for election, adding that, "The old politics aren't going to solve our problems anyhow."

Adams County voters will be electing three commissioners from the four candidates on November 8. Voters will be allowed to vote for no more than two candidates. Of these candidates, the three that receive the highest number of votes will win the three commissioner seats for four-year terms.

Editor's Note: For the past six months, the four candidates have afforded themselves the opportunity presented to them by this paper to systemically lay out their positions on topics they believe are important to the county. We hope our readers have found their efforts worthwhile.



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NEWS

Mount solar farm work underway

Mount Saint Mary's University may be only months away from hosting an operational solar photovoltaic power system presently under construction by Baltimore-based Constellation Energy.

The system, more commonly referred to as a solar energy farm, is being sited on 100 acres of the Mount's 1,400-acre campus, which Constellation Energy is leasing from the university.

Ron Melchior, vice president of Renewable Energy for Constellation Energy, said that his company's involvement in building the new solar power system began in 2008 when his firm bid on the project.

Creation of the solar energy farm was proposed jointly by the University System of Maryland and the Maryland Department of General Services as part of the state Generating Clean Horizons initiative.

Soon after, Constellation Ener-

gy began to negotiate a lease from Mount Saint Mary's in order for the institution to serve as the home for the "roughly \$60 million" facility. Constellation Energy will own the solar energy generation system once it is completed.

The company broke ground to mark the commencement of the construction of the project during the first week of October. Melchior stated that the construction should be completed in early 2012, "depending on how harsh the winter is."

The facility is expected to generate 16.1 megawatts of power, the vice president said, making it the "largest solar system to date in Maryland."

Around 50 percent of the power generated "will be purchased by the University System of Maryland, and the other half will be purchased by the Maryland Department of General Services," he said.

Melchior said Constellation Ener-



As seen in this aerial photograph, work has begun on Constellation Energy's 100-acre solar power system.

gy presently generates about 25 megawatts of solar power in Maryland, of which 80 percent is generated by roof-mounted solar panels.

As part of the deal struck with the Mount to serve as the host for the project, Constellation Energy is also

constructing a 1.4 megawatt system that will produce solar energy strictly for the university, nearly half of the estimated three megawatts consumed by the institution. That facility will also be located on the Mount's land, and the Mount will purchase the pow-

er generated for the institution.

Mount President Thomas H. Powell said, "We got involved thanks to the constellation people, who approached us (about constructing the facility at the university). We had land that is developable, and were looking to partner (on a project) with our land."

In addition to the power to be generated for the Mount, Constellation will also be constructing a parking garage, which the Mount can use, so that solar panels can be mounted on its roof. Powell said the company has also provided the Mount with a grant to construct a solar energy educational center.

"We have worked with a lot of companies, (over the years)," the university president said, "and the Constellation people have been excellent and professional, and have been understanding about doing a construction project on an active campus."

"There is absolutely no downside to this project," Powell stated. "It is good for the environment, good for Frederick County, good for Maryland, and good for us."

Historic Fire Heritage Center opens

Nearly 100 individuals attended a ribbon cutting ceremony held October 14 to mark the official opening of the National Fire Heritage Center (NFHC) in Emmitsburg.

The new facility is located in the county-owned, former Emmitsburg ambulance headquarters, at 300 South Seton Avenue, adjacent to the building housing the Emmitsburg Town Office and the Emmitsburg Branch of the Frederick County library system.

The National Fire Heritage Center, conceived to preserve and protect documents pertaining to the history of the American fire service, also encompasses the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum (FCFRM) at the same location, which focuses on the display of fire service artifacts and equipment.

Clarence "Chip" Jewell, III, FCFRM coordinator, said during the dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting held October 14, Emmits-

burg "is the heart of the American fire service."

A short distance from the center and museum is the U.S. Fire Administration, the National Fire Academy, and related fire services facilities, also on South Seton Avenue.

Regarding the ceremony to officially open the heritage center, Jewell stated, "We will all look back and say, 'We were at that historic event.'"

Ronald "Ronny" Coleman, president of the National Fire Heritage Center, said, "This (center) is a seed that is going to germinate into something big. This is going to bring so much tourism (to Emmitsburg)."

Coleman thanked the numerous volunteers who helped prepare the building housing the center, transforming it from an abandoned ambulance headquarters into a national archival entity. "If you would have seen this room (where the ceremony was held) eight months ago, you

wouldn't believe it (what has been accomplished)."

Coleman noted that the center "is not going to (just) be a museum that is a collection of hardware. It will (also) be a collection of memories. It's about the past. It's about the present. It's about the future (of the firefighting service and those who were, are, and will become participants in it)."

In addition to displaying fire fighting equipment, he said, the center was also conceived with the idea to "archive the perishable... the ideas," including firefighter letters, documents and photographs that often vanish or are lost over time.

R. Wayne Powell, executive director of the center and formerly on the staff of the National Fire Academy, noted, "Not a single penny of tax money went into this facility." The effort was supported by donations, fundraisers and volunteer help.

The center was proposed around 2003, with the effort to make it a reality initiated in 2005.

According to the mission statement of the NFHC, the center "exists to preserve, protect and increase the utilization of contributors to the body of knowl-

edge of the American fire protection service and allied disciplines through identification, acquisition, preservation, conservation and restoration."

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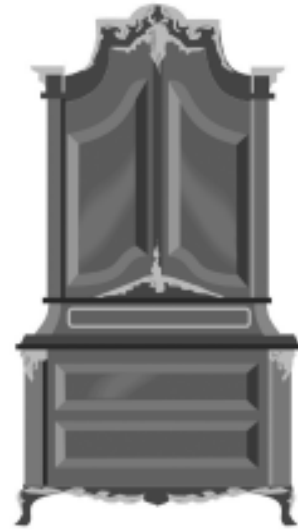
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One hundred years ago this month

November 3

Class of 1912 Halloween Party

The class of 1912, of the Emmitsburg High School, with the members of the 1913 and 1914 as their special invited guests, enjoyed themselves for a few hours on Halloween in a masquerade party. The judges, Miss Maude Dorsey, Ms. Madeline Fraley, and Messers Jones Baker and Harry Whitmore had little trouble in determining who the robed "spirits" were and upon unmasking found that they had been mistaken in four. The party was made more enjoyable by various songs sung by different ones. Ned Annan received the prize for the best song and Alan Longnecker for sweetest song.

Overcome by Coal Gas

On Tuesday the occupants of Mrs. Adelsburger's house were made very ill by escaping coal gas. Mrs. Adelsberger was aroused around three o'clock in the morning when Mrs. Sponseller, completely overcome by the noxious gas, fell to the floor. She then discovered that her sister-in-law, Nannie Adelsburger, was likewise ill and she, herself, was very weak. The cause was not immediately apprehended and during the day their conditions grew worse. A physician and neighbors were summoned and restoratives administered. Dr. Braugher and Stone attended to the ladies.

Mr. Daniel Shorb's New Barn

On October 26 assisted by a number of his friends and neighbors, Mr. Daniel Shorb raised the frame of his new barn to take the place of the one burned on the evening of August 2. A substantial dinner, prepared by Mr. Shorb, was served with 53 persons assisting at the "raising."

November 10

Emmitsburgian Dies of Overdose of Morphine

Thomas Clagett, son of the late Jessie Clagett, whose peculiarities were accentuated by money recently inherited, died in a Topeka, Kansas hotel on October 30, from an overdose of morphine. Clagett left home about a week previous, in company with his brother-in-law, Roy Hill, from New Mexico, going to Los Vegas and Ranton to hunt bears. They made only a short stay in New Mexico and were on their way home when Clagett took too much morphine

Hampton Valley Telephone Company

The Hampton Valley Rural Telephone Company has been organized, its line's have been staked out and it is thought that the poles will soon be in place. The line will

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connect with the C&P Company lines in Emmitsburg and extend to Hess' Sawmill.

Employees to get Pensions

The movement to grant employees pensions to ensure their loyalty is gaining hold. Armour & Co., the big packing concern at Chicago, has started a pension plan for the benefit of its 55,000 employees. They are following the example set in the last 10 years by several other big corporations in this country, including road companies.

Armour & Co. itself has set aside \$1 million to start the pension fund. The 55,000 employees will pay 3% of their salaries annually into the fund, and will receive 2% of their salaries at the time of the retirement for each year they have served. Employees, for example who have served the company for 25 years will receive an annual income equal to 50% of their salary at the time of the retirement.

November 17

Mr. Davison has a Bully Time

Mr. Davison is fond of motorcycling. Sometimes he rides double. Last week he had his mother on behind his Wheeler and Wilson. He was bringing her home from a visit to Mrs. Baker when a 15,000 pound bull, genus Durum, jumped from behind a bed of violets along the road. The bull chewed up a tire, combed its mustache with Davidson's \$36 headlight which he recently purchased from Rears, Starbucks and Co., and picked his teeth with a half dozen spokes from this machine. He then allowed the cycling party to return home.

When Mr. Davison first saw the bull he hoisted a signal of distress and made for shallow water. He soon found himself on a sandbank where he pulled the cyclometer off the turbine, released the carburetor from the caboose, and sent the generator up to room 23 for help. But the bull cared for none of these things and went at 'em with the above results. No one was hurt; not even the bull, but the repairs necessary to get Mr. Davison's craft in commission will put a dent in the range of \$10.48.

Severe weather

The wind on Sunday night blew over a corncrib in Mr. Helman's yard and damaged many trees in town. On Monday morning barometer registered 16° at 6 AM, a drop of over 40° in 24 hours. This same storm caused 12 deaths in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, and caused a drop of 50° in just a few hours. While it rained here, in the Middle West it sleeted. Much damage was done to telephone lines, knocking out communication to vast stretches of areas. In Virginia, Illinois every public building was demolished due to the weight of ice accumulation.

Business Developments

Beginning Monday the toll rates on telephone messages over the C&P wires between Emmitsburg and Gettysburg will be \$.10 per minute. The Emmitsburg Motor Car Co., Messers Wagermand and Zimmerman have purchased a White Steamer. Orders are piling up at the Broom Factory and a busy winter is promised to those engaged in that industry.

November 24

Whooping Cough

The epidemic of whooping cough has been revived since the schools have opened. A number of children living in a country, who escaped the disease in the summer, are now ill. Parents are urged to report any ill children to their doctors so the progress of

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the epidemic can be tracked.

Will be Sadly Missed

After a long illness patiently endured, Francis Seybold died at his home near town on Saturday at the age of 22 years. Ray, as he was familiarly known, was a young man of great promise with particularly winning personality. He was also athletic, a splendid baseball player. For several years he made a valiant fight against the malady that was slowly destroying his life.

Mrs. Cora May Orndorff, Wife of Frank Orndorff, died at her home at Motter's Station, after a seven weeks illness of typhoid fever. She was age 37 years 5 months and 2 days old. Mrs. Orndorff was Miss Welty before marriage. She is survived by her husband and 10 children.

Excursion to Baltimore

By Rising Star Council, Saturday, November 25. Train

leaves Emmitsburg at 7:55 a.m., Motter's, 8:08 a.m., returning leaving Baltimore at 12 midnight. \$1.35 round-trip from Emmitsburg, \$1.20 from Motters. All day in the city and the night at the theaters, full of good shows. Splendid chance to get ready for Thanksgiving.

Accidents

Mr. Kessler met with a painful accident on Saturday while butchering. The knife he was using slipped and cut a gash of 5 inches long and his hand. Dr. Jamison dressed the wound.

On Saturday night two teams collided on W. Main St. with serious results. After the collision one horse took to the pavement and knocked Miss Fanny Hoke down, but fortunately did her no serious injury. The shaft of one of the buggies stabbed one of the horses. Both vehicles were broken.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Billy Shreve

If I were to ask you what state in the Union is among the most anti-business friendly states, I'm betting that most of you would be able to say Maryland, but do you know why we rank so low? In the immortal words of Paul Harvey, "Here's the rest of the story."

According to The Daily Record, in 2011 Maryland slipped two spots in CNBC's rankings of the best states to do business this year, finishing No. 29 out of 50 after placing 27th in both 2009 and 2010.

What may be worse for the Old Line State is that Virginia – Maryland's most frequent foil when it comes to all things economic development and business friendliness – gained one place in the rankings and recaptured the top spot. The two big reasons for this improvement for Virginia – LESS TAXES and LESS GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS.

Furthermore, the study noted that Maryland didn't finish in the top five in any category the business news network used to determine the over-

all rankings. The state had its worst showing in cost of living, its 44th place ranking ahead of only New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, California, Alaska and Hawaii.

Perhaps more surprising for Maryland, CNBC ranked the state 38th for work force and 30th for quality of life, two factors that state leaders talk up as some of the state's best selling points. The workforce ranking was based on education (where Maryland should have done well), worker availability (where Maryland may have hurt been by its relatively low unemployment rate) and union membership. CNBC counts union membership against states and Maryland's stance has been very pro-union. It is the southernmost of the non-right to work states, a factor some economists believe hurts Maryland in its competition with Virginia and North Carolina.

Maryland also got crushed in the rankings on infrastructure and transportation, finishing 39th. The Baltimore and Washington regions are some of the most congested in the

country, so that's not a surprise. But the rankings also looked at the value of goods shipped through the state, road quality and the availability of air travel. Hampton Roads in Virginia does more business than the Port of Baltimore and while BWI is bigger than Reagan and Dulles, the two northern Virginia airports are larger when combined and Dulles offers far more international travel.

While we cannot control state regulations and policies, we can be pro-active here in Frederick County and try to do something to help our economy. As President Calvin Coolidge so eloquently stated, "The business of America, IS business."

Businesses create jobs and with jobs we can afford to have a decent quality of life. That is why I am sponsoring a legislative proposal in the Frederick County Legislative Package for the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly which will grant a tax credit to a small business if they create even one job.

As a Board of County Commissioners we have made it a priori-

ty or voted to streamline our business practices to aid in job creation and expansion. Just recently we have voted to take abolishing the County's Excise Tax to public hearing. This tax elimination will allow for more expansion for new businesses.

The County Commissioners have also pared the size of government and have been looking at every agency, program, and grant to make sure your tax dollars are spent in the wisest manner. This means being frugal, but also allows for the examination of how our government works and interacts with individuals and businesses. We make sure we provide only for the real needs of our citizens, and not one penny more. This allows for more money to remain in the hands of taxpayers and businesses. This in turn also places more money for investments in our local communities.

When this Board of County Commissioners was sworn in about ten months ago, we called the local businesses together to work with each other and the government on how we can aid in job growth and

get government off the back and out of the way of job creators. From this endeavor we created a listing of Business Friendly Improvement Areas.

In less than one year we initially identified 181 items that could be addressed to improve our business climate here in Frederick County. Since then we have added an additional 54 items for a total of 235 business friendly action items. Since December 1, 2010, 92 items have been completed, this accounts for 50% of the initial listing and a 40% overall completion, and currently another 109 business friendly action items are underway.

This has been no small task. Rather the commitment of the Board to do everything we can to improve the quality of life here in Frederick County. While some of our actions have not been appreciated by everyone, we have done what we believe to be in the best interests of all Frederick County residents.

I for one am proud to say that Frederick County is OPEN for business!

From the Desk of Town Council President Chris Staiger

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who participated or otherwise supported the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, October 14-16, 2011. This is an annual event of national importance that we are honored to have take place in the Emmitsburg area. Mayor Jim Hoover deserves a substantial amount of credit for raising the profile of the town as well as its level of participation. Thousands of members of the firefighting community gather here annually to honor their fallen heroes over this special autumn weekend. Over the last few years we have made a much greater effort to participate in the spirit of this worthwhile event.

In regular business over the month of October, it's obvious to me as Board President that newly elected Mayor Don Briggs is working rapidly to broaden the level of public and small business participation in town government. He is actively attempting to pull together teams fo-

cused on public safety concerns and economic development and has also been successful finding participants for a number of key town positions on the Ethics Committee and Board of Appeals. I encourage members of the community who are interested in participating in these efforts to contact him directly and look forward to moving some of these challenging, new ideas toward implementation.

In other October business, while a town the size of Emmitsburg wouldn't normally be required to have an Ethics Ordinance for elected officials, our town has had requirements on the books for a number of years now. The State of Maryland has recently decided to standardize the requirements of such ordinances, and the Town of Emmitsburg has chosen to revise our existing code accordingly. The biggest changes surround the need to report financial, business, or property interests that might lead to a conflict of interest when acting in one's official

capacity. The requirements are now much more explicit and the penalties for non-compliance are much better defined. While I feel the reporting requirements are a bit onerous for a part time, elected official (and may wind up deterring some possible participants) it is better to have them than not. The Commissioners have also decided to extend some of the reporting requirements to senior town employees with day to day involvement in policy implementation or purchasing decisions – all in an effort to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

The Town has also taken an official position in the county tax differential versus tax equity debate. A resolution proposed by Mayor Briggs and approved unanimously by the Board of Commissioners was in favor of retaining the existing tax equity structure. Your property tax bill has two main components per \$100 of assessed value: 93.6 cents to the county and 36 cents to the town. Some

town activities such as contracting for police protection or planning and zoning administration are managed directly by the town. The county reimburses us for the fees it also collects for these (duplicated) services through a "tax equity" payment. Some had proposed the county simply collect less tax – and require the municipality to collect more to cover the difference – "tax differential." The municipality would then purchase services directly with the extra, local revenue collected.

While this might appear to be a rationale proposal, as always, the devil is in the detail. I for one was skeptical of the county's willingness to maintain the cost of services provided when police protection, for example, could potentially be considered a commodity to be sold as opposed to a jointly funded activity. Our tax equity payment largely covers the cost of up to two "community deputies," but not the other detective, emergency, or administrative services we also

rely on from the Sheriff's Department. Would the county then make us "buy" all of those supplemental services as well? When they started to itemized all of those costs and we had to raise local taxes to pay them, would your total tax burden wind up being even greater? The main supporters of the change were those who provided services separately – not those who already shared them with the county.

As we move into November, the Board will continue to work with Mayor Briggs on his new economic development initiatives, define the town's planning priorities to create a platform for additional ordinance changes to promote positive growth while maintaining our small town character, and make changes to the permit and fee process in order to improve interaction with the town office. As always, I encourage your participation and feedback to your elected officials! Sincerely, Chris Staiger.

From the Desk of Mayor Don Briggs

Hello to all. This is the first of a series of monthly articles I will be writing for the Journal. No better place to start than from where I began my campaign. Following Aristotle's lead, well begun is half done. From my campaign, we need a government that listens and encourages dialogue.

In October, the town commissioners passed a motion that October be officially recognized by the town as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month", and that the week of October 10th – 16th be officially recognized by town as "Fallen Fighter's Week".

As I promised during my campaign, the town office conference

room would be opened to recognized Emmitsburg based volunteer groups. The day after being sworn in as mayor, members of the Emmitsburg Council of Churches board took me up on that promise and met in the town conference room, as did the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Clinic board and the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA) board. The EPBA will meet at the town office every third Thursday of the month.

Another issue raised during the campaign was the deep concern about crime in our town. On the 12th, a meeting was held to discuss the situation with the local sheriff's deputy. There will be another meet-

ing in December all are welcomed.

On October 14th over eighty people packed into the old ambulance company building for the opening of the National Fire Heritage Center. I can only begin to tell you about the profound work and dedication of a national board and locally Brenda and Wayne Powell that went into the dedication.

On October 22nd we had our first "Coffee on the Square" with Ron Siarnecki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Hopefully this will be a monthly event where a guest will bring us up to date. All will be invited.

I'm getting close to my word count, but in subsequent editions I'll

bring you up to date on other initiative on my plate, including: youth activities, replenishing Upcounty services, Brookfield build out and ski time alternative outlet, Northgate alternative emergency access and yes we may have a retail store coming to Emmitsburg from a contact I have worked with for over four years.

Lastly, the town staff and I had a very productive meeting with the State Highway representatives with regard to making the Square a more walkable pedestrian friendly place.

Until next month and a Happy Thanksgiving! Please visit one of our wonderful churches over the holiday; we have so much to be thankful for.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Blaine Young

On September 29 a column of mine was published in TheTentacle.com about the upcoming congressional redistricting. At the time, although it was clear the Democrats were going to try to get one more congressman in the House of Representatives, it was not then clear how they would go about it.

Well, it is now. In that earlier column I wrote the following:

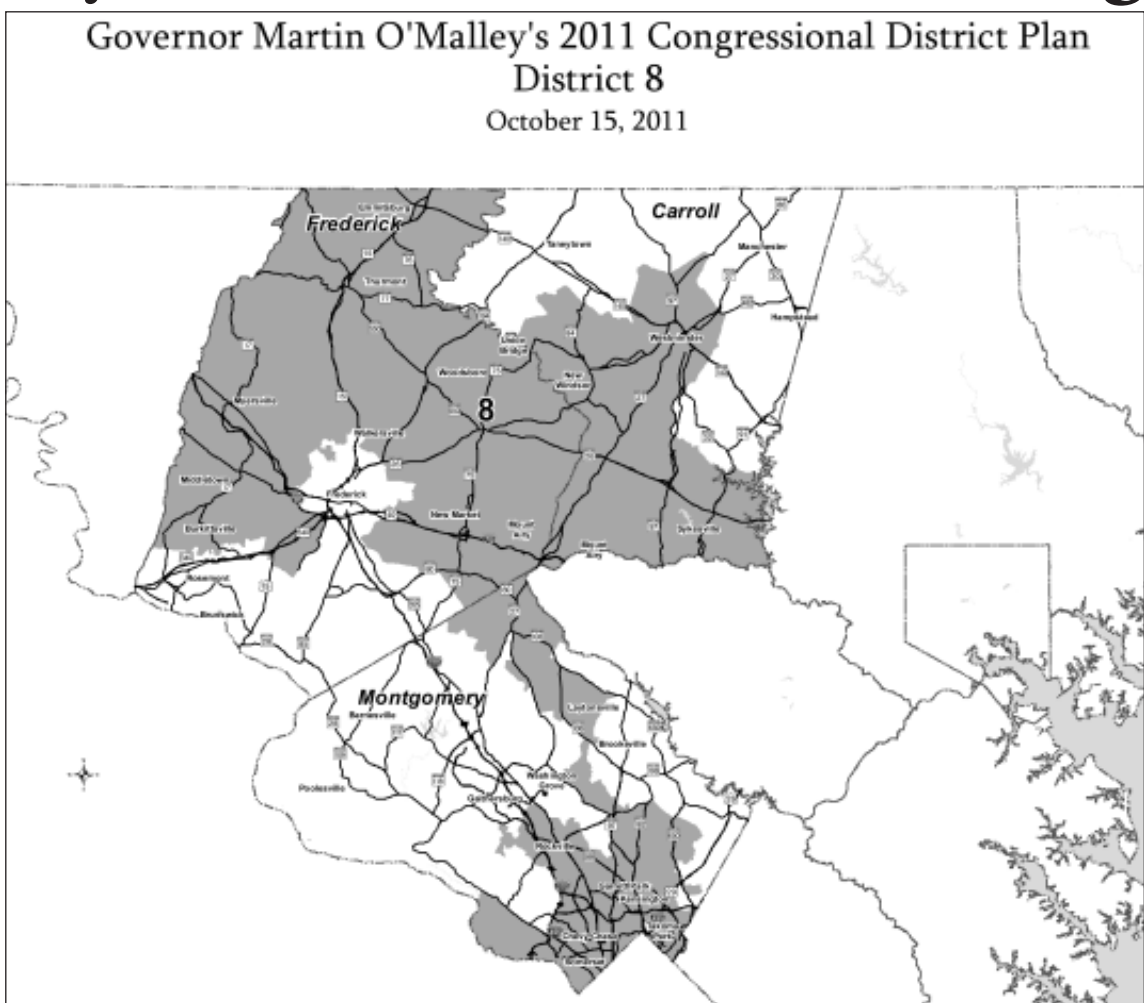
"I may be in the minority, but I think they are going after us. I think they will target the 6th District by adding pockets of Montgomery County and try to make it a Democrat majority district. I hope I am wrong because such a district would not really reflect the views of those of us here in Frederick County or our neighbors both east and west.

However I think such a move could backfire on the Democrats."

Unfortunately, I was right. But I think I may also have been right when I wrote the following a little later on:

"Just because a district is a Democrat majority district does not mean that it will vote for any Democrat the powers-that-be tries to shove down their throats."

Again, I may be in the minority, but I think the Democrats might have screwed this one up. In their crusade to get one more Democrat majority congressional district, I think they have instead put two districts in play. I don't think either the 6th or the 8th is a safe seat for a Democrat. And if the rumors are true, that the current congressman from the 8th District, Chris Van Hollen, is none too pleased by the



new map, things may be a lot more interesting a year from now than the brain trust in Annapolis expects.

In my view the congressional races in the 6th and 8th District next November will be all about turnout. The 8th District has gone from a very safe seat for Representative Van Hollen, concentrated solely in Montgomery County, to a district that now has most of Frederick County (with the exception of Fred-

erick City, Urbana and Brunswick) and most if not all of eastern and southern Carroll County. These obviously are not hotbeds of support for Democrat candidates.

If the voters of Frederick and Carroll county n TV only in the company of Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, and with a strong Republican turnout in the presidential election to oust the current occupant of the White House, a Republican turnout may

swamp the votes Mr. Van Hollen expects from Montgomery County, and he could be in trouble.

The new 8th District is the home to a number of Republicans who have been waiting for Roscoe Bartlett to retire in the old 6th District, but would now have to run against Mr. Van Hollen in the 8th. This is going to be a political battle worth watching.

In the new 6th District, the Democrats have added northern and western Montgomery County to the City of Frederick, Urbana, Brunswick and all of Washington County, Allegheny County and Garrett County.

Again, as with the new 8th District, the thinking in Annapolis is that the new voters from Montgomery County and the more Democrat leaning Frederick City will take care of those nuisance Republicans in the western part of the state. I know a lot of people in Frederick City, Urbana, Brunswick, Damascus and other areas of northern Montgomery County, and I do not see them toeing the Democrat party line simply because they are told for whom to vote. I think this district is also in play, and a strong Republican candidate could give the handpicked liberal Democrat, Sen. Robert Garagiola from Montgomery County or Sen. Granola Bar as I call him, a real race for his money.

The current 6th District should have been left alone. I am saddened because the changes may dilute our voice in Washington, and just be another attack by our Democrat state leaders on rural Maryland. So, much for the "One Maryland" concept that the Governor promotes. If anything Frederick County deserves two congressional representatives not Montgomery County.

If nothing else, it will give us two races to watch instead of one. And hopefully our liberal Governor will eat crow with his gerrymandering.

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- Nov. 26 - Larry Stouter MS, LCPC Catoclin Wellness Centers, Inc. - *Current Issues In Society*
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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Randy Phiel

As the first candidate to announce for Adams County Commissioner 11 months ago, I had no idea that this week I would be composing my sixth and final *Emmitsburg News Journal* column before the November 8 General Election. I would like to thank Editor Mike Hillman for the opportunity to introduce myself and my perspective on issues that face Adams County. Mr. Hillman should also be commended for enhancing political and community awareness by inviting all four commissioner candidates to submit articles monthly. It was only in the past year that I became familiar with this paper since it does not reach my residence in Cumberland Township. Now that I am familiar with it and read it monthly, there is no doubt that the *Emmitsburg News Journal* provides southwestern Adams County residents with an informational and community oriented tabloid that is chock full of interesting and diverse reading. It takes several days to read the large variety of articles from various contributors. Keep up the good work Mike and staff!

Writing articles for the *Journal* has not been the only unanticipated element of this county commissioner campaign for me. Although I was well aware there is overall frustration with government and gov-

ernment officials at every level, and that there is economic pain and significant dissatisfaction with the county re-assessment, I did not anticipate ten primary candidates announcing for commissioner and ten debates/forums sponsored by various entities. To give some perspective, in previous commissioner races there was normally one forum held during the General Election.

In the primary I was privileged and honored to receive the most votes of any candidate for either party. I ask for your vote again on Election Day November 8. Each Adams County voter will have the opportunity to vote for two of the four remaining candidates for Adams County Commissioner. The Republican candidates are myself, (Randy Phiel), and Jim Martin. The Democratic candidates are Marty Qually and Paul Kellett. The three candidates obtaining the most votes will be seated January 1st as the new board of Adams County Commissioners. After the three candidates are chosen on November 8, there will be a completely new Board of County Commissioners for the first time since 1967. There is also a newly appointed County Manager position as of last January, and for the first time, an elected County Controller will take office with the new Board of Commissioners in January. The Controller will replace the three

part-time county auditors in the transition from a Class 6 to Class 5 county. Steve Renner, the Republican candidate from Littlestown is running unopposed for Controller. Steve is a former 25 year CFO/CEO of Gettysburg Hospital and is a former Executive Director of the Adams County Economic Development Authority.

Despite the frustration with government at all levels, it is time for the new board to learn from our past and move Adams County forward. We have some big issues to address. The re-assessment inequities will need to be addressed regardless of the court ruling on the co-efficient of dispersion. If it is deemed out of kilter we may need to spend a yet undetermined amount of money to do another re-assessment. If the co-efficient is determined to be within the court accepted parameters, I believe we will still have moral obligation to our citizens to correct many inequities that will still exist. Thus, in my opinion there is no re-assessment suit winner! We are also at the crossroads of a perfect storm in Adams County with volunteer emergency response funding and volunteerism. The county radio system project will be a difficult balancing act between a 30-year old antiquated radio system with failures and repair difficulties, dis-

mal economic conditions, volunteer life/safety considerations and compatibility with advancing digital technology. We need to attract commercial development and jobs to Adams County! We need to create oversight, fairness and conformity in the Clean & Green Program! We need to reasonably preserve green space. We need to a strategic plan to reduce our county deficit. In some areas of the county there is a disconnect and a feeling that the county revolves only around Gettysburg. That disingenuous feeling needs to be and will be addressed in numerous ways. I could go on - but I believe there is one issue in Adams County that encompasses and surpasses all the others - and will be the legacy we leave to our children. It is how we balance our rural, agricultural and historical heritage with our significant need for jobs and economic stimulus.

In the past eleven months, it has been my pleasure to meet and talk with folks in all corners of the county at various events. Making new friends, enhancing existing relationships and increasing my appreciation of Adams County has been a rewarding experience. Also, being the only candidate to receive the endorsement of the Adams County Police Chiefs, Fire

Chiefs and Adams County Volunteer Emergency Responders is indeed an honor.

I invite you to read my last five columns in the *Journal* to review my positions and background. I also recommend you to watch the archived debates, forums and interviews that have aired over the past eleven months to help you make an informed election day decision.

I have a history of significant accomplishment in Adams County. It is the right time in my life to apply that experience to preserve our past and shape our future. I truly believe if you take the time to look at my background, experience, qualifications, education, personality and proven leadership skills - you will find a qualified candidate that is firmly committed to serving the community he has cherished for sixty years.

Please feel free to contact me at joinrandyforcommissioner@gmail.com or go to my website at www.JoinRandyForCommissioner.com As this year-long campaign for Adams County Commissioner concludes on November 8th, thank you to the readers of the *Emmitsburg News Journal* for allowing me to share my thoughts with you. We are certainly blessed to live in magnificent Adams County in the United States of America!

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Paul Kellett

The case of a Giant mistake. At a recent candidates' forum, a question was posed about cooperation and possibly consolidation of municipalities. The four candidates (on the ballot) all agreed that cooperation to save money was a good idea. The question was given to us in advance, so I decided to do some homework, and illustrate the problem of consolidation. Since consolidation requires a majority of voters in both municipalities voting for it, I thought that looking at a business that had left the Borough of Gettysburg for neighboring Straban Township would be a good way to show the different tax rates in the municipalities.

Giant Food Store left downtown Gettysburg in 1999 for the lower taxes and more land to be had in Straban. When doing this research, I discovered the Giant mistake. 21st Century assessed the fair market value as being 12,889,200. The property sold in

October 2010 in an "unheated" (read declining) market for \$19,850,000.-50% more than it was assessed for! The lost tax revenues for Gettysburg School District- over \$70,000 a year. Now, I looked at this property to point out that the tax paid to Straban was \$1300 while if the same property were in the Borough of Gettysburg it would owe over \$45,000. Down to earth numbers, a house assessed at \$100,000 pays Straban \$10.10, the same house in the Borough pays \$352. A huge difference- and a tax burden- that the voters of Straban would never agree to.

The difference in assessments shows the need for competent assessors whose work is reviewed. The difference in municipal taxes illustrates a need for the County to intervene. The fact that the Borough pays for police protection, has the recreation park where Straban kids play, houses the fire department that protects Straban, all point to opportunities for the

county to provide a little fairness. If the County takes over the contributions to the fire companies, then the type of fight we have seen in Mount Joy Township will be no more. The fact that 80% of the Rec Park users reside outside of the Borough could be fixed by the County establishing regional (unpaid) rec boards. The County can and should move to provide tax fairness. These are not new uses for taxpayer money; it is the same amount of money being spent on vital programs being raised more fairly. Many hands make light work as the old saying goes.

But the problem is actually greater than one Giant mistake. The current commissioners relied on "experts" to make their decisions. The commissioners knew or should have known that a "perc required" half acre lot in Carroll Valley was not worth \$30,000. But they trusted the experts of 21st Century. The Giant mistake was caused by the county not checking 21st Century's work. In the land swap with ISP, they should have known that the land that was received from ISP was not nearly of equal value as the land given. Heck, even 21st Century told them that the land values were that ISP was getting 3 dollars in value for every dollar it was giving up. They should have known that 50% of the land received drained directly out of the county and therefore was not worthy of the water bond money that was used to purchase the land given up. Regardless of whether or not one thinks the concept of the swap was a good idea, the fact is financially, the county got the raw end of the deal. We need commissioners that

will fight for good deals for our taxpayers. We need commissioners that will spend every penny like it came out of grandma's purse.

Solutions. The commissioners need to listen to the public and to their staff. While the staff has to be held accountable for the outcomes, not just punching the clock, I know many of the county employees would welcome the opportunity to rise to the occasion in an environment that encourages a job well done. We need to use the Office of Planning and Development to provide the professional expertise to help our municipalities to plan so that they do not run out of water or create a traffic nightmare. The planning should also include the streamlining of the permitting process for appropriate businesses locating in appropriate areas. The review process locally can take over one year and that delay causes companies to look elsewhere. We need to raise the pillow tax and use it to promote Adams County as a great place to locate a business. The pillow tax should be used to promote off season tourism as well. This would help make many service sector jobs more stable and help local businesses through what is now a long winter.

We need to support local agriculture. It is obscene that Washington State apples are sold in Adams County. The Buy Fresh, Buy Local banner should be taken up by the county. The price of in season produce should drop and the people of Adams County will eat better for less. Our farmers will find a strong local outlet for the "fruits of their labor" a win/

win. Agriculture is the second largest industry in Adams County after tourism, and it should be helped. It is critical for the viability of this industry that a minimum amount of farms remain. Right now, there are businesses that serve the ag community but if most of the farms are plowed under and houses are planted, the businesses will be shuttered and the remaining farms will have to drive hours for the supplies they need. We need to work hard to keep agriculture viable in this county, and remember it is also a huge part of the leading industry, tourism. Agriculture helps tourism with its many festivals and fairs but more importantly, it provides the bucolic vistas that keep people coming back year after year.

We need commissioners that will use experts to answer technical questions only, not to provide the vision of the county. We need commissioners that will read the contracts that they are signing to make sure that the vendor has to perform and perform well, or will not get paid. We need Commissioners that will actually take the time to study the issues confronting us, consider all sides, prioritize, and then vote.

On November 8th, Adams County will elect three new commissioners for the first time since 1967. The job is a huge one. We need commissioners who will do their homework and keep us from making any more Giant mistakes. We need Commissioners to work on good solutions. I pledge to be that kind of Commissioner. Thank you, Paul Kellett

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Marty Qually

It is time that we had Adams County Commissioners with the experience in local government, the ability to work with others, and the energy to get the job done. It is time for us to stop looking back at our mistakes and start looking forward to how we can succeed. On November 8th you have two votes for County Commissioner, I would be honored to receive one of your votes.

My family moved here when my father, Robert Karsteter, was transferred from his post in Germany to become the first commanding officer of the Gettysburg College ROTC program. My three brothers, three sisters, and I all grew up here and attended Saint Francis Xavier, Delone Catholic High School, and five of us attended Mount Saint Mary's University. My parents are both still very active at Saint Francis, but it has been left to my oldest brother, Burton, to carry on the Delone tradition, with his four children all attending Delone.

After graduating from college, I spent eight years with the City of Frederick as an administrator, implementing State and Federal programs for residents. I now own and operate a successful catering company focused on buying from Adams County farms. Most people agree that working as an administrator for the City of Frederick, helped me to understand government and thus

would serve me well as a Commissioner. When people ask how catering prepares me for County Commissioner, they are surprised at how similar the two jobs are. Being able to help a couple balance what they want and what they can afford, and then following through on the contract is what being a caterer is all about. When I cater a large event, twelve hour days are the norm and having to think on your feet is just as important as planning for the event. And at the end of the day I need to show a profit so that I can pay my bills. We need Commissioners able to balance what we want out of government with what we can afford. We need Commissioners who can work the long hours, not just in the Courthouse but throughout the County, listening to our concerns on our time, not at their convenience. I have worked in both government and in private businesses, but in both my priority has always been serving the people that pay the bills and getting them the best bang for their buck.

I currently serve you as Adams County Auditor. It isn't just in my personal business that I watch every penny. For the past year I have been watching every dollar of County money and learning how to streamline County government, so that we get every ounce of value out of our tax dollars. I

am the only candidate with a working knowledge of the County budget and with this knowledge I have every intention of opening the 2012 budget for potential improvements on day one of my term. We will not wait a full year to start improving government, we will begin planning on November 9th (the day after the election) and we will be ready to move forward on January 1st. I say we, because I will take the time to listen to your concerns and only after public comment will changes be made. I learned the hard way working on a friend's farm in high school that there are two ways to hit the ground when you jump off a moving truck. You either hit the ground running or you hit the ground face first. When it comes to the budget and County finances, I will hit the ground running!

Adams County faces many challenges in the years to come, but we will only move forward by taking a hard look at what we want to achieve, instead of a look back at past mistakes. Economic success has been passing us by as our Commissioners sat in the courthouse dealing with government bureaucracy. It is time to set clear goals within the courthouse for the County Manager to begin implementing and time for Commissioners to provide leadership to Coun-

ty staff. While much of a Commissioner's job requires that they work in the Courthouse, they must get out of the Courthouse and listen to citizens. We should be using our staff more to solve our problems and not hiring more consultants to tell them what to do. While I have worked in government, I have no intention of micro-managing in the courthouse. I know, if challenged, our qualified staff will respond and we all will see more tax dollars saved. But we must have leadership with the courage to change the 9 to 5 paradigm and begin accepting the challenge that being a Commissioner means being on call for the citizens 24/7.

It is time for Commissioners with the business sense to understand that you succeed by increasing your customers, not by charging more to those you have. For Adams County this means increasing our tax base, not our tax rate. We must have Commissioners who will work with local leaders to attract appropriate businesses to Adams County, so that more tax revenue comes in. We need businesses that will not harm our quality of life or infringe on our current economic strengths of tourism and agriculture. To do this will take hard work and Commissioners able to work with others to bring economic development to Adams County.

It has been clear during the debates this year that each of the four Commissioner candidates care about Adams County, but you only get two votes on November 8th. Paul Kellett will fight for you and his command of the issues and data are impressive. Jim Martin has a passion to serve and his lack of public office experience may be more of an asset than a liability. Randy Phiel has proven that he can bring economic success to Gettysburg, but will he rise to the challenge of bringing success to the entire County?

Since you get two votes, I contend that we need both Kellett's fight and my energy, Martin's passion and my experience, Randy's business sense and my ability to work with others. Do not look at which one attribute you like the best, but instead at which two candidates share your vision of Adams County.

On November 8th you have two votes for Commissioner, I would be honored to receive one of your votes. Let's return Adams County to the people by electing Commissioners with Experience, a Hard Work Ethic, and the Ability to listen.

If you would like to discuss any issues or become a part of my campaign team for this final week please contact me at 717-339-6514 or at marty@martyqually.com. And feel free to visit my website at www.martyqually.com

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Jim Martin

Not many days after the printing of this position article, it will be November 8, 2011, Adams County Election Day. It will be the culmination of much discussion of issues and the vetting of the commissioner candidates.

One of the final issues I want to discuss is business growth in Adams County; it is the source of potential jobs for our citizens. As a commissioner I want to insure that our office has a unified business growth plan with the Adams County Office of Economic Development. I believe we have substantial potential for business growth within our established zoning that respects our rural fabric.

Adams County has an industrial park strategically located near US Route 15. The commercial sites that are available could be purchased at reasonable terms. Plus there are unoccupied commercial facilities available in the county. We are presently seeing that companies do have adequate cash reserves and are willing to expand or relocate. Additionally, our area is known for its good work ethics.

What is keeping all these positive factors from coming together? One factor we previously discussed is the lack of a broad band system to serve businesses. This situation is being addressed by community leaders. However, several other items come to mind.

One is the huge amount of time and expenses required of businesses for planning, engineering, and approval stages. If this process could be

reduced in scope and cost, businesses would not be intimidated by the cost to initiate their approval process. After the process begins, there needs to be a good faith commitment from all parties involved to avoid unwarranted or unnecessary delays. Delays have been the death of viable ventures. Investors will only wait a reasonable period of time before moving to a more attractive venture.

Also, there must be comfort that once a business is established, it can operate in harmony with the surrounding community or municipality. Within the agricultural community Agricultural Security Areas are created. These "Areas" promote more permanent farming operations with a sense of security from local regulations and governmental actions and also preserve the right to farm. A parallel protection should be afforded to business and industry to protect them from unwarranted local government action that adversely affects their continuance and expansion of commercial operations. An ideal opportunity for protection is upon us. Elect the community leaders who are "bridge builders" and will work toward productive and positive solutions.

Leaving no stone unturned regarding business growth, as commissioner I would seek to network with established contacts at the Governor's office and the office of US Senator Pat Toomey. The purpose would be to increase their awareness of the business opportunities in Adams County, including the possibility of relocating governmental services here.

Another closing issue is my thoughts on the acquisition of the St. Francis property located on West High Street, Gettysburg. In the best interest of Adams County I do not favor renovating the school building. It would likely cost 70% to 80% of new construction. My next management action would be to sell Xavier House. It is not contiguous with the remainder of the property and it is in need of considerable maintenance and at a level requiring bidding. Then I recommend that the tenants of Xavier House, Manos Unitas, could rent the Mercy House.

Further action would be to utilize the lower level of the school building for county storage and reduce the county's need to pay for rental storage. Any excess storage space can be rented to the public to produce county revenues. The upper levels of the school should be made available for

rent to generate additional county revenues.

My overall goal would be for the St. Francis property to be a profitable operation that will be attractive to a potential buyer when the real estate market improves. The sale proceeds could then be used to purchase the former American Legion Building which houses county services in rented space. Those rented spaces could then return rent payments supplied by the state back to the county. This would be a turnaround of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Through all the above actions, the parking area acquired in the purchase of St. Francis should be retained. This parking area will provide much-needed parking in close proximity to the Courthouse.

From all indicators we know that state and federal funding will be reduced. I anticipate that this will ob-

viously impact the level of funding received by Adams County. Also our sluggish local economy will likely affect county tax revenues. Choices will have to be made to prudently prioritize county spending. This will not be an easy task, but a necessary one.

The 2012 Adams County budget will soon be completed by the sitting commissioners. It will pass to the newly elected commissioners. Because there will be a new board sitting before the old board's budget, the new board will have a window of time to review and revise the budget. As a commissioner I will take advantage of this review period. My position is that the budget is not a pass through item, but a matter of serious inspection.

Finally, I am honored to have been endorsed by US Senator Pat Toomey. Please join with others and vote for me November 8th. Thank You, JIM MARTIN.

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Common sense and two political parties

Shannon Bohrer

I was having a conversation with an acquaintance (I will call him Mike) and he wanted my thoughts about our government borrowing money, specifically more money. Before I could reply he added that he believed it was only a matter of time and other countries would just stop loaning us money and they would also demand payment for the money we currently owe them. I responded that there were only three countries in the world that were solvent, the ones loaning us money, so I did not think a problem existed. I then added that if the countries loaning us money could loan it somewhere else and ensure a return, they would. I don't know if the response was entirely true, but it sounded good. Mike then wanted to know what the countries were. I responded; South Korea, China and Japan, to which he replied he thought that Sweden was also solvent. I then said that I did not count Sweden because we don't owe them any money. He seemed satisfied with my answer, but again, I really don't know if we owe Sweden money.

Mike was trying to engage me in a conversation about politics, which I generally like to do. Mike and I have had very good political

conversations in the past and I do enjoy his perspectives and his company. However, sometimes – some people want to engage you in conversation and it can be difficult because they only want your opinion, providing it confirms their beliefs. I don't believe this was the case with Mike, our conversation was civil and we both listened, although I don't think he liked all of my answers. After a short while he again said something about borrowing money, using an analogy about a neighbor that borrows too much. I said we all know people that have probably borrowed too much money, lived beyond their means, and now they're in bad shape. But if we purchased a new truck last year, we made obligations to pay for it and if we don't pay for it, then we lose the truck. Mike's response was that the government has too many trucks and he is probably right.

Mike then asked me a broader question related to our economy, something along the lines of how long can we continue to borrow and spend. I replied that we can borrow as long as someone is willing to loan us money, and I don't know how long that is. I added that it will eventually get us in trouble, more trouble than we are already in. However, if we do

not borrow, at least for the short term, it would be like driving up hill and then turning off the gas – you can drift backward real fast. Borrowing is bad and good, bad because we have too much debt and good because it keeps us from sliding back down the mountain. Of course the more you borrow the worse it gets. Conversely it could be argued that deregulation and tax breaks, what some are still calling for, has only added to our problems. We cannot borrow our way out of debt, nor can we continue with tax breaks and financial deregulation – expecting a different result. Mike question to me was, “Then what do we do?” I responded that when an election becomes available we vote everyone out. It is our fault for voting either for the same people and/or the same party each time, as if one is good and the other is bad. We, the voters are responsible for the government we have. Currently our choice is bad or worse and sometimes worse is the better choice. Your choice is which one is worse and remember – choose wisely. If Thomas Paine, the author of *Common Sense*, were alive today he may say that having the same two parties in office is like having two kings that take turns being in power. It defies common sense.

Currently our choice is bad or worse and sometimes worse is the better choice. Your choice is which one is worse and remember – choose wisely

This is the area where a lot of individuals seem to have a problem with common sense. There are people that believe that one party will save us from the other party – which is evil. They are so vested in one party that they don't hear or see the problems that each has, they only hear and see the problems from the other party. Additionally, they only hear and see the positives from the party they favor, which in itself is another problem. From my perspective both parties have problems, which everyone should be aware of, since they are frequently pointed out by the other party.

One good thing is that both have a plan, although I must admit the plan often resembles what they have done in the past. And that's the problem; the old plans are dependent upon growth to pay our debts. The democratic plan appears to one of priming the engine. It's like pouring gas into the carburetor to start the engine and when the engine runs growth will be created. However, if the engine does start it will only run for a short while because the gas tank is empty – so the engine can only run as you pour gas in – and remember the gas is borrowed. The republican plan is

for lower taxes and less regulation that will create an environment for business to create jobs and the creation of jobs will mean growth. The reality is that if lower taxes and less regulation created jobs, we should have been awash in jobs and growth from the last president. Instead the banks went nuts and the job creators keep their tax breaks. Both sides believe that growth will be our salvation and historically it has, but not this time.

“The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”

—Albert Einstein

Sometimes, even if you know where you're going – you won't get there. Relying on growth to create jobs, revenue and prosperity is our history and one could argue, very logical. However, even if we did have products and services to sell it would not matter – because nobody is buying. Being part of a world economy is good when it's growing, but not so good when it's not. I do believe the public understands many of our problems since congresses approval rating is 14 percent. Of course you have to wonder – who is the 14 percent?

Next month we start a series on applying Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* – in current times.

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

View from the Track

My tax dollars at work...

Kip Hamilton

Did anyone catch it? There was a trick in last month's article. We talked about how the Federal Government was actually created by the governments of the 13 sovereign states and in order to keep the power of the new Federal Government constrained, the states laid out what the Federal Government could do in the 18 Enumerated Powers. Last month, I left off the last five to see if anyone was paying attention. Did you notice? Did it make you think that something was missing? Did you take the time to go check?

If you did, that's great! We all should be taking a much more active role in questioning what we hear and not just blindly going along with something because it sounds right. Go check it out! It is factual? Is it even legal? We need to take our duties as citizens much more seriously...especially now.

On last month's list of enumerated powers did you see anywhere that the Federal Government is tasked with providing Fire & Rescue services to the citizens? Nope...and it's not on any of the five I left off, either. That function is reserved to the states and then

delegated to the county and local governments.

In the State of Maryland, your emergency services are provided by the Frederick County government and paid for by your state and local income taxes. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, however, although we do have counties, there are no county-wide emergency services. We do have a centralized 911 dispatch system, but the police, fire, and ambulance services are the responsibility of the local boroughs and townships and in Adams County, the fire and ambulance services are 100% volunteer. Their entire operations are funded by contributions, donations and fundraising activities, not by any tax money. How many of you knew that?

Once, out on a fire scene, a resident was chatting with a member of Fairfield Fire & EMS and made the casual comment, “My tax dollars at work...” Uhm..., no, actually, all of the people fighting that fire and directing traffic and providing the EMS coverage on the scene got out of their beds at home and came to give their talents to their neighbor who needed their help; all on their own time....gratis...free...no charge. Think about

that a minute. How often do we see this these days? Unfortunately, not so much anymore and it's getting worse.

You may recall reading in the PA newspapers that at least one of the volunteer fire companies in Adams Co. has closed their doors. Then, there is the controversy over the amount of the contributions going to the Mt. Joy Township fire department. These are financial issues, but the root cause of these problems is that fewer numbers of people are volunteering to help operate the departments. And by “operate” I don't mean just running calls.

Remember, in PA, we have to raise our own funds. At Fairfield, our annual operating budget is around ¾ of a million dollars. For every person who responds to a call, there are probably 8-12 people volunteering to raise the funds to make this possible. In 2010, there were 120 different people who helped out at our Thursday night Bingo games! That is an incredible effort and a sign of just how much our department means to the community; that so many people would help to sustain its operations.

We have been working toward re-establishing the Fairfield Fire & EMS department as a vibrant part of the Fairfield community,

just like fire departments used to be. Did you know that we sponsor the Fairfield Area Senior Center? They meet every weekday morning in our lobby. We sponsor a Boy Scout troop. We sponsor a Zumba exercise class. We are a Toys-for-Tots drop-off center. We participate in the high school's homecoming parade. We sponsored an EMT class at the high school last year. We offer free blood pressure screenings to anyone who stops by while a crew is there. We donate the use of our hall so that our residents can hear local political debate live and in person.

We participate in the annual Independence Day celebration and National Night Out get-togethers at the Carroll Valley Borough Park. We have groups of young children come into the station and we teach them about fire safety. We have weddings, family gatherings and memorial services for the community in our hall. We provide an emergency operations center for the Fairfield Regional Emergency Management Agency in case of a local disaster. We will bring you home from the hospital if you can't ride in a car. We will come pump your flooded basement. We provide a place for Santa to come and have breakfast with our youngest residents every year. In short, we are really making an effort to make a difference in our community.

But, we could use your help

with all of this. By the time you read this, we will have relaunched a totally new website packed with interesting and helpful information. The web address is the same as always: www.fairfieldfire-ems.org. Please take note of the dash. One of the pages on the new site is a long list of things we could use help with. You might have heard in the past that we needed help and thought that we were just looking for people to run calls and thought that really isn't something you could do. That's true, we could certainly use more responding members, but there are so many other tasks that must get accomplished in support of our operations. Or maybe you have wanted to help us help your community, but just didn't know what we needed done.

If any of this is resonating with you, please take a moment to check out our new website. Scroll down to the “How YOU Can Help” tab and look over the wide-ranging list of tasks. Certainly you will find something that interests you or that you have experience with. Then, please contact our office (there is an email link right there on the page, or call.) We will gladly help you get started making a difference, too!

Kip is an active EMT, the EMS Captain and a member of the Board of Directors at Fairfield Fire & EMS.

Pure Onsense

Maryland redistricting

Scott Zuke

What do Thurmont and Emmitsburg have in common with Rockville and Bethesda? Not much. But pretty soon, they'll be sharing a congressional representative. And it won't be Roscoe Bartlett.

On Oct. 20, with little fanfare, Governor Martin O'Malley signed off on a new redistricting plan for Maryland that reflects regional population shifts as reported in the 2010 Census. It also reflects a transparent effort by O'Malley and the Democratic party to tilt Maryland's congressional representation even further in their party's favor than it already is.

Maryland remains a solid blue state, with twice as many registered Democrats as Republicans. With eight congressional districts we would expect to see a 5-3 or 6-2 split between Democratic and Republican districts. The latter has been the case for the past ten years, but the new plan is clearly intend-

ed to produce an unjustifiable 7-1 Democratic majority. The Republican representative being targeted for removal is our very own Roscoe Bartlett, of the (former) 6th District.

Gerrymandering isn't new to Maryland. Baltimore's overwhelmingly Democratic population is already being divided over three districts to dilute the more conservative surrounding areas. But the rest of the state didn't used to look too bad. The 6th District sensibly included Western Maryland, Frederick County, the rural areas around Westminster, and the northern portions of Baltimore and Harford County. Considering Maryland's uniquely shaped borders, the old district lines did a fair job of keeping counties and communities intact. The same cannot be said for the new 2011 lines.

The rural parts of Frederick County have been reassigned to the bizarrely-shaped new 8th District, which will include a chunk of Carroll County and a suspicious sliver of Montgomery County that extends

to include D.C.'s northern suburbs (inherited from the old 8th District, currently represented by Democrat Chris Van Hollen). Meanwhile, the city of Frederick remains in the 6th District, but will be joined by a sizeable portion of Montgomery County which, like Baltimore, is being sliced up into three different districts to distribute its Democratic votes among more right-leaning regions.

If you think the new 8th District is a mess, it pales in comparison to the 3rd District, which has got to be one of the ugliest cases of gerrymandering in the nation. Looking like a Sanskrit character, it snakes in and out of four counties and Baltimore City. Eric Hartley, a staff writer for The Capital in Annapolis, attempted to drive straight through the district, a project that took him nine hours and 168 miles of driving to complete (including multiple departures from the district where its boundaries are not connected by roads, or in some places, even by land). The 3rd includes some of the poorest areas of Baltimore and a portion of Howard County, the fifth wealthiest county in the nation. How can such a district be fairly and accurately represented when its constituents are worlds apart, both geographical-

ly and socio-economically?

To be fair, redistricting is among the most difficult tasks facing lawmakers. Beyond the logistical and political obstacles, there's still no simple formula, nor any clear philosophical guidance for how a district should be designed. Should homogeneous communities be kept intact to ensure direct representation of their interests, or should the district be designed to approximate the state or national demographic balances? Is democracy better served by grouping the like-minded together, or by exposing people to diverse viewpoints?

The absence of an "ideal," however, does not justify blatant bad behavior. As common as gerrymandering may be in other states, and by both parties, whatever marginal political gains there are to be made through the practice should be weighed against the social costs.

Not only are the quality and accuracy of representation corrupted by tampering with districts in this fashion, but it also breeds cynicism. How could any citizen look at this Congressional district map and not conclude that whoever created it was thinking only of political objectives and not at all of what was in the best interest of the people? In the

state legislature's drafting meetings, how could such a map come into being without people openly discussing with one another, "How can we shift this line to really stick it to the Republicans?"

What's damaging about cynicism is that it leads to apathy. When I posted "Rorschach" versions (silhouette images, although this is a misnomer, since there's nothing symmetrical about the shapes!) of the new 8th and 3rd Districts on Facebook, some people thought it was a joke, and others had already heard about the new district lines. Nobody was surprised or upset about it. This is business as usual, after all.

It's possible things will change in a few months when the primary elections are held and many people will hear about the redistricting for the first time. The General Election next year will be interesting to watch as well. Rep. Bartlett may actually have to run a serious campaign now that he has lost some reliable supporters in northern Frederick County. And what will Thurmont and Emmitsburg residents think of the current 8th District representative, Chris Van Hollen, the up-and-comer Democrat from Montgomery County?

Down Under

Relative success

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

Success is relative: It is what we can make of the mess we have made of things.

—T. S. Eliot, 1939

Acting on prophecies is dangerous, as King Croesus found out in the fifth century BC when he went to war with Cyrus, the king of Persia. He lost because he misinterpreted a prophecy, and after 2 1/2 thousand years not much has changed. Our politicians and their advisors still use oracles and govern in the hope that what they plan for and expect to happen will occur.

And The United States plans. Plans to keep the populace fed, happy, and confident that they live in the greatest nation on earth. Plans to keep manufacturing, primary production and employment high, with a strong middle class, plans to continue as the strongest power in the world. I'm pretty sure many of you will shake your head in dismay and mutter, "Well, the plans aren't working too well."

And, looking at things in your country from this distance, it is all too easy to see the trouble you are in. The reasons why this is so are many, but boil down to a too great reliance on prophecy. And in your case the main consulter of soothsayers was none other than the renowned secretary of treasury Alan Greenspan, and the oracle he consulted was the computer.

Both Croesus and Greenspan went out to fight the enemy that was threatening to take over their country, and both lost. Why? Well, aren't

computers, like oracles, infallible? Presidents, treasury, bankers and financiers thought so, set up complex algorithms to see the future, and behold! Everything they tried proved that their trust was not misplaced. So if the computer predicted that the dollar would rise one cent overnight they could make millions, perhaps billions or trillions. Absolutely no risk, so beg, borrow or steal and put it all on the computer. A zip of excitement ran through the halls of power, and the future was a rosy glow.

Except - (snigger snigger) - computers only do what they are programmed to do, and humans, who do the programming, are fallible, greedy, clever, and selfish. And when they wield the power they make the rules. Because they became so good at making money they became reverential figures, presidents fell in love with them, and they could do no wrong. By and large they were trusted implicitly - but at heart, many bankers, secretaries of finance etc. are really just clever used car salesmen, with eyes only for the next buck. And, like all of us, they cannot foretell the future.

But if they could make billions an hour at home in this miraculous bubble, they could also do it worldwide. The government thought so, the IMF thought so, and Asia, including China, were moved like chess pieces into the new strategy. Too bad if they didn't want to be a pawn, the US called the shots, had the greatest economy on earth, was both king and queen on the board, and could not be resisted.

Until the flaws became obvious. Asia is not America, outlooks and



ways of business are not the same, computer programmes are not infallible, and a decade later the Asian Tiger was on its back, paws in the air, wondering what the hell had happened. Unfortunately, the U. S. of A. that had got the whole circus rolling was itself reeling, victim of its own infallibility, and about to go down for the count - except for one incredible coincidence.

One of the big losers in the bubble had been China. Communist, pragmatic, demagogic, it had had its pride hurt, had lost face with its neighbours, but in true oriental style didn't go weeping to its 'benefactor', but went into its own form of huddle.

Within a few years the tiger was not just up again and running, it was hunting. And it was hunting America. Not with ultimately pointless acts of terror and revenge, but with the thing Americans craved perhaps more than anything else, consumer goods. Give them more of the good life. Revenge was going to be sweets. Everyone except the American manufacturer and worker rubbed their hands.

China went to communistic capitalism, it had the workforce, enforced a berserker kind of manufacturing regime, kept its currency low so it could to supply at a very good exchange rate, then flooded the market. "Made in China" became

the same as "cheap", and once the quality improved not many people cared where it was made. The money flowed from American homes and American debt into China's coffers. No more American recession, (the rose coloured spectacles were firmly in place), the populace was happy, leaders were happy - and there was a smile on the face of the tiger.

And what did these Tiger folk do with their new found wealth? Build impossible skyscrapers, resorts on the Yangtze, promote tourism? No, they bought American treasury bonds.

What? Why on earth would they do that? Because, my friends, they were buying America. Not real estate, just the government, something

Alan Greenspan did not foresee. Something his idol, Ayn Rand, the guru of greed, had not predicted. But how could these brokers of success be wrong? Presidents went on believing them, for money was their god too; borrow, borrow, became the mantra. Would there be a day of reckoning? Who cared - it would not be in their term of office.

So forget the war on communism, they're winning. And the war on terrorism - the Chinese won't allow you to suffer that, as they have their own brand.

Lindsay, who has just realised a beautiful new cook pot was made in Denmark. Wonderful. Written on his made in China computer, with modem, mouse, and software. Ah so.

Community Development Institute Head Start JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CDI HS Serving Frederick County, MD is immediately seeking applications for the following benefited positions at the Emmitsburg Center:

Teacher Assistant Driver: Responsible for assisting the teacher in carrying out the goals, policies, and activities designed to implement educational objectives and HS performance standards. This position works with families to promote family involvement in the program. This program is also responsible for transporting Head Start children ages three to five years. Position requires pre-employment and random drug screening. Position requires current CDL, or willingness to obtain; High School diploma/GED; experience working with children; good driving record and insurability by agency's carrier. \$9.61 hourly with CDL. Bilingual (English/Spanish preferred).

Cook: Must have food preparation experience and be able to comply with any state food permit/health requirements. HS/GED and must be 18 years of age. Experience in quantity food preparation and inventory is preferred. \$8.40 hourly.

Applications may be obtained by calling 301-600-1024 between 8am and 5pm. Completed applications should be submitted to CDI Head Start, 401 Sagner Avenue, Frederick, MD 21701 between 8am and 5pm. Applications will be accepted through November 4, 2011.

CDI is an equal opportunity employer.

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Mayor Ron Harris

It is November. Sixty-one days to 2012. The special days of November are: Election Day on Tuesday, November 8th; Daylight Saving Time Ends, Sunday, November 6th; Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th and Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 24th.

As reported last month, the downturn in the economy has had an impact on our 2011 budget. At the time of this writing, the Borough Council held a public workshop meeting with the Finance Committee on October 18th to review the proposed Borough 2012 budget. As explained in the Budget Message prepared by the Borough Manager, one of the Borough's major revenue sources is the Real Estate Property Tax. Our current 2011 rate is 1.7436 mills, or .0017436 of assessed value of land and buildings. Due to the Adams County Reassessment of 2010, and the subsequent appeals, the equalized tax rate turned out to be less tax revenue than 2010, due to successful appeals to reduce

assessment amounts. Although only a slight reduction in assessed values, this fact, coupled with higher rates of delinquency due to nonpayment have caused there to be a significant reduction in tax revenues.

For example, in 2009 the actual collections of Real Estate Tax revenues equaled \$795,546.71. In 2011, the same number is projected to equal \$733,000, a decrease of \$62,546.71. As presented, this reduction is a re-occurring theme in almost all revenue categories. To offset the reductions of other revenue and to maintain the level of services provided to the residents, the draft 2012 budget proposes to increase the Real Estate Tax. The next Borough Council and the Finance Committee Workshop is scheduled for October 25th. Once again the council and finance committee members will review the budget. After this workshop meeting, the draft Budget will be presented to the Borough Council on November 15th. During this meeting the Budget

is tentatively adopted and approved for advertisement and made available for public review. Finally, at the December 13th Borough Council meeting, the 2012 Budget and all scheduled ordinances will be formally adopted and approved.

Every year people lose their lives in residential fires. November with the change of weather and coming to the end of the year, may be a good time to test your smoke alarms in your house and replace the batteries. Most fire victims die from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases, not as a result of burns. It is further reported that deaths and injuries occur in fires that happen at night while the people are asleep. While you are checking the smoke alarms, it might be a good idea to also check and replace the batteries in your Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm. CO is an odorless gas produced when any fuel is incompletely burned. CO poisoning is associated with malfunctioning home fuel-burning heating equipment such as furnaces, rang-

es, water heaters and room heaters. Do you have a family fire escape plan? You should. How do you get out of the house? Do the kids know the plan? Do you hold fire drills during the night to see if the children know what to do? The Fairfield Fire and EMS Company 2 has sent out to the residents their letter to request donations. Volunteers operate the fire company. They have responded to over 270 fire and rescue calls. They need your help. Please consider contributing what you can to keep the fire company operating. Also, Kip Hamilton, who is the EMS Captain, informed me that he has updated/redesigned the fire company's website and should be operational by November 1st. You might want to check it out at www.fairfieldfire-ems.org.

The holiday season is upon us again and many of us will wake up Christmas morning to the joy of finding presents under the tree. However, some children will not have presents to open on Christmas Day. And this is why Toys for Tots was started. The

Toys for Tots program is an annual toy drive sponsored by the United States Marine Corp. The goal of this program is to make sure every child has a present on Christmas morning. I am asking you for your support this year. Donation boxes for new unwrapped toys will be placed in all school buildings and local businesses throughout the district.

For Carroll Valley residents, there is a donation box in the borough office. We are also looking for families that are in need, so if you have information about a family that may benefit from the Toys for Tots campaign, please call Bill Echert at (717) 762-5622 or cell phone (717) 830-6912. Confidentiality will be honored. Thank you for your support with this worthwhile project. The distribution date will be Sunday, December 18th at the Fairfield Fire Hall. Distribution will start promptly at 12:00 p.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. Everyone has to be preregistered by Wednesday, December 14th by calling Bill Eckert.

At the October Borough Council meeting, I gave a brief on Megan's law because of some inquiries by residents. Here are some of the highlights. Megan's law is an informal name for the United States laws requiring law enforcement authorities to make information available to the public regarding registered sex offenders. At the federal level it is known as the Sexual Offender Act of 1994. This federal law requires persons convicted of sex crimes against children to notify local law enforcement of any change of address or employment after release from custody. This federal law is implemented in Pennsylvania under the statutory cite 42 Pa.C.S. § 9701 et seq. A portion of the legislative finding reads "If the public is provided adequate notice and information about sexually violent predators and certain other offenders, the community can develop constructive plans to prepare themselves and their children for the offender's release". The Pennsylvania State Police, Megan's Law Section, is responsible for maintaining and updating the information on every offender (\$9799). The legislation is very specific about what information may or may not be released. If you are interested in information regarding registered sex offenders in your community, go to the Pennsylvania State Megan's Law Section website www.pameganslaw.state.pa.us or call the PA Megan's Law Section at (866) 771-3170. The most current information is kept at the PA Megan's Law Section.

Borough meetings to be held in November are: Planning Commission (Nov 7th), Council Borough (Nov 15th), Parks/Recreation (Nov 16th). The Borough Office will be closed Election Day (Nov 8th); Veterans Day (Nov 11th) Thanksgiving (Nov 24th and Nov 25th). Please reduce your speed and make sure you, your loved ones, your friends and neighbors will be able to enjoy the holiday season. If you have any questions call me at (301) 606-2021 or email at mayor@carrollvalley.org. Happy Thanksgiving!



Marty Qually for Adams County Commissioner

The people of Adams County have spoken. They want County Commissioners who are strong enough to put the people first, will listen to their concerns, and have the courage to work with others and get the job done.

- **Improve County Finances:** I pledge to make every effort to reduce the County's debt and improve its long term financial strength. In these tough economic times, we need to balance the services we need with what we can afford.
- **Refocus County Government:** It is time for Commissioners who get out of the Courthouse and hear the concerns of the citizens first hand. We need to evaluate our County priorities based upon citizen input and not just that of elected officials.
- **Economic development:** Creating a stronger local economy requires county commissioners who work with municipal leaders and local experts then create a unified plan for the future.
- **County Radio System:** I fully support our first responders and believe a modern County-wide radio system is necessary. They protect us and need modern tools, it is up to our elected officials to follow their lead!

If you would like more information about this election or discuss any of your concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at 717-339-6514, marty@martyqually.com, or visit www.martyqually.com.

Thank you for considering me as one of your two votes for County Commissioner.

Respectfully, *Marty Karsteter Qually*

★ ★ VOTE QUALLY ★ NOVEMBER 8TH ★ ★

Marty Qually for Adams County Commissioner

Friends of Marty Qually ★ PO Box 3163 ★ Gettysburg, PA 17325
Marty@MartyQually.com ★ 717-339-6514 ★ www.MartyQually.com

Paid for by Friends of Marty Qually

THE BOOK OF DAYS

Halley's Comet of 1682



Nov 15th - Halley's Comet, so called, has been the means of dispelling many popular illusions concerning the influence of those mysterious bodies on worldly affairs. Before it had been ascertained that comets are periodical in their appearance, there was unbounded scope for speculation on the nature of this influence.

The excellence of the celebrated vintage of 1811 was attributed to the great comet which appeared in that year; as was also the abundance of crops. Nay, the number of twins born in the same year, and the fact that a shoemaker's wife in Whitechapel had four children at a birth, were in like manner laid to the charge of the comet; likewise were the facts that wasps were few, and that flies became blind that year.

The Great Plague of London was attributed by some to a comet which appeared in the spring of that year. As there was a comet in 1668, and in the same year a remarkable epidemic among cats in Westphalia, some of the wisecracks of that day connected the two phenomena together as probable cause and effect.

When Lima and Callao were destroyed by an earthquake in 1746, the disaster was imputed to a small comet in the absence of any more probable delinquent. A church clock, destroyed by a meteoric stone; an unusually large flock of wild pigeons in America; the disasters which were experienced by the Christians at the hands of the Turks in 1456; a fit of sneezing that became very prevalent in some parts of

Germany; the deaths of eminent persons in various countries—all were believed to have been either produced or presaged by comets which appeared in certain years.

That of two things which occurred nearly at the same time, one is the cause of the other, is a very popular and easy mode of philosophizing. M. Arago adduces, in illustration of this point, the anecdote told by Bayle, of a lady who never looked out of the window of her apartment which was situated in the greatest thoroughfare of Paris. When she saw the street filled with carriages, she imagined that her appearance at the window was the cause of the crowd!

The reason why Halley's comet, or rather Halley's remarkable prediction concerning the comet, has had some influence in lessening these vague speculations, is because a regular and periodical occurrence of any event takes away from it much of a capricious or uncertain character.

After Flamsteed had written down his careful observations on the comet of 1680, Sir Isaac Newton was able to determine what kind of curve it marked out in the heavens; and then Dr. Halley proceeded to investigate, in a very elaborate way, whether any two recorded comets were really two successive appearances of the same celestial body. He found reason to believe that the comets of 1531, 1607, and 1682 were in fact one and the same comet, which takes about seventy-six years to perform its remarkable journey round the sun. After making corrections for a few disturbing causes, he

boldly declared his belief that that comet would appear again late in 1758 or early- in 1759; and, with a pardonable self-respect, he appealed to posterity not to lose sight of the fact, that if the comet should really return about that period, the prediction of such a result was due to an Englishman.

As the period approached, the great French mathematicians Clairaut, D'Alembert, and Lalande calculated the probable disturbance which the planets would produce on such a comet; and they agreed that the month of April 1759 would be the probable time of re-appearance, or rather, of the perihelion of the comet—that is, its nearest approach to the sun.

The comet was espied on the 25th December 1758, and passed its perihelion on March 13th, 1759. This would have been a great triumph to Halley, if he could have lived to see it. All Europe agreed that this particular comet should be called Halley's Comet, in honour of the man who had so boldly and successfully predicted its periodicity. Then, as time passed on, arose the question "Will this comet re-appear after another interval of about seventy-six years, say in 1835?" In 1812, Damoiseau calculated that the comet ought to re-appear at perihelion on 4th November in that year. In 1829, Pontécoulant, another great mathematician, explained his reasons for selecting the 14th of November as a more probable date.

Two learned Germans, Rosenberger and Lehmann, also investigated the same intricate problem; the one named the 11th of November, the other the 26th, as the day of perihelion. At last, when the year 1835 arrived, all the astronomers in Europe were pointing their telescopes towards the heavens, under the belief that the comet would begin to be visible some time in August. They were right.

On the 5th of August MM. Dumouchel and De Vico, at the observatory of Rome, detected the comet; it became visible to the naked eye towards the end of September, attained its greatest brilliancy about the middle of October, and passed its perihelion on 15th November within one single day of the time calculated

by Pontécoulant!

All this is very wonderful to persons unskilled in astronomical mathematics; but so certain do savans now feel about it, that they decide that the recorded comets of 1378, 1456, 1531, 1607, 1682, 1759, and 1835 were only so many successive appearances of Halley's comet, at intervals of about seventy-six years apart. There is not the slightest doubt among them that Halley's comet will appear again in or about the year 1911, although possibly not one of our present astronomers will be alive in that year.

By thus substituting regularity for uncertainty, Halley's labours on the subject of comets have effectually reformed popular notions concerning those wondrous visitants.

Thanksgiving day in America

November 24 - The great social and religious festival of New England, from which it has spread to most of the states of the American republic, is a legacy of the Puritans. They abolished Christmas as a relic of popery, or of prelacy, which they held in nearly equal detestation, and passed laws to punish its observance; but, wanting some day to replace it, the colonial assemblies, and, later, the governors of the states, appointed every year some day in autumn, generally toward the end of November, as a day of solemn prayer

and thanksgiving for the blessings of the year, and especially the bounties of the harvest.

Thanksgiving day is always celebrated on Thursday, and the same day is chosen in most of the states. The governor's proclamation appointing the day, is read in all the churches, and there are appropriate sermons and religious exercises. Families, widely scattered, meet at the bountiful thanksgiving dinners of roast turkeys, plum pudding, and mince and pumpkin pies. The evenings are devoted by the young people to rustic games and amusements.

The subjects of the thanksgiving-sermons are not infrequently of a political character, and in the chief towns of the union, those of the most popular preachers are generally published in the newspapers. The thanksgiving festival, though widely celebrated, is not so universally respected as formerly, as the influx of Roman Catholics and Episcopalians has brought Christmas again into vogue, which is also kept by the Unitarians with considerable solemnity. As a peculiar American festival it will, however, long be cherished by the descendants of the Puritans.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers' 1864 *The Book of Days*, visit www.thebookofdays.com



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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

November moods

Bill Meredith

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no
healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any mem-
ber—
No shade, no shine, no butterflies,
no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no
birds—
November!
—Thomas Hood, 1839.
Morning Meditations.*

It is an article of faith with my wife that a person's moods are determined by the weather. This is not the result of reading the collected works of Sigmund Freud, or of detailed research into meteorological records; rather, she comes to it simply by observing my state of mind. She knows spring is my favorite season, so if she finds me gazing into the distance with a blue expression on my face, she knows mentioning April or May will put things right. Likewise, if she finds me bounding about singing, knocking over stacks of crockery and spilling things, she knows simply mentioning November will bring me back down to earth, or maybe even a little beyond. The effect was expressed best by the English poet, Thomas Hood, whose verse was put



in more succinct form on television some years ago by Benny Hill:

*No birds, no bees...
No flowers, no trees...
No wonder: November.*

As November approaches this year, my mood is best described as soggy.

We normally get a tad over 45 inches of rainfall a year in Emmitsburg, but this year we have already had over 62 inches, 23 of which came in September and October. We probably won't break the record of 76 inches, set in 1996, but we've got a shot at it if this keeps up for another two months.

I suppose things could be worse.

In 1975 I attended a course in Applied Ecology at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in which there was a unit on weather. One of the instructors told us that the world record for rainfall was held by Cherrapunji, India, where one year they received 1,042 inches of rain. For the benefit of readers who don't happen to have a calculator handy, that comes to about 2.85 inches of rain every day for the whole year. Of course it doesn't rain that much every year; the average for Cherrapunji is only 450 inches, and there are three or four other places that have higher averages. By comparison to such places, Emmitsburg looks pretty good; we only get one-tenth as much as Cherrapunji. But even that can cause problems. According to my unofficial rain gauge, there were only four times this year when we got more than 2.85 inches of rain in 24 hours, but even those cases resulted in flooded basements, leaking roofs and impassable roads.

The garden gave up early this fall. Viney plants such as squash, tomatoes, and beans rotted, and after yesterday's rain the plot where I started winter onions looked like a small lake. Even the flower beds seemed disgusted with the muddy state of things. Only the fungi seemed happy; mushrooms grew all over the yard with abandon, and the logs in my woodpile sprouted turkey-tail brackets as thick as fur. At least the outer inch of wood on them will be rotted, and they will probably just smolder instead of burning in the fireplace when winter comes. The leaves colored up nicely; it was a good year for yellow, and the rain made the woods look clean and fresh on those rare days when the sun bothered to come out. But any hint of a joyful mood will vanish with the arrival of November.

My usual deadline for writing this column is about 10 days before the publication date; by that time in October, the small winter birds like juncos and white-throated sparrows should have arrived from the north. So far, they haven't shown up. I'm hoping nothing is wrong with them; maybe they've just been reading newspapers about all the rain, and holding off as long as possible. Meanwhile, my wife is in a frantic state because the house has been invaded by small forms of wildlife. This always seems to happen... in past years we have had box-elder bugs, mice, blacksnakes and stinkbugs... but this year it is a plague of little yellow caterpillars. They



are slender little things, about half an inch long, and they seem to be especially attracted to the kitchen ceiling, where they crawl busily back and forth like miniature woolly-bears, except that they aren't woolly. They look like the larval stage of some sort of moth, but I don't know what species; I put some of them in a jar to see what they will turn into, but so far they haven't cooperated. Obviously they have sense enough to come in out of the rain, so they can't be all bad, but my wife seems prejudiced against them because they always come out to see what is going on when we have company. Evidently she doesn't want our friends to know we associate with such low forms of life.

I read somewhere recently that in the Old Celtic calendar, winter started on the first day of November. If it ever comes to a vote, I would be in favor of going back to that. I come from a long line of Old Celts on both the Welsh and Irish sides of my family's lineage, and hidden somewhere in my DNA there are memories of spending cold, wet winters huddled around smoky peat fires centuries ago, with not enough to eat and the wind howling just outside the door. Folks of my generation are like that; we all have a bit of Old Celt in us, regardless of where our ancestors came from, and when we read the morning papers or hear the evening news about the sorry state of the world's economy, we get nervous. We're already in a melancholy mood, and we know when November gets here the leaves will come down, the rain will turn to snow, and on our modern calendar it will still be a month before winter officially gets here. The Old Celts were realists; they knew winter was winter, and there was nothing to be gained by waiting around until the solstice arrives before you admit it.

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



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IN THE COUNTRY

The ghost owl

Ranger Jen Miller
Cunningham Falls State Parks

Imagine that you are a farmer in Colonial America. It is a late, cold October night and you are resting peacefully on your straw mattress after a hard day's work. The night is still with the Harvest Moon highlighting any movement. Out of the silence comes a hideous shriek! You bolt upright in bed. The cry is coming from your barn where the dairy cow is bedded down for the night. You dash out of your house in your dressing gown with lantern in hand. Nothing can happen to your cow, as she is the sole source of milk and butter for your family. You creep to the barn door and slowly pull it open as you raise the lantern higher to illuminate the inside of the barn. All of a sudden a white flash emerges from the darkness and crashes into your head! A horrible hiss and familiar shriek echo as the specter disappears

into the night. Was it a ghost? It was no ghost, but a Barn owl! But with its spine tingling call, luminescent white feathering, and defensive flying techniques it is easy to see how this owl provided much fodder for tales of spirits since the beginning of human history.

Barn owls are a distinct family of owls, completely separate from all other owl species due to genetics and their physical structure. Sometimes referred to as the Monkey-faced owl, Barn owls have a heart shaped face with unique stiff feathers that channel sound waves into their ears. The ears are out of the ordinary in that they are positioned differently on each side of the head. Each ear also has a varying sensitivity to high and low frequencies. The owl can judge the location of a mouse by the differences in the sound intensities and the time it takes the sound to travel from ear to ear. Remember the

final scene in Star Wars, when Luke is attempting to blow up the Death Star with the help of his plane's targeting computer? Barn owl hearing is like that targeting computer! With their amazing hearing, Barn owls can hunt in complete darkness. Interestingly, it has been shown that young Barn owls do not have the innate ability to locate their prey by analyzing the difference in sound intensities but fine tune this ability over time with the help of their sight.

Barn owls have distinct behaviors that set them apart from other owls as well. Their call is not in the classic whoo, whoo genre but rather a high pitched, raspy scream. Barn owls also add some interesting body language to get their point across to would be intruders. First the owl will sway side to side and open its wings to look bigger. This creates an outline that is strikingly similar to the common image of a ghost that is often depicted illustrations and modern day Halloween decorations! The next step is to do a move called toe dusting, in which the bird lowers its head and shakes it back and forth over its feet, as if to say, "No, no, no, no". If this fails, the last resort is to dive bomb the interloper. Such behaviors can often be observed at the Scales & Tales Aviary at Cunningham Falls State Park.



The Aviary is home to a pair of Barn owls that are mother and son. The pair was nesting in a tree that was cut down. The female owl sustained a permanent wing injury, leaving her unable to fly. Her offspring

is completely healthy but now imprinted on people. So neither owl can be released into the wild. This is a shame because Barn owls are mysteriously declining world wide and are considered uncommon to rare in Maryland. The main reason for this is thought to be loss of habitat. Barn owls prefer open fields and farmlands to hunt small rodents. It has been estimated that a Barn owl can eat one and a half times its weight in food each day! That's a lot of rodents considering a Barn owl weighs about as much as a loaf of bread. Not only are the Barn owl's natural habitats being lost to development but also man-made habitats that it prefers to nest in such as old barns. One way you can help is to create Barn owl habitat by building an owl nest box. Find plans and more information at: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Habitat/WildAcres/wabarnowl.asp>

The Barn Owl is an excellent reminder of the connections that exist and have always existed between humankind and the natural world. The interactions between wildlife and people are interwoven in our collective memories, traditions, and folklore. Our futures are entwined too. The fate of the Barn owl and many other species depend on our choices and actions. Chose wisely or the Barn owl may truly become a ghost.

To read other articles by Ranger Jen Miller, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net

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IN THE COUNTRY

Stormwater management of the Mason-Dixon

Rusty Ryan
Adams County Soil
Conservation District

As I write this article, the Mason-Dixon region is still trying to dry out from the record rainfall already this month. I know Adams County has had its fair share of rainfall events in 2011. In April, my property near Fairfield flooded twice and both flooding events reached the 100 year flood level (if based on the horizontal line on a map). While our property is located within a designated floodplain, I've never witnessed the elevations at which the two floods reached. This past Friday, Gettysburg got pummeled. While the amount of rainfall was only a few inches, the intensity and the fact the soils were still saturated from the previous week's rain-

falls resulted in flash flooding even from a smaller rain event.

The obvious result of stormwater runoff is flooding. There is no doubt that many of these rain events and the resulting stormwater runoff can be referred to as an "act of god" for which it is what it is. However, with proper planning, implementation and maintenance, many of the rain events and the resulting flooding along the Mason-Dixon can be managed through the use of best management practices (bmps).

In Pennsylvania, stormwater management is regulated by the local municipalities (townships and boroughs) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Certain projects require a federal permit for the discharges associated with construction activities. The Adams Coun-

ty Conservation District, through a delegation agreement with DEP is responsible for administration of portions of the federal NPDES program. As an employee of the Adams County Conservation District for the past 18 years, I have seen the role of the Conservation District grow with the addition of the NPDES permit. Our role involves performing administrative review of permit applications, the review of the erosion and sediment control plans, acknowledging the use of General NPDES permits, and inspection of the site.

The County of Adams is a month or so away from adopting a countywide stormwater management plan which is required by state law. This Plan and the accompanying model ordinance will then be approved by PA DEP. Once approved by DEP, each of the County's 34 municipalities will have 6 months to adopt ordinances that are consistent with the model ordinance and the stormwater plan. Throughout the

past year, the Conservation District along with the Adams County Office of Planning and Development has been writing the Plan and model ordinance. As required by Law, a Stormwater Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) was formed to provide input on the Plan and model ordinance. Most of the members of the SPAC were municipal folks which makes sense since the municipality will be tasked by Law to regulate stormwater.

Some of the objectives of the countywide plan and model ordinance are to provide consistency between all 34 municipalities. Currently, each of the 34 municipalities regulates stormwater differently. Another objective is to combine the NPDES requirements for permitted sites with that of the Plan. Currently, site designs are being prepared with two different sets of requirements. By providing one stop design, this should result in clarity to developer, engineer and municipality. Another objective is to provide property owners

with flexibility and economic relief for various "minor" projects. For example, a property owner who wishes to construct a 500 sqft utility shed would register their project with the municipality. Based on the information provided, the property owner may at a minimum, register their project and no stormwater management is required. However, based on certain scenarios other minor projects may require that some best management practices get utilized. The property owner then gets to choose from a menu of bmps. This step eliminates the property owner from hiring an engineer. Land development along the Mason - Dixon while currently very slow is inevitable. Whether the development consists of a housing development, a commercial development or just a few random lots that are developed, everyone has an obligation to manage stormwater. The larger projects are required to design, implement and maintain stormwater management best management practices. However, all property owners have a responsibility to contribute to sound stormwater management.

The most obvious choice they have is to plan their project to minimize the amount of impervious areas. If impervious areas cannot be avoided than consider bumps that reuse the stormwater. An example of this is the rain barrel. Why use your well water or public water supply when you can harvest the rain water that hits your roof. Another homeowner friendly bmp is the use of a rain garden. Rain gardens are shallow ponds that are landscaped with plants and the bottom of the pond is provided with soil/sand mixture that allows for infiltration. These rain gardens look nice plus serve to capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways or parking lots. Probably the most common sense bmp that property owners can use is called disconnection. Disconnection simply means that the runoff from the impervious surface is allowed to flow over pervious surfaces thus trying to cleanse the water and promote possible infiltration of stormwater back into the soils and thus recharging ground water. A lot of property owners still have the mind set to pipe the water to edge of property or out to the streets. This bmp is simple and effective at managing stormwater runoff. Just make sure your pervious areas are your own and not someone else's.

EVERYONE MUST TREAT STORMWATER AS A RESOURCE THAT NEEDS TO BE MANAGED AND RETURNED TO OUR SOIL TO BE USED ANOTHER TIME.

How we manage or not manage water in Adams County will certainly affect not only Adams County property owners but those property owners south of us who are in the same watershed. Stormwater knows no boundaries.

Remember we all live down stream.



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IN THE COUNTRY

Respiration and transpiration – as I see it!

Eric E. Glass

My father told me a long, long time ago – “boy, we need warm nights to make our crops grow!” Maybe dad never heard of respiration!? Maybe he was thinking of tomatoes – as he once had a field of 9 acres of tomatoes.

I could never tell my dad he was wrong - so this article is for my late father.

Respiration (often mistaken with breathing) is defined as the transport of oxygen from the outside air to the cells within tissues, and the transport of carbon dioxide in the opposite direction.

Respiration does not depend on light, so it occurs at night as well as during the day.

High daytime and night time temperatures can put stress on corn plants that limit the yield. The sugars produced by the corn plant during photosynthesis are used by the plant for cell growth, but they are also consumed by the plant at night. The sugars produced during photosynthesis and subtract the sugars that are consumed during dark respiration; the sugars left over are used for grain filling.

If daytime temp exceed 86 degrees, photosynthesis starts to decline and fewer sugars are produced.

If night time temps are in the mid 70's or warmer, the plant consumes more of the sugars just to maintain cellular activity. This leaves fewer sugars for grain filling.

Bottom line, excessively high temps during the day and again at night can limit the plant's yield potential.

Hot temp with adequate moisture can result in good corn yields.

The worst scenario of course would be if the high day and night temps were accompanied by a lack of moisture.

Normally a day or two above 95 degrees is not a reason for concern as long as soil moisture levels are adequate; but several days above 90 degrees can cause yields to drop 1% per day. A week or more of this type of weather and yields could decline more rapidly.

Thus, the common belief that high heat and humidity are ideal for corn growth are false. In reality, high temps, especially high night time temps, can reduce yields greatly by increasing respiration.

Recap; temps above 86F during the day reduce the amount of sugar produced. Night time temps above 70 degrees require higher rates of dark respiration. More sugars are consumed leaving less available for cell growth. The net result is less available sugar for building more complex molecules such as starches, which are ultimately stored in the grain.

High temperatures are not good for corn growth, especially during the critical grain fill period. High night time temps are particular-

ly troublesome because the corn plant is using more of the manufactured sugars for cell maintenance and less for dry matter deposition.

This will lead to less than optimum yield and lower test weights.

So here we enter the problem with the 2011 growing season.

May – No problem

June – Even though we had only a few highs and lows-the rainfall was inadequate.

July – 22 highs-(13 consecutive), 7 lows but a fair rainfall.

August – 7 highs, 4 lows, fair rainfall- but the damage was already done.

September – Zero highs and lows-but too much rain!

In summary, the low rainfall in June with the extremely hot days and nights in July did us in.

We have found that any time we have 7 or 8 consecutive highs or lows-our problem of low yields start to manifest.

June-with the low rainfall-also effected transpiration of the corn. Transpiration is the evaporation of water from plants. It occurs chiefly during photosynthesis.

Transpiration is not simply a hazard of plant life – It is the “engine” that pulls water up from the roots to:

- Supply photosynthesis (1%-2% of the total)
- Bring minerals from the roots for biosynthesis within the leaf
- Cool the leaf

These environmental factors affect the rate of transpiration.



1. Light – plants transpire more rapidly in light than dark
2. Temperature – plants transpire more rapidly at higher temperatures because water evaporates more rapidly.
3. Humidity – when the surrounding air is dry, diffusion of water out of the leaf goes on more rapidly.
4. Wind – with no breeze, the air surrounding a leaf becomes increasingly humid thus reducing the rate of transpiration.
5. Soil water – a plant cannot continue to transpire rapidly if its water loss is not made up by replacement from the soil. Thus-

with reduced transpiration-reduced photosynthesis as well.

It has been estimated that over the growing season, one acre of corn plants may transpire 400,000 gallons of water.

As we go to press, our harvest has not started. We sampled some ears of corn-counted the rows of kernels and then the number of ker-

nels. This math gives us an estimate of yield – and this year it's off about 40% from normal.

Eric E. Glass is an Emmitsburg, MD farmer operating under Oakridge Farms, raising Red Angus cattle, Belted Galloway cattle and corn and soybean crops.

Eric is a Adams County Master Gardener and a Weather Observer for Emmitsburg for NOAA.

	Excessive Highs	Excessive Lows	Rain Fall
May	2	0	3.73"
June	6	2	1.08"
July	22	7	3.98"
August	7	4	4.30"
September	0	0	16.46"
	37	13	



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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

The ninth cat in the house

**Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter**

Well, I have number nine. The ninth cat in the house. Okay, in my defense, this poor cat had a head injury and wasn't walking all that well and she was so sad and unprotected outside and ... okay, fine, I'm going to be the crazy cat lady from the Simpsons, I'm aware of this. If I'm aware, does that make it at least a little better?

I can tell by your expression the answer is no.

So, anyway, her name's Hetty -- I don't even know where that came from -- and she had one of the oddest looking wounds on her head I've ever seen. It looked almost like someone had taken a flap of skin and glued it between her right ear and eye. The wound actually caused her eye to close unnaturally.

It clearly bugged her a lot because she'd paw at it on a relatively regular basis. It has no hair and looked like a skin graft.

She's had x-rays and tests and everything, but we're still not sure what happened.

The wound has since healed,

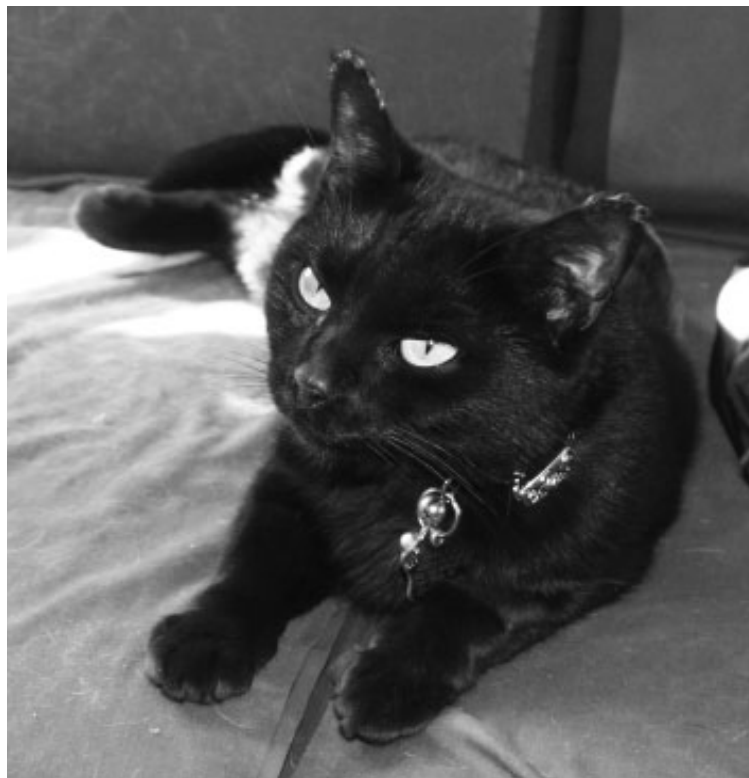
but she's still rather wobbly when she walks. I'm guessing there's neurological damage in the brain that she may have for the rest of her life. The sick thing -- that I try not to think about too often because it upsets me to no end -- is I'm afraid someone did that to her.

She's a real sweet girl; long-haired tiger with white, pretty green eyes and the kind of personality that means she'd walk up to anyone. The thought that she may have trusted a human to treat her well and give her a pat, only to end up with a head injury from a weapon or something ... I just can't think about it.

It makes me want to hug her all day. She unfortunately doesn't like to be picked up (probably still has trust issues, which is totally understandable), so I have to settle for snuggles on her terms. She loves to sit tight up against me and purr while I pet her and I like to oblige.

She has long hair between her little cat toes and when she "makes bread," it makes me happy to think she's comfortable enough to feel that content.

At any rate, she's been with me now for the last couple of



Editor's note: Jen may have 9 cats but we just got our 5th. Meet Gracy, a stray who showed up in our barn and is now suffering the life of a house cat.

months. In the beginning, she was just recuperating from her ordeal and she spent most of her days in the carrier I used to take her to the vet.

She slept a lot -- probably healing from the wound and the trauma.

Now she goes out and about the apartment on occasion, but the carrier is kind of "her place." I think she feels safer there -- confined, so even if she's wobbly,

she's got walls to hold her and make her feel protected.

She still doesn't walk right and if something startles her, man, she'll jump and try to run but usually just ends up falling into a wall or piece of furniture.

She breaks your heart.

Oh, and, she's the only one of the nine who will actually come when I call her. If I want some lovin' (and she's a real lovebug, let me tell you), I'll just call

her name a few times and she'll stumble out of the carrier to hang out.

She's also a head-butter. When you're loving up on her, she'll ram her head into whatever body part of yours she can find. I don't know if she can't judge the distance or what, but her head-butts are rough.

It's hard not to feel bad and love this little girl.

Unless, of course, you're my bengal cat, Dee Dee. I'm telling you, if Dee Dee was a human being, you wouldn't like her one bit. She'd be one of the Mean Girls from that movie a few years ago. You remember? With Lindsay Lohan?

Anyway, Dee Dee hisses and spits and growls at poor Hetty like she's some kind of evil creature that crawled out of the sewer. I try to say, "Dee Dee, be nice; Heddy doesn't feel well," but that really doesn't work.

I mean, what kind of a cat would pick on a poor, defenseless, messed up critter like Hetty?

My girl Dee Dee apparently.

So far, nothing horrible has happened. Dee Dee's just been all bark and no bite, if you'll pardon the canine pun and don't tell Dee Dee I used it to describe her. Mostly, Dee Dee snarls in an unfriendly manner when she comes upon Hetty and quickly finds another part of the apartment in which to repose.

Sigh. That cat. I'm so wrapped around her little paw it's frightening. Oh who am I kidding? I'm wrapped around all nine little paws in my house.

In fact, all of my felines have such different personalities, it's fun to come home to them and see what they managed to get up to in a day. And now with Hetty in the mix, life at my place is guaranteed to never be dull.

Even if nine might be turning me into the crazy cat lady, I know that I can provide for them and love them and keep them from ever getting hurt again -- and that actually makes me feel really good.

I remind them, sometimes on a daily basis, how lucky they all are to be inside and allowed what amounts to free reign in that apartment, and that they never have to worry about being hurt, ever.

Quality of life is really what it's all about.

Even with that Mean Girl, Dee Dee.

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

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Ponies

Kimberly J Brokaw DVM
Walkersville Veterinary Clinic

Ponies are some of my most challenging patients. They often possess unique and colorful characters. While ponies are usually very good with their children, they frequently don't show the adults the same sort of respect. One day, I watched a pony put up with kids hanging all over him, dressing him up in clothes, and dragging him all over the neighborhood. Then when the kid's parent led the pony into the barn, the pony turned around and kicked the parent. This sort of quirky behavior seems to be commonplace among ponies and yet for the most part absent in their larger counterpart, the horse.

One of my clients has several show ponies for her kids. Every time I have to go to her farm I always wonder if I am going to come back injured. One particular pony gets worse every time I work with him. While he is well

behaved for exams, the second he sees a needle he starts rearing and striking. On this farm visit, I was not going out to work on the needle phobic pony. Instead one of the other ponies was lame and the farm owner's daughter was scheduled to take her to a show in two weeks.

Polka-Dot is a 13 hand leopard appaloosa pony. Dot has the typical pony sense of humor as far as being well-behaved when you are paying attention to her, yet the second you turn your back she tries to bite. Luckily for her, this pony is very cute, good with the kids, and scores well in the show ring. I was called to examine Dot as she was lame. Her shoe had slipped and a clip on the shoe had cut the hoof. While that resolved uneventfully after a couple days of rest, she was now lame on the other front leg.

The owner had noticed the lameness over the weekend as well as a little swelling in the front leg. She applied a poultice wrap, gave bute to relieve pain, and called for the examination on Monday.

When I examined Dot her owner told me that the swelling



had decreased but that the pony was still lame. I had the daughter trot the pony back and forth. As the pony was trotting she kept trying to bite the daughter as she jogged her down the aisle. Unfortunately the daughter had misplaced the lunge line so she had to jog the pony in multiple circles and figure eights in the ring for my evaluation. The pony continued to follow, trying to bite her as she trotted. The daughter, a typical pony owning child, scolded the pony with each attempted bite, but was not particularly upset by the biting. Children who own ponies are often resilient, stoic kids. As the examination continued, I determined that the lameness originated from the deep digital flexor tendon. I did an ultrasound evaluation, which revealed a core lesion in the tendon a few inches below the knee.

Several years ago this type of injury would have been a devastating injury requiring months of rest and an uncertain prognosis. Today this is still a serious injury, but the advent of regenerative medicine increased the likelihood of a successful outcome in a shorter period of time. I discussed the treatment op-

tions with the owner. She elected to take Dot to Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center at Morven Park in Leesburg. This center has a research veterinarian specializing in regenerative medicine. I contacted the regenerative medicine specialist at Leesburg, Dr. Jennifer Barrett, and asked her to write a quick summary about regenerative medicine for this article. The next two paragraphs is a quote from her response to me.

"A new field of medicine that harnesses the cells and proteins already present in the body has emerged in the last decade, called regenerative medicine. The goal of regenerative medicine is to achieve scar free healing, in other words, regenerate whatever is injured in the body. There are many approaches within this field of medicine; these include using stem cells, which can actually be harvested from the patient, avoiding ethical issues associated with some types of stem cell therapy. Other therapies, like platelet rich plasma, use different cells and proteins from the body, such as platelets and the growth factors that platelets release to initiate a healing response.

While the elusive goal of perfect healing has not been achieved, the philosophy is that harnessing the cells in the body that promote healing to help injuries that are not healing on their own will result in improved function. This field has the potential to impact injury and disease of any system or organ in the body. In horses, we are primarily using regenerative medicine to treat lameness and orthopedic injuries."

When Dot went to Leesburg, multiple treatment modalities were offered including stem cell therapy, IRAP, shockwave, and others. Dot received multiple injections with platelet rich plasma directly into the tendon. This technique involves the collection of Dot's blood, processing it, and injecting it. The PRP provides a meshwork to speed the healing process for the tendon.

Treatment was successful for Dot. After the therapy, and resting for a couple of months, Polka-Dot was back to showing and chasing and biting her kid and kicking the kid's parents. Ponies are such wonderful creatures.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Managing herbs in the Fall

Elizabeth Bartlett and Pam Miller
Frederick County Master
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You've been diligent about picking your seeds or small plants for planting in spring, watched your beautiful herbs grow from little sprouts to large, bushy plants, flowering with delicate or large flowers, sharing their fragrance and taste abundantly. Now that you've grown all these herbs, how do you harvest the abundance? For many years I grew herbs just to enjoy how they looked and smelled, not really knowing what to do with the plants, except the occasional oregano or parsley in various Italian sauces and dishes. Since that time so many years ago, I've taken a journey that has brought much knowledge about plants, mostly what they offer for our own good health. Growing and harvesting your herbs is one of the joys of life and its easy.

Different herbs are harvested at different times. A few references are mentioned at the end of this article so you can check your herbs' harvesting times. Some herbs are best harvested before they flower (lemon balm, rosemary, thyme, oregano, sage), others while they're in

full bloom (lavender, anise hyssop, butterfly weed, dandelion, skullcap), and others for their roots (marshmallow, purple cone flower or Echinacea, dandelion, valerian), berries (elderberry, hawthorn, chaste berry), or bark (slippery elm, oak, elder). So it all depends. When you do harvest, at the peak of harvest time, do so in the morning, preferably on a fairly sunny day and after the dew has dried.

Once you pick whichever parts you are harvesting (leaf, flower, root, berry, bark), immediately move the harvested plants out of direct sunlight. The heat of the sun will quickly wilt your herbs and strip the plants of their essential oils, so important for flavor and health. Move the picked plants to a shady area or indoors, where you can gently wash the roots (very gently) and perhaps gently wash other parts of the plants. I generally don't wash leaves and flowers that I'm drying, because I never harvest any plant that's been sprayed, and the plant is generally clean. If you do wash, then you may need to wait for the plant to completely dry before you begin the drying process, depending on which drying method you choose. In cold-winter areas the last harvest should be six to eight



weeks before the first hard freeze to give perennials time to harden off new growth. At your final harvest, cut annuals to the ground and cut back perennials to about two thirds of their height.

Herbs can be gathered in bunches, tied with string or twine, and hung upside down to let the plant dry with appropriate air circulation. This is a nice way to dry herbs with flowers, as you can use these as dried flower bouquets, which is very pretty. Alternatively, you can use your refrigerator to dry herbs. Simply place small bundles of freshly harvested

herbs in paper bags, label them, and place the partially closed bags on a shelf. The fridge-drying process is slow-about two weeks, depending upon the thickness of the leaves-but may be worth the wait. In the cool environment and relative darkness of the refrigerator, herb leaves retain valuable essential oils and more chlorophyll. You can completely dry the herbs in the fridge and then use them from the bag as needed.

Other methods include using a dehydrator, putting the herbs on a tray in an oven with just the pilot light on (although this is risky

because you may forget and pre-heat the oven to bake, and then 'poof', there go all your wonderful herbs!), or placing on screens in a dry, airy place (always out of direct sunlight). A method I prefer for its ease is placing the herbs in a paper bag loosely so air can circulate (this means not stuffing the bag to the brim with your herbs) and gently folding the top, and after labeling the date harvested and the plant harvested, I place in the trunk of my car. An open back trunk is not a good idea - best to use a trunk with a closed top, so no sunlight will enter. You want to use a trunk that does not let in any moisture.

Whatever method used, check every 1-3 days to be sure no mold is developing and to occasionally stir or turn the herbs as appropriate. The goal is to let the plant dry evenly and this requires air to be able to circulate around the plants. Depending on the climate and humidity, drying can take from a few days to two weeks. A fully dried herb will crackle and crumble when rubbed between your fingers. If the leaves are not crisp, they still contain some moisture. When the herbs are crumbly and dry, they are ready to be stored and labeled.

Leave small or needlelike leaves like those of thyme and rosemary on their stems, but remove large leaves from stalks. The rosemary stems can be used as skewers. When left on the stem, you can use the leaves when needed for cooking or for teas or other uses. Other plants can be placed very gently in a storage container (crumbling the leaves releases the essential oils so try not to crumble the leaves too much). You can store your dried herbs in clean, dark-glass jars or clear jars with tight-fitting lids stored in a dark place. I use mason jars - this way I can see directly what I have and I enjoy looking at my dried herbs.

A properly dried herb will retain the same color as the fresh plant - flowers, leaves, berries will all be a similar color. If leaves or flowers or berries turn brown, then they've been damaged and are not of any use. Once you have harvested, stored and labeled your herbs, you can use for 1-2 years if kept stored away from direct sunlight, like a pantry or cupboard at room or cooler temperature, without added moisture. The dried herbs can be used in teas, tinctures, cooking, salves, and all kinds of herbal remedies. You will have the knowledge when you use your herbs that you grew your own to benefit you and your family. It's an amazing feeling of accomplishment and altruism - you've grown food and medicine from the earth and are providing for others. Good health and luck with the coming harvest!

Drying herbs is easy and will provide you plenty of materials to experiment with later in the season. But many people stop there, not knowing what to do with them or are afraid of the result. I assure you that many of us

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go through that initial dilemma. I have some simple but proven ideas that will jump-start you on your way to learning to use your herb harvest.

Some people would like to use more herbs in their cooking, but don't know how much or what foods to use with a certain herb. Start with using thyme. You can use thyme with everything and it is hard to add too much of it. Once you learn how much of an herb suits your taste, start experimenting with a few more common herbs. An unused coffee grinder is a great way to finely grind dried or even fresh herbs for cooking.

Tea is a delicious way to use your herbs. Two teas that even the non-herbal tea enthusiast might enjoy are peppermint and ginger. I know, many people do not grow their own ginger; but it is too good to leave out. To make herbal tea, pour boiling water over 1 tbsp fresh herbs per cup or ½ tsp dried. For ginger use an inch of the sliced peel "root". Adjust volume of herbs according to taste. Steep for 10 minutes in teapot or with saucer over cup. Sweeten if needed. Do

NOT be surprised if it tastes superior to any tea that you buy in a store.

A tea made of sage or rosemary can be used as a rinse that can clean residual shampoo or conditioners from your hair, leaving hair soft and shiny. They both can darken hair gradually if used regularly once or twice a week. Pour 2 cups of boiling water over 1 tbs fresh or ½ tsp dried rosemary leaves and steep until cool. For sage use ¼ cup of dried or fresh leaves. Once the tea has cooled stain out the herbs. To use pour over clean hair. Do not rinse.

Ginger is great to add to bathwater for those chilly days when you can't seem to make the bath water hot enough. Just add twice the amount of ginger-root to the bath water as what you use to make tea. Carefully adjust the amount of ginger to your preference. Too much ginger will feel unpleasant to sensitive body parts. Your bath will feel incredibly warm - perfect for a cold day.

A wonderful way to deodorize carpets from pet smell is to mix 2 parts of baking soda to

one part dried lavender flowers or leaves. Sprinkle onto the carpet as you would use a carpet deodorizer. Wait about 15 minutes and vacuum. Not only will your carpet be refreshed but the ingredients will not harm your dog or cat. And it smells great when you vacuum it up. For a quick but potent potpourri, boil a pot of wa-

ter, add a small handful of lavender leaves or buds, and reduce to a slow simmer. (Peppermint also works great for this purpose.) Save the dried stems from the lavender for adding to your woodstove or fireplace for a fragrant way to start your fire.

References & Resources

- Growing 101 Herbs That Heal (Tammi Hartung)*
- Herbal Tea Gardens (Marietta Marcin)*
- Practical Herb Garden (Jessica Houdret)*
- The Edible Herb Garden (Rosalind Creasy)*
- Landscaping With Herbs (James Adams)*

The Small Town Gardener

Marianne Wilburn

Those that know me well, and are forced on a regular basis to listen to my ramblings face to face, could tell you that I am not a devotee of the words "pre-made". Whether it's a sectional vinyl fence in the garden, or pre-formed biscuits crammed in a cardboard tube, I live by the adage, "There is no such thing as a free lunch." That is to say, the vinyl fence will eventually lose its shine and stubbornly refuse the advances of a paint brush, and too many of those butter flavored cholesterol cans could have me popping a king-size prescription of Lipitor in a few years' time.

So why, I was recently asked, did I climb down from my ivory tower and purchase two pots of pre-planted and pre-fertilized spring bulbs a few weeks ago? Why, when I had pots available, soil ready to be recycled, and bulbs somewhere in the back of the basement, did I creep over to the dark side and fork over cash for two pots of pre-made spring splendor?

The answer is two-fold.

First, I am weak and have obviously been exploited. There is an extremely clever marketer in New York City who considers it a challenge to study the habits of people like me and precisely determine the price at which we are willing to fork over our cash and our pride. This time she won. I looked at the container; it was reusable. I looked at the amount of bulbs; it was substantial. I did some quick calculations and asked myself whether I was comfortable with paying myself \$2.25 an hour to put together something similar; I wasn't.

Secondly, it's been a rough season. I've seen a lot of pests and disease in the garden this summer and have spent many sleepless nights considering my future as caretaker thereof. Those two pots represented a new start, a new hope. They were to my garden what Luke Skywalker was to the Rebel Alliance. I couldn't resist.

So the pots went into the cart and were quickly covered with a king-size package of paper towels on the off chance I ran into a friend. A friend who would pretend not to look at the

contents of my trolley, but would secretly be scanning it like a CIA surveillance team for signs of pre-fab tacos or mini-quiches. A faint whiff of guilt wafted up from the cart on two separate occasions, but I managed to quell the mutiny therein and directed my flagging energy toward finding the quickest moving checkout line and cursing others doing the very same thing.

On the way home I studiously kept my mind off of my rash purchase by surfing radio channels, considering the sad state of the economy and threatening unruly children. As the children were particularly unruly and the economy particularly sad, this strategy worked exceedingly well. And when I finally drove up to the house and opened the trunk; ripping open the packaging of my little splurges was like opening a Christmas present...a Christmas present that was already sprouting, that is.

Yes, Virginia, there really is no such thing as a free lunch.

I suppose it was to be expected - the pots had probably been stratified under tightly controlled refrigeration for months, only to be shuffled out to the public in a warm warehouse for the last few weeks where the intoxicating taste of spring began to waft through the cardboard and potting soil. If you were a bulb you'd sprout too.

If I lived in Florida I suppose I'd turn a blind eye. But I know what's coming. I know the strength of winter's icy winds and the pride she takes in biting the heads off fall-sown larkspur. Sprouting bulbs have no chance against that kind of fury - and then what will I have for my \$24.99?

So, I've mulched them copiously. I've put them on the cold side of the house. And, unlike all of the sun worshippers around me, I haven't been saddened by the early arrival of autumn.

Call me a spoilsport, but I don't spend money like that every day you know.

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Union soldiers during the campaign of 1862

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society
Civil War Historian

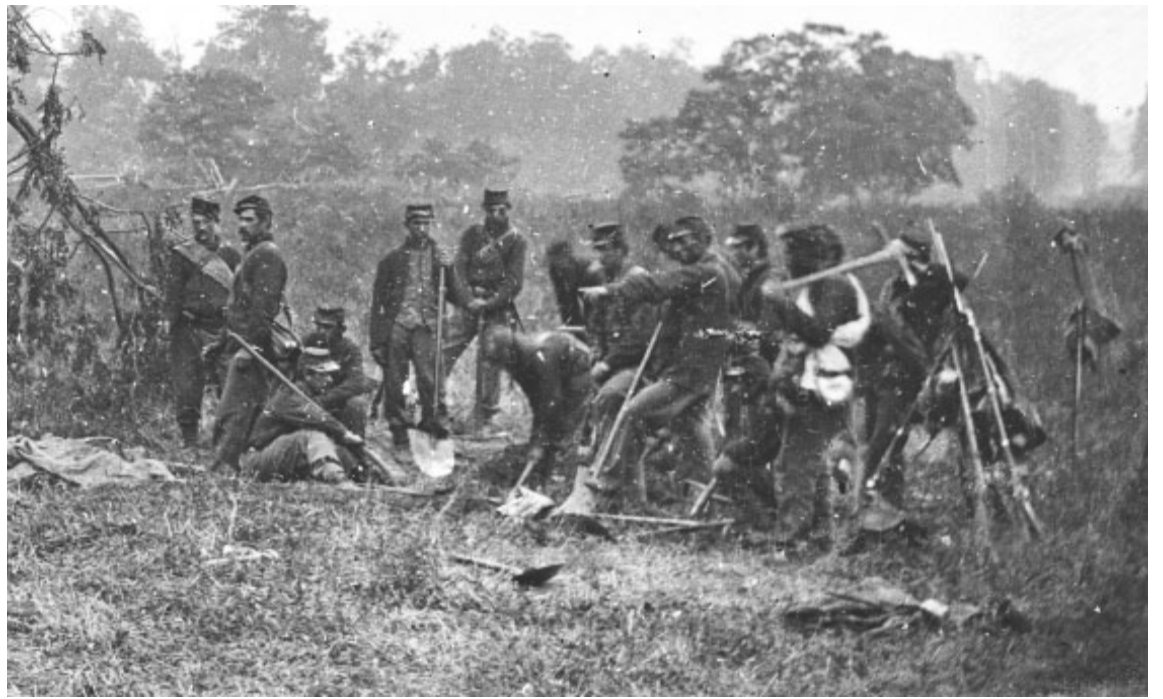
Part One

To me, Civil War uniforms are a topic that often gets overlooked, including the uniforms of the Union army, unless you're a living historian. Many times, the soldiers of the Union army went through shortages just as their Confederate counterparts did. During the hard campaigning season, one may find it interesting to note that the Union soldiers' uniforms were as tattered as those of a Confederate soldier. With long marches along dusty roads one day, and possibly a muddy mess the next, the uniform of a Union soldier would take on a different appearance. You hear more about this topic in 1863, during the Union soldiers' forced march from around Fredericksburg, Virginia to Gettysburg and back to Virginia. I want to briefly cover the Maryland Campaign of 1862 with this article since people often ask me, "What did they wear?" Keep in mind that I am not covering those regiment wearing Zouave uniforms, as that is a topic all of its own. The rest of this article

will cover the experiences of the Union soldier in their own words.

After a crushing blow to the Union army during the Battle of Second Manassas in August of 1862, General John Pope had no choice but to retire back to the defenses of Washington D.C. As the soldiers from Pope's army entered the defenses of Washington they were dirty and ragged. As a result, many of Pope's men had not changed their clothing or bathed in almost a month, and it would be a few days later before the men were given that opportunity. One Union soldier wrote: "We looked very bad being lousey, dutsy and almost naked." As Pope's forces retreated, the Confederate army began its march northward toward Maryland.

Many of McClellan's own troops were able to pull new uniforms from their hard campaigning down along the Peninsula after arriving in Washington. However, General Pope's Army of Virginia was a different story. In his memoirs "Military Reminiscences of the Civil War" General Jacob Cox noted that "About four o'clock McClellan rode forward, and I accompanied him. We halted at the brow of the hill looking down the Fairfax road. The head of the column was in sight, and



rising dust showed its position far beyond. Pope and McDowell, with the staff, rode at the head. Their uniforms and that of all the party was covered with dust, their beards were powdered with it; they looked worn and serious, but alert and self-possessed." As a result of the disaster of Manassas, General John Pope was relieved of command of the Army of Virginia. General George McClellan, who, at that time, was in charge of the defenses of Washington, was given command and quickly reorganized the army.

McClellan took the Army of the Potomac, the Army of Virginia, the Kanawha Division, and Burnside's force, combined them into a single fighting force, and managed to get them moving. Morale was very low for the Union soldier and most of them would rather not go after Lee's army, who was concentrating at Frederick. However, General

McClellan wasted no time leaving Washington, trailing after General Robert E. Lee's invading Confederate army. The soldier's individual stories are very similar and according to George Stevens of the 77th New York, packing up for the new campaign was effortless considering that the soldiers had little more than themselves and a few personal belongings. As for those units already stationed at Washington, many of them received new clothing and knapsacks. For many others that arrived in Washington, they had to move out no sooner than they had arrived. But the forced march would prove tiresome for the footman of the Union army.

Many first hand accounts told of the havoc caused by the extreme humid weather during the day and the coolness that the night provided. By nightfall, a combination of the march itself, weather conditions, and the weight of the knapsack on the soldier's back caused many soldiers to collapse, sleeping where they fell. Some accounts from soldiers serving in the First, Second and Sixth Corps stated that their generals never issued light marching orders.

Private Uberto A. Burnham of the 76th New York recalled receiving marching orders on September 6th. "We commenced marching about 7p.m. and about 2a.m. reached the river and crossed at Long Bridge. We then marched through the city of Washington and along Pennsylvania Avenue. When morning came we thought we would halt and rest, but we did not. The day was very hot and the dust four inches deep. The word was always "Forward! Forward!" During the whole day we did not stop long enough to take a real meal or make a cup of coffee. It seemed necessary to put as many troops as possible between Lee and Washington in as short a time as possible. We did not halt until 7p.m., having marched 24 hours. When the marching columns halted, not half the men were in line. Many had fallen, exhausted, but by morning most of them were again with their comrades at the front. The next day we resumed our march, but moved more delib-

erately."

On September 7th, the colonel of the 96th Pennsylvania recognized that conditions of a forced march in the overwhelming weather, was not a good combination and he sent orders to his regiment to get rid of the excess baggage. Many of the soldiers just packed away their new uniforms and greatcoats. A riot nearly started when the quartermaster tried to gather their knapsacks as well. When General McClellan was near Rockville, a by-standard noted that their uniforms didn't fit and that their blouses and caps were torn and faded. Edwin Marvin, a member of the 5th Connecticut recalled while bivouacked near Rockville for the night that the quartermaster wagon containing their knapsacks had arrived. They had been wearing the same clothing for the last four weeks and this was the first time since then that they were able to change their clothes.

By September 11th, 1862, the hot, dusty roads, and the dust that covered the soldiers' uniform would change with a much needed rain. After arriving in Washington many soldiers from the 155th Pennsylvania Regiment volunteered to head out with General Humphreys' Division, who was ordered out to protect the roads leading into Pennsylvania. Soon after, problems for the weary soldiers began. After being equipped with knapsacks and carrying everything upon their backs, fatigue quickly sat in.

They packed their knapsacks and were marching along the road quickly trying to join McClellan's army, who was two days away. After bivouacking at Rockville, orders again were issued and another forced march commenced. For several days, the men began pitching their knapsacks along the side of the road, as well as their newly issued blankets and overcoats. Wagoneers who lagged behind often picked up the items that were thrown away. As fatigue set in, many men broke down from exhaustion or from being footsore. Others just fell further behind in the columns. The next morning, those who had kept their knapsacks would again pack and begin marching.

Part 2 next month

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VETERAN'S PROFILE

Flight training at the Mount, 1942-3

Maj. Carlton Weaver USMC ret.

In February 1941 I applied for flight training in the Army Air Force and learned that I met all requirements but one - I was not old enough. My mother had little sympathy with my desire. However, she understood all elements at play and in the spring of 1942 I received a plain white envelope addressed in my mother's unmistakable palmer method penmanship. The only thing in that envelope was a pamphlet entitled How To Win Your Navy Wings of Gold, that and nothing more.

The USA was now involved in WWII and I sent the Naval Aviation Cadet Selection Board a letter asking to be called promptly. Meanwhile there were then twenty cadets from the Boston Naval Aviation Cadet Selection Board already enrolled at Mount Saint Mary's College. The navy learned that one of them was married, so he was released. Many in this Boston group had little or no college training. I had two and one half years in engineering so the Navy was confident that I would have no problems with the science or math so they called me as a replacement even though I missed some ground school.

My orders were to report to Mount Saint Mary's College on December

24, 1942. I arrived in Emmitsburg on Christmas eve in darkness after a bus trip from Morgantown to Grafton where I boarded a train to Washington then a cab to the bus station and a bus to Emmitsburg. Not being trained in the promptness required by military orders I decided to find a hotel in Emmitsburg rather than report as ordered. It was Christmas Eve in a town with which I was unfamiliar and where I had neither friends nor family. My room was on the main street with a good view of the street which was snow covered with little vehicular traffic but with an occasional horse drawn sleigh full of carolers. It was Christmas Eve scene I'll never forget.

The next day (Christmas) I reported in at Mount Saint Mary's. The Father that received me asked, "Son are you a Catholic?" I was surprised because I expected to be to be reprimanded for reporting late and furthermore I was a protestant having grown up in a county in which there were only two denominations. One was either Baptist or Methodist or neo-agnostic. I soon learned that the Father was only concerned with my religious needs on this sacred day. I was not reprimanded for reporting AWOL for my first day in the Navy. I should also report that I collected two

months pay from Dupont and did go to work for them six years later after completing my education.

The ground school at Mt. St. Mary's was routine with classes in mathematics, aircraft recognition, theory of flight, etc and we flew when the weather was good, which was infrequent. It was a cold and snowy winter. When we had time off (week ends) some five or six of us would rent a car and driver and go to Gettysburg, Hagerstown, Westminster and/or Frederick. I have vague recollections off a March of Dimes party in Gettysburg and hearing the Jimmy Lunceford orchestra in Hagerstown. There was a place near Emmitsburg where young people went for conversation and possibly a beer and dancing and a downtown restaurant that we enjoyed. Memories of sixty years ago are fuzzy but I remember a few names. The mathematics professor was named Mac something. We called him Mac. Father O'Donnell learned to fly with us and loved by all. My flight instructor was named Richard Skiles. Two girls our age that I remember were named Gloria Cardinti and Helen Fraley.

Our flight instructors and the planes we flew were connected with a contract operator who served the Navy. We did not have navy uni-



Maj. Weaver after his first solo flight from the Mount

forms but were issued surplus green CCC uniforms. For those too young to remember, the CCC was the Citizens Conservation Corp formed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the depression. We flew 50 and 65 HP Piper J3 Cub planes.

My first solo flight occurred on February 13, 1943 after eight hours of dual instruction. One flight I will never forget was my fourth solo flight. On this flight I was practicing Spins over Thurmont. I would first align the plane with the road to Emmitsburg, reduce power, pull the nose up to the stall position and initiate a spin.

The object was to complete a two-turn spin and recover aimed in the same direction you started. On the

spin in question, I recovered from the spin and the propeller was not rotating. I did not then know how to restart the engine so I headed back to the airport in a glide. It soon became apparent that I did not have enough altitude to glide to the field so I did as we were trained. I picked a good field and landed the plane.

I left to find a telephone and when I returned the plane was gone. In my absence, an instructor on a dual flight landed in the same field and he and his advanced student flew both planes back. Finally someone from the college found me and took me home. This was my only forced landing in more than forty years of flying.

Needless to say, I have fond memories of my days in Emmitsburg.

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HISTORY

St. Joseph's high school-Emmitsburg's last high school

James Rada, Jr.

Emmitsburg lost its last high school in 1982. That's not so far back that there still aren't people who remember that before the people lived in the apartments on DePaul Street, students learned there in a school run by the Daughters of Charity.

St. Joseph's High School opened in 1946 in the Cribbins Memorial Building on DePaul Street next to the St. Joseph's Catholic Church rectory. It replaced the St. Joseph's College High School, which had been a girls-only boarding school that had operated since 1890. The high school was co-educational. It included seven grades in its early years so that both high school and junior high students were taught in the building.

"The Class of 1950 was the first class to have all four years in the school, but we were the second," said Pat Boyle, whose family name can be seen frequently on the rolls of Emmitsburg's Catholic schools.

The building

The high school had no air conditioning, which was not unusual for schools at that time. It meant that Indian summers and hot springs made for uncomfortable days for students and staff alike. In the winter, though, Boyle said that the school stayed nicely heated, either by the building's boilers or the afternoon sun.

"We were always having to pull down the shades to keep the sun out in the afternoon to keep the rooms from getting too hot," Boyle said. The rooms that heated up in the sun were the home-rooms, which were on the DePaul

Street side of the school.

The school's shop class was taught on the first floor along with the home economics class. The cafeteria and gymnasium were also on this level.

"I thought it was a very nice building," said Joseph Muffolet, Class of 1952. "It was well lit and relatively new."

Dress codes

Being a Catholic school, the students were expected to adhere to a dress code. Boys wore ties, white shirts and dark pants. Girls wore a white blouse and a one-piece green uniform. This eventually became green sweaters and plaid skirts in the later years of the school.

"I don't remember there being a lot of complaining about having to dress up a little bit," Muffolet said. "It raised you a little bit above the public schools, which weren't as strict."

When the length of girls' skirts started to shrink in the 1960s, the girls at St. Joseph's High still had to wear knee-length skirts. Steve Haines, Class of 1966, remembers that it wasn't only boys checking out the girls in their skirts. The staff made sure to enforce the knee-length rule.

"They would make a girl kneel down on the floor to make sure that it touched the floor," Haines said. "It kept the girls from rolling up the waists of their skirts to make them shorter."

The Daughters of Charity also had their own dress code with their iconic wide, white cornettes and dark dresses. However, that changed in 1964 and it was as shocking to the students as miniskirts in school would have been to the sisters. That year, the Daugh-



St. Joseph's High School 1946

ters of Charity switched from the cornettes to a simpler veil-like covering.

When the news that the sisters had changed their style of dress reached the students, they wanted to see it in person. Haines said the students stood on the front steps that first day waiting to get their first look at the sisters who came down the stairs from inside the school.

"They had looked so big before, but now you could finally really see their faces," Haines said. He was also quick to point out that it didn't end the respect

that the sisters commanded.

Classes

St. Joseph's High was never a large school. The class sizes ranged from the mid-20s to the mid-30s, generally. This means the school's entire enrollment was around 100 students any given year or roughly a third of the size as the current Emmitsburg Elementary School.

Most of the students lived locally in town and walked to school. If transportation was needed, either the parents drove their children to school or group arrangements could be made for transportation.

In the Fort Ritchie area there were enough students attending St. Joseph's High that they could pile into a van each morning to travel down the mountain, according to George Gorman, Class of 1966. However, living outside of Emmitsburg tended to isolate him because he was too far away to regularly see his friends after school and most of the other kids in Fort Ritchie attended the local public schools so he wasn't part of their social circles, generally.

Haines remembers that the school days began around 8:35 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. There were six 40-minute classes each day with period one beginning at 9 a.m. and period seven wrapping up at 2:15 p.m.

Lunch fell between fourth and fifth periods. In the early years of the schools, students brought a lunch and ate together in the cafeteria. By the time the school closed in 1982, seniors were allowed to leave the school grounds at lunch.

"We liked to go to Stavros during lunch," said Kate Hailstone, Class of 1982. "We didn't always eat there. A lot times we just sat and talked."

Classes included the basics like math, social studies, religion, English, science and glee club. "They made glee club mandatory," Gorman said. "That was fine if you liked to sing, but not everyone did or could."



St. Joseph's High School ground breaking - 1945

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HISTORY



Sister Claire, St. Joseph's math teacher

In public schools, evolution was the only thing student were taught about how life came to be. In St. Joseph's High, Muffolett said that the science classes he remembers taught biology but creationism was also taught in the classrooms. Hailstone said that her religion class seemed to her to be more like an ethics class.

St. Joseph's students could also take Latin, French, home economics, typing, speech and manual training (shop class) as electives. Muffolett remembers that a man would come in to teach agriculture during his time at the school.

For the majority of the day, the students in a grade level would stay together with the same schedule. It was only the elective classes that saw some intermixing of the grade levels.

Though class offerings were limited, many of the students felt like

they were well-prepared for college. Muffolett said he attended Loyola College after graduating.

"They had an admissions test and I did extremely well on it," he said. "I also felt well prepared for college when I started taking my classes."

Good sisters and bad boys

The Daughters of Charity maintained strict discipline in their schools and their classrooms. Students walking in the halls spoke softly and walked in orderly lines of traffic so as not to clog the hallways or stairwells. There was no yelling, running or crushing masses of students moving in a dozen different directions that is seen in today's high schools.

Despite the strictness, many of them were loved and are still fondly remembered. Gorman recalls his math teacher, Sister Claire. "She was

matronly and had a beautiful smile. She was always happy," he said.

Hailstone favorite teacher was her social studies teacher, Sister Eleanor Casey. Hailstone said she was "open minded and smart. She understood the students."

Boyle has a less-pleasant memory of the classes since he failed English one year and had to attend summer school, which was held in a lay teacher's home. Mrs. Rogers tutored him and another student in English throughout the summer.

"That just killed my summer," Boyle said.

Muffolett also found himself struggling under the strict discipline of the Daughters of Charity. He acquired a reputation as a troublemaker and it stuck.

"I wasn't a super student, but I was well behaved," Muffolett said. However, he apparently liked to comment on lessons or laugh at the wrong time in class. It reached a point where he was on the verge of expulsion.

"My parents would have killed me if I had gotten kicked out," Muffolett said. "My mother had to come in and talk to the sisters. I got to stay, but I had to do penance at the church. A couple times a week I had to walk over there and pray that I would learn how to behave myself."

However, his reputation was in place and Muffolett said, "I got blamed every time an incident took place."

On a field trip to Washington D.C., some boys put the bus windows down and threw paper airplanes out of them just as the bus happened to be passing some sisters standing on the curb.

"Sure enough, when we got back, I was the one who got called into the office," Muffolett said.

Lucky for him another student came up to the office and admitted that he had thrown the planes out the window.

Boys weren't the only ones who could cause trouble in the school, though. Mary Ann Frye, Class of 1982, wrote on her Classmates.com page, "The wildest thing I ever did in High School? Glued Sr. Margaret's chair to the floor before school one day. I had help on that one."

Hailstone thought St Joseph's High School wasn't nearly as strict as

her former school in England. She went to a convent boarding school and said she was getting detention all the time there, which was something that didn't follow her to St. Joseph's High.

Extracurricular activities

The Daughters also had support from Mount Saint Mary's College in their teaching efforts. Haines said that the deacons would come over from the college to teach classes. The college helped in other ways, too.

"We would play our basketball games in the old Mount gym," Haines recalls. "Oh, we thought we were all hot stuff then to be playing in a college gym."

While basketball for boys and girls was the predominant sport at the school, other sports teams were offered though not as consistently as basketball. Depending on when a student attended, he or she could play baseball, softball, soccer or cross country. Cheerleading was also offered for the girls.

"We didn't have enough students to do much of anything else," Haines said.

Boyle describes himself as a jock. He played on the school basketball team throughout his time at St. Joseph's High. "My senior year, our basketball team won the league," Boyle said. "We were 25 and two. We only lost to St. Francis."

Clubs and activities that St. Joseph's offered were much like any other high school: business club, glee club, French club, newspaper, yearbook and student council. Some were also distinctly Catholic like the Mother Seton Club and the Children of Mary Club.

A dark day

The year 1963 sticks in many people's minds because that is the year that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President John F. Kennedy. Sam Wivell, Class of 1966, said it hit the sisters hard.

"We didn't know what happened at first," Wivell said. "They were took us next door

[to St. Joseph's Church] so they could pray. It was hard on them especially because he was the first Catholic president."

Closing

In 1982, it was decided that the time had come to close St. Joseph's High School. High school students were needing more classes that the school's enrollment couldn't justify.

Hailstone was a member of that last graduating class. "It was the last year and we knew the school was closing. It was a bit sad, especially at graduation."

Most of the underclassmen were transferred to Catocin High School in Thurmont the following September.

The closure of St. Joseph's High marked the end of one more educational branch of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Legacy that began when St. Joseph's Academy and Free School opened in 1810. St. Joseph College had closed in 1973 ending the vision of girls-only and collegiate education in Emmitsburg. St. Joseph High School ended the vision of secondary education.

Life after graduation

Though many graduates moved away to other states and even other countries, others chose to stay in the area. Graduates also found that their education had given them a firm foundation for their later work as teachers, politicians, small business owners and more. Here are a few examples:

Pamela Miller, Class of 1962, became a real-estate broker.

James Grinder, Class of 1965, became the director of transportation for the Daughters of Charity.

Pat Brew, Class of 1973, became a teacher.

Frank Borghese, Class of 1979, served in the U.S. Army in many locations in the Middle East and Europe. He also earned a law degree and worked in international trade.

Barbara Little, Class of 1982, became a nurse practitioner in the nephrology field.

Ron Russ, Class of 1982, works in radio and plays in a band.

Michelle Coffey, Class of 1984, became an interior designer and freelance photographer.

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St. Joseph's High School typing class - 1955

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

A day with the last Soviet Naval leader

Cmdr. John Murphy, USN Ret.

On the 4th of July weekend in 1988 I received a phone call from a friend in the Pentagon. He asked if I could provide Russian language services for the visit of a senior Soviet naval officer the following Monday, 11 July. He went on to explain that the visitor was the equivalent of our Chief of Naval Operations – the Soviet Chief of the Main Navy Staff - Admiral Konstantin Makarov. They needed me to help prepare a briefing to give to Admiral Makarov in the Pentagon's Navy Command Center. Also, to serve as a Russian interpreter throughout his visit to the Pentagon, and the U.S. Naval Academy that day.

I agreed to do this, but worried about what I had gotten myself into. State Department Russian interpreters thought it inadvisable to take on such an assignment unless ... you had worked with the person for at least three hours beforehand. To get a feel for their style and manner of speech. Also, their vocabulary. The Navy assured me there was no chance for a meeting with Admiral Makarov prior to the actual event. We would just have to take our chances. I would be working for the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Navy Command Center in the Pentagon. A world I knew pretty well because I had served there in the 1970s. Also, I was concerned that we had less than one week to prepare for this historic visit – over a holiday weekend. I would be working directly for Vice Admiral Henry C. (Hank) Mustin who was the Navy's Director of Planning. Mustin headed up the U.S. Navy's Incidents at Sea (INCSEA) talks with the Soviet Navy at that time.

In fact, he had just been to Moscow and worked with Admiral Makarov during the final days of the ratification of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) treaty which had been signed in Washington D.C. by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev

in December 1987. The Treaty was ratified by the U.S. Senate in May and had just gone into effect on 1 July. The INF treaty covered all Soviet and U.S. nuclear-armed, ground-launched, ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (approximately 300 to 3400 miles) and their infrastructure.

Admiral Konstantin Makarov

The name Makarov rang a bell. But why? I knew there were many famous Makarov's throughout Russian history. Particularly Vice Admiral Stepan Makarov who was a brilliant Russian naval leader who perished at Port Arthur during the Russo Japanese war (1904). I knew that he was a famed oceanographer and that the Soviets had named a Naval Academy after him in Leningrad...now St. Petersburg.

But who was Admiral Konstantin Makarov? Was he any relation to the 19th century naval hero? My research over the frantic 4th of July weekend yielded very little. Today, I know that he was born in 1931 (two years before me) and had an illustrious career in the Soviet submarine service. The living incarnation of Tom Clancy's commander of the Red October. He graduated from the Soviet Naval Academy in 1967 and was immediately ordered to command a nuclear submarine in the prestigious Northern Fleet based in Murmansk. Five years later he was commanding an entire Division of Northern Fleet nuclear submarines. In the 1970s he bounced from the Main Navy Staff in Moscow to command assignments in the Baltic Fleet. In 1985, the year Mikhail Gorbachev, came to power - Konstantin Makarov was completing the prestigious General Staff Academy course. Part of "Gorbys" team. One who could accept and implement the ideas embedded in Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost' policies. A man for the future.

When I worked with him on 11 July he was in the middle of his seven year assignment as Chief, Main Navy Staff, USSR. When he got out of his car at the Pentagon's River



VADM Hank Mustin introducing ADM Makarov to OPNAV senior staff. I am the only one that didn't get the word on the uniform of the day. To the right is Soviet Naval Attache, Captain Mikhail M. Popov.

Entrance at 0845 on July 11, 1988 - he wore three stars - a Vice Admiral. The following year (1989) he was promoted to Fleet Admiral - a four star rank held by eight others in Soviet naval history. The equivalent of a Field Marshal or General of the Army.

Preparing for the visit - I was told to report to the Navy offices in the Pentagon on Monday 4 July. The Soviet delegation of senior military visitors - led by Marshal of the Soviet Union, Sergey Akhromeyev were to tour U.S. military facilities from 5 to 11 July. I lugged my trusty Macintosh computer (which was fluent in Russian) to the Navy Command Center and worked with the Navy staff on crafting a one-hour, Powerpoint briefing - totally in Russian - regarding U.S. Navy operations worldwide. The briefing was to be given in the secure briefing theater for the Chief of Naval Operations. My job was to first translate all the text given to me into Russian and then produce the briefing slides in Russian (Cyrillic) text.

We went through four drafts and produced the final briefing on Saturday afternoon, 2 July. I went home and spent the next day bon-

ing up on Russian vocabulary that I thought might come up. On Monday morning I stood with Admiral Hank Mustin and three other senior Navy Department officials on the steps of the Pentagon's River Entrance. We chatted nervously as we waited for the arrival of an official sedan from the Soviet Embassy. At 0841 the radio of a Navy security officer standing next to me crackled with the message "Four minutes out!"

At precisely 0845 a large black sedan slid up to the River Entrance and Captain Mikhail Popov, a Soviet Naval Attaché bounced out of the car and stood at attention as a young looking Vice Admiral Makarov emerged - meticulous in his informal, summer khaki uniform. I thought at the time "So unpretentious. But ... so practical for a long day of meetings and tours." It was showtime!

The Visit - Admiral Makarov lit up when he saw Admiral Mustin waiting for him. A familiar face at this symbol of American military power - the Pentagon. Makarov later remarked to me that as far as he knew ... he was the first Soviet flag officer to ever visit the Pentagon. That, to him it was a bit overwhelming. About the only thing that he considered overwhelming ... during his visit. All else seemed to be pretty much what he expected.

We began a brisk walk from the

River Entrance through the maze that was the Pentagon until we reached the Navy Command Center. After the initial politeness ... I tried to exchange a few words with Captain Popov who I assumed was fluent in English. He was. We agreed that if I ever was having serious problems translating for Admiral Makarov ... he would step in and help me out. We spoke for about 30 seconds when Admiral Makarov grabbed me ... impatiently ... and said "Come here! Stay with me. I have things I must say to Admiral Mustin." I can assure you I stayed glued to him the rest of the way to the Navy Command Center. When we arrived .. the briefing theater was filled with American Admirals and their senior staff. All were at attention and I noticed my briefing slides (in Cyrillic) were already lighting up the screens at the front of the room. Admiral Mustin introduced Admiral Makarov to the assembled dignitaries. The Navy security team secured the doors and the briefing began.

The briefing was to be read by Commander Mike Rybinsky, USN...a U.S. Navy officer who had a wonderful Russian accent - given to him by his ancestors who immigrated to America in the early 20th century - just after the Bol'shevik Revolution. I thought at the time "How ironic. I was sure that Mike's ancestors would be proud." When Mike began the briefing and had

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Admiral Konstantin Makarov

introduced himself ... Makarov turned to me and asked - "?!?" (He's a Russian?). I told him that Mike was an American of Russian ancestry. Makarov was given a printed copy of the briefing - "a keeper" ... in Russian.... He stayed focused on the screen and the spoken word.

CDR Rybinsky later told me that he was a nervous wreck. I told him - "It never showed. You were totally in command and Makarov was impressed with your presentation." The presentation reviewed current U.S. Navy operations worldwide in 10 pages of printed text. It noted that we were like an "island nation" that needed access to the sea for our safety and to express our ideals. That we were a nation of immigrants (like your "briefer" Commander Rybinsky) that came here "attracted by the light of liberty . That our Navy was a strategic deterrence and a stabilizing force for peace."

The majority of the briefing was devoted to a review of major commands (e.g. Atlantic, Pacific, Central etc.) worldwide and their missions. When the briefing was completed Admiral Makarov was asked for comments and he said that there was nothing unusual in the presentation and that he did not want to get into a discussion of strategy and doctrine in this forum.

He then rose and said he wanted to address those gathered in the Command Center. He noted that it was a unique for him to find himself surrounded by so many U.S. Navy officers and officials. Also, he realized it must be unusual for them to have a Soviet Admiral in their Com-

mand Center. He went on to say how impressed he had been with the "alertness and patriotism" he had seen at U.S. military facilities over the past week. At Camp Lejeune and New River, N.C. , the USS Teddy Roosevelt in flight operations off Norfolk, Fort Hood Air Defense command, and Air Force commands in San Antonio, and Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota (a bomber wing and a Minute Man silo). Captain Popov stepped in and assisted me in translating his observations of the aircraft carrier visit. He was throwing out terms that I was unfamiliar with ... in Russian (e.g. "cat shots", assisted landings). He was very proud of the fact that he had made a catapult-assisted launch from the Roosevelt.

Interesting that he would note this fact. You see, Admiral Mustin's grandfather and namesake (Captain Henry C. Mustin, USNA 1896) is considered the Father of Naval Aviation and the principal architect of the concept of the catapult launch aboard aircraft carriers. Obviously Makarov had done his homework. He showed this several times during the day.

Following the Command Center briefing we went to Admiral Mustin's office for a few minutes to give Makarov a chance to have a smoke. We knew he was a virtual, chain smoker. Unfortunately his lighter would not work and so we sent aides scrambling down the E Ring in search of matches. Hard to find in a Pentagon where smoking was now banned. One of the aides finally found some matches and Makarov lit up one of his favorite Soviet cigarettes while Admiral Mustin explained his family's naval traditions - from his grandfather, to his father in WWII and now to his sons all through pictures that were hanging in his office. Admiral Makarov was visibly impressed and he noted that he had a son who was following in his footsteps in the Soviet submarine service.

Naval academy visit - We took a short Marine Corps helicopter flight from the Pentagon to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. We were greeted upon arrival by the USNA Superintendent, Rear Admiral Ronald Marryott. We went directly to Admiral Marryott's office where Makarov

was given a short briefing on the Naval Academy's mission, curricula, student body and facilities. Makarov noted that he was surprised by the sheer size of the campus. Also, that they (the Soviets) did not have one large Naval Academy - rather they had several smaller academies that were spread throughout the Soviet Union.

We then had a brief tour of the USNA Chapel including a visit to the crypt where John Paul Jones is buried. The Academy staff noted that Jones never became an Admiral in the U.S. Navy. He had to go to Russia to receive this honor from Catherine the Great for his service with the Russian Navy in the 18th Century Russo-Turkish war in the Black Sea. As we were leaving the Chapel ... Makarov asked me to tell Admiral Marryott that he did not believe in God, but could see where the Chapel was important to instilling discipline in future officers. We then toured major academic buildings to include Michelson Hall (laser and computer labs), and Rickover Hall (naval engineering and ship design). Later, aboard one of the Academy's training ships (i.e. a small ship known as a "YP" with special control centers to teach ship handling) he seemed "underwhelmed" with what he was seeing. He was, however, caught by surprise at the end of the tour by the Midshipmen when they presented him with an official U.S. Naval Academy bathrobe - with Vice Admiral's stripes. The tour of the Academy completed with a tour of the Bancroft Hall - the Midshipmen's dormitory. The largest student dormitory in the world. He was impressed.

Pentagon flag mess luncheon - We returned to the Pentagon before noon by marine helicopter. We were due in the CNO (Chief of Naval Operations) Flag Mess at noon.... After a brief meeting with the #2 officer in the Navy staff - Admiral Huntington (Hunt) Hardisty, USN. Hunt and I could hardly believe we were sitting together chatting with the Chief of the Soviet Navy. When we last saw each other ... we were both Commanders serving aboard the USS Kitty Hawk in the Tonkin Gulf. When we entered the Flag Mess at noon ... the room was filled with Admirals including a Full Admiral (Kinnard McKee) Special Assistant for Nuclear Power programs and seven Vice Admirals who were the Deputy Chiefs of various parts of the Navy Staff - Surface Ships, Aircraft, Submarines, Manpower, Policy, Logistics and yes, even Intelligence. During lunch there were toasts (Orange juice! You could tell we weren't in Moscow.) and Admiral Hardisty asked me to explain to Admiral Makarov ... sitting across from us - that Admiral McKee wore "two hats" - one in the civilian world for Nuclear Power programs and a second, in the Navy - for submarines.

Makarov brushed this aside saying "I know Admiral McKee quite well." They both laughed

and then agreed that they probably had met years earlier - while in command of nuclear submarines floating around each other - in the Mediterranean. All laughed. Admiral Hardisty toasted Admiral Makarov's historic visit and Makarov countered with a toast noting that U.S. and Soviet Navies could pride themselves on the fact that they had never had any serious incidents at sea. That they set an example for the other services for their "direct talks" on "professional matters".

Afterthoughts - I have thought about this day often in the twenty-three years since the Makarov visit. I thought it went quite well. I stood with Admiral Mustin at 2 PM at the Pentagon's River Entrance as Admiral Makarov's limousine slowly departed for Andrews Air Force base and the trip home to the USSR. When the car was gone, Mustin said "We made some history here today John. Thank you." I supposed we did, but Admiral Mustin is in a much better position to judge ... just what kind of history we made.

For example - In his toast in the CNO Flag Mess on 11 July - Admiral Makarov said the U.S. and Soviet Navies could take pride in the fact that they had never had any serious incidents at sea. What about the reported sinking of the USS Scorpion in May

1968? All I really know about this incident is what I read in two books last year - "Scorpion Down - Sunk By The Soviets, Buried By The Pentagon", by Ed Offley and "All Hands Down: The True Story of the Soviet Attack on USS Scorpion" by Kenneth Sewell. If only I had this information when I walked the corridors of the Pentagon with Admiral Makarov... and Admiral Mustin.

Then again ... maybe it is just as well I did not know about it back then? Or its supposed ties to other incidents such as the USS Pueblo seizure and the John Anthony Walker espionage case? Admirals Makarov's and Mustin's jobs were to worry about the Incidents and Sea. My job was just to help with the communications. Was this one of the last great secrets of the Cold War? Only time will tell.

Admiral Konstantin Makarov would become a four star Admiral of the Fleet of the USSR - in 1989. One of only 9 Soviets to ever achieve such a prestigious rank. He was a USSR future star - except - the USSR would disappear in just 3 years, 5 months and 14 days (25 December, 1991) from the day of his 1988 historic visit to the Pentagon and the U.S. Navy. Admiral Makarov retired from active duty in 1992 - after 43 years service in the Soviet and Russian Navies.



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STAGES OF LIFE

Mom's Time Out

Stress, what is it?

Mary Angle

It is a tiny word and easy to spell, but it can have a huge affect on us as Mom's. To some of my mom friends stress is trying to juggle a career and a family. To others it is arguing over money or family decisions with your spouse. To me it has always been something I denied or overlooked, until now. I recently read a statistic that stated that women between the ages of 45 and 65 are the most stressed people in the United States. It went on to point out that this stress actually starts at the age of 35 and then gave several reasons why this made sense and several common symptoms. Suddenly I realized that maybe the persistent headaches I had been having might be the result of stress. I of course blew the idea off almost as quickly as it entered my head. After all, the woman who prides herself on being the Queen Mother of Denial-ville most certainly is not go-

ing to admit being stressed. That would mean I would have to consider what was stressing me out. It wasn't until a few days later when I was brought to my knees, figuratively of course, that I was forced to consider the idea of stress being a factor in my life.

It was a morning like all of the rest that week, I got up, got the kids ready, packed lunches, middle school, elementary school bus, preschool, grocery store and home again. Only that particular morning I moved a bit slower since I had another one of my stiff necks. I get a stiff neck about two or three times a month and I always blame it on sleeping wrong and the kids getting me up too many times. It is usually just stiff and not really painful and only lasts for 3 days at the very most. A couple more days past and I moved slower and slower each day, the pain increased and my neck got stiffer and stiffer. Finally I admitted defeat and called the doctor,

but only because we were going out of town for the weekend and I didn't want to be debilitated for the whole trip. When the doctor came in he started poking in spots on my back that I hadn't complained about, and some that I had. He informed me that I had one of the worst cases of stress he had seen. Apparently us women have "stress markers" in our neck, shoulders and back. So when we are very stressed these spots get very tight. He explained that massage therapy and chiropractic can help for maintenance but that I had such a bad case he had seen little to no change from either of these in severe cases like mine. He suggested I start with pain killers and muscle relaxants. Never haven taken either of these I was a little leery, so I started with the pain killers. I ended up taking the muscle relaxant only once and the pain killers a couple of times for a few days. But in the end I still had to admit I was a victim of stress, the same stress that I spent my life denying.

I have seen many of my friends go through stress and deal with it

accordingly. Whether it be my friend who struggles with health issues but continues to be one of the most amazing working moms I have ever met, or friends who deal with separation, death, unemployment, and all the other stresses of life today. And for those of you who do not realize that stress comes in all shapes and sizes let me tell you it does! Stress can come in the form of every day struggles, like homework, bills, being overworked, over scheduled, and over extended. Sometimes I think that the everyday stresses are the type that can sneak up on us. The little things that you blow off or ignore until one day there is the proverbial last straw and we know what happens to the camel. The camel in my case is my neck and kaboom!!!! For some people the camel isn't their neck but, headaches, depression, exhaustion, weight loss or gain, or illness. If this fact doesn't scare you it should.

When stress starts to affect your health you are at a much harder point to alleviate the stress than if you deal with it as it comes along. I have found that my friends who acknowledge stress and deal with it as it comes along are much

more relaxed and "together" people. They obvious have some of the symptoms of stress but deal with it much better than those of us who live in denial. I have a tendency to sometimes notice a stressful situation but brush it aside. Take homework with four kids. I now have my four kids line up their papers on the counter after school and then I can look at them in turn and it is less likely to turn into some chaotic situation that will just escalate as the evening progresses. I have started decluttering my house and life to remove that stress. And I have promised to take time to take care of myself first, since that will make it possible for me to take care of my family.

The bottom line about stress is that we all encounter it but from different areas of our life and the sooner we learn to recognize it and deal with it the healthier our lives will be. I would like to challenge anyone who reads this to examine their life (and health) and to help relieve their stress and consequently we can change the statistic that sparked me to write this letter. This is our chance to make women between the ages of 45 and 65 a little less stressed. I dare you to relax!!!

Kidz Korner

What type of care is best for my child?

Andrea Morgan
Program Director, Emmitsburg
Early Learning Center

Many families wonder what the best care options are for their child. Leaving their pride and joy at a new place with unfamiliar faces can be a daunting and stressful experience for both parent and child. Trying to determine which option may best

fit the needs of the family can be overwhelming, whether it is hiring a private nanny, enrolling at a home childcare, or enrolling at a licensed child care facility.

Here at Emmitsburg Early Learning Center (EELC), we are proud to help our families understand the benefits of enrolling at a licensed childcare center. As mothers ourselves, we have many reasons why we feel that licensed

childcare centers; especially EELC, are the best place for children, including our own.

There are many reasons why we feel this way. First and foremost, the quality of childcare is extremely important to us, as well as what education a teacher has in order to provide care for little ones.

At licensed childcare facilities, the state mandated laws help en-

sure that the educators employed through the center are certified and qualified to work with the specific age groups enrolled. These experienced individuals are also required to attend yearly trainings to help them promote new and improved techniques to continue to meet the needs of the children, for example; positive reinforcement and redirection vs. "time out". Continuing education includes first aid and CPR certifications, as well other educational courses to maintain their Senior Staff, Group Leader and Assistant Teacher certifications.

Enrolling at a licensed childcare center also gives families the peace of mind that their child is learning in a positive and stimulating environment, with a fully enhanced curriculum, and fun filled activities to increase their child's independence and explore their curiosity. This information, when taught at an early age, becomes the core foundation for learning, leaving a lasting impact on current and future development.

Another positive aspect of enrolling in a childcare facility is the increased likelihood of your child achieving a higher level of social interaction. With the other children enrolled in the facility, your child is more likely to develop friends from various backgrounds, helping to create a well rounded learning experience.

Lastly, most licensed childcare facilities offer structured learning environments. Here at Emmitsburg Early Learning Center we pride ourselves in offering this type of environment while including enrichment programs that are less likely to be found elsewhere. Whether that consists of private learning sessions, parent-teacher conferences, community speakers, holiday programs and parties or a simple open door policy, here at Emmitsburg Early Learning Center, we promise that and much more! Come visit us and see what makes the difference. Answer the question you have been debating - what type of care is best for my child?



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A TEEN'S VIEW

Olivia!



Olivia Sielaff

"When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things"
 —(1 Corinthians 13:11).

So here I am, exactly one month into my first semester as a college student. In some ways I feel like I've grown up in this short amount of time; and in other ways, I'm the same person just set in a different environment. When reflecting on the theme for us incoming freshman, I at first thought it's obvious that I have to "put aside childish things" and become an adult. Of course I can't sleep in until ten o'clock as often and clearly I will have to think more seriously about the next four years ahead of me. Obviously college does not instantly form me into a reasonable, young adult, where my schedule will fall perfectly into place, and I will make all the right decisions

for my future. No more acting like a child. Ok, I got this.

On the ride here to Franciscan University, I pictured myself hunched over my desk studiously working away while my laundry is, hopefully, washing and I'm confident about that upcoming test. Thankfully it's worked out this way. (Don't worry Mom, this actually does happen. And yes, I am studying.) After being all settled into my dorm with my roommate and getting used to my class schedules, I have the hang of managing my time for homework, daily Mass, friends...and laundry. There was only one time I was late for class because I overslept. That will never happen again. But otherwise, I'm learning a lot about what it means to be more reasonable and responsible. For instance, I've realized that staying up socializing until 1am on just a latte will not put me in a good mood the next morning when I still have homework due before class. Also, throwing two loads of laundry into one dryer to save money does just that, except dry my clothes. However, meeting with a career counselor about my future was a good idea. And living with a roommate has helped me recognize my habits and how to be mindful of others in the dorm. I'm definitely getting used to working out all the little responsibilities I took for granted when living at home. I'm actually enjoying the fact that I have to make decisions for myself, man-

age my time, and work on being a young adult. So yes, my vision of me being cool, calm, and collected while juggling all that college demands is starting to become clearer.

But what about the other part of the quote concerning childish ways. Does that mean when I played Duck, Duck, Goose with some friends or when we rode my rolling chair up and down the hall that I was reverting back to being a child? Probably. But what's college without a little diversion? So my friends and I had an impromptu swing dancing party in the dorm. And some of us girls re-enacted the scene from *The Parent Trap* when the twins pierce their ears (my ears are already pierced, thank goodness). One of my friends, while playing Duck, Duck, Goose, said "Ya know. I always thought when I was younger that people in college were all grown-up and like adults." It's true! Even though I have more things to take care of and think about, college doesn't automatically make me an adult. I've seen just in the last month that it's a process I have to devote myself to. I can't skimp on taking care of my education and myself. But I also can't skimp on developing my character and building new friendships.

This is what it all comes down to for me. Putting aside childish things doesn't necessarily mean not having a good time with friends. It means that I need to begin reasoning like an adult. Make good decisions. Choose the right friends. Commit to my studies. Now at the start of my college life is when I have to begin the process of growing up. Just after I go swing dancing tonight and stay up late, of course. It's ok, Mom, I'll get enough sleep.

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

High school vs. college



Danielle Ryan

Now having a month of college under my belt, I have noticed some differences between college life and high school. These differences include time management, classes, and the work load.

When I was in high school, my time was scheduled specifically to center around the eight hour school day. Every day I woke up at 6:15, left the house at 7:00 and drove to school, which started at 8:00. The rest of my day was filled with a set schedule of classes that ended at 2:45. From school I would go to extracurricular activities or would go home. Either way, my day always ended with homework. This schedule occurred every Monday through Friday.

Now that I am in college, I have noticed a huge difference in my schedule. For instance, I do not have classes every day; I only have classes four days a week. On those four days, my time is not scheduled to fit within an eight o'clock to three o'clock range. Instead, my classes are spread out within one day. I have some classes that are earlier in the morning and then don't have another class until later in the afternoon or the evening. This gap in my schedule allows me to be flexible with what I wish to do with my time.

Another thing that I have come to learn about college is that there is a much larger independent work load. Instead of having class for eight hours straight and then going home and doing homework for two to three hours, I now have anywhere from two to four hours of homework per class. Obviously this does vary according to the class and the assignments given, but there is definitely a huge difference.

Another major difference is I have

found that studying for tests is easier when there is a gap in my schedule every day. Instead of having to study for a test during the evenings, I have several hours during the day to study as I please. Once again, it all seems to come back to the flexibility of the schedule that college offers. I have found that I am more inclined to study for a test several days in advance of the test as opposed to the night before, like I did quite often in high school. I suppose I feel that there is much more time to study and prepare for an exam now that my time is not scheduled quite so strictly.

Teachers have always said that this is a good way to study. It means that instead of trying to cram a lot of information into my memory during one night, I can take several nights to study and digest the information; that way my mind doesn't become overloaded. This also seems to cut down on the stress level when studying for an exam. I don't seem so stressed when I give my mind several days to take in information and understand it.

In my high school, most of the classes were one year classes as opposed to one semester, or half year classes. This means that a lot of information has to be covered in about four months. There are even some classes that only meet once a week, which means that these particular classes are even faster paced. This topic goes back to the independent work that is required. Because the classes meet less often, students have to complete a lot of work, whether it be assignments, projects, note-taking or studying on his or her own time.

I love being more independent and having more choices. With all this being said, there are many responsibilities that come with this new independence. Some of these responsibilities are easier than others, but all are important. I still have don't have a firm grasp on all of them yet, but like I said, I have only been in college for one month. Luckily I have a lot of time yet to continue figuring things out.

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SCHOOL NEWS—EMMITSBURG ELEMENTARY

News from EES

The leaves are almost off the trees and the chilly air is coming over the mountains. It must be November! We have another busy month at Emmitsburg Elementary School with Fall Festivals and Report card distribution. This month also includes a School Spirit Day and Thanksgiving.

We have much to be thankful for at Emmitsburg Elementary. Our kind, caring staff; our well-behaved, thoughtful students; and our supportive, involved parents make EES a wonderful place to work and learn. We will celebrate what we are thankful for during our annual Fall Festivals. Each grade level team has planned a celebration, which will occur at various times throughout the day on November 3rd. The teachers organize activities and treats for

the students. Information has been sent home to families explaining each team's celebration. We do ask that parents/guardians participate and younger siblings not attend so that time and attention is directed to the school-age child. This event is one of two parties that occur through the school year. The other party is scheduled for Valentine's Day. We have class picnics during Field Day at the end of the year.

Another event that occurs during November is the distribution of report cards that mark the end of the First Term of school. Report cards will be coming home with students on November 17th. The report cards are sent quarterly to communicate term grades and classroom progress information. Report cards are one tool

that schools and teachers use to communicate with parents. Along with report cards, parents can get a better picture of their child's school performance by monitoring daily or weekly work samples and notes or comments from the child's teacher. Even though Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled twice per year, parents are encouraged to contact the teacher at any time during the school year to discuss their child's progress. Elementary report cards will also be distributed on February 3rd, March 23rd, and June 15th or the last day of school.

Over the past two school years, the EES staff members have initiated School Spirit Days. These are special days in which the students (and staff) can dress in themed attire. We celebrated School Color Day in September and wearing various colors to represent Character Counts Week in October. On

November 23rd, we will have Favorite Sports Teams Day. This day will allow students (and staff) to wear jerseys, uniforms, or the colors of the Team(s) they support. This is especially exciting when many students wear Catocin High School colors or apparel. These School Spirit Days have a direct connection to the EES School Improvement Plan. The days that are selected as School Spirit Days are the days throughout the year that more students tend to be absent; such as the day before Thanksgiving. By providing an incentive to students (and staff), they are more likely to attend school on these days; thereby improving our attendance for the year.

We wrap up the end of the month by celebrating Thanksgiving with our families. We hope that everyone enjoys the break. Good things happen at Emmitsburg Elementary every day!

EES PTA News and Notes

It goes without saying that all of us care about our elementary age children and grandchildren. If you join the Emmitsburg Elementary School PTA you can contribute directly to the well-being of other children too. There are more than two hundred families whose children attend our school.

Far from being an organization that promotes pizza fund-raisers, the PTA is an organization of teachers, parents and friends that adopts specific goals each year both to strengthen and develop the ties between community and school and to directly support and nurture families and educators alike.

We plan family events such as movie night (December 16th up-coming), educational events that bring the amazing natural world into the classroom (Reptile World on Halloween, October 31st and the Maryland Science Center on December 1st), breakfast together for parents and children (Dads & Donuts March 21st, Moms & Muffins May 9th), and a planned event in the Spring for adults on internet safety.

We provide funding for school field trips and we reimburse teachers for money they spend on supplies. Our hospitality committee supports teachers and classroom events with snacks. We work closely with Ms Kathryn Golightly the school principal. We support the Book Fair with volunteers. We sponsor the Directory and Year Book. We are engaged this year in health, well-being and nutrition initiatives through the school.

To accomplish these ends we sponsor fund-raising events and yes – it includes pizza. You, the residents of Emmitsburg, help to make all this happen, and much else besides, through your generous support of these efforts.

Come to our next general membership meeting on December 7th at 6.30pm at the Elementary School and add your ideas to ours. And join the PTA for just \$5.00 a year. Support great public education for our children.

And Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

Rev Colin Phillips, President, Emmitsburg Elementary PTA

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SCHOOL NEWS—MOTHER SETON

News from MSS

Lynn Tayler

Somehow, we've survived Halloween and we're moving on to the rest of the holiday season. Doesn't it seem to start earlier each year? If, like me, you're psyching yourself up for the mad dash through Christmas, you should take a look at what the wonderful students, parents, and staff at Mother Seton School are putting together to make the season more fun and meaningful, than stressful.

First up is the one party this season you do not want to miss! It's an old-fashioned Bull Roast on November 19th from 7pm to 11pm. Join us for a selection of all-you-can-eat amazing foods—like pit beef, honey ham, Italian sausage and peppers, cake, beer, soda, and more—dancing, and a selection of raffle and silent auction items (Redskins tickets, Thirty-One bags, Tastefully Simple products and so much more) to help you check off your Christmas list! And did we mention an amazing assortment of food? Tickets are available by calling 301-447-3161. While you're enjoying yourself, you can also feel good that you are supporting MSS's Home School Association. After all, 'tis the season for giving!

And in that spirit, I am also excited to announce the Mother Seton School Annual Giving Campaign that will kick-off on in November. Our goal is \$25K, and we are asking current families, grandparents, former families, alumni, businesses, and friends in the local community to all help us reach it. You might know that our school is directly descended from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's first Catholic school in Emmitsburg, but did you know that we are one of the most affordable private schools in the area because of that legacy? Mother Seton's mission was to educate the poor, and the Daughters of Charity continue that mission by keeping tuition affordable enough so that low-income families can be sure their children receive a quality Catholic education. And we do mean quality—86% of our students scored above the national average on the standardized tests, with 36% of middle-schoolers scoring in the 95th percentile for reading and math. Funds from the campaign go in part towards helping the nearly 40% of our families that receive tuition assistance.

This year, a portion of the donations are also going to help fund the new Mother Seton Learning

Center, which will provide academic enrichment and tutoring services. Through the MSLC, students will receive assessments and if needed, intervention programs or personalized Student Learning Plans. It's an expansion of the existing Resource Office that further demonstrates MSS's commitment to our students.

So if the holiday season has you feeling particularly generous, please consider participating in our Annual Giving Campaign. Not only will you helping a local cause, but you can be assured that every penny is spent on school services. For more information on how to give, visit our website: www.mothersetonschool.org/annualgiving.html.

One final note before I let you get back to planning your Thanksgiving menu—remember to join us on Dec 5th for our Breakfast with Santa/Holiday Bazaar, from 8 am to Noon. A variety of cash and carry vendors will have their wares on display so you can choose something nice for your loved ones—or for yourself. (C'mon, you know you deserve it!) If you are interested in renting a table and putting your own products on display, give us a call at 301-447-3161.

We look forward to seeing you this season! Thank you for supporting Mother Seton School.

First Marshall Family Scholarship awarded

Robert T. and Ann (Hall) Marshall had ten children graduate from Mother Seton School (MSS) in the 1950's, 60's, and 70's. Yes, that's three decades! With the children grown and successful, now the Marshalls are paying forward the gifts that their family received from Catholic education and are helping local children in need attend MSS.

In an effort to give back, they created the Marshall Family Scholarship, a \$1,000 per year, four year award, open to new MSS students with one or more parent on the faculty of Mount St Marys. It was important to the Marshall family to make the connection between MSS and the Mount where Robert Marshall worked for over 35 years. "My Dad, who taught Latin, Greek and Linguistics at the Mount, knew that teaching at a small Catholic college was not the path to riches, but he chose this career because he loved teaching and he wanted to teach in a Catholic environment," said Kate Marshall, daughter of Robert and Ann Marshall. "He and my Mom were determined to provide their children with a Catholic education, but with ten kids, that required significant financial sacrifice. So this scholarship seemed like a fitting way to honor their commitment to Catholic education, both as educators and as parents," continued Marshall.

Robert Marshall started working at the Mount in 1949 and retired in 1985. He was the Chairman of the Classical Language Department and

then the Language Department for many years. He earned his PhD from Catholic University and did his post-doctoral work in Linguistics at Columbia University. During this time, Robert and Ann Marshall's ten children attended and graduated from MSS.

The first Marshall Family Scholarship was awarded this fall to John "Jack" Schwenkler, a pre-kindergarten student at Mother Seton School. "When we contacted Mother Seton School in early August to inquire whether they still had any financial aid available, the last thing we expected was to receive a four-year scholarship!" said Jack's mother, Angela Schwenkler. "We are immensely grateful to the Marshall family for supporting our son's education and continuing to strengthen the ties between MSS and the Mount, and we know we are blessed that he can be at MSS."

With modest tuition, MSS is one of the most affordable private Pre-K through 8th Grade schools in Frederick County, but like the Marshalls with big families, and others struggling in the challenging economy, it can still be out of reach. Financial aid and scholarships make attendance possible for those with economic hardship and currently about 40% of students receive tuition help averaging \$2,042 per child. For families seeking excellent academics and strong values, MSS is an affordable option that is easily accessible by bus from multiple locations in Frederick County. For admissions information, please visit www.mothersetonschool.org or call (301) 447-3161.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Freshman Year

A different point of view

Kyle Ott

After having spent a relaxing (and much needed) nine-day break with my family and returning once more into the arms of my adopted family in college, I sat down to write what I thought would be another inspired article that I would be proud to offer to our good readership. Then a funny thing happened: everything I wrote was complete and total garbage. Yes, dear reader, I'll admit I had hit the proverbial wall. A writer's block so big, so monumental, so epically impregnable, I felt as if I was charging at the Great Wall of China with a water-balloon launcher. Never, in the 18 years that I've been alive have I looked at my laptop with such disdain. Finally, I closed the computer in disgust, threw my hands up in defeat and walked away from the still empty space where my

words should have been.

What I failed to realize was that I needed a new perspective. Sure, I knew one way to approach my article and come up with the flowery phrases and gilt sentences that I desperately needed to create. But the problem was that the way I looked at my writing and approached the world was still very much the same. A lesson I wouldn't learn until later that day, when I was paid a visit by my aunt, grandparents, and one-year-old twin cousins, who were on their way to my home in Pennsylvania from visiting another of my aunts. Mount St. Mary's happened to be on their way to visit my parents and so they stopped by for some good old-fashioned family bonding and a lesson in clarity. My teachers that day wouldn't be my kind grandmother, sweet aunt, or tough grandfather. No, my tutors that

day were my aunt's two children: identical twins named Eliana and Mikayla.

The lesson occurred just as their visit was coming to an end. To put a capstone on a day of relaxing conversations and an enjoyable family dinner, I decided to take my family for an afternoon walk through the Grotto of Lourdes. As we entered that sacred space, the sun was just beginning to set in the sky, and the light from it struck the statue of Mary, making it shine with resplendent gold light. As we walked through the gardens amidst the holy statues of saints, I couldn't help but be transfixed, not by the scenery (beautiful though our grotto is) but by the youngest toddlers. They moved with a kind of wonder that can only be found in the youngest kids. They pointed and giggled at every statue of Jesus; they stopped to play with the steel chains that roped off the shrines; or they petted the stone lambs at the shrine to Our Lady Of Fatima. What shook me the most though were their words. Nothing I've written has

ever come close to the joy they uttered in every single syllable. When they stopped to look at a rock and half-yelled "roook" my heart stopped. When they stopped to smell a rose and giggled "fower" I had to catch my breath. Every word they spoke was said with an appreciation for the word.

They didn't care if what they said made sense or if it even sounded close to the words we were using. Somewhere, somehow, they intrinsically understood that the sounds coming out of their mouths had meaning, and that with each giggle and each cry, they were creating something special. And this brings me to the lesson I learned from a pair of little girls on perspective and the solution to my writer's block. When I was trying to write this article, I wasn't enjoying myself. What my writing lacked wasn't creativity or style but a decent approach. The problem was that I was writing for a deadline and not because I had a love and appreciation for the work that I was doing. But more than curing my writer's block, those two little balls

of sunshine taught me something about college. Approach everything you do with joy: from your math homework, to cleaning your office, to going to practice. College is meant to be the best time of our lives. Sure, we're paying a ton of money to go to school, but it's supposed to be a time of self-discovery and unbridled opportunity. For four years we have a new frontier where we can not only find out about the subjects we like but about ourselves. So why, on this earth or any other, should we approach school like it is anything less than the greatest adventure of our lives? It took three hours, two little girls, and one long walk with God and my family to make me realize this. And so with renewed vigor, and a truly fresh perspective I return to my duties as a full-time student here on campus. It was a nice break, but I've got a new lease on life and only four years of adventure to enjoy, so let's get started. I'm Kyle Ott; won't you sit and read for a while?

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

Sophomore Year

The present moment

Carolyn Shields

"Just think," I told David during a commercial break during the world's worst movie. We were in our Waterford hotel in southern Ireland. "This time next week we'll be in Scotland. This time in two weeks we'll be in Paris. This time in three weeks we'll be in London."

David ran his hand through his hair and sighed, a smile at the corner of his lips and exhaustion overshadowing his brow.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you,

plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer 29:11). That's what's up. That's my life.

And you want to know the killer thing here? Obviously, I have a beautiful life. Only a few days ago I stood on top of the Cliffs of Moher with Emily. This past month the three of us were in Belgium, drinking beer and walking on cobblestones. We've climbed cliffs and sat for an hour drinking in the sight of the Irish Sea, and we just came back from Scotland where we took a boat ride on Loch Lomond, pillaged two castles, and explored ruins. So would you believe me if I said my favorite memories of these moments are within the folds of the profound depth of that simple Divine love, found in everyone's simple days?

Standing on top of the Cliffs of Moher was breathtaking, but it didn't make me smile to myself like I did on the 12 kilometer "walk" there, as David and I prayed the rosary, with nothing

but the Atlantic Ocean and forty shades of rolling green fields before us. And Belgium's chocolates and waffles were to die for, but I relive the night Emily and I sang along to the French-dubbed "High School Musical II" because there was literally nothing to do at night on the sketchy Brussels' streets. Scotland's fish and chips and Celtic spirit were everywhere, but I loved our deep conversation in the middle of the airport where we got so into it, that we nearly missed our flight home and had to sprint to our gate. Waterford in southern Ireland was drowning in history, but I can't recall half of it. I do remember being bench pressed by David, and then laughing at that horrible movie until my side hurt.

Do you believe me? Am I sounding crazy? Here's an excerpt from my journal: "Sun. Sept. 25th 2011; I can't even begin to wonder at how or what to write. I'm sitting on a rock, on a cliff, on a mountain, and the sea is before me. It's raining. Emily's on another cliff to my left, and David and a cross are to my back." ..or "Wed. Sept. 28th, 2011; How

did my life come to this? Wasn't it yesterday that I was on my roof at 'the old house' seriously watching clouds (as well as time) slowly make their way by?"

What more could God have in store for me? I've panicked about why my life is so beautiful. I've been asking God forever what I did to deserve this, now more than ever, not because the past two Saturday nights I have been riding in the back of a bumpy bus, my hood pulled up and iPod in, journaling about our latest adventure. But because I walk past four beggars every day, because I can see this Dublin archdiocese crumbling before me. It wasn't until a friend told me in companionable honesty that I did nothing to deserve this. In fact, I don't deserve it. I'm not worthy. I should stop worrying about how to pay God back because I owe him an infinite debt.

So that's what I've been thinking about when kneeling with David in our church in Dublin. The only thing I can do is live this life for Christ. Even when I leave this grand adventure behind me, when all of this becomes a memory (dodging tourists on Grafton Street in the rain, hand knitted Aran sweater clutched under my chin, and McDonald's smallest value meal in my hand)...I'll


think of the journey before me. But what the heck? I still have five or something countries to visit before I come home. I'm not even half way done here!

St. Faustina wrote, "When I look into the future, I am frightened. But why plunge into the future? Only the present moment is precious to me, as the future may never enter my soul at all." So sitting here on my bunk bed, my passport on my right and Snowflake, my stuffed kittie on my left, about to leave for church in ten minutes, I want to live this moment for Christ. My past is gone, my future is uncertain. The present moment is all I have to offer.

As I look back on this first month, I'll smile at the memories of Emily, David, and I walking beneath the ink-black Irish sky, the ocean just out of earshot as we return from a pub. David reels us in and we are crushed to his solid body as he belts out a Disney song, and Emily and I laugh, unable to get out of his grip. The little western town was asleep, but my heart was beating with disbelief that this has become my life.

And I trust God. No matter where I go next, or if I never go anywhere at all, I know He will make it beautiful.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Junior Year

Growing pains

Samantha Strub

Remember when we were little boys and girls, and we couldn't wait to grow up and do those things that we were not allowed to do? We started off by wanting to go to school and get on the T-ball and soccer teams. Then we wanted to move on to middle and high school, drive a car like Mom and Dad, and have our own house and job. No kids ever listen to their parents when they say, "Just enjoy what you have now because as soon as you blink it's gone." We are always concerned about what's next in life, and we never seem to take time to just sit back and enjoy it. It's so much easier to do that when you're younger and don't have the responsibilities that adults have in this world.

I have gotten a crash course on adult responsibilities since starting my junior year. It came as a total surprise to me because I had always thought of myself as responsible. I knew what I was doing and what was coming next. I have always worked hard on everything that I do, and I thought I was pretty prepared for what life would throw at me. Well, once again, I learned that my

way of thinking was all wrong.

As most of you know, juniors at Mount St. Mary's can live in the campus apartments. I was very excited about this style of living because you get to live with your closest friends and cook for yourself. It was a change from the highly esteemed dorm life that I had gotten used to over the past two years, and I was ready to move on and up in the world. It was exciting moving in and seeing how much space my roommates and I had, even though the kitchen was kind of small. Right away, the conversation focused on what theme we should use to decorate the common room, how we should organize the furniture and so on. There was a flutter of excitement, but that was all going to have to wait because we had to unload and unpack, which got interrupted because of the hurricane, but, hey, it wasn't the end of the world.

Things became a confusing pain when they didn't go the way we planned. It always seems to take longer than expected to unpack, which honestly took me about five days. I wasn't too concerned, however, because I had bigger things to worry about—like food. I wasn't going to have a meal plan, and I needed to get groceries;

otherwise I would starve.

My roommates and I went shopping because we forgot to bring some things and we all needed at least some food. One of my roommates, Kristyn, also doesn't have a meal plan so we decided to share the food bill. It's so much cheaper to divide the cost in half. This only works because we eat most of the same things, and the things that we eat individually even out. It worked out really well because by sharing we greatly reduced the monthly cost. Still, the first two times we went through the line the bill gave me sticker shock! I never completely understood just how much it costs to eat! I took it for granted that my parents always had food on the table, and I never worried about the costs. When Kristyn and I went shopping, I knew that buying the cheaper or the store brand could cut the price. With cheese, however, we found out the hard way why there was such a big difference between the price of the store brand and the brand name. Never again will we buy store-brand cheese. With most other items, however, we can get the cheapest brand so long as we aren't sacrificing taste. Now, I fully understand the running joke about broke college students eating Ramen Noodles and finding many different ways to use them; they are cheap! It is a challenge to eat well in college while staying under budget.

If college students don't have a food budget I think they will have a harder time adjusting to life after college. They will end up in debt or their parents will have to bail them out, and if that happens they will not learn how to grow up and be responsible. Your parents will not let you fall flat on your face; they will help you out and teach valuable life lessons in the process.

My way of life is different now that I'm in an apartment. I hardly ever go to Patriot Hall to eat. Sometimes I'll go for lunch if I'm running late, or if I need a coffee in-between classes (that is always a must), or if I don't have time to cook when classes and work are close together. As a general rule, however, I make time to cook my own food; for lunch its quick easy meal like a sandwich, leftovers, eggs, wraps, etc. I always seem to eat lunch at a normal time, but I usually don't eat dinner until seven, eight, or even nine because I have field hockey practice and evening meetings to go to. Once I get back to my room, I have to shower and cook my dinner before I can actually eat it. Honestly, though, I don't mind eating later at night. It's more work, yes, because it takes time to cook your dinner, eat it and clean up, but I wouldn't go back to a meal plan. I like having the flexibility of eating according to my schedule.

Many college students are concerned that you aren't going to have

time to cook and so should just stay on a meal plan, but you will make the time because you're hungry, and if you don't cook you will stay that way. It all really comes down to time management. You have to plan your meals around how much time you have, for example my later nights I eat leftovers or meals that don't require a lot of prep time. The nights that Kristyn and I don't have night class, get back earlier from practice and work, or there is a show on we have more time to make a meal like Tortellini with mushrooms, and alfredo sauce. We always have fun cooking and trying to work with an oven that burns everything, including the brownies I was making the other night, and one out of our four burners is broken. Sometimes it can be very frustrating when things come out burnt to a black crisp, like the heart brownies I made, but it is very rewarding to cook for yourself. I also believe that learning to cook is one of those growing pains that teach us to be responsible adults without crashing and burning. Don't you wish you could go back to those carefree days of playing outside in the sunshine when you see the total on a grocery bill, knowing that you're going to have to pay it in order to eat?

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

Senior Year
Conquering LDAC: Part II

Mulqueen, Julia C

I will continue this month with the tale of my LDAC experience. For those just tuning in, LDAC is an acronym for Leadership Development and Assessment Course. It is a necessary course for all ROTC cadets to attend and pass in order to commission. I will begin where I left off last month which was my boarding the plane headed to Ft. Lewis, Washington.

The plane ride offered me a strange mix of emotions. I was excited to finally attend LDAC. My ROTC cadre had been preparing myself and my fellow cadets for the past three years, and yet, I questioned myself. I was worried that I would forget everything I had been taught and simply fail. Personally, I had never before put so much pressure on myself to succeed. I had never before cared so deeply about success. In my first few years of college, I had been competitive with my grades, and I always tried to do my best. However, it did not seem to me that my performance in classes was the be all and end all for my life, but LDAC, in a way, was. It was a major stepping stone to my future career.

It was these thoughts that consumed my mind during the entire plane ride, expressing themselves in an odd series of dreams. Eventually, after transferring planes in Atlanta, GA, I made it to the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport along with a host of other cadets. We followed the

signs to baggage claim and then continued on to the check-in location. This was our first taste of LDAC. After adjusting to our summer lives back home, we had to immediately make the switch back to cadet-mode. It helped that we had specialists and sergeants there to remind us that the carefree portions of our summers had come to an end and LDAC had begun.

We hopped onto a bus and drew lunches to sustain us for the afternoon. The drive from the airport to Ft. Lewis was about 40 minutes. Some of us ate, some slept, and some chatted. Once we arrived on post, we were taken to our regimental area and began in-processing. The next step was our baggage check. We had to empty the entire contents of our bags onto the grass in front of our "World War II-era style barracks." The sergeant assigned to our platoon instructed us to hold up each item of the packing list as he called it out. When he called out "eye protection," I held up what I had brought. They were these ridiculous goggles. He laughed out loud and asked if I was a welder back home. I joked back, "No, sergeant. They're just a motivational tool." And a motivational tool they were. Little did I know, they would come in handy many times more throughout my LDAC experience.

Once we passed that first hurdle, we went into the barracks. We received our room assignments and changed into our physical fitness uni-

forms. I was one of two females on the bottom floor. My roommate and battle buddy was a girl from the west coast and a person who is probably the sweetest person I have ever met. We immediately bonded just by virtue of the fact that we were the only two females in our squad. We were both nervous for the path ahead of us.

Time did not slow down for us though, and we went out to meet the rest of our squad. The beauty of the Army is well expressed in situations like LDAC. The 12 of us in second squad were from all over the nation, but we were to work together as a team. By the end of LDAC, we would be closer to each other than we were to many of our college friends back home.

We spent the first week of our time in Ft. Lewis in-processing and becoming familiar with the training that lay ahead of us. We took a trip to CIF, or Central Issue Facility, and signed for our gear. We put together our rucks and our load bearing vests as a squad. We took the Army Physical Fitness Test and gapped open-mouthed at the Drill Sergeants at the test site. We ate food at the DEFAC, or dining facility, and we "utilized the skookums," meaning we went to the bathroom in the portable toilets outside. Yes, we were feeling pretty good about ourselves and we were feeling a little bit like real soldiers.

Then after our first few days of LDAC had passed, we prepared to move out to the field. We would begin our time in the field outside conducting field craft exercises and then move to the regimental Assembly Area, or AA. Field craft consists of learning how to properly survive in the wilderness while operating tactically. During this time, we also went

through our land navigation assessment. I passed day land navigation without an issue. Then night land navigation came around, and my confidence began to waiver. At my home campus, I had never had difficulty with land navigation, but something changed in me when I was out in those Washington woods. It did not help that I popped my ankle out of place while on the course, too.

When I went into the tent to have my scorecard checked, my heart sunk. One of my points was incorrect; I had not passed. Seeing the giant red "X" and the words "NO GO" made me look down in shame.

I walked out to join my buddies

and told them the news. To my surprise, no one pointed and laughed. No one even teased me. Everyone actually looked just as bummed as I felt, including my battle buddy. Then I saw tears start to slide down her face, and I knew that she too had seen that giant red "NO GO" on her scorecard. At that point, we did not know what would happen to us, so we just slid into our sleeping bags and prayed for morning to bring us better news.

Stay tuned for next month's issue in which I'll detail my remaining time at LDAC.

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

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THE GRADUATE

“One quarter down, three to go”

Katie Phelan
MSM Class of 2011

One day recently a student raised his hand in the middle of class and asked the following: “Miss Phelan, I see you have a ring on your finger. Are you married?” The ring on my left hand is actually on my middle finger and not on my ring finger. But all I said was, “No I’m not married. Let’s get back to class.” I resumed teaching, but a minute later I was interrupted again. This time it was by a different student who exclaimed, “You idiot, it’s not even on the right finger!”

Every day, every class, every minute of teaching is a surprise. Sometimes it’s a funny surprise, like the story above. Sometimes it’s a good surprise—the students understand more quickly and easily than I expect. And sometimes it’s bad—they misbehave or dislike the material.

This constant surprise and change is part of what makes teaching exciting. My first two months have taught me that teaching is invigorating, exhausting, frustrating, and rewarding, sometimes in the space of 2 minutes. After two months of struggling to keep my head above water with planning, grading, and teaching myself some of the lessons I’ll present, I finally feel like I’m getting the hang of things in a good way and really starting to enjoy teaching.

November 1st is my first big milestone. This date marks the end of the first quarter and the beginning of the second. It means that I’ve taught 25% of 9th grade English, half of creative writing, and one full rotation of Speech class. It also marks the 44th day of classes. Just 136 school days to go until summer. Just kidding (kinda).

The best part of the arrival of this date is easily the end of Speech. I’ll teach the same class four more times this year, but I’ve already prepared for it once. That means I have a store of lesson plans, assignments, and rubrics already prepared and set to go. It means I already have an idea of what works well and what doesn’t. I’ve already amended some of the things I did in the first quarter for the next time I teach the course.

Right now, I run the library as well as prepare three different brand-new 40 minutes lessons each evening, plus keep up with grading. Preparing for those lessons involves everything from finding images for powerpoint presentations, devising and typing assignments, making up rubrics, researching information, typing tests, reading short story anthologies to find appropriate short stories for creative writing, et cetera, et cetera.

Creative writing is the class



that’s giving me the most work right now. Since that class doesn’t have a textbook, I spend most evenings lately flying through short story anthologies that I’ve collected over the years. The point of reading stories in creative writing class is to give the students professional pieces to serve as example and also inspiration.

When I select stories I look on a basic level for appropriateness. I look for stories without any drug use, swearing, drinking, or any other questionable things. This is actually much more challenging than you might think. I also look for stories that I think the students will like. This includes looking at plot, theme, character, and especially writing style. This is one of the most important factors in whether they’ll like something because if the writing is too dense, they’ll have a harder time with it and be more likely to give up on the story. It will also be harder for them to understand. I also keep length of the story in mind, because they complain about the length of everything I give them, even 16 line poems.

Right now my creative writing students have been doing everything from reading stories, to competing exercises to stretch their imagination and improve skills, and starting drafts of their very own short stories. Some of

the prompts spawn quick and easy writing, but most prompts require them to think in ways to which they’re not accustomed.

This was one of my favorite ones because of how hard it made the students think:

A middle-aged man sitting at the bus stop has just learned that his son has died violently. Describe what and how the man sees things WITHOUT revealing to your reader what has happened. How does the street look to this man? What sounds does he hear? What things does he smell? How will his clothes feel on his body? What things will the man notice?

As you may be able to tell, this is not a simple assignment. Try it for yourself and see! It requires students first to place themselves in that situation. How would it feel to lose a son to a violent death? As 17- and 18-year-olds obviously none of them are middle-aged and none have children of their own. Some of them have not even lost a family member or friend close to them. So they first have to stretch their imagination to comprehend and work through these hypothetical emotions. How would this feel?

After this, they start writing the actual assignment. How does one convey utter desolation and grief without speaking of the event or person directly? Would all of the man’s senses be heightened? Would

fiction especially with the “show, not tell” rule. You may remember from your own school-days that showing your readers through description is much more effective than telling them in straightforward explanation.

Though it can be challenging to find appropriate short stories for them, I do love the freedom I have to shape the course. And when I find a story they actually like, it’s wonderful. So far we’ve read “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson, “The Bet” by Anton Chekov, “Shooting an Elephant” by George Orwell, and “A Small, Good Thing” by Raymond Carver. You can read all these stories online for free just by googling the title of the story with the words “full text” afterwards. Clearly I would recommend all of them

This sharing of stories and discussing literature is what I like best about teaching so far. I love the idea that after my students leave class they might think about something we read or discussed, whether it’s just that day, during the week, or at some point in the semester or year. It’s the idea that someone who claims to have read 8 books in his entire life has just sat in my class and diligently read a story quietly and with interest for 45 minutes. For some of them who aren’t moving on to college, they could technically get through the rest of their life without reading a single book. This, to me, is a tragic thought. It’s something I keep in my mind every day when I select things to read, when I present material, and when we discuss the reading. I firmly believe that everyone can enjoy, even love, to read. All you have to do is pick something up.

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IN MY OWN WORDS

Thankful now and always

Jackie Fennington
MSM Class of 2010

I never like to jump ahead and rush things, but once Halloween comes and goes, the only topic of conversation is the next few holidays. By the time New Year's is over, it feels like everything hit us all at once – the five pounds of candy, the three servings of turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes and the repetitive Christmas carols. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I am reminded of all that I am thankful for and encourage others to take a minute to thank the Big Man Above for the many blessings that fill our days.

Accept and be thankful for a helping hand

When my daughter Lucy was born just six weeks ago, I was overcome with this powerful feeling of responsibility. Of course it would be alarming if I did not feel responsible! But just knowing that I am responsible for another life is an overwhelming concept. Luckily, I can split this responsibility with my other half.

Though I knew Sean was there to take on these responsibilities with me, I initially felt like I had to be able to do everything by myself. I don't know why I felt this way, but I had the idea in my head that mothers should be able to do it all. I guess I have heard of so many mothers "doing it all" themselves without the help of a husband or family, so I felt like it was expected to be supermom.

My biggest fear of returning home from the hospital was attempting Lucy's first bath. I was determined that it was impossible to give a baby a sponge bath with only two hands. How was I supposed to hold her in one arm and bathe her entire body with the other hand all while sufficiently supporting her wobbly neck and keeping her from squirming? Impossible!

I did not even attempt the sponge bath solo. Sean held her squirming body and supported her head while I washed her.

That's right, it took four hands. Six if you count the photographer (my anxious and excited friend) documenting every moment of Lucy's life. Sean was the more experienced parent in the bathing scene because he watched the nurses give Lucy her first bath at the hospital. Thankfully one of us knew what we were doing!

When we graduated from the sponge bath to a baby bathtub, the both of us had no idea what to do. Let's just say both Sean and I had to change our clothes afterwards because of the amount of water everywhere. The next day my mom called, checking in on the new parents as usual, and I told her about our epic bath scene of water and soap going everywhere except on Baby Lucy. She gave me a few motherly how-to tips to help our bathing experience. Now we are both pros at bathing! I can even do it by myself with only two hands (and with Sean's supervision in case of disaster).

The bath situation is only one example of how thankful I am for others' help. We should all be thankful for each other and the human nature to help one another. This holiday, and always, be mindful of how we can help others and embrace others' help. Shovel a neighbor's driveway when it snows or make a dinner dish for someone who is particularly busy. Whatever it may be, embrace the help or offer it with a smiling face.

Enjoy every second of every day

It is a proven fact that time goes by too fast. There is nothing we can do to change that. Rather than harping on the fact that we never have enough time, we should embrace the time we have, be thankful for it and be careful to not overload ourselves with too many tasks.

During the first two weeks of parenthood, I never even knew what day it was let alone the time of day. It didn't matter if it was day or night because Lucy was eating every other hour and sleeping for small increments in



between. Simple everyday tasks like getting a shower, brushing my teeth and feeding myself seemed like a waste of the precious time I had to get some sleep. Life is a little more normal now, but I still wonder where the day went when 5:00 rolls around.

Everything is all about timing for me. With Lucy, I am constantly thinking about schedules, routines and timing. Feeding every few hours on the dot, sleeping for X amount of hours, which never exceeds 5, spending 20 minutes lulling her to sleep and then letting her cry herself to sleep for another 10 minutes at a time before running in to comfort her. I always thought 10 minutes was a long time to let a baby cry for, but once I let Lucy cry herself to sleep I realized how fast 10 minutes goes by. I also realized how fast sleep goes by!

Even if we do not accomplish everything we want to in a given day, it is important to appreciate the time we are given and enjoy time for what it is worth. Most importantly, we should enjoy time spent with others. If a day is all you get to spend with your family and loved ones for the holidays, leave everything behind to enjoy as much time as possible with them.

Appreciate technology for what it is worth

Technology these days is mind-blowing. It bothers me to give thanks for technology because I always try to get away from it. I use it too much, however, and reap its many benefits to not be thankful for it. For me, technology allows me to stay in touch with my family and not just hear their voices on the phone, but even see them face to face. They can see Lucy on a daily basis, which they love because she develops cuter habits every day and gets bigger by the hour it seems.

Technology is also our way of staying connected with society and helping others. Recently, a little boy went missing in the area. He was walking in the park with his father and ran off. His father followed him, but eventually lost sight of him in the woods. I heard about the missing boy on Twitter and followed the story every day. Initially, only law enforcement was out

searching for the boy. After they could not find him for a couple days, they opened the search to the public, accepting volunteers. Word spread fast and 6,000 civilians showed up to search for the missing boy.

They found the boy five days later. The family must have felt incredibly blessed to have so many people care about their little boy. Technology definitely had a part in spreading the word about getting volunteers to help look for the boy.

This Thanksgiving, and after, remember to appreciate the little things in life – a meal shared with loved ones or with strangers, the ability to talk to people far away and still feel connected, and most importantly the companionship of others. And always remember to take the two extra seconds to say, "I love you."

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

Wine Connoisseur

Sometimes a child will outshine a parent and that is what happened in the wine world. Cabernet Franc is the parent of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape. While Sauvignon has become one of the most popular grapes and wines in the world, its parent Cabernet Franc, has stood in its shadow. Cabernet Franc, however has its own splendid attributes which should be celebrated.

It is thought that Cabernet Franc originated in south-

west France, and brought to the Loire Valley by Cardinal Richelieu in the 1700s. Cabernet Franc thrives in cooler regions, like the Loire Valley which allows it to be lighter in body and in tannins than Sauvignon. One can expect this wine of medium body to have fruity or herbal notes. There can be hints of berries, plums, and violets found in Cabernet Franc.

Cabernet Franc makes a great wine to pair with all types of food. Because of its green-

ness, Cabernet Franc makes a great companion for vegetarian dishes especially grilled eggplant and zucchini or herb sauces made with rosemary, thyme, and sage. It is such a versatile wine, that it can be paired with vegetables, red meats or poultry, which means it would be a great Thanksgiving wine! At Hauser Estate Winery, our Cabernet Franc is full of berry flavor and would make a nice addition to any Thanksgiving table.

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SIMPLE SERVINGS

Pumpkins: the Christmas trees of autumn

Sharon Racine

Pumpkins are the unofficial symbol of the fall season. They have an amazing ability to conjure all of the sensations and expectations of autumn into one great, vine-ridden orange globe, and no matter how you paint them, carve them or eat them, they will forever exemplify the fiery palette of summer's end.

I've always associated pumpkins with both the crisp chill of fall and the warmth of the holidays. Pumpkin picking is still one thing that I love doing in the fall; something about venturing into the sharp autumn air in jeans and a comfy jacket to pick out pumpkins seems so *fall-ish* to me. Dare I say that pumpkins are the Christmas trees of autumn?

Much like evergreens in December, just one of these beloved orange fruits (yes, fruits!) can bring the festive warmth of fall inside your home. I'm no stranger to decorating with pumpkins – I've read my share of blogs and enough issues of *Better Homes and Gardens* to know that pumpkins can be painted, pinned, and patchworked to suit absolutely any design craving. Yes, I love pumpkin décor in the fall, but to me, pumpkins are prettiest when eaten.

I'm not sure when the pump-

kin "craze" broke out (or maybe I just noticed it more as I got older), but I do know that pretty much any baked good or main dish can include pumpkin as a base ingredient. Pumpkin spice coffees, all types of pumpkin breads, cakes and cookies, and even pumpkin beer reign supreme between September and November. Anything that comes out of my oven before Thanksgiving has a ninety-five percent chance of containing pumpkin, and a ninety-nine percent chance of being accompanied by a pumpkin-spice beverage.

I'm completely obsessed with pumpkin spice, and almost keeled over from happiness when I found out how many wonderfully creative pumpkin recipes are floating around on the internet. Pumpkin waffles with a steaming mug of pumpkin spice coffee for breakfast, followed by pumpkin stew with a side of toasted pumpkin seeds for lunch, and finally a dinner of stuffed pumpkin and ice cold pumpkin beer, with a delicious dessert of caramel pumpkin dip. Did I mention that you can make anything from pumpkins?

So for all of you pumpkin fans out there, you've got options; get a little crazy this fall! Whether you decide to decorate your doorstep in metallic shades of the squash

or stuff them with everything delicious, the pumpkin is your canvas. Happy autumn!

Pumpkin Stuffed With Everything Good

From *Around my French Table* by Dorie Greenspan

Ingredients

1-3 lb. pumpkin
Salt and pepper
1/4 pound stale bread, cut into 1/2-inch chunks
1/4 pound cheese, such as Gruyere or cheddar, cut into 1/2-inch chunks
2-4 chopped garlic cloves
4 strips chopped cooked bacon
1/4 cup chopped chives
1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
1/3 cup heavy cream
Pinch of nutmeg

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with a silicone baking mat or parchment.
2. Using a very sturdy knife, cut a cap out of the top of the pumpkin. Clear away the seeds and strings from the cap and from inside the pumpkin. Season the inside of the pumpkin generously with salt and pepper, and put it on the baking sheet or in the pot.
3. Toss the bread, cheese, garlic, bacon, and herbs together in a bowl. Season with pepper and pack the mix into the pumpkin.
4. Stir the cream with the nutmeg and some salt and pepper and pour it into the pumpkin.
5. Put the cap in place and bake the pumpkin for about 2 hours, or until everything inside the pumpkin is bubbling and the flesh of the pumpkin is tender enough to be pierced easily with the tip of a knife. Remove the cap during the last 20 minutes or so, so that the liquid can bake away and the top of the stuffing can brown a little.
6. Remove pumpkin from oven and serve, either in wedges of the pumpkin and filling, or in scoops of the filling mixed with the pumpkin flesh. Enjoy!

Spiced Pumpkin Waffles
From CountryLiving.com**Ingredients**

2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
1 tbsp baking powder
2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp ginger
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp cloves
4 large eggs
2 cups buttermilk
1 cup pumpkin puree
1/2 cup dark brown sugar
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, melted
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Instructions

1. Preheat a waffle iron. Combine the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger, baking soda, salt, nutmeg, and cloves in a large bowl and set aside.
2. Whisk together the eggs, buttermilk, pumpkin purée, sugar, butter, and vanilla in another large bowl until smooth. While whisking, add the flour mixture and blend until smooth.
3. Generously coat the waffle iron with vegetable oil and cook the batter in the waffle iron as recommended in the manufacturer's instructions. Repeat with remaining batter.

Pumpkin Cannelloni with Sage Brown-Butter Sauce
From CountryLiving.com**Ingredients**

1-1/2 pounds fresh pumpkin, peeled, seeded, and chopped
1-1/2 tbsp Extra-Virgin olive oil
3 large garlic cloves, chopped
1/2 cup ricotta cheese
1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
1 1/2 tsp finely chopped fresh sage, plus 4 large whole leaves
1/4 tsp salt, plus more to taste
1/2 tsp freshly ground pepper, plus more to taste
1 package (8-ounce) oven-ready lasagna sheets
6 tbsp unsalted butter

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Place pumpkin, along with 3/4 cup water, in a large skillet over medium heat. Cover and steam until tender, 20 minutes. Remove to a medium bowl and mash until smooth.
- Heat 1-1/2 tablespoons olive oil in a small skillet and sauté garlic until golden. Transfer garlic to a mortar and pestle, then crush to a paste. Stir cheeses, chopped sage, salt, pepper, and garlic paste into mashed pumpkin. Set aside.
- Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Cook lasagna sheets until tender, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a plate and drizzle with olive oil to prevent pasta from sticking together. Reserve 1/4 cup pasta water.
- Liberally brush a medium baking dish with oil. Place a lasagna sheet on a clean work surface. Add 4 tablespoons pumpkin mixture to center of lasagna, roll into a cannelloni tube, then transfer to prepared baking dish. Repeat with remaining sheets.
- Pour reserved pasta water over lasagna and cover tightly with foil. Bake until heated through and pasta is tender, 20 to 25 minutes.
- Cook butter and sage leaves in small skillet over medium-high heat until golden-brown. Drizzle over pumpkin cannelloni and serve immediately.

Caramel Pumpkin Dip
From TasteofHome.com**Ingredients**

4 ounces cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
1/2 cup canned pumpkin
1/3 cup caramel ice cream topping
1/4 cup sour cream
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Instructions

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Gradually add the pumpkin, caramel topping, sour cream, cinnamon and nutmeg, beating until smooth. Serve with vanilla wafers, graham cracker sticks, ginger snaps, or fruit. Refrigerate leftovers. Yields 2-1/2 cups.



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Keeping the arts alive

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

Whenever I come home from college with new drawings or paintings in tote, my mother reminisces about how she always knew I would be an artist. According to her, I would lug my container of art supplies into the dining room and spread them all across the table as I spent hours making countless creations, which I of course proudly gifted to everyone I knew. These were the days when my most prized possession was my box of Crayola crayons, and everything made sense with my wild imagination.

I'm not sure about you, but some of my fondest memories from elementary school are from my art classes. I can remember the pounding of clay, the splatter of paint as we all felt like the next Picasso, and the symphony that was blasting from the doors of the music room next door each day.

Think back to that one moment that you remember the most about art. The moment when it first made a real impact on you. Maybe it was the first time you made a masterpiece that took its coveted place on your refrigerator. Or your school's play where after spending hours practicing your lines, you saw the proud smiles of your family as they watched from the audience. Or maybe you didn't discover your love of art until later in life, and you are just now getting introduced to it.

Regardless of how much experience you have with art, it is clear that art has impacted each of us in some way. It is important for us to keep the influence of art in our lives and the generations that follow. What better way to do this than to have an Arts Learning Center? The Adams County Arts Council has brought us a new

building that will help us explore the many different types of art and bring the influence of art into the community.

Incorporated in 1993, the Adams County Arts Council (ACAC) is a nonprofit agency that supports artistic efforts in county schools and communities. According to the Council's website, its main goals are "to provide arts opportunities for students of all ages and to support the work of local arts presenters and artists." Chris Glatfelter, the Executive Director of the Council since 2001, says that "the Adams County Arts Council's mission to cultivate an arts-rich community."

The result of this goal is the new Learning Center. Glatfelter explained, "From strategic planning sessions with the community, we determined there was an overwhelming need for more arts education opportunities, particularly for children. Our board set the creation of the center as its major goal and has accomplished it in three years, thanks to tremendous support from the community."

With the opening of the new Arts Learning Center, the Council is offering 37 classes with both 4 weeks and short-term sessions. The courses include Art Glass, Ceramics, Creative Writing, Culinary Arts, Drawing and Painting, Knitting and Crocheting, Photography, and Silver Metal Clay Jewelry. Starting this month, the classes will be held in the new Arts Learning Center, which is located at 125 South Washington Street in Gettysburg.

The building has 10,000 square feet of space for classes of all sorts, including music, dance, theater, visual and culinary arts. There is also a gallery space to host exhibits from local artists, a reception hall for performances and other events, and an outdoor sculpture

garden. There is meeting space that will allow the Council to expand the building in the future based off of any needs that may arise in the coming years.

When the Council found the building on South Washington Street that would eventually become their new Learning Center, the space became even more attractive because it is located just blocks from the Gettysburg Square. It is part of the Elm Street District, and the renovation efforts will benefit the Borough and Commonwealth's work to revitalize this neglected area. The building was primarily funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Adams County, and the ACAC Board of Directors.

The ACAC has helped bring art into the community for decades. It affects over 10,000 youth each year through classroom settings around the county, and over 50,000 residents through public events in parks and neighborhoods in the area. They also exhibit award-winning art in the gallery on the Gettysburg College campus.

So what are the benefits of having this building available to us? Well, there are quite a few. There has been much debate in recent years as to whether or not the arts programs should be cut from school systems. The Learning Center is a sort of "safety net" for the arts program cuts in the schools. The time that American students spend on arts education has dropped by 35% since 2001-2002, and the building's classes will provide students with the means to discover and succeed in the arts.

The building will also provide a more welcoming site for the people and visitors of Adams County, and in return the ACAC will gain more participants and spread interest about art in the community. From a more economic stand-



point, the building will provide short-term work for local tradesmen and long-term opportunities for local artists looking to sell their work.

This new Arts Learning Center will help people of all ages and backgrounds experience art in their lives. For the elderly, there are benefits for the mind from learning a new instrument and coordination benefits from movement exercises. Participating in activities with people from other generations helps bring a sense of connection and community to the people in the area.

The youth get at least some sort of art education throughout their school years, but it is also beneficial to introduce them to art prior to the beginning of their schooling. It is important that they have a positive view of art as they begin to explore it in their studies.

The classes offered will provide them with learning tools that prepare them for their artistic studies. Through a more stable foundation of art, the youth will have much more room to grow and improve as they have more experience with art.

The ACAC will offer after-school programs which will help at-risk youth by giving them a positive atmosphere to help them expand their creativity and realize their true potential. They will develop skills that will ultimately help them when it comes time to find a job and enter the real world.

Something unique about the arts is that anyone can participate and anyone can benefit from studying them. Referring to the importance of arts education, Glatfelter explained, "The arts help make students better learners, improve mastery of core subjects, and stimulate creativity." This new Learning Center acts as a way to bring people from the community who are of different ages and backgrounds together and unite them with a common goal: to value the arts and ensure that they remain an important aspect of the community.

So take it from me, someone who has always grown up with art and who will always cherish it as a vital part of her life, it is very important to keep art in the community. We need to educate the youth and remind the elderly that the arts can do wonders for one's education and even one's outlook on life. And that is exactly what this building can help us do. For the next little girl who spreads out all of her crayons and markers on the dining room table making masterpieces, let's help her become the artist she has always dreamed of being.

Be inspired this fall at the Arts Education Center.

<p>Seminar: Easy Gourmet Cooking Monday, Nov. 7 • 5-8:30 p.m. \$39 (NONMEMBERS \$42); MATERIALS \$20</p> <p>Creative Writing Workshop Mondays, Nov. 7-28 • 6-8 p.m. MATERIALS \$10</p> <p>Seminar: Flavorful Faire 2 Tuesdays, Nov. 8 & 15 • 6-8 p.m. \$44 (NONMEMBERS \$48); MATERIALS \$20</p> <p>Open Studio in Oils & Acrylics Wednesdays, Nov. 9-30 • 6-8:30 p.m. \$119 (NONMEMBERS \$131)</p> <p>Seminar: Adding Motion to Your Digital Photos Thursdays, Nov. 10 & 17 • 6-8 p.m. \$44 (NONMEMBERS \$48)</p> <p>Seminar: Wines for Your Holiday Table Fridays, Nov. 11 & 18 • 7-9 p.m. \$44 (NONMEMBERS \$48); MATERIALS \$20</p>	<p>Learn to Knit Mondays, Nov. 14-Dec. 5 • 6-8 p.m. MATERIALS LIST PROVIDED</p> <p>Seminar: Basic Crochet Tuesdays, Nov. 15 & 22 • 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$66 (NONMEMBERS \$72)</p> <p>So You Think You Can't Draw? Tuesdays, Nov. 15-Dec. 6 • 9:30-11:30 a.m. MATERIALS \$15</p> <p>Seminar: Planning a Stress-Free Holiday Party Wednesdays, Nov. 16 & 30 • 6-8 p.m. \$44 (NONMEMBERS \$48); MATERIALS \$10</p> <p>Colored Pencil Basics & Beyond Mondays, Nov. 21-Dec. 12 • 9:30-11:30 a.m. MATERIALS LIST PROVIDED</p> <p>Seminar: Old-Fashioned Painted Christmas Tree Thursday, Dec. 1 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$33 (NONMEMBERS \$36); MATERIALS \$20</p>	<p>Seminar: Crocheted Scarf & Hood Thursdays, Dec. 1 & 8 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$66 (NONMEMBERS \$72)</p> <p>Seminar: Using Photoshop Filters & Layers Tuesdays, Dec. 6 & 13 • 6-8 p.m. \$44 (NONMEMBERS \$48)</p> <p>Seminar: Art Glass Ornaments Wednesdays, Dec. 7 & 14 • 6-8 p.m. \$44 (NONMEMBERS \$48); MATERIALS \$35</p>
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MOUNT SPORTS

Mount women's basketball

Megan Kinsella
MSM Class of 2013

Well folks, it's that time of year again. The leaves have changed color and are falling off the trees, leaving our sleeping giant of a mountain brown and barren. The cold winds have picked up again and the infamous Mount winter will soon be upon us. With all of these changes comes a change in sports seasons as well. On Friday, November 11th, the Mount Women's Basketball team travels to Binghamton, NY to kick off their 2011-12 season of play.

Last year, the women missed the Northeast Conference tournament for the second consecutive year, ending the regular season with a record of 8-21 (5-13 in the NEC). This year, however, looks extremely promising—with the addition of some great freshmen players and upperclassmen returning from injury, the team is expecting to do some real damage against conference and non-conference teams alike. Head Coach Bryan Whitten comments: "This team brings a lot of excitement and potential. So far it has been our most competitive team and looks like it could be our deepest team."

Whitten, who is entering his fifth season coaching at the Mount, is extremely excited about the upcoming season and the potential his team has for success. During the summer and

early fall weeks, the team was extremely committed to the off-season program. Whitten says: "They all came back to summer and worked with our strength coach and pre-season they have been doing a great job of conditioning and skill work as the season approaches."

The Mountaineers lost three seniors last year, one of which was the leading scorer and rebounder, Leah Westbrook, and the other was the Mount's best interior defender, Mary Dunn. Whitten says that he is not sure that just one single player can fill their shoes this year, but he is hoping to make up the difference by committee. In preparation for their first game on the 11th, the team will be looking to implant a new offense, instill their defensive attitude, and get used to playing together again after a long, off-season break.

Whitten excitedly professed his sentiments about the players and the Mount's basketball program: "I love this team and the potential it has." Well, coach, we're right there with you! Make sure to get out to some of the home games this fall and winter to cheer on the women (I know I'll definitely be there). Well, sayonara until next month, Emmitsburg!

See the back page for both the women's and men's basketball team's home game schedule.



Coach Whitten prepares his team before a big game.



Senior Sandra Andresson looks for an outlet.



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The new kid on the block

Pastor Gary Buchman
Emmitsburg Community
Bible Church

(Actually, it's more like the old man on the block)

Okay, so you are wondering, why do we need another church in Emmitsburg, right? I remember asking that same question over 20 years ago when a new church was starting south of Westminster. I mean there are over 150 churches in Carroll County, Md. where I grew up and have lived most of my life. So, I thought I would ask that question. I invited one of the two young seminary graduate pastors to lunch and I asked him, "So, why another church in Carroll County?" The answer amazed me, and has been confirmed several times since in these last 20 years. He said that at that time, less than 25% of all Carroll Countians attended any kind of religious service during the week. 75% of all the people in Carroll County don't go to any kind of church. That's 3 out every 4 that stay home every week, or cut their grass, sleep in, play golf, or go to Wal-Mart.

Just a couple of years ago, the Southern Baptist Convention, published those exact numbers stating that less than 25% of all people in the Baltimore- Washington area attend

any kind of religious service during the week. Over the last few years an alarming articles have appeared in the press stating that church attendance in America is on the decline. Ten years ago, only about 30% of all Americans attended church and that includes the conservative Bible belt south.

So, let's return to the original question, "Why plant a church in Emmitsburg?" If these statistics are true there are nearly 3000 un-churched people in Emmitsburg and many more in the counties surrounding this historic community. The goal of **Emmitsburg Community Bible Church** is not to seek people from other churches but to reach out to the un-churched and invite them to know the Lord of the Church - Jesus Christ.

Emmitsburg Community Bible Church is based on three great Commands as given by Jesus. The first is what Jesus calls the greatest of all commands. It was first given by Moses (from God) and cited by Jesus as one of two commands on which the entire Bible is based. "*You shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,* (Matt. 22:37; Deuteronomy 6:5) *This is the first and great commandment.*" In the same context (Matt. 22:39-40) our Lord says that the second greatest commandment is very similar and He quotes



from Leviticus 19:18, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" On the night that He was betrayed, He gave that commandment with a fresh twist when He stated in John 13:34-35, "*A New commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" The third great commandment is what we preachers refer to as the great commission. The church has been instructed to take the gospel into all the world beginning in our home town, then our counties, then our state, and then to the world (Cp. Matt. 29:19-20 with Acts 1:8). Three commands; Love God, Love Each Other, and Love the World that Jesus came to die for to redeem.

Emmitsburg Community Bible Church wants to be a simple church and keep our focus on these three things; in order to that, we intent to focus on just 3 things. The first is the trying to have the best worship service that we are able. We want to do a 'blended,' style of service on Sunday's; that is, mixing the traditional with the contemporary music. We want to provide an atmosphere for

people to pray and to hear God. I am Bible teacher so all of our sermons will either be expository (verse by verse through a Bible book), or systematic (a doctrinal or practical study of a Bible theme, like what the Bible says about death and dying, Heaven, Hell, Marriage, etc.).

The second ministry that **ECBC** will focus on is, loving one another. To do this we are asking everyone to be part of a small group (8-12 people) that will meet weekly in homes. This will be so we can learn together, as we get to know each other and so we can meet the needs that may be exist in the group. The very first church meet in homes (Acts 2:46) and shared life together. We have learned that while we can worship well together in a large setting we can't really get to know each other in that environment.

The third area of ministry will be reaching out to the community and the world in tangible ways such as short term mission trips, helping in what ever way we can with Emmitsburg food bank, giving to local ministries and looking for opportunities to tell people the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Simple church, based on Three Commands of Jesus to try to reach

some of the 75-80% of the un-churched population of northern Frederick, western Carroll, and southern parts of Adams counties.

Oh, and let me introduce myself. I am Gary Buchman, a Carroll County farmer's son, husband of Debbie (who first introduced me to Jesus), father of five, grandfather of eleven, and great-grandfather of one. I am a Christian pastor who happens to worship as a Southern Baptist. I love baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, deer hunting and reading good books. I served 3 years in the Army, before attending Washington Bible College and Capital Bible Seminary and have been in ministry for 30 years.

If you just happen to be one of those who don't attend church regularly, why not stop over to the Emmitsburg Elementary School on a Sunday Morning around 10:00 or go to our web site and see our sermons, ministries and daily blogs at www.EmmitsburgCommunityBibleChurch.com and check us out. You can also call us at 301-447-6565. I would love to introduce you to a friend of mine. We look forward to meeting you.

Pastor Gary Buchman

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DESIGNER'S CORNER

Keep your sanity this holiday season!

Laura Meredith

A full house for the holidays is a happy house, but it can quickly become a panic house if you don't renew, refine and redesign your holiday hosting plans.

This month, I'm offering a few ideas to successfully manage holiday hosting to create a warm and welcoming bed and breakfast feel for your guests!

Renew — Keep it Simple

Going overboard just leads to personal overload so keep the cleaning and holiday prep work simple. Clear out the personal clutter to get a better look at staging areas for sleeping quarters, lounging areas, and seating arrangements for eating or game playing.

Prepare meals to make ahead and simple-to-make, crowd-pleasing choices. Made ahead muffins and quick breads eliminate the need for a toaster queue in the morning, while group meals like tacos for dinner, mean everybody gets what they want. Just don't forget the large pot of coffee in the morning!

Refine— Have Something for the Kids to Do, the Big Ones Too! Bored kids is a bad thing, but bored adults is even worse — they whine louder! Renew the childhood spirit and avoid the waiting around blues.

As a kid, It was always so boring waiting for the adults to finish adult "stuff." Get the kids involved in the prep work, like setting the table, or give them things to do like puzzles, games



and coloring books. Watch out for the adults waxing nostalgic for that new box of crayons. They still have to share.

For the older kids, and parents alike, dust off the board games. If we have nice weather, set up outside games like football, soccer, or

just take a walk!

Redesign — Your Holiday Hotel

You may need to convert your parlor space into temporary holiday barracks. Create small cozy spaces and build privacy walls by dividing the room with

low bookshelves, end tables, and screens. Accessorize with colorful bedding, stuffed animals, and chocolates!

Be creative if the group is sharing one bathroom, and provide a separate space for prepping. Try to set a schedule for showering (one of the greatest sharing obstacles). Make individual gift baskets with personal toiletries —towels, small soaps, travel toothpaste, earplugs, and eyeshades. Your guests will appreciate your efforts!

Achieve Holiday Hosting Zen

When you are hosting a crowd, know that you can't please everyone. Don't make things harder for yourself either by making things more complicated than they need to be. A small thought goes a lot further than an impersonal, over-the-top holiday spread.

Finally, be realistic. If you live in a one bedroom apartment, it may be impossible to host a family of seven. Give the gift of sanity to yourself, friends and family this holiday season — Keep it simple.

If you can't find the time, or not sure how to get started with keeping your sanity this holiday season, look for a professional redesign specialist in your area, or visit www.MeredithDesignGroup.com or call 877.465.4975.

RSVP for the Home for the Holidays design event and charity gift sale! This private function will be on Friday evening 11 November 2011. Proceeds benefit the local charity Team H.O.P.E. of Frederick!

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CONTRACTOR'S CORNER

Finished basement projects

Andrew Wivell

Autumn is here and thoughts are turning toward colder weather. Many homeowners take the winter months to tackle indoor projects - such as finishing basement space. Although on the surface it seems like a fairly straight forward and easy project, homeowners are typically amazed at and underestimate the number of decisions and forward thinking considerations that needed to be made as they undertake this project. Here are some areas to consider in order to make your own project run smoother.

Plan ahead - in my experience, the best way to put yourself on the path for a successful project is to take the time to determine how you want the space to be used and then have drawings with basic measurements prepared as your roadmap for construction. You do not need to invest significant monies into professional drawings for simple plans, just a piece of graph paper, ruler and pencil should suffice. The first step is to determine how you want to utilize the space - i.e. what rooms do you want to create out of the current open space. The next step is to

settle on a floor plan that works best based on the size and layout of your basement. If you are not using a Contractor or Designer, don't be shy about utilizing the internet to find layouts that appeal to you. One side note - do not forget to plan where you are going to put all the stuff that is currently in your basement. Many companies provide storage units that can be delivered to your home and left for the duration of your project.

Construction plan - after you have settled on a design plan, you will need to sit down and schedule the different phases of construction. Typically, construction will follow this timing - Framing, Plumbing Rough In, Electrical Rough In, Insulation, Drywall, Trim, Painting, Electrical Final, Plumbing Final and Flooring.

Plumbing - If you want to eliminate countless trips up and down the stairs, a family bathroom should be included in your basement project. The good news is that it doesn't have to be large. In fact, a half-bath is a great alternative when trying to keep remodeling costs down. After all, a bathroom can usually be tucked away in a corner. Many homeowners don't realize that you can put in a

bathroom anywhere. All you need to do is install an ejector pit and pump. As you might guess, there are many things to consider when deciding where to put your bathroom. If you are not hiring a licensed plumber, make sure you know the minimum dimensions for a powder room or a full bathroom with a shower unit.

Lighting - A big challenge for the finished basement project is to provide enough light to end up with a bright and inviting space. Lighting is an easy way to create an interesting, comfortable and appealing design solution for your basement. There are 3 categories of basement lighting: general, task and accent lighting. You will need to spend time planning the placement and types of light you want. Your lighting plan will depend on obstructions in the room and your own personal preference. A general rule of thumb for basement lighting is to use a 6" recessed light for approximately every 36 square feet of floor space. However, this is not an exact science and it will be varied by the height of your ceiling and locations of mechanical components in the walls and ceilings. Bear in mind that you need to make sure that all lighting decisions meet the local code requirements for your area.

Ceiling - The great debate about basement ceilings is drop ceiling versus drywall ceilings. Some people favor a drop ceiling because you have easy access to wiring and plumbing. The downside to the drop ceiling is that you will have less headroom, which is usually one of the toughest challenges to creating an open feel in basement space. On the other hand, a drywall ceiling can cover up pipes and wires if you prefer all mechanical items to be hidden. Remember - the ceiling finish creates a particular look and feel in the room. As a



result, the desired look you want in the room may be your chief reason behind choosing one type of ceiling over another. If you want your basement ceiling to look like the rest of your home, and if you have decided you want recessed lighting, then a drywall ceiling is going to work best for your project.

Family or "rec" rooms - If you are thinking about dedicating an entire room to "family entertainment" the key to success is careful space planning and layout. The latest trend is to put all of your entertainment items in one open room. I recommend that you first measure your proposed Family Room space and then develop a detailed design plan based on the entertainment components. Are you planning a wall mounted Flat Screen? If so - make sure you have electrical and cable lines accessible at the height of the television in order to hide wires. Planning a surround sound system? You will need to have the appropriate wiring in place where you plan to put the speakers. All of these decisions need to be made prior to drywall

installation to limit extra costs involved in opening up wall cavities to run any additional wiring.

Insulation - insulating basement space is done for 2 reasons: (1) to limit air passage through the walls in order to improve energy efficiency and (2) to provide sound proofing. Sound proofing is important if you are creating new bedroom or bathroom spaces. And don't forget about the ceiling space as well for sound proofing to minimize the "herd of buffalo" effect when sitting in your new Rec Room.

Home Gym - Many homeowners want to create a Home Gym or exercise area in order to save time and money spent running to the gym. Again, the best approach is to have a detailed plan that includes the placement for all the different pieces of equipment you plan to have in the space. Does the equipment need power? If so, you will need to make sure electrical outlets are strategically placed in order to avoid a tangled mess of extension cords on the floor. Speaking of flooring, the best choice for a clean and fresh work out space is rubber flooring. Tile will chip if weights fall, vinyl can tear as equipment is moved and carpet will absorb the smell of sweat. Don't forget to plan electrical and cable outlets for any TV and DVD players you may want in the space.

Guest Bedroom - One thing homeowners MUST know is that you are required to have an egress window or exit door in any area defined as a bedroom. Check your local jurisdiction on this requirement as it usually is very specific. The last thing you want to do is make a "half-hearted" attempt, then find out at re-sale time that you cannot market this room as a bedroom. Current electric code also requires a smoke detector in this room.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Two different worlds meet

Renee Lehman

When you think of complementary and alternative medicine, what comes to mind? It is a broad selection of health-care systems, practices, and products (like acupuncture, meditation, yoga, herbs, etc.) that are not part of our conventional western medicine.

So what would you think if I told you that the military was now incorporating complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) into the healthcare for active and retired military personnel? Surprised? Since 2009, the military has been using acupuncture for post-traumatic stress disorder and pain control, and are looking to expand their usage of other CAM practices such as meditation and yoga.

Overview of Pain and Pain Management

You see, the military faces similar challenges to keep their service men and women healthy as other businesses do. This is especially true for pain management. In the United States, pain is the most frequent reason patients seek physician care, and more than 115 million Americans suffer from chronic pain. The annual cost of chronic pain is estimated from \$560 to \$635 billion (in 2010 dollars) in the United States. The failure to adequately address pain in the health care system continues to result in unnecessary suffering, exacerbation of other medical conditions, and huge financial and personnel costs (Institute of Medicine).

Although there are many treatment modalities for pain management, one of the major components for the treatment of pain continues to be the use of Over-The-Counter and prescription medications. The use of medications is appropriate, required, and often an effective way to treat pain. However, the possible over reliance on medications to treat pain has other unintended consequences, such as the increased prevalence of prescription medication abuse and diversion throughout the United States. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, prescription opioid analgesics are the most commonly abused prescription drugs in the U.S., with the highest rate of abuse occurring among those ages 18-25. Finally, according to a 2008 Department of Defense survey, about one in nine active-duty service members (11 percent) reported past-month prescription drug misuse (<http://www.tricare.mil/tma/studiesEval.aspx>, September 2009).

The military also faces some unique issues because of its distinctive mission, structure and patient population. For example:

1. The nation expects the military to provide the highest level of care to those carrying wars' heaviest burdens.
2. The transient nature of the military population, including patients and providers, makes continuity of care a challenge for military medicine.
3. Pain management challenges associated with combat poly-trauma patients require inte-

grated approaches to clinical care that cross traditional medical specialties, not all of which are universally available across the military.

4. The "No pain, no gain" is a philosophy embraced by much of the Active Duty force and their leadership. This attitude often causes delays in seeking treatment, as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines attempt to work through their pain and "tough it out." This frequently results in relatively minor acute issues later becoming harder-to manage chronic conditions.

(2009 Army Pain Management Task Force)

The Air Force Improves Pain Management

In 2008, The U.S. Air Force started a first-of-its kind pilot program designed to train its active-duty physicians to provide battlefield acupuncture services, to personnel on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan. This was a unique course whose goal is to incorporate acupuncture into the practice of military medicine in the clinic and battlefield environments."

"Another new tool in battlefield medicine is acupuncture. The Air Force acupuncture program, the first of its kind in Department of Defense, has expanded beyond clinic care to provide two formal training programs. Over 40 military physicians have been trained. We recognize the success of acupuncture for patients who are not responding well to traditional pain management. This is one more tool to help our wounded Soldiers and Airmen return to duty more rapidly and reduce pain medication usage."

(statement made by Lieutenant General (Dr.) Charles B. Green, The Surgeon General of the Air Force on April 6, 2011 during United States Air Force Testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense regarding Defense Health Programs)

Battlefield acupuncture is a method Dr. Richard C. Niemtzow, Colonel USAF, MC, FS

Developed in 2001 that's derived from traditional ear acupuncture but uses the short needles (semi-permanent needles) to better fit under combat helmets so soldiers can continue their missions with the needles inserted to relieve pain. The needles are applied to five points on the outer ear.

Battlefield acupuncture has become so popular in Afghanistan that at the U.S. Marine Corp's largest base in Helmand province, a special treatment room was created for it to be administered with new age music playing and Christmas lights hung from the ceiling.

The Army Improves Pain Management

The Army Surgeon General LTG Eric B. Schoemaker chartered the Army Pain Management Task Force (TF) in August 2009 to make recommendations for a U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) comprehensive pain management strategy that was holistic, multidisciplinary, and multimodal in its approach, utilizes state of the art/science modalities and technologies, and provides optimal quality of life for Soldiers and other patients with acute and chronic pain.

The TF developed 109 recommendations that lead to a comprehensive pain management

strategy that is holistic, multidisciplinary, and multimodal in its approach, utilizes state of the art/science modalities and technologies, and provides optimal quality of life for Soldiers and other patients with acute and chronic pain.

The wide range of these CAM therapies and treatments, such as acupuncture and yoga therapy, have proven valuable in reducing an over reliance on use of medications to treat pain. There are many reasons individuals may seek the option to use CAM, not the least of which is the failure of current treatment to relieve their pain. Current research indicates that part of the appeal of CAM includes the opportunity for greater personal involvement in health maintenance, holistic health beliefs and, for those with chronic conditions, an active coping mechanism (Bishop, Yardley and Lewith, 2007; Sollner et al., 2000). To learn more about the task force and its recommendations go to http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/reports/Pain_Management_Task_Force.pdf.

The Future of Acupuncture in the Military


Acupuncture is currently being used to treat our service men and women with pain. Acupuncture will also be important in the successful treatment of traumatic brain injuries, concussions, and post-traumatic stress syndrome.

In January 2011, in Washington D. C., Defense Department personnel met with researchers and members of the National Institute of Health's (NIH) National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine to discuss the military's continued exploration of acupuncture (especially for traumatic brain injury, concussions, and post-traumatic stress syndrome).

"There's no doubt about it," Karen J. Sherman, an NIH-funded acupuncture researcher said. "The addition of acupuncture to usual care seems to be beneficial (for traumatic brain injury), at least in the short term," from six to 12 months after treatment (<http://www.military.com>)

Also, the Army Vice Chief of Staff General Peter Chiarelli, while addressing military and civilian health care practitioners at a Traumatic Brain Injury forum in Washington, D.C. on September 22, 2011, stated that alternative therapies, like acupuncture, given near the frontlines after a concussion, are proving helpful to troops (<http://www.army-times.com>).


Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 20 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.



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FITNESS AND HEALTH

Reiki: Eastern and Western health care meet

Barbara Jensen

A hundred years ago, the English author Rudyard Kipling famously predicted that Asia and the West would forever remain separate and unable to understand each other. Today we know he was wrong. Our streets are filled with Toyotas and Hondas while Asia rapidly builds western-style cities and watches American TV programs.

This merging of East and West has become apparent in health care where western medicine and eastern healing techniques are being used by more and more American health care providers. One such technique is called Reiki.

What is Reiki!

Reiki is an energy based therapy that is used to reduce stress, provide relaxation and promote healing and wellness. A treatment feels like a wonderful glowing radiance that flows through and around you. Reiki treats the whole person including body, emotions, mind and spirit creating many beneficial effects that include feelings of peace, security and well being.

Reiki is a simple, natural and safe method of healing that everyone can use. It has been effective in helping virtually every known illness and malady and always creates a positive effect. It also works in conjunction with all other medical or

therapeutic techniques to relieve side effects and promote recovery. Reiki increases energy and vitality and can be extended to anyone. It doesn't matter what a person's gender, race, intelligence, or financial status is. Reiki is not a healing energy reserved only for the elite, wealthy, educated, or spiritually evolved.

What to Expect During a Reiki Session

You will be asked to lay down on a massage table. You will be fully clothed except for your shoes. The Reiki practitioner will create a relaxing atmosphere for your Reiki sessions, setting the mood with the use of dimmed lights and soft music. During the Reiki healing session the practitioner's hands are placed lightly on different parts of your body and will follow a predetermined sequence of hand placements, letting the hands to rest on each body placement for 2 to 5 minutes before moving on to the next placement. Reiki practitioners do not always touch their clients. At times they will hover their lifted palms a few inches above the reclined body. Either way, Reiki energies flow where they are supposed to. Reiki is a smart energy which flows where the imbalances are in your body.

Reiki sessions with Barbara will be available at the Osteopathic Primary Care Center, 121-123 West Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. (Telephone: 410-905-3606.) Barbara will be available Mondays through Wednesdays by appointment.

A healthier Thanksgiving dinner

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness
Trainer/Therapist

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Have you thought about this year's biggest family gathering? The menu for this meal usually remains about the same from year to year. This year make a few little changes to make the meal healthier. Of course, the turkey is the main attraction. Make sure you get a lean turkey that is low in fat. Most of the fat in poultry is in the skin. You need the skin while roasting for a juicy, tender bird, but before you slice it, remove the skin. That will take the temptation away from those folks who tend to tear off a piece when they slip into the kitchen to see how things are going. A way to add a little more spice to the bird is to loosen the skin and inject your favorite seasonings or herbs. You can also add a little low fat butter for extra flavor.

Dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, warm bread and dessert are also part of the traditional meal. I'm not saying don't have these favorites; just alter the way they are prepared. Use fat free milk and low fat butter in your mashed potatoes. Even better, try mashed sweet potatoes or mashed cauliflower. Try whole grain bread for the dressing. Whole grains are much healthier than processed white bread and supply added fiber. You can also sprinkle flaxseed meal to add a bit of nutty flavor and nobody will be the wiser. Gravy is one of the most important parts of this meal. Let your broth set for a while till it forms a solid skim on top. Remove this and you will have broth with much less fat. The gravy still tastes the same, without the fat. Gravy can even be made a day or two early to save you time on the big day. The warm bread can be a variety of different whole grain buns. This way, everybody gets their favorite kind. Add a big salad to this year's menu. People usually think of salad as a summertime dish with burgers at a cookout. Cooked seasoned veggies such as squash, carrots and cauliflower are also a great combination if you prefer hot vegetables. One half of your plate should be filled with veggies. Raw vegetables give you the most nutritional value. Have them on the table or the kitchen counter for your family and guests to nibble while the main meal is being prepared. They will fill up on these and maybe not eat as much later. Supply a variety of vegetables to pick from. Hopefully, you will have


at least one kind that the kids like.

DESSERT! Some people live for the Thanksgiving Desert Table. That's OK. Give yourself a treat. Just look over everything carefully, and decide what you really want. Maybe even sample a few different kinds. Try cutting the slices in half. That way you can try a bigger variety. Watch out for the pumpkin pie, you know who you are! Preparing a small plate of dessert for your guests to take home is also a thoughtful way to let them sample everything, just not all at one time. They can take a little piece of Thanksgiving home to remember for the rest of the holiday weekend. This way you do not have all of that dessert leftover and tempting you. Your waistline will thank you later. Check into some small changes in the recipe that will make a big difference in the fat and sugar content of the dessert. Tofu is a great way to add that creamy texture to your pies, cakes and cookies, while lowering the fat and raising the protein. Flaxseed meal can also be added to pies and cakes to give your family to added health benefit without them even knowing it is there. Applesauce in place of oil is another helpful, healthy hint. SUGAR is a big ingredient that packs on the pounds. Add a little less sugar to your recipes and you may just discover you didn't need all that the recipe called for anyway. Check out your grocery store's healthy cooking aisle for alternatives to sugar.

Finally, start a new Thanksgiving Tradition. I know people like to watch the football games on Thanksgiving Day but maybe you can talk them into playing a little tag football themselves. If you have a Wii, maybe you can play a game on it to get them moving. Taking a walk after your meal is a great idea. I know how everybody feels after eating a big meal, all the more reason to get moving. Take the whole family for a walk in the brisk, fall air. Share this time and walk off some of those extra pounds you just consumed. If you can't get the whole family involved, pick a friend or family member that you would like to spend a little extra time with. Share conversation, ideas and just time with them.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of November

Professor Wayne Wooten

For November, the Moon will be first quarter on November 3rd, so the first two weeks of November will thus find the Moon waxing in the evening skies. November 6th marks the day to fall back to CST for 2011. The full moon for November is the Frosty Moon, and falls on November 10th; it passed just 5 degrees north of bright Jupiter the previous evening. The last quarter moon passes seven degrees south of Mars on November 18th, with both rising in the northeast about midnight. Saturn is now back in the morning sky, and the waning crescent moon passes six degrees south of it on the morning of November 22nd. The new moon is on November 25th, and the waxing crescent moon passes three degrees north of Venus in SW evening twilight on the 27th. This crescent moon marks the Muslim new year, year 1433 AH in the lunar based year calculations.

If you have clear skies and a flat western horizon, you can watch an interesting series of groupings involving the inner planets Mercury and Venus and the star Antares right after sunset the first weeks of November. On the 1st, Mercury is two degrees south of Venus. The crescent moon passed them on October 27th. Mercury rapidly climbs higher than Venus until it begins retrograding back toward the Sun; it passes Venus again, now heading westward, passing two degrees south of brighter Venus on the 14th, and is lost in sun's glare within next two weeks. Much farther away, reddish Antares in Scorpius is passed by both Mercury and Venus on the 10th, with all three objects in the same binocular field. Venus continues climbing higher in the evening sky for the next six months, but will appear as a tiny, bright disk telescopically, still on the far side of the Sun.



The Earth superimposed on a photo of Jupiter to show the relative size of Jupiter's Great Red Spot

Giant Jupiter dominates the SW sky in Aries at the beginning of November. Any small scope will reveal what Galileo marveled at four hundred years ago; four large moons, all bigger or similar to ours in size, orbit it in a line along Jupiter's equator. So get out the old scope, and focus on Jupiter for a constantly changing dance of the moons around the giant world. Our photo this month shows the famed Great Red Spot in October 2010; it is not as obvious now, for the south equatorial belt, notably faded in Ed's photo, has now revived to give Jupiter its normal "two racing stripes".

Setting in the southwest is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy, but the best view of our Galaxy lies overhead now. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky in the northwest. To the northeast of

Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. Use binocs and your sky map to spot many clusters.

Overhead the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. South of the square is the only bright star of Fall, Fomalhaut. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. But big scopes do reveal many distant galaxies in this stellar wasteland.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular use-

ers in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Androm-

eda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant.

To the northeast, Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. Check it out on a clear November evening, and see it the gorgon is winking at you. If so, then instead of being as bright as Polaris, Algol fade to be only as bright as kappa Persei, the star just to its south. Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster to rise, a sure sign of bright winter stars to come. In fact, yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, rises at 7 PM as November begins along the northeastern horizon. It is the fifth brightest star in the sky, and a beacon of the colorful and bright winter stars to come.

Almanac

Weather Watch: Windy, showers with some snow in the northern part of the region (1,2,3). Fair and cool (4,5,6) turning cloudy and bit more humid (7,8,9,10,11).

Remnants of a tropical storm (12,13,14); fair and warm (15,16) turning colder with flurries again in the north (17,18,19). More winds and showers, mainly in the south (20,21,22,23,24,25). Still more windy weather, much colder, with periods of light snow (26,27,28,29,30).

Full Moon: November's Full Moon will occur on the 10th. While most Native Americans called it BIG WIND MOON, because of the high winds this time of year, it was also referred to as Dying Grass Moon and Leaf-Falling Moon be-

cause by now, frost has killed off most of the grasses and the trees have lost most of their leaves.

Special Notes: Daylight Savings ends on Sunday, November 6th at 2AM so remember to 'Fall back' and set your clocks back one hour before going to bed. And please, don't forget to vote locally on November 8th!

Holidays: Veteran's Day is observed this year on Friday, November 11th.

Remember all of our brave soldiers who have served and especially those who are serving today and not with their families or loved ones. Celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 24th with family and friends and take the time to remember all of the things that we should be thankful for in our daily lives. Check out the great holiday recipes at [giving and also visit \[www.norbest.com\]\(http://www.norbest.com\) for some creative leftover ideas.](http://www.razzledazzlerecipes.com/thanks-</p>
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The Garden: Lawn cutting is probably over for this year so clean the mower thoroughly. Scrape off soil and old grass. Cover all metal parts with a thin layer of oil or grease then store in a covered and dry area. Also, now is a good time to organize, clean, and sharpen all of your garden tools. Keep them from underfoot, cleaned, and sharpened and they will be ready to go come Spring. Attract bright colored birds to your yard by keeping bird feeders full or by spreading out seed frequently on the lawn. Black oil sunflowers are recommended for general feeding. Consider joining Project Feeder-Watch and be part of the effort to track and count winter birds in your area. Sign up through The Cornell Lab of Ornithology at www.Birds.Cornell.edu/pfw.

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COMPUTER Q&A

What is that? Tech-talk: learn the lingo

Aysë Jester-Stenabaugh

Part 2

Some of us have had more experience with computers and can just plug in everything and go. Others have someone help them out and never really learn what that do-dad is or what thingy-ma-bob it goes into. Here's a little insight into the most common parts and connectors found on computers today.

Basic Computer Parts

A computer can come in several forms; a desktop, laptop, netbook, all-in-one, or tablet. Desktop computers consist of a tower and a monitor which displays the output from the tower. The other types of comput-

ers listed above include built in displays or monitors. All desktops will utilize a mouse and a keyboard while the others may include built in mice and keyboards or the device may feature a touch screen.

Note: this means that if you have a monitor AND a tower that your monitor is NOT your computer. (Please do not bring your monitor in when having your computer repaired unless your tech instructs you to do so!)

For most the back of your computer (tower) appear to be overwhelming and to some downright confusing. A closer glance will relieve some of the confusion as most are color coded and even if they aren't only a few plugs will fit in more than one location. Here is a compi-

lation of common connections you may find on your computers input panel.

Power

This is your typical three prong plug for most computers however non desktops may require a specialized cord which is almost never universal. If your power cord has a three prong plug that goes into the wall, never use an adapter for a two prong outlet. Doing so will cause your circuit to remain un-grounded which can cause surges which can lead to system damage and/or failure.

Monitors

Depending on your monitor you could have one of several styles that plug into your computer. The first type is called a VGA which is generally color coded blue and will have 15 pins on the inside of the connector. Many newer computers will have what is called a DVI video output. This type of connection typically has a white connector and the pins inside the connector can vary but the most common DVI cables have 18 to 24 pins in addition to a horizontal pin located to the left of the other pins.

Some computers even come with HDMI inputs which carry both audio and video. It is not uncommon for computers to have more than one video adapter as multiple displays are becoming more and more common. Some video card adapters must be enabled to be used so don't assume your secondary video connection is not good without checking into it further.

Audio

Audio ports are typically (but not always) color coded and you can find audio inputs on the front and/or the back of a computer depending on the configuration. The audio output is typically color coded green which would be used for speakers or headphones. Some computers have a line in jack which is color coded blue. If you have a pink jack on your video card this is where you would plug in a microphone. More advanced video cards that support a digital output and/or surround sound which will have multiple ports to plug in the various speakers and the colors of these jacks can vary but should be included in your owner's manual.

USB

Your USB or universal serial bus connection is the most commonly used input for most devices used today. From printers, digital cameras, keyboards, mice and cell phones they all plug into your USB to charge or exchange data. This type of port is what is known as "plug and play". This means that you do not need to restart the computer to use the device and most devices today are able to be used without even having to install drivers. (Although installing your devices drivers are always recommended to ensure full functionality)

PS/2

The ps2 connection is a round input consisting of 6 pins. This connection when purple is designated for a keyboard while green designates a mouse input. This type of connection is not plug and play which means in order for a keyboard or mouse to be recognized you must restart the computer after it is plugged in. Many new computers have phased out this type of connection and is being replaced by USB.

Ethernet/Wireless

Of course your computer isn't complete without the internet. Computers using dial-up will have a RJ-11 connector (standard phone line jack) which allows the user to connect up to 52 kilobytes a second. For those of us moving faster than turtle speed and not using a wireless card, the standard high speed jack (RJ-45) is slightly bigger than a phone line jack and requires an Ethernet cable. Laptops and all-in-one computers (as well as tablets and other mobile devices) have built in wireless capabilities with no physical device protruding from the computer. Internal wireless cards have an antenna which helps to pick up signals over longer distances and also helps to increase speeds. You can also find USB wireless cards but they tend to have a weaker signal range. Keep in mind that a wireless connection typically has a lower maximum speed than a wired device since the signal is wireless and weakens over distance and may experience interference.

Other input and outputs can be found on computers but the above include the most common today. If you have questions or are looking for professional, friendly computer repair contact Jester's Computer Services at (717) 642-6611 or stop in our shop conveniently located on route 116 at 5135 Fairfield Road Fairfield, PA 17320 Monday through Friday, 9 am - 5 pm.



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Thurmont Thespians kick off 2011-12 season

The Thurmont Thespians kick off their 2011-12 with a Texas-sized comedy by Lee Blessing entitled "Nice People Dancing To Good Country Music" at the American Legion Auditorium, 8 Park Lane in Thurmont for two weekends. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, November 4-5 and 11-12 at 8:00PM as well as two Sunday matinees, November 6 and 13 at 2:00PM. There will be one dinner theatre performance catered by Cozy Restaurant on Saturday, November 12 starting at 6:30PM with Texas-style BBQ ribs and chicken with all the trimmings for \$35.00 including the show. There will also be a cash bar during the dinner theater.

Early reservations can be made for all shows and the dinner theatre by calling Ms. Urian at 301-271-7613. All shows include free desserts or snacks and refreshments during intermission for only \$15.00 per person. Anyone wearing cowboy boots and/or a cowboy hat to any of the performances of "Nice People Dancing To

Good Country Music" will be eligible for special door prize drawings which will be awarded during the play intermissions.

"Nice People Dancing To Good Country Music" is under the direction of Max Beaver, a professional actor from the DuPont Theatre in Wilmington, DE. It stars Gerry Miranda from Martinsburg, WV and Kelli Donaghue from Woodsboro, MD and features supporting performances by Bill Collins and Ethan Larsen of Thurmont as well as Stephanie Long from Emmitsburg. It tells the story of two Minnesota women who have migrated to Houston, Texas, one has totally adapted to the free-wheeling life-style while the other is fresh out of a Convent and struggling to get her footing in the big Texas city. The situation is given a jolt as the 15 year old son of one of the women comes down to spend the summer with his mom and her new boyfriend. Laughs and car-jokes abound with the classic country sounds of Hank Williams, Tom T. Hall and



Johnnie Cash.

Behind the scenes features Beth Royer Watson as stage manager, Mike Brown as lighting designer and Luke Grefen as Sound Designer. Mary Lou Royer is scenic designer and Spence Watson is the set designer. Together they bring you a full-sized 1986 Ford Ranger live on-stage in the first act and the upstairs porch over a Houston bar named "Nice People Dancing To Good Country Music" in the second act. Joanna Garcia has designed the poster and signage. The play includes some adult language and is not recommended for young children or pre-teens without parental permission.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

Thurmont Thespians present "Nice People Dancing To Good Country Music", a comedy at the Thurmont American Legion Auditorium. All tickets are \$15.00 and include free desserts or snacks during intermission. All audience members wearing western hats or boots will be eligible for door prizes for this production only.

Nov 5

Mountaintop Community Fall Fair & Art Show at the Blue Ridge Mt. Vol. Fire and Rescue Company fire hall, 13063 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit PA.

Hauser After Hours - Join us for great music, food and of course, wine and cider! (not to mention the breathtaking view!). Hauser Estate Winery, Biglerville. 717-334-4888.

Nov 5, 6, 12, 13

Catoctin Mountain Park's Blacksmith Shop Demonstration at the Blacksmith Shop in Camp Round Meadow

Nov 7, 14, 21, 28

Penn State Master Gardeners of Adams County fall craft series. The Fall Craft Series is a learning experience, fun to do, and this time you take home what you make! The Fall Craft Series teaches you ways to use natural materials found in a garden or yard.

Nov 8 - 12

2011 International Fair Trade Gift Festival and Rug Event - Fairfield Mennonite Church, Fairfield. Fair Trade allows artisans in developing countries to earn a fair, equitable wage; improve their quality of life through education and essential health care; and establish a sustainable market. For more information call 717-642-5219 or visit www.fairfieldmennonitechurch.org.

Nov 11

Spaghetti Dinner at Elias Lutheran Church - serving from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Catoctin Community Medical Fund. Followed by Bluegrass Night at the Basement Coffee House - music provided by The Home Comfort Band and Thurmont's own, Rick Hill!

Nov 12

Mother Seton School's 3rd Annual Fall 5K Run/Walk at Mount St. Marys. For more information: www.motherseton-school.org or email bridgemc@motherseton-school.org

carthy@hotmail.com.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cash Bash. Call the parish office at 301-447-2367 for tickets or more information. Proceeds benefit OLMC and St. Anthony Parishes.

Nov 17

Gettysburg College presents Fourth Lecture of Series "Foundation of a Republic." The lecture will be at the Bowen Auditorium, (ground floor), McCreary Hall on the Gettysburg College Campus. For more information please call 717-357-4424.

Nov 19

Strawberry Hill Nature Center and Preserve's Twisted Turkey Trail Tussle - This fun Fall event is designed to offer runners a chance to experience miles of trails in the Blue Ridge Mountains, while giving families the perfect opportunity to enjoy the colorful autumn foliage. For more information call 717-642-5840

Mother Seton School Bull Roast. For tickets or more info contact

Mother Seton School at 301-447-3161 or visit www.motherseton-school.org

Gettysburg's 9th Annual Remembrance Illumination - over 3,500 luminary candles- one on each soldier's grave in the Soldiers' National Cemetery to remember and honor the sacrifices made by those who fought at Gettysburg. For more information call 877-874-2478 or visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org

Nov 19 & 20

The fourth annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour will take place in conjunction with Willow Ponds Holiday Open House. Featuring five Fairfield area artists, the Studio Tour begins at Willow Pond Farm, where maps will be available for pick up. For more information call 717-642-6387.

Nov 20

Our Lady of Mount Carmel All You Can Eat Community Country Breakfast

Nov 24

The third annual Emmitsburg Wattle Waddle beginning in the Emmitsburg Town Park behind the Community Center. A scenic 5-mile run will begin at 8:00 AM followed by a 1-mile fun walk at 9:30 AM. For more information, go to www.emmitsburgturkeytrot.com

St. John's Lutheran Church's 119th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. 8619 Blacks Mill Road Creagerstown.

For more information on these and other events visit the Upcoming Events section of Emmitsburg.net



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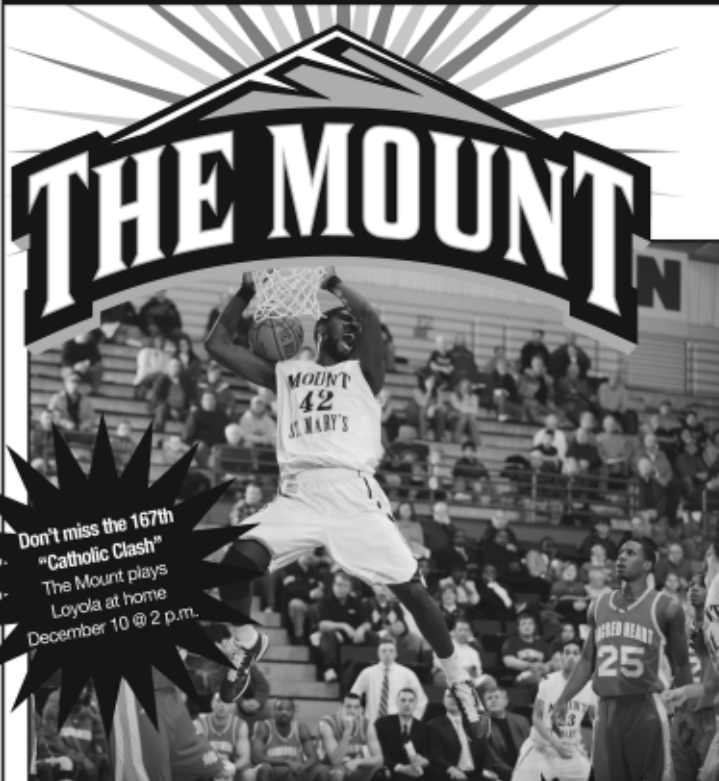
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2011-12 MEN'S BASKETBALL HOME GAMES

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
SAT., NOV. 19	SIENA	7 P.M.
THU., DEC. 1	ST. FRANCIS (N.Y.) *	7 P.M.
SAT., DEC. 3	LONG ISLAND *	7 P.M.
SAT., DEC. 10	LOYOLA	2 P.M.
THU., DEC. 29	AMERICAN	4 P.M.
SAT., DEC. 31	ALBANY	3:30 P.M.
THU., JAN. 12	CENTRAL CONNECTICUT ST. *	7 P.M.
SAT., JAN. 14	BRYANT *	1 P.M.
THU., FEB. 2	ROBERT MORRIS *	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 4	SAINT FRANCIS (PA.) *	4 P.M.
WED., FEB. 8	WAGNER *	7 P.M.
THU., FEB. 16	MONMOUTH *	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 18	FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON *	7 P.M.



Don't miss the Women's Home Opener The Women's Basketball Team Hosts Navy, November 26 @ 3 p.m.

2011-12 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HOME GAMES

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
SAT., NOV. 26	NAVY	3 P.M.
SAT., DEC. 3	LONG ISLAND *	3 P.M.
MON., DEC. 5	ST. FRANCIS (N.Y.) *	7 P.M.
SAT., DEC. 10	LOYOLA	4:30 P.M.
THU., DEC. 29	RIDER	7 P.M.
SAT., DEC. 31	BUCKNELL	1 P.M.
TUE., JAN. 3	HOWARD	7 P.M.
SAT., JAN. 14	BRYANT *	3:30 P.M.
MON., JAN. 16	CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE *	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 4	SAINT FRANCIS (PA.) *	7 P.M.
MON., FEB. 6	ROBERT MORRIS *	7 P.M.
MON., FEB. 13	WAGNER *	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 18	FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON *	3 P.M.
MON., FEB. 20	MONMOUTH *	7 P.M.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

FACULTY RECITAL

Music for Low-Brass & Organ, Mark Carlson, Trombone, and Victor Fields, organ
Wednesday, November 2
Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, 5 p.m.

BROWN BAG LUNCH CONCERT

By the Mount's instrumental and vocal students
Wednesday, November 9
Knott Auditorium, Noon

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Monday, November 7
Knott Auditorium, 3:30 p.m.



PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH INTELLIGENCE

Lecture: Major General John R. Landry of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence discusses the cooperation between US law enforcement and intelligence communities in the fight against terrorism.

Thursday, November 10
Knott Auditorium, 7 p.m.

For more information on upcoming events, visit www.msmary.edu or contact the Office of University Communications at 301-447-5366.



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