

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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John Reaves, former Mayor & WWII veteran, dies

John Rollins Reaves, former Emmitsburg Mayor and Town Council President, died on Friday, July 20, at his Emmitsburg home at 90 years of age.

Reaves ascended to the position of Emmitsburg Mayor on August 7, 1979, upon the resignation of then-Mayor and Vigilant Hose Fire Chief, Eugene Myers. Reaves was serving as the Council President when Myers resigned. Myers resigned halfway through his 2-year term to devote more time to the Fire Company.

Reaves is described by those who knew him as a "reluctant mayor" because he never chose to run for mayor and after serving the nine month balance of Myers's term, he chose not to run for election to any town office.

Charles Long, a former employee of Reaves, said Mayor Reaves "was more of a doer than a bureaucrat" while in office. "He was very glad when the term (as mayor) was up. I can remember every Friday night him sighing and saying, 'I have to go up to the town office and sign checks.'"

The Rev. Ronald E. Reaves,

Reaves' son, recalled that one of the key attributes of his father's role as mayor and town commissioner was "not being supportive of the expansion of town boundaries (through annexations). He loved the town the way it was."

Mayor Reaves was born in Orlando, Florida in 1921. He joined the National Guard in 1941 before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Following that assault, his guard unit was activated.

Reaves went on to serve in the Pacific Campaign with the 1st Battalion of the 32nd Division, and participated, as a squad leader, in assaults in North Papua New Guinea in 1944.

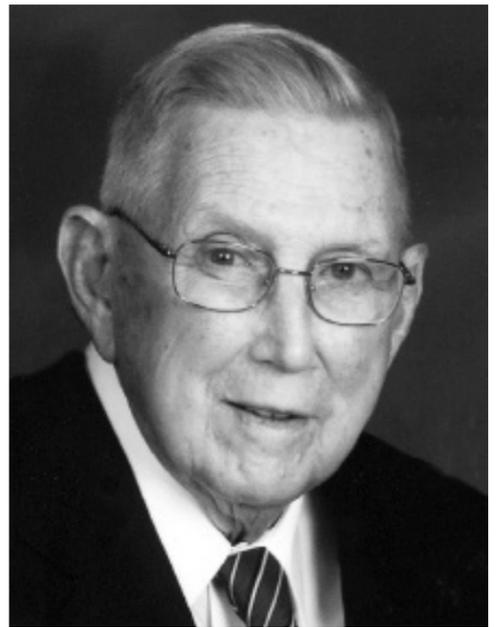
In July 1944, during one fierce engagement, Reaves stated that his unit surprised a large force of Japanese troops trying to ford a river to attack the landing beach (where Reaves' unit had executed an amphibious landing). Reaves recounted, "We just opened fire on them from the shore. So many died in the river that it turned red with blood."

Reaves then went on to fight

on Morotai Island, a small island located among the Indonesian Maluku Islands. In late-1944, Reaves and his staunch but disease-ridden and combat-spent unit returned to the States and did not fight again (Reaves' WWII exploits were the subject of the June Edition of the Veteran Profile).

After World War II, John married the love of his life, Betty Jane Rohrbaugh and opened Reaves Electric Company, an appliance store, in Emmitsburg. Former employee Long said, "I worked for him for 19 years. He was very easy to work with."

Granddaughter Pam Miles said, "He [Reaves] loved fixing electrical things." She was always amazed that, whenever she went into his apartment, "he had something [creative] hooked up to make his life easier."



John Hollinger, a board member of the Emmitsburg Vigilant Hose Company, fondly remembered Reaves, "I've known him a long time. I had done business with him, and he did business with us down at the garage. He was a good and honest man."

Former Mayor Reaves was interred in the Elias Lutheran Church's graveyard, next to the church he had devoted so much of his life to.

Carroll Valley to host 7th National Night Out

Carroll Valley Borough will be holding its 7th Annual National Night Out on August 7, with some new activities added this year.

The annual event will be held at the Carroll Commons, 5685 Fairfield Road from 5-8 p.m.

Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Richard L. Hileman, II stated, "This is a time set aside throughout the United States for communities to get together and meet their local policemen, firefighters, social service agencies and emergency responders."

The purpose of National Night Out, Hileman said, "is to strengthen the relationship between the citizens and those who have taken an oath to protect them."

Emergency responders participating in this year's event include the Fairfield and Fountaindale fire departments, who will be displaying their life-saving equipment and will be providing fire truck ride, Hamiltonban and Liberty Township police, the Adams County Sheriff's Department, state constables, and Cumberland Township's K-9 Officer Tim Biggins and K-9 Max.

Also present will be the Mid-Atlantic Dogs rescue service and Thurmont K9 Search and Rescue

who will be demonstrating their canine skills abilities. Plans also call for a Stat/MedEvac helicopter to be available for display 5 to 5:45 pm.

Keeney Fire Service will be conducting free fire extinguisher inspections for anyone wishing to bring one to the event to have it checked out.

Samaritan Lodge #336, Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania of Gettysburg will provide parents with child identification kits through the organization's Masonic Child Identification Programs (CHIP) Program.

"This is a really great program we are lucky to get," Hileman stated, "Not only do they take fingerprints, but they also make a compact disc with digital stills and a movie of your child, as well as a take home DNA kit at no cost."

New this year, Hileman said, "We will have on display Adams County SPCA's Mobile Spay and Neuter 4-Life Mobile Hospital, and also a new barrel train ride for kids."

Children are also encouraged to bring their bikes and helmets to participate in the bike rodeo sponsored by Cub Scout Pack #76.

"There will be games for the kids, food, and good informa-



The Mid-Atlantic Dogs rescue service will once again be in attendance to show off their prowess.

tion for the whole family," the police chief stated. The Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA will be hosting children's games.

Other participants will include Strawberry Hill Nature Center, who will be bringing some animals and will present information on their many programs, and the Harley Owners Group, who will be presenting tips on motorcycle safety.

Many other exhibits and organizations will be attending with invaluable information. Smokey the Bear and other costumed characters will be on site.

Food will be available on site, including sandwiches, funnel cakes, snow cones and Antietam Dairy ice cream.

Children under 12 and under get a free hot dog and potato chips.

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NEWS

Remembering John Reaves

I first met John Reaves in the fall of 1960 when I was constructing my house.

This was a Northern Homes project and John was the electrician. We hit it together so on to the next project.

In 1963 – I built the Taney Supply and Lumber shops which required 3-Phase and heavy duty electric wiring. So I asked John to be the electrician.

John said –“Eric, I know very little about 3-Phase.” Eric said –“John we can learn together.” So off we went. John did the work and we learned together.

This started our 50+ year relationship and I just asked John last month a technical electrical question and he rolled the answer right

out. Still sharp as a tack.

A real highlight for John and Eric as well as several Taney employees was our trip to the National Home Builders Show in Las Vegas, about 1980, where we were exhibiting our stairways.

It was the 1st trip to Vegas for all of us and we stayed about a week.

One day we came back to our hotel from lunch to our suite and John saw a hotel employee going through my suit coats, stealing some valuable Taney memorabilia. John – known to us after that as “big John”, detained the thief as I called the hotel security. After a brief scuffle the thief broke free. John then asked a maid in the hall “do you know that guy who just ran by”? Her answer –

YES! The police caught the thief at his home.

Many times we have rehashed that situation, just a little dangerous, as well as our other get togethers and fine times.

Always with a chuckle between us of these unbelievable, great memories.

John was a whiz at electric work and air conditioning capabilities. Just last week “I passed on information of A/C work to my own boys saying “this is how John would have done this!”

John, I still have more questions. I will miss you!

Your friend,
Eric Glass

Town revitalization moves forward

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and Maryland Department of Planning (DHCD) announced that they have approved Emmitsburg’s application for a Sustainable Communities designation.

In addition, the town was awarded a matching grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to conduct a potential re-design for the Town Square.

A Sustainable Community Area is one that has been identified by a municipality that has a specific local area in need of revitalization, and has created a comprehensive strategy to encourage and guide local in-

vestment, according to the DHCD.

Town Planner Susan Cipperly announced the approval of Emmitsburg’s application at the July 16 meeting of the town Board of Commissioners.

Emmitsburg’s application was premised on the town’s proposed work “to revitalize their town square and Main Street by increasing opportunities for commercial space, showcasing their history, and improving town walkability,” according to the DHCD.

Emmitsburg is recognized as a National Historic District, as well as a Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area.

Being approved as a Sustainable

Community will allow Emmitsburg to partner with the state and other entities to pursue grants and other funding sources to help finance proposed projects related to the stated revitalization goals.

In addition, Cipperly reported, the town was awarded a 50-50 matching grant by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA).

The MHAA will be providing \$28,000, which the town will match using funds, staff hours, and in-kind use of town resources, such as meeting space, for the program, the planner noted.

The money will be used to hire a consultant to execute a proposed de-

Emmitsburg Area News Briefs . . .

Drought conditions linger

In spite of almost daily thunder showers passing rapidly through the region, drought conditions continue to persist in the area.

Emmitsburg Town Manager David Haller reported at the July 16 town meeting that town wells continued to average below their normal levels during June as the result of a general lack of more productive precipitation.

“Our wells are now averaging 4.5 feet below their May 2011 levels,” he stated.

The average precipitation for the area from January 1 through June 30 is generally around 23.2 inches. This year, the Emmitsburg area has only received 14.8” of precipitation in that period, resulting in an overall deficit of 8.4 inches.

Haller also noted residents generally seem to be refraining from the temptation to water their lawns as the drought conditions continue to prevail.

“When I drive around town I don’t see a lot of blazingly green lawns,” he said.

As to when an end to the deficient rainfall might come about, Haller said, “Regarding the on-going drought, hope for rain.”

Proposal for housing study underway

The Emmitsburg Board of Com-

missioners directed town staff to proceed with a housing study at their July 16 meeting.

Commission President Christopher V. Staiger stated that the need for such a study was stipulated in the updated comprehensive plan.

However, he noted, there had been no progress made on conducting such a study in the two years since the plan was updated.

The housing study would generally reveal various demographics regarding the nature of the community, such as rentals versus home-ownership, prevailing rents, and other aspects of housing-related issues.

Town staff will present a proposal for conducting a housing study at the commission’s August 20 meeting.

Town to get “splash park”

A contract to install a “splash park” at the town pool was approved by the town Board of Commissioners at their July 16 meeting.

As a result of the approval, the contractor, Paddock Swimming Pool Company, Rockville, will be installing a concrete spray pad, a “drizzle drop” mushroom-type play feature, six Paddock beach spray jet fittings, and fencing.

Paddock agreed to provide the equipment and install the “splash park” for \$68,741.

The contract allows for a completion date of May 15, 2013.

The project is being paid for with approximately a half coming from state Project Open Space money and half from town funds.

Town meeting canceled

The August 6 meeting of the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners has been cancelled due to anticipated absences of several commission members.

The next meeting of the board will be 7:30 p.m., August 20.

Items on the August 20 agenda include:

- Policy on business advertising at the community pool;
- Housing Study discussion;
- Area park and ride discussion;
- Review of department resource allocation;
- Multi-user trail grant consideration.

Sewer plant overwhelmed

In spite of insufficient rain fall to pull the area out of a lingering drought, enough intense precipitation did occur in June to overwhelm the Emmitsburg sewer plant.

According to Town Manager Da-



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sign for upgrading the Town Square.

The town will be seeking public input on what community residents would like to see in the Square, “such as more green elements,

benches, some historic signage.”

“In the grant request, we predicted the (design) process would be completed by this December,” Cipperly stated following the meeting.

vid Haller, the wastewater treatment plant processed an average 433,000 gallon per day during June, of which 269,452 gallons per day was consumed (used by system customers).

The difference, 37.8 percent, represented wild water that had infiltrated into the collection system primarily during storm events.

The excessive wild water resulted in the wastewater treatment plant exceeding its design capacity on June 1, 2, and 12.

However, Haller stated, there were no wastewater spillages generated by the surges.

Placards to be posted on storm drains

Painted warnings on storm drains regarding illegal discharges will soon become a thing of the past in Emmitsburg.

Town Planner Susan Cipperly said the town will be installing metal placards on the drains instructing not to dump anything in the storm drains.

Painted, stenciled warnings required occasional re-painting, while the metal placards will be longer-lasting.

Thus far, 100 of the placards are on-hand, ready to be installed by town staff, while the rest will be acquired in 2013.

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Thousands attend Carroll Valley Fourth of July

More than 2,000 attendees flocked to Carroll Valley's annual Fourth of July festivities, with more than 2,500 on-hand to view the evening's fireworks display.

The 8th Annual Fourth of July Celebration and Community Picnic was held July 4 at the Carroll Valley Commons.

The event was organized by the July 4 Planning Committee, a body that is independent of the Carroll Valley Borough government, but is supported by the borough through the use of resources, such as preparing the Commons for the event.

Borough Secretary Gayle Marthers said, "There was very good turnout. I'd say we had a couple thousand."

The crowds weathered heat in the mid-90s and humidity to en-

joy the rides, entertainment and food offered during the event.

Two newly featured highlights of this year's event were a giant inflatable aircraft carrier and jet, which served as an obstacle course and sliding board, and a jungle-themed slide and bounce area. Both were sponsored by Comcast, the Fairfield AmVets, and School Safaris.

"We had the four bands that performed on the main stage," Marthers noted. Also held was a sizeable vintage and antique auto show. Another hit with the children attending the event was the Train Ride Through History, a "steam engine" that pulled a train of barrel-like passenger cars through a portion of the park. The train was sponsored by SGI (formerly ISP).

The popular hay ride was pro-

vided by William McCleaf, Jr., a neighboring farmer, who also made some of his fields available for event parking.

The event also featured an array of food vendors, crafters, hairdressers, and other non-food vendors.

One of the event highlights was the recognition of the 12-and-under and 8-and-under little league teams, who "made it to the state qualifiers," the borough secretary stated. Each member of both teams was presented with a plaque by Mayor Ron Harris.

But the Fourth of July fireworks display, launched from Liberty Mountain during the evening hours attracted more than 2,500 spectators.

"Various area parking resources were reported full," Marthers



stated. Some parked as far away as Fairfield Borough to view the aerial display.

"For the heat—and it was very hot—we had a huge turnout," Marthers said. "It was very nice."

Fairfield considers tree branch heights

Comments regarding the allowable height of branches on roadside trees has prompted Fairfield Borough to evaluate its existing regulations.

Borough regulations state that the lowest branches of roadside trees along non-state roads must be above 14 feet from the ground.

One or more residents have requested that the Borough Council

consider allowing branches to be lower, as per those along state-owned roadways, according to borough Secretary Susan Wagle.

One commission member said he thought the minimum height of tree limbs along state-owned roads was around 13 and one half feet.

However, the planning commission indicated at their July 8 meeting that they would be generally op-

posed to lowering the minimum height along borough-owned roads.

Planning commission member Francis Cool said the borough established a 14-foot minimum height on borough roads to accommodate the passage of tractor-trailers, which are generally 14 feet tall.

The height also readily accommodates the passage of emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks, and gar-

bage haulers, he pointed out.

Cool noted that the state's minimum requirement of around 13.6 feet occurs generally along state-owned roadways wide enough to allow tractor-trailers to avoid the lower branches.

The commission generally felt that if the branch height was lowered along the narrower borough roads, the tractor-trailers would

eventually trim the branches to the 14-foot minimum themselves during the course of colliding with the branches.

Francis Cool said the minimum height "should stay at 14 feet. I think we're pretty safe where we're at [with that limit]."

The issue was not discussed at the July 24 Borough Council meeting.

None of the planners appeared to be in support of any reduction in the minimum height requirement.

Fairfield Area News Briefs . . .

CV/resort water use contract signed

The Carroll Valley Borough Council unanimously approved a contract and license at their July 10 meeting paving the way for Ski Liberty to draw water from a borough lake.

Ski Liberty initially approached Carroll Valley Borough representatives around 2009 seeking to use water from Lake May for the purposes of adding to their available water supplies in order to manufacture snow during ski season.

Within the same time-frame, Carroll Valley Borough was confronted with potentially staggering costs to repair damage to an area of the Lake May dam caused by Toms Creek's erosion of impoundment embankments.

The creek even began undermining a gabion wall which was installed to address the embankment problems.

As a result of the agreement approved by council July 10, Ski Liberty has agreed to address the costs and repairs of the embankment

and dam, and to pay the borough \$25,000 a year (plus inflation), in exchange for a limited withdrawal of water from the lake.

The contract had not been signed by Ski Liberty as of the July 10 meeting.

Hamiltonban seeking volunteers
Hamiltonban Township is seeking volunteers to fill several vacant seats on one of the township boards.

According to township Secretary Deborah Feiler, the municipal Parks and Recreation Committee is in need of three volunteers to serve. These are all five-year terms.

This committee is involved with planning recreational resources within the municipality. All seats are appointed positions and applicants must be residents of the township.

The planning commission and the parks and recreation committee also needs secretaries to take min-

utes. The secretary is a paid position for the planning commission at \$30 a month, and a voluntary position with parks and recreation.

Interested individuals may contact the township office at 642-8509.

Fairfield tables sign rules

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission voted at their July 9 meeting to table any further discussions of potential changes to business signs in the borough.

The issue was tabled to await input on any proposed changes from the borough Council or the borough Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB).

Carroll Smith, commission member and liaison for the borough Council, said he felt the planning commission taking the lead was not the appropriate course of action. "I think we're going about this the wrong way," he said.

"We have various individuals giving opinions," Smith noted, "but we

still have not gotten any direction."

There are presently 13 business signs in the borough which are not in compliance with the current sign regulations, but most were "grandfathered" in, meaning they existed before the regulations were originally promulgated.

However, according to planning commission member Francis Cool, of those 13, five were not "grandfathered" and do violate the existing regulations.

Police: "Lock your cars"

Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Richard L. Hileman II warned residents at the July 10 meeting of the borough Council to keep their unattended vehicle doors locked.

He said the borough has been subjected to a recent "rash of thefts out of vehicles."

Most of the incidences, Hileman noted, have occurred in the area of J Section, Main Trail, in the borough.

The chief pointed out that 99 percent of the thefts involved vehicles that had been left unlocked.

Stormwater rules progress

One Adams County municipality has adopted new rules regarding stormwater runoff, while a second community may soon do the same.

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors enacted its new rules at the board's July 3 meeting, while Fairfield Borough will be considering approving the advertising of their version of the new regulations at an upcoming meeting.

The regulations were developed

to conform with new guidelines developed last year by the Adams County Office of Planning and Development (ACOPD) and subsequently approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Generally, the new guidelines clarify issues associated with the Monocacy Plan and reduce financial burdens placed on small projects regarding stormwater runoff.

Plans developed in accordance with the new mandate must also ultimately be approved by the DEP.

Hamiltonban enacts nuisance laws

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors voted unanimously at their June 5 to adopt a nuisance ordinance.

The News-Journal erroneously reported that the board only approved the advertising of the ordinance for future adoption at their June 5 meeting.

The ordinance was drafted to update a 1987 ordinance to additionally address a number of issues that exist or could exist in the township relating to the quality of life of its residents which were not precisely addressed in the older version.

Failure to comply with township findings regarding alleged violations could result in the township taking action to address the issue, plus a ten percent surcharge over the township's cost to remedy the situation.

That could escalate to an additional \$200 fine and court-ordered compliance.

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NEWS

Taneytown celebrates summer

Major roadway and sidewalk improvements completed towards the end of 2011 in Taneytown help set the stage for a number of repeat events, and several new ones.

Help for the first time this year was the "BBQ Fest with Live Band," held at Memorial Park, which received enthusiastic attendance on July 21.

The event featured barbecue dinners prepared by members of the Taneytown Fire Department, as well as drinks and food offered by the Taneytown Lions Club and Gunner's Grille, a casual dining eatery located at 5525 Taneytown Pike.

Live entertainment was provided by the four-man Nautical Wheelers, billed as "Maryland's #1 beach party band."

Hundreds of attendees packed the events, many lugging their own lawn chairs for a seat on the park tarmac.

Nancy McCormick, Taneytown Economic Development Director, said, "We had about

600 (attendees), easily. They started coming about 6 to 6:30 p.m. and included people of all different ages, young kids, older people."

McCormick stated that the fire company "started running out of food. They ran out of ribs and chickens around 7 p.m. We didn't know what we were going to have. We couldn't tell them if it was going to be 50 or 500 people."

"The band played to the audience and performed little bit of everything," she said. The group played until after 9 p.m., having begun around 5 p.m.

"This is the first time we have had something like this in a long time," McCormick said. "We played this up pretty big. I even got a call from a lady in Hagerstown seeking information to come."

Events coming up in August include the Community Yard Sale, also a first-time event.

Residents and business will be able to hold their own yard sales

in their yards or along the sidewalks on August 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"This is something new too," McCormick stated. "We're just trying to get people in town. We have no idea what the predication will be."

Continuing events include the Taneytown Farmers Market held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. The market runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day and is held at the Memorial Park.

"The farmers has been going well and has had a fairly decent," McCormick stated. She noted there are generally between six to nine vendors setting up offering a range of goods including vegetables and fruit, herbs, soaps, eggs, flowers and jewelry.

The market features live entertainment, and has breakfast sandwiches available for early attendees.

Also continuing is Taneytown's "Movie in the Park" which normally occurs every third Satur-



The Nautical Wheelers lived up to their name as "Maryland's #1 beach party band" at Taneytown's BBQ Fest.

day unless there is a conflict with another event, according to Bob Mitchell, Taneytown parks and recreation director.

McCormick stated, "We wanted to provide something for families to do at no cost."

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own blanket or lawn chair. Snacks are available during the movie at the FSK con-

cession stand. McCormick said with road and sidewalk work finally done, the town is now focusing on getting more people to visit Taneytown through offering an array of events.

For the latest list of scheduled events, visit the Taneytown web site at taneytown.org and click on "Find and Event."

Rocky Ridge to hold carnival

As summer begins to wind down, there are still plenty of events scheduled in the region to provide activities to entertain the young and old alike.

One of those is the annual Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company carnival, which was established around 1957.

In addition, a parade will be held in August in Rocky Ridge in conjunction with the vent.

The carnival will be held at

Mount Tabor Park on August 13 through 18, 4:30 p.m. "until usually around 11 p.m., each day," Fire department member Ronnie Eyler said.

Special events slated to occur during the carnival include a cake auction on Monday, a parade on August 15, and live entertainment Tuesday through Saturday.

Bands appearing will include CB Pickers (Tuesday), Paul Ledford Band (Wednesday), Rivers Bend

Band (Thursday), Traditions Unleashed (Friday), and Roll The Dice (Saturday).

Eyler said, "It's a carnival but it's more like an overgrown festival." There are games for the kids, a hay ride (provided by Eyler and his son Robert), a lots of food. Admission is free.

As far as the food and games go, "It's not expensive. It doesn't break you to go to this carnival," Eyler stated. "People usually come for the

food. We're famous for the food."

On August 15, the parade will begin at 7 p.m. and proceed from Longs Mill, up Motter Station Road, and conclude at Mount Tabor Park.

Events like firemen's carnivals provide an important portion of the sponsoring fire department's annual budget.

The on-going recession continues to take its toll of monetary donations and the amounts of available state and federal monies that departments also rely on.

But to rural communities, firemen's carnivals and other events also serve as a social gathering places in which to reconnect with area friends, family members and schoolmates.

For additional information on the carnival, parade, or other Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company events, contact Ronnie Eyler at 301-271-7780.

Also, visit the company's web site at rockyridgevfc.com.

See article on page 24 to learn about the history of Rocky Ridge.

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Harney hosts old time baseball

Baseball finally returned to Harney after a nearly 50 hiatus, with the noble cause this year of generating funds for medical expenses.

The Harney Volunteer Fire Department, Harney VFW and Saint Paul's Lutheran Church jump-started the baseball program that originally dates back to the 1950s

and 1960s on July 28 and 29 at the Harney ball field.

The joint effort held a two-day, softball low-D tournament event at the park that entailed not just organizing the event, but also restoring the field, concession stand, back stop and bases. The field had remained

unused for a number of years.

Proceeds from this year's tournament will be given to a local family for medical expenses of their 12-year-old daughter who battling a serious illness.

Sponsors are hopeful that the tournament will become an annual event.

<p>Ron Rico Spiced Rum 1.75 Liter \$9⁹⁹ Reg. \$14.99 <i>While Supplies Last!</i></p>	<p>dog days of summer are here!</p>  <p>COOL OFF WITH THESE DEALS!</p>	<p>Bud Light Lime 18 PAK CANS \$13⁹⁹</p>	
<p>Miller Light & Miller 64 Coors & Coors Light Bud & Bud Light 30 PAK CANS \$19⁹⁹</p>	<p>Corona & Corona Light 24 PAK Loose Bottles \$26⁹⁹</p>	<p>Bud Light Platinum 12 PAK BOTTLES \$11⁹⁹</p>	<p>Coors Light 28 PAK Bottles \$17⁹⁹</p> 
<p>★★★ TUESDAY SAVINGS ★★★ Wine or Liquor SAVE 10% ON PURCHASES OF \$40 OR MORE CASH ONLY 7% DISCOUNT ON CREDIT CARD PURCHASES</p>	<p>Paul's Pit Stop DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR 150 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 301-447-6262 Monday-Thursday 9 am-10 pm, Friday & Saturday 9 am-11 pm, Sunday 11-8 pm</p>		<p>★★★ COUPON ★★★ Keystone Light, Natural Light & Natural Ice 30 PAK CANS \$13⁹⁹ WITH COUPON <i>MUST PRESENT COUPON Expires 8/31/12 LIMIT 5</i></p>

One hundred years ago this month

August 2

Tuberculosis Sanitarium

It is doubtful if more than 25 residents of Emmitsburg realize that within a few miles of their town there is located one the finest institutions for the treatment of tubercun patients in this country and yet the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanitarium under the direction of Dr. Victor Cullen is known all over the United States as a model institution.

During the few years of its existence, steady growth and almost phenomenal success in the treatment of one of the most insidious diseases known has marked the work at this place. What was at first a very modest little group of cottages has expanded into almost a village – a model one at that with imposing and beautifully appointed buildings. Here is maintained a fire department, a post office, an express, freight and telegraph office, a pretty substantial rural depot, a superb electrical plant, reservoir and pumping stations—all for the use and comfort of the patients and the visitors to this exceptional place.

Yesterday the new \$100,000 building was formally opened. There are 100 private rooms on the first floor of this building, beside the diet kitchens, baths, and ice plants. The upper floor has four wards of 20 each and 20 private rooms which will be used for the isolation of cases too sick to be in the wards. Special kitchens are attached to these private rooms and there are also the necessary baths. The whole is heated. Correct living is taught at the sanitarium and it is expected to be followed by the patient ever afterwards upon leaving the institution.

Camp Delight

Notwithstanding the rainy weather the last two days the outing party at Camp Delight on the banks of Tom's Creek has been a very agreeable time. The excellent boating and fishing has proved most enjoyable to both campers and their guest. The camp consists of four large waterproof tents and a large waterproof awning pitched on a grassy knoll high above the banks of the stream. The reception tent is especially worthy of mention for the tasteful manner in which it is fitted up. During the past 14 days over 100 persons visited the camp.

Sewer Repair

The sewer at the crossing in the rear of the Hotel Spangler, which was broken by the rush of water during the recent heavy rains, is being repaired. 75 feet of pipe is being laid, which is covered by a slews way to carry off the rainwater.

Arrests

On Wednesday Officer Dukehart had an opportunity for trying out the new cells that have recently been installed in the jail. He made arrests for vagrancy and intoxication after allowing the offenders sojourn in jail, they were sent off by rail over the state line to Waynesboro.

August 9

Celebrate 92nd Birthday

Mrs. Rebecca Grimes, of Fairfield, celebrated her 92nd birthday on Tuesday, the daughter of the late Richard Gilson, of near Emmitsburg, was born at the old Gilson Homestead. She's the last survivor of his children.

About 9 AM an automobile party of relatives and friends drove up to her house. After most cordial greetings, they made themselves at home. The time was spent in social intercourse until noon when a bountiful dinner was served. During the afternoon a religious service of song, prayer, and appropriate Scripture readings, was conducted at the request of Mrs. Grimes. Always of a strong religious turn of mind, and being unable in late years to attend public worship, she greatly misses the privileges of the sanctuary and was ever eager to avail herself of the spiritual refreshment to be derived by the devout soul from religious services. The remainder of the day was spent in social enjoyment, and in the cool of the evening after generous supper, the guest from a distance departed wishing Mrs. Grimes great peace and happiness.

August 16

Death of Henry Waddle

Henry Waddle died at his home in Fairfield Tuesday morning at the age of 71. He was a veteran of the Civil War having served for nine months as a Private in Company E., 125th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and later as a Sergeant in Company D, 11th Maryland. After the war Mr. Waddle engaged in a produce business near Emmitsburg, continuing that business after his removal to Fairfield, until 18 months ago when he sold out to his son, J. B. Waddle. Henry was twice married, first to Mary Jane Overholzer, and upon her death, Miss Anna Connor, who survives him, along with his son and daughter, Mrs. Clarence Musselman.

Former Emmitsburgian Killed

Crushed under an automobile in which they were joyriding over the mountain roads, Edward Creager is dead and his brother, Charles Creager is suffering terribly from two broken ribs. The automobile is a battered wreck.

The automobile is said to have been taken from the garage at the Bella Vista Springs Hotel without the owner's knowledge, and after one of the riders is alleged to have obtained the garage key by climbing through an office window.

The accident happened shortly after midnight on Monday when the borrowed car, getting from under the control of the driver, jumped from the road near the hotel, crashed into a large oak tree, and turned turtle. The crash awakened visitors at the hotel and when they lifted the car they found Edward dead. His neck was broken.

Charles and Edward were in livery business in Emmitsburg several years ago. They were succeeded by McCarran and Zurgable when they removed to Buena Vista where the accident occurred.

Motter Station Blaze Averted

What might have developed into a dangerous blaze, was started on Wednesday morning by the sparks from an engine igniting a straw stack belonging to Mr. Fisher at Motter's Station. Word was telephoned to Emmitsburg and the members of the Vigilant Hose Company were fully prepared to render assistance. This proved unnecessary however, for the fire was soon under control. In the case of a high wind, the flames could have easily wiped out the most of Motter's Station

August 23

Pickpockets Ruin Picnic

Pickpockets descended upon the Granger's picnic at Taneytown last week. Among those from this district that were robbed include Messers. Allison, Kemper and Ohler. Some from Thurmont, Harney, and other districts were relieved of their pocketbooks on that occasion also. Whether the pickpockets were associated with a band of gypsies that passed through town yesterday is not known.

'Dick' Dies

The Boyle Brothers lost their valuable horse 'Dick,' by death on Wednesday. 'Dick' was a faithful, hard-working animal and was very familiar to everyone in Emmitsburg. The children of town were especially fond of their gentle giant who always welcomed the friendly touch of their little hands.

Fruit Crops

Emmitsburg is well known for its fruit crops. But seldom at this season are strawberry seen in local gardens. Mr. E. L. Rowe, however, has the distinction of producing berries that rival the spring variety and size and flavor.



The Sperry Garage on Frederick St. (S. Seton Ave) was also a Ford dealership, selling new cars and tractors.

15 ounces is an exceptional weight for peaches in this neighborhood. Mr. Spalding, of near town, has 1,000 trees bearing this fruit, of which one of the above-mentioned weight as a specimen.

Some of the most magnificent peaches seen in this district were from the orchards of Mr. Grinder. With regard to size, color, solidity, and flavor these peaches, the 'Champion' variety, are ideal and in very great demand.

August 30

Sperry-Hollinger

A pretty wedding was solemnized Wednesday afternoon at the home of the bride's parents when Miss Ada Hollinger was married to Mr. Ralph Sperry of San Diego California. The ceremony was performed in the parlors beneath an arch of ferns and pink flowers. The bride was attired in a gown a white silk with a long veil and carried a shower bouquet of white roses.

Mr. Charles Rowe of Emmitsburg acted as best man. Immediately following the ceremony a reception was held in the hall, the receiving line being opposed of the entire bridal party. The bride was a former student of Goucher College and the groom the University of Illinois. The wedding is a culmination of a romance begun four years ago

when the bride visited in the groom's western hometown. The young couple will reside near Emmitsburg for the present.

Local Brevities

During the storm on Monday night a bolt of lightning struck a locust tree about 10 feet from the barn of Mr. Daniel Roddy. The barn itself escaped as if by miracle.

Several persons paid for the privilege of disturbing the peace of Emmitsburg by depositing fines with Burgess Rowe this week.

Mr. Joshua Gillelan has been making some extensive improvements at his farm on the Taneytown Road. The house has been repainted a new fences erected. Mr. David Guise has had a concrete walk laid at his farm property on the Track Road. Dr. Stone is having his property improve by the addition of a large window on the east side of the house. The Lutheran church steeple and parsonage is to be painted and the organ repair. A cement pavement is being put down on the Ehrhart property on Gettysburg Street. Mr. Albert Patterson's property is being extensively improved by a new heating plant, and a cement cellar.

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

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Town Council President Chris Staiger

Hot! Hot! Hot! I guess the only good thing is that you don't have to cut the grass so often... Otherwise, I hope everyone is enjoying their summer! The Community Pool is open with good attendance and in July the Board approved a contract with Paddock Pools to replace the baby pool with a splash garden that should better serve a wider audience with less trouble. Construction begins just after the pool season and the new feature will be available next summer. Town staff also plans to make some improvements to the parking lot that will aid access and circulation.

In response to the Citizens Advisory Committee, the town is pursuing an additional crosswalk at Patterson and West Main Street to complement the existing crosswalk

at Jamison and West Main. We are also requesting an additional crossing guard at Federal and East Main Street to provide protection to children crossing Main Street on the east side of town. The timing of crosswalks at the town square continues to be an issue we discuss with the State Highway Administration.

Due to the recent drop in property assessments you should see a steep reduction in your property tax payment. Most Emmitsburg property owners should see a reduction as much as twenty percent versus last year. Monthly mortgage payments should also decrease due to the need to hold less in escrow. Many neighboring municipalities have increased their tax rates to counteract this drop in property tax assessments. Residents of those

towns will not see their municipal tax bills decrease as we have in Emmitsburg because your Board of Commissioners acted to limit spending to match projected revenues so that no increase was required.

In July, contracts for the new wastewater treatment plant were approved. Pending final approval by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the US Department of Agriculture, groundbreaking could take place as soon as September – with a projected completion date of late 2014. Almost 75% of the total project cost is grant funded while the balance of the cost will be funded by the town through a long term bond issue between two and three percent.

Providing water and sewer service is the largest “business” of the

town. At over \$1,500,000, the costs of those two programs equal the total cost of all other town expenditures – such as the Community Deputies, other employee wages and benefits, and road maintenance. We make sure that user fees are calculated fairly and uphold our responsibility to maintain and improve the system. Water and sewer services are funded primarily by the users of the system – property taxes are not used – and the bills and receipts are managed separately from the general town budget.

The Mayor has been working hard with the Town staff to improve our economic development prospects. One success is that the State has approved our application to join the Maryland Sustainable Communities program. Participa-

tion will allow us to take advantage of a wide range of state programs offering financial support for public, private, and commercial improvement efforts. This program compliments our recent ‘Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area’ grant that will fund efforts to design and implement improvements on the town square. I believe all elected officials are in agreement that this should be a focal point of our efforts at economic redevelopment. The Mayor continues to work with staff to roll out and build upon these successes.

As always, I encourage your participation and input into these projects. Please consider contacting any of your elected officials with questions or comments. Sincerely, Chris Staiger.

From the Desk of County Commissioner Billy Shreve

Our schools – by the numbers

Everyone who knows me knows that I'm a numbers guy. So here's a few numbers for you to contemplate. According to the U.S. Census website Frederick County has a population of 236,745, and of that number we have 40,487 students in 64 schools. Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) employs 5,540 individuals with an annual operating budget of \$516,751,528, spending

an average of \$12,154 for each child in our school system.

In the adopted Frederick County fiscal year 2013 budget of \$471,218,324, half of this amount is dedicated to the Frederick County Board of Education, or \$237,841,221.

The reason that I have given all of these numbers and figures is to give you some insight on the size and the

importance of education in Frederick County. Additionally, this has become a very important topic to me because I am the Board of County Commissioners Liaison to the Board of Education.

When I became the Liaison to the Board of Education earlier this year I made a commitment to be a proactive and vocal part of our education team in Frederick County. I know some people have not been exactly happy with my active involvement, but there's a new sheriff in town!

One of the most aggravating answers I get is when someone tells me that the reason for doing something is because that is how it has always been done. Unfortunately, this is the mindset I have had to work with all too often in government.

I personally strive each and every day to improve myself and to improve my performance in every facet and detail in my life, from my business to my personal life. We need to incorporate that attitude in government as well. I will always challenge staff and leaders to think outside of the box and to look for new and in-

novative solutions to our problems. We can never stop learning about issues as we go through this process. There will always be a better way. Change is constant.

I know that my style has from time to time ruffled a few feathers. But when it comes to a half a billion dollars of public money, and more importantly to more than 40,000 kids in our schools, I will never relent in seeking answers and solutions to benefit and improve our schools.

I do commend all of the hard working teachers and staff in our schools. We have built a great education system in Frederick County.

While some people scream and shout that we are not spending enough on education in Frederick County, I would encourage everyone to look at what we have now. We have a lot of successes that can be easily found on the school systems website, www.fcps.org, and despite the union rhetoric, we have never had a problem hiring teachers in Frederick County.

Frederick County has the second lowest dropout rate in the state and

our graduation rate is among the highest. According to the Center for American Progress 2011 Report, our schools rank in the top tier among Maryland's public schools for Return on Investment. Frederick County schools tied for fourth statewide for educational productivity, with the lowest per-pupil spending of the top four. In my opinion, this is an excellent return on our investment.

Our teachers do an outstanding job in preparing Frederick County students for the workforce. Out of a survey of 1,000 employers, 99% reported that our students were well prepared for their employment.

The 2011 SAT results show the highest participation rate that Frederick County Public Schools has ever achieved and a major increase from prior years: 67% of our seniors took the SAT. Their average combined mean score was 1545, exceeding Maryland's combined score—1492—and the nation's—1500.

And one very big final statistic, Urbana High teacher Michelle Shearer was America's 2011 National Teacher of the Year. Yes, the top teacher in the entire United States of America.

I believe that Frederick County schools and our public education's best days are still ahead of us. We have a lot to be proud of and I intend to be a vocal and active part of that future. I will continue to question how we spend each and every dollar to ensure that we are getting the best bang for our buck. I will seek more and more information and answers on how the school system is addressing maintenance issues, technology replacement and facility needs. I will constantly work to improve the level of education that we impart to the more than 40,000 students in our care.

As the great poet Dylan Thomas stated, I will not go gentle into that good night, but will continually rage against the dying of the light! I believe the education of Frederick County students is just too great and too important to set back and remain silent. I will be heard! And... ask lots of questions.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Blaine Young

Earlier this week I had the opportunity to tour the outside of the newly renovated Lincoln Elementary School on my own. Most of you know that this school, once known as South Frederick Elementary, is located in the City of Frederick just south of the downtown. As one of our older schools, Lincoln was badly in need of renovation.

So thanks to 30 million dollars of taxpayer money, we have a brand spanking new Lincoln Elementary, of which we can be proud. In my mind, this was money well spent. The attitude of the current Board of County Commissioners in allocating scarce tax dollars to renovating old rundown schools and new school construction has been evidenced since the day we took office, and is demonstrated by our commitment to accelerate funding for the upgrade of Oakdale Elementary and North Frederick Elementary.

But what I was shocked to learn this week is that when this beautiful renovated school opens in August it will do so at 73% of its capacity. That's right, after spending 30 million dollars of taxpayer money to renovate a school, the majority our Board of Education is too scared to hold the redistricting hearings which would be necessary to ensure that the taxpayers get the full benefit of this very expensive facility. The timeframe and opening of Lincoln Elementary has not been a secret.

I cannot for the life of me understand how any member of the Board of Education can, in good conscience, continue to lobby for more state and county tax dollars while at the same time the majority of them refuse to take a simple step to make sure that we are fully utilizing the resources we already have. I found it very interesting that recently the President of the Board of Educa-

tion went on the record whining and complaining about future development plans in Frederick County, when the BOE under her leadership (or lack thereof, as I see it) will not make a single tough decision to redistrict students so that our facilities are properly utilized.

It is absolutely criminal of this BOE that they can continue to add portables to Urbana Elementary and Hillcrest Elementary at the same time they will allow Lincoln Elementary to open at 73% of its capacity per the state formula. And it is even more appalling when you realize that the district boundaries for both of those elementary schools either adjoin or are right next to Lincoln Elementary, thereby minimizing the impact on parents and students of a redistricting to spread the capacity out over all three facilities. Elementary schools are the level of schools that have the most

challenges from a capacity standpoint, and therefore the BOE should be especially diligent in seeing to it that we utilize all of our elementary facilities in such a way to minimize the inconvenience to students and parents.

It is one thing for an elected board, like the BOE, to make a wrong decision. At least then they can say they were trying. But it is a complete abrogation of their duty to the taxpayers and to the public when some sit back and do nothing, except complain about what the Commissioners are doing, while portables are being added to schools adjacent or close to a school that is 27% under-utilized.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: If you are going to have an elected school board, you need to have accountability. If the BOE actually had to answer to the taxpayers directly, we might see some more rational and courageous decisions out of them. But

under the current scenario, and particularly under the current BOE leadership, my guess is that things will not change. Instead of action, we will get complaining and continued finger pointing. And instead of sound policy, we will get more putting the problem off to another day.

Speaking only for myself, and not for anyone else, I will tell you that I will continue to not be bashful about telling the school board exactly what I think about their atrocious, slipshod and seemingly disinterested approach to some of their positions. If they didn't want to make tough decisions, they shouldn't have run for office. They did, they're here, and the taxpayers have a right to expect better. I'm sure I will get some type of typical response from this editorial of the same answers of why they could not and how they are being prudent and efficient.

From the Desk of Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

In July the town application to the state for recognition as a Sustainable Community was approved. The coveted designation will bring grants and other benefit opportunities to the town and historic registered area property owners. Additionally a separate application for a \$54,000 Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area grant was approved. The purpose of the grant is for "Preparation of Design to Revitalize the Town Square". Emmitsburg is the only town in the county to receive a Maryland Heritage Area Authority (MHAA) grant and one of only 63 approved project recipients this year. Attaining designation and the grant were key town economic and community development goals set last October after the election. Bringing beautification and revitalization to the Square is the needed nucleus to spawn appreciation throughout the town.

The Square and historic district fall into a category described in part by MHAA as a "Heritage Tourism Site". So how important is tourism?

From a Maryland Department of Planning Press release July 13, 2012:

"Tourism generates jobs and revenue in Maryland. One out of every 17 jobs in Maryland is in tourism, with tourism employment providing over \$4 billion in wages and salaries. Visitors to our state spent over \$13 billion which generated over \$531 million in direct tax revenue in all 23 Counties and Baltimore City. The Maryland Heritage Area Program's targeted investments help preserve the best of Maryland's historic sites and towns, unspoiled natural landscapes, and enduring traditions, and in

doing so create more livable and economically sustainable communities." More tourism is not there for the taking, but certainly worth going after.

Aurora Shooting

Yet another atrocity. Lives ended and precious connections, like fragile capillaries, so quickly severed with families, friends and communities left only to react and somehow accept. From Aurora and the others like it, it's so easy to become hardened and desensitized. But we can't. And in our community we aren't.

As if by a premonition of the Aurora incident, our community was already astir with growing and blooming. Two Saturdays ago at 8 AM at a meeting with Dave Weigelt and Conrad Weaver, Dave said he would like to hold a revival like event in Community Park. It would be non denominational with the intention being to serve to spark people's interest to their preferred ways of worship. He asked me what I thought and I supported it. "Awaken Emmitsburg 2012" will be held in Community Park, August 20 - 26, 7-9 PM. Bring chairs.

From there it was off to John and F.K. Marsh's home in Pembroke Woods where Commissioner Staiger and I were for-

tunate enough to sit in on a neighborhood residents meeting. The topic was the activities of restless youth in the wee hours of the morning. What I got from those in attendance was that responsibility and successful outcome has to begin at home, with support from the town and police. The neighborhood is committed to addressing the issue.

Last Saturday morning Commissioner Staiger and I attended a resident's meeting in Brookfield. A HOA management was the topic. It was a positive meeting and another example of town residents connecting and getting more involved. The community pulse is strong. It has to be.

The actions of the community leading up to the horrific event in Colorado, made it easier for me to accept what I felt as a result of the shootings, because they reminded me, "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."—Romans 5:20. Thank you.

Alas a Power Outage

"After the outage on Tuesday July 24th, the town received the following explanation from First Energy/Potomac Edison:

"You may have noticed there have been several outages in the Emmitsburg area within the past

few weeks. Some of these have been clearly storm and tree related. Yesterday the Town Feeder tripped out of the Emmitsburg Substation. The crew initially patrolled the circuit and found no problem other than a transformer that appeared to have flashed over. The transformer was isolated and the crew attempted to close the circuit—it did not hold. The crew then sectionalized and energized about half the circuit and it did hold. The crew then patrolled downstream and found a span on the center phase that had a little

too much slack in it. It appeared that when the wind would blow it would gallop enough to make contact with a span guy located below it. This problem was corrected yesterday and the circuit energized. We believe this is the source of the problems that have been occurring on the circuit recently."

As a survivor of the recent "outbreak" of outages our energy provider is giving prompt status updates and riding around after the storms, giving our outages prompt attention.



ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED FOR 2012 ELECTION

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners are seeking persons to serve as election judges for the September 25, 2012 election. In accordance with the Emmitsburg Town Code, judges must be registered voters and not hold or be a candidate for any other Emmitsburg public office.

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AUGUST LINE UP

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Aug. 11 - Frederick County Sheriff Chuck Jenkins
Aug. 18 - Maryland Delegate Kathy Alfazi
Aug. 25 - Frederick County Commissioner President Blaine Young
"County Issues"

SEPTEMBER LINE UP

Sept. 1 - Frederick County Commissioner President Blaine Young
"A Run For Governor"
Sept. 8 - Emmitsburg News-Journal Editor Mike Hillman
"Journalism And Sensationalism In Our Current Society"
Sept. 15 - Thurmont Mayor Marty Burns & Thurmont Ambassador Timmy Bentz

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Jim Martin

The year 2012 is a milestone year for a special group of people. Several weeks ago on the square of Gettysburg and in Biglerville this special group, 4-H of Pennsylvania, celebrated their 100th anniversary by sharing free ice cream and cake with the community. The 4-H was founded in PA in 1912 and has grown to be an important part of the lives of youth and adults. By partnering with caring adults, 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential through working and learning. This mentoring partnership inspires young people to learn and grow by doing; it is a "hands on" philosophy. Through its numerous programs, members learn leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

Recently I attended a regional 4-H camp, and it was evident that the young people were developing many life skills. They showed self-confidence, accountability, responsibility, respect and the value of setting and achieving goals. Did you know that Lamar Alexander, a Tennessee U.S. Senator, is a former 4-H club member who was given the opportunity to develop his life skills in the 4-H environment? For information about membership and opportunities, call (717) 334-6271 and ask for a 4-H representative.

Come see the 4-H in action at the Annual South Mountain Fair on August 21, 2012. August 21st is 4-H day at the South Mountain Fairgrounds, located a short distance west of Arendtsville, PA along PA Route 234. A complete fair guide is available at the Adams County, Penn State Extension office, which is the headquarters for Adams County 4-H. Their phone number is (717) 334-6271, if you need more details. I hope to see you at the 90th Annual South Mountain Fair August 21-25, 2012, for great families, great fun, and great food.

I discuss the Adams County 4-H not only because this is their 100th Anniversary, but it brings to light that 4-H represents something very important. That is, the value of good decision making

which leads to achieving honorable goals and wholesome results. Many young people and adults today are making poor decisions that result in damaged lives, for which we as a county must seek to find solutions. The County's Children and Youth Services and Juvenile Probation have to deal daily with truancy, drugs, and alcohol problems associated with young people. Not only are we trying to restore lives that are on a destructive path, but also there is a great financial burden placed upon the state and county in confronting the issues. The solution is difficult, but the answer is simple, change the heart and changed lives will follow. But, until that happens we regularly deal with the symptoms.

If you are involved in ministries or outreach organizations that provide positive direction for our young people, do not quit. Your efforts are truly valuable and a worthy investment of your time in the future of many lives and our county. If you see or know of a struggling young person, perhaps you are the one who can make the difference in that individual's life. Let's pray that God will give us the wisdom to guide and instruct our young people to make wise decisions concerning their lives.

Recently I attended the 2012 Nation Association of Counties conference. One of the focuses of the leadership for the coming year will be the evaluation of alternative programs to reduce the rate of incarceration of non-violent offenders, many who are DUI or drug offenders. I agree, it is time to place heavier focus on this matter, not only to correct offenders' behavior, but to cut the cost to our prison system to house non-violent offenders. In search of alternative programs, the county will be evaluating the adult division of the Teen Challenge rehabilitation program. The average age of participants in the program is 37 and this program offers a 78% success rate. There are a number of counties in Pennsylvania successfully using this program at no cost to the county. Several Adams County inmates

have already expressed an interest in getting details about the program. By the way, it is not a simple short-term program. It is a volunteer program that requires a commitment of 14 consecutive months to complete.

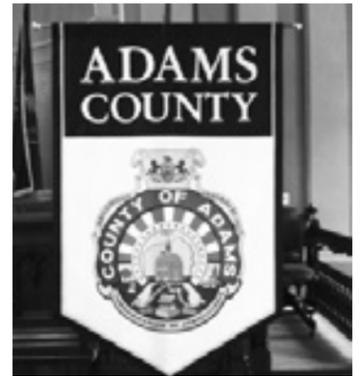
The magnitude of the DUI situation is noted in a recent FBI report. It shows that 1.4 million people are arrested annually for driving under the influence. Recidivism is frequent. On average, 36% of those on probation or parole, and 66% of those incarcerated are repeat, hardcore drunk drivers. Not only is this a serious safety concern, but economic conditions over the last several years have increased the number of defendants who are unable to post bond; this increases prison populations and the average time of incarceration.

To deal with this dilemma, electronic monitoring, GPS tracking, house arrest-curfew monitoring and Continuous Alcohol Monitoring are being seen as cost-effective options for balancing community safety and offender accountability. By employing these programs, research indicates that savings of \$71.00/day in incarceration cost could be achieved. Obviously this is something that merits review by county officials and the courts.

Also along the lines of public safety, the new county-wide

emergency radio system project is presently going through the Technical Review Stage. This review is part of the implementation process. It requires approximately 14 days of detailed analysis to determine if the proposed/original design needs to be refined and/or modified based upon any recent findings. Once this is complete, the physical implementation of the construction process will follow. To insure that the project moves forward as intended, a local work group of area professionals, including the county commissioners, meets monthly to review the progress. We, the county commissioners, thank these individuals for their valuable volunteer service to Adams County and their dedication to a successful project.

Another project of interest to county residents is the Belmont Bridge construction. Recently the county commissioners attended a construction update conference with engineers and the contractor. By the time this article is published the north and south foundational aprons should be near completion or completed. The contractor anticipates that by Labor Day the main supporting structure spanning the railroad cut will be in place. Barring any significant weather interruptions and materi-



al delays, it is likely that the bridge will be open by Thanksgiving, 2012.

I will close with one reminder and an announcement. The reminder is, the 90th Annual South Mountain Fair will be from August 21st to August 25th. There is FREE parking and children 12 and under have FREE admission. Come see what is new and enjoy FREE entertainment. In ending, I want to announce that by the time you read this article, Adams County will have an official County Banner presented as a gift to the county from its designer Bob McIlhenny and the Adams County Commissioners. This banner is a handsome symbol of the rich history of Adams County and a bold display of the Coat-of-Arms and Seal of the County of Adams. It will be displayed in the County's Ceremonial Court Room.

From the Desk of State Representative Dan Moul

As a member of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee, I am pleased that Gov. Tom Corbett recently signed legislation that I sponsored to increase tourism revenue in Adams County.

Act 142 will permit the county to raise the ceiling on its hotel room tax to generate more revenue for tourism promotion. The law amends a section of the County Code to give the Adams County commissioners the authority to increase the maximum hotel room tax from 3 percent to 5 percent. The measure could generate as much as \$800,000 in additional revenue for tourism promotion, marketing and administration.

The legislation also permits the county to deduct a small fee from

the tax revenue collected to defray the cost of collection and administration of the tax, and to conduct at least one annual audit of the hotel operators.

The greater Gettysburg and Adams County area is a significant tourism destination. The battlefield and other attractions draw millions of visitors to our area every year, which stimulates job growth and our local economy. This new law gives the county commissioners some flexibility in determining how it will meet its funding needs for tourism promotion.

I introduced another bill that will aid the tourism industry in Adams County and all of Pennsylvania. The House Liquor Control Committee recently held a public hearing at Hauser

Estate Winery in Biglerville, Adams County, to consider my bill to create a "wine only" license for restaurants. The special class of license proposed in House Bill 1489 would expand the market for the 187 limited wineries throughout Pennsylvania.

A wine only license would provide a significant boost to Pennsylvania's limited wineries and the state's tourism industry. My legislation would encourage restaurant owners to serve and promote locally produced wines. This would increase tourism revenues and strengthen the state's growing wine industry.

The bill has the support of the Pennsylvania Wine Association (PWA). Association President Jonathan Patrono said such a law would give Pennsylvania wineries more outlets for their products and produce additional tax revenue for the Commonwealth. According to Patrono, Pennsylvania wineries host more than 1 million visitors annually and pump an estimated \$2.4 billion into the state's economy.

We still have a lot of work to do to ensure that this legislation will not have an adverse impact on existing licensees who have made a significant investment in their licenses. My goal is to promote further growth in the state's wine industry and my bill is a good start. More hearings are planned.

We would like to apologize for any recent errors at the Silo Hill Car Wash.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

Form the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Wow! Had a pre-July 4th celebration when at 10:55 pm we welcomed our newest granddaughter, Avery Cassandra Harris. Mom, Emily and Scott, father obviously did not attend on the 4th. Don't know where you were on July 4th but the place to be was at Carroll Valley Commons. The celebration ending with a 25 minute fireworks display on top of Ski Liberty Mountain was a tremendous success with an attendance of over 2,000 people during the day and more in the evening.

This "family picnic" which only attracted approximately 500 people back in 2006 has evolved into what they call today a "Happening". The success of the day would not have been achieved without the continued involvement of many individuals and local businesses. It is through their participation that we were able to enjoy the day. Special thanks go to the Carroll Valley Municipal Services crew: Steve Fitez, Bruce Pecher, Jack Ringler, Donny Shaffer, Sterling Shuyler, and Terry Weikert for their tireless efforts preparing the Carroll Valley Commons for the day's event. I would like to thank the members of the July 4th (J4) Planning Group who planned the event under the leadership of Gayle Marthers over a period of a year. The Planning Group members are: Brenda Colesanti, Emily Cost, Charles Dalton, Mary Ellen Jester, Robert Jester, Gayle Marthers, Larry Noel, Dan Sanders, Marie Schwartz, Tim Skoczen, Jay Stroup, James Whittington and Chuck Whitlow. I would also like to express my appreciation to the following individuals for making it such a special day: Dave Baker, Amanda Bell, Mandra Jester, Carl Keller and Family, Clayton Lynch, William McCleaf Jr. and family, Charlee Marthers, Councilman Bill Reinke and Pastor Dale Williams.

I would like to also recognize the generosity of our Fireworks Major

Sponsors: Adams Electric Cooperative Inc., Borough of Carroll Valley, and Liberty Mountain Resort & Conference Center. I would like to bring attention to our other special contributors: ACNB, Alexander's Plumbing/Heating, Amvets Post 172, Buchanan Automotive Inc., Carma Industrial Coatings, Carroll Valley Citizens Association, Comcast, CRS Insurance, Emmitsburg Vigilant Hose Company, Fairfield Amvets, Fairfield Area School District, Fairfield Borough, Fairfield Boy Scout Troop 76, Fairfield Fire & EMS, Fountaindale Fire Company, Hamiltonban Township, Harrington's Service, Harrington and Sons, Herring School Bus, Inc., ISP Minerals Inc., KPI Technology, Larry Bishop Electric, L&S Furniture, Lockwood Business Support, Mike Ball State Farm, Park's Garbage Service Inc., School Safaris Inc., SGI, Shealer's Septic Tank Service, Sites Realty, Strawberry Hill Nature Center, The Benecon Group, The Carriage House, and Taverna 5450.

Finally, I personally again would like to express my appreciation to Gayle Marthers who managed the day's event to a successful completion and to Dave Hazlett, our Borough Manager, for his outstanding managerial and technical skill in preparing all the marketing information, raising funds for the event and in creating a very attractive and intuitive July 4th website. He is definitely a "Man for All Seasons"! If interested, visit the July 4th website at www.cvjuly4th.com or www.ronpictures.net to view the pictures taken that day.

It seems that in July and August there a number of special days set aside for one kind of ice cream or another. So following this thread, be sure to celebrate August 2nd, National Ice Cream Sandwich day. I remember as a kid on the East Harlem streets of New York in the 1940s sitting on the stoop after playing some stick ball and having an ice cream

sandwich. Oh, those were the days. On August 4th, we honor the U.S Coast Guard which is the military branch that protects our waters and shorelines. The original name of the U.S. Coast Guard was the Revenue Cutter Service. It was created in 1790 and there was a fleet of ten cutters. Their responsibility was to enforce U.S. tariff laws. The title "Coast Guard" was first used in 1915. If you didn't have time to enjoy that ice cream sandwich on the August 2nd, you have another opportunity on August 10th which is Lazy Day. No one knows who the creator was. They were probably enjoying the day being lazy. August 28th we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King. This was the day that Dr. King gave his famous speech "I Have a Dream" on the steps of Lincoln Memorial. On your next trip to Washington D.C., you may want to visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. For more information visit www.mlkmemorial.org.

Carroll Valley Borough Police will again be hosting National Night Out at the Carroll Valley Commons, 5685 Fairfield Road on Tuesday, August 7th from 5-8 pm. Visitors are encouraged to bring their fire extinguishers to be examined, children may bring their bikes and helmets for a bike rodeo, K-9 demonstration at 6 pm and 7 pm, STET MEDEVAC landing if available at 5 pm; child identification packets and fingerprinting; Children's games; Fire and police displays; counseling services; food and much more. FREE admission and FREE hot dog, drink & chips for children 12 and under. National Night Out is a time to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The children should see our police officers as people who can help them in their time of need. I do hope you take the time to come and join us.

Troop 76 Life Scout Austin

Stroup is leading the construction of a Fitness/Jogging Trail for the FEMA/EMI Training Center located in Emmitsburg, MD. Construction started on June 3rd and the Scouts have been working on it every weekend since. As the project leader, Austin Stroup has been planning this project with Mr. Perry Joy, Chief Executive for the Support Service Branch at FEMA, since last January. The Fitness Trail is about one quarter mile and runs along the perimeter fence northwest of the training center compound (along US Route 15). The trail contains four (4) fitness stations for Firefighters, Rescue, EMT, fire and emergency management students, FEMA staff and faculty to use and stay in shape. Upon completion, Austin Stroup plans to dedicate the Fitness Trail to the Firefighters and Rescue Personnel of the United States of America.

Are you interested about when the bridge on Rt. 116 going into Gettysburg will be completed? Based on the information received, the bridge should be completed in February 2013 and fully open to traffic. The contractor will come back in the Spring to do final paving. The final projected completion date is May 1, 2013. Hope this information helps you get around. Are you aware that a Farmers' Market is trying to get started in Carroll Valley? The Farmers' Market is open on Thursdays from 2 to 7 PM at the Carroll Commons. It has been difficult to lure vendors without knowing how many patrons are going to

come. Please, if you like the idea of having a Farmer's Market in Carroll Valley, come out on Thursdays. The more patrons buying fresh, local vegetables and fruits, the more vendors will come and setup shop.

On a personal note, I would like to share with you something that happen to me. My rationale is by sharing this information; it may help others (especially the guys). On July 1st while watching television I experienced "double vision", that is, seeing two TVs instead of one. Naturally, being who I am (a guy), I thought I strained my eyes. Four days later I was told by a neurologist that I had a brain-stem stroke. Now the medical community is running me through a series of tests to determine what caused it. The lesson I learned is twofold. If you experience double vision, go to the emergency room immediately even if you are not experiencing any pain. Second, and I think most important, you never know what the next moment is going to bring. Be sure to tell those around you whether they are co-workers, friends or family, how you feel. Let them know. I would like to say to everyone how I enjoy serving you as Mayor of Carroll Valley. The Borough meetings for August are: Planning Commission (Aug 6th), Borough Council (Aug 14th) and the Parks and Recreation Committee (Aug 22nd). If you have any questions, call me at (301) 606-2021 or email at mayor@carrollvalley.org. Please slow down when driving in the Valley.

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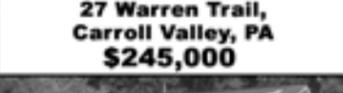
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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

The budget is fixed if Congress takes a holiday

Shannon Bohrer

For the last several months I have been writing and offering solutions about taxes and the deficit crisis. In fact, I was so pleased with my proposed solutions that I half expected to receive a few telephone calls from some expert economist stating that they would use some of the ideas to save the world's economy. Well, imagine my surprise when someone told me that the problem was already solved earlier this year? I was told that the CBO (Congressional Budget Office) did some calculations and, if congress did nothing for the next 10 years, we would end up with a balanced budget. Not that I disbelieved this, but I did some research of my own and found a news article about the CBO and their prediction: "If congress does nothing – literally nothing – and lets all laws play out as they are currently written in the books, the budget deficient over the next decade virtually disappears." The forecast was released on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. Instead of looking for

something to cut and/or a way to raise revenue, if congress does not meet for the next 10 years, the budget deficient will no longer be a problem.

This information offered me a different perspective. I have always thought of Congress as two people in a row boat, each facing in a different direction and each rowing in opposite directions, and of course the boat just goes in continuous circles. In this comparison, just letting the boat drift can and will create a better outcome. As Will Rogers once said, "This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when the baby gets hold of a hammer." Of course we then have the problem of how to keep Congress out of Washington. Since they don't show up that often—and when they do, they don't accomplish much—one would think that would not be a big problem.

In some ways, this new information appeared too good to be true. So, I conducted some additional research and found out that the CBO's estimates also included some unintended consequences. One such consequence

is a massive cut in Medicare payments. Apparently, since 1997 Congress has been adding money to Medicare for the "Doc Fix." If Congress does not adjust the payments, many doctors won't accept Medicare patients. Well, since I am on Medicare, this is a big problem. Maybe Congress could meet just to add the "Doc Fix?" According to another article, a large problem currently looming is the automatic budget cuts that are suppose to go into effect at the end of this year. According to the experts, the automatic budget cuts will devastate the military. Maybe Congress could take that up before they decide not to meet for 10 years. And yet another problem is the automatic increases in taxes. I don't mind if the rich people are taxed more, but I am semi-retired, I need what I earn. Maybe congress not meeting for 10 years in not as good as it sounds, well maybe... I'm thinking....

"I always thought of congress as two people in a row boat, each facing in a different direction and each rowing in opposite directions, and of course the boat

just goes in circles."

You know, sometimes you start in one direction and you think you know where you're going, but when you get there, it's not where you wanted to go. It does sound nice that Congress would be on vacation for 10 years, of course they would still want a salary. It also sounds nice that our annual deficit would all but be eliminated, that is except for the "Doc Fix," the military budget, my tax breaks, and I am sure something else would need attention. However, the largest elephant is still in the room—our national debt. The annual budget deficit is large, but our national debt is larger. You see, the budget prediction only eliminates the annual budget deficit in 10 years, not the debt, which is the accumulation of our annual budget deficits. Of course that means that for an additional 10 years, we are not paying down the debt and in fact we are still adding to it. This problem is much larger than we thought.

If we owe \$15 trillion now, how much will be owe in 10 years? I was unable to find the

answer, but I am sure it would be substantially more. I though each party would be able to take their oars out of the water and just drift down stream and that would fix our problem. Simply drifting does not even come close to the answer. Apparently, we need both parties working together and rowing to go in the same direction. Oh, and they need to be moving upstream at a good speed. The more I think about it, the more I think we may have a big problem. How bad do things have to be before Congress works together, rowing in the same direction and does so in our interest?

As was written by David Leonhart, in the New York Times, "As countries become richer, their citizens tend to want more public services, be it strong military, or a decent safety net in retirement. This country is no exception. Yet our political culture is an exception. It has made most tax increases, even to pay for benefits people want, unthinkable." If David is right, we could be in real trouble. For some strange reason, I still like the idea of not having Congress meet for 10 years, at least as part of the fix.

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

View From the Track

What happened to us?

Kip Hamilton

Next month we'll be celebrating the U.S. worker in typical American fashion by making the season-ending trip to the beach. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. Some say that Labor Day was the brainchild of Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), who first suggested a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

In a demonstration of the sovereignty of the states at the time, it took 12 more years for 32 additional states to formally recognize the celebration of the American craftsman. In October of 1894, Congress adopted the national holiday we all look forward to today. The time of

the American Industrial Revolution, 1820-1870 saw tremendous advances in both the labor force and technology; for example, the trans-continental railroad was completed in 1869. The crown jewel of the American worker was the construction of the Empire State building. The tallest building in the world at its completion, it was finished 4 months early - in just 14 months, and came in at a little over 1/2 of the budgeted cost. Can you imagine that?

What the heck has happened to us?

In less than four generations we have gone from being the world's industrial powerhouse to the world's entitlement powerhouse. We have morphed from the largest manufacturing giant on the planet to the largest debtor nation the world has ever known. An October, 2011 New York Times article asks, "What Happened to the American Work Ethic?" What, indeed? Hard work used to be the cornerstone of our national identity. Our great grandparents often performed back-breaking manual labor in the heat, and in cold, dusty, dirty, smelly, unsafe conditions. The half of our current society that is still working now couldn't last a day or two in conditions our

ancestors found normal. We have become addicted to comfort; a less-hardy people than they were.

In an attempt to offer temporary support to a few, we now find ourselves in a society where almost a full half of the population is living off support funded by the half that's still working. We have made it more attractive for individuals to live off of others, rather than support themselves. I remember a time when folks who were receiving financial aid from the government were whispered about like those who had... c-a-n-c-e-r... It was something that was embarrassing and one only took government assistance as a last resort. Now, we have made it a way of life.

There are multiple generations of American citizens and others who know no other way to live. They make it their business to game the system. These people are not needy; they are just not interested in working. And why would they, if they can get the same amount in support or "disability" payments that they could make by working and they don't even have to break a sweat? We know this is happening. Why in the world do we allow it to continue? They are living off of OUR money. It's not "Obama Money" as that igno-

rant woman said a few years ago. It's money that we have traded portions of our lives for and sent off to the government. The next time you drive along one of our crappy roads or cross a deteriorating bridge or have one of your kid's teachers send home a list of supplies needed for the classroom, just remember the TRILLIONS of OUR dollars that the government fritters away every year.

So what's the answer? Let's start by everyone taking responsibility for themselves. Once that's done, we'll band together as individuals to care for those among us who still need some help. It's not the government's job to take care of the needy. They are the responsibility of *We the People*. Why? Because we Americans are good and decent people; that's why.

Next, make preparations for yourself for bad times, just like our grandparents did, so that when difficult times come, and they most-assuredly will, that you will not be a burden on someone else. How much extra food is in your pantry? Do you even have a pantry? Many of us are on wells here. What will you do for water if you have no electricity? Don't think it could happen? You should speak to my dad who lives in one of the most affluent areas in suburban Maryland and was out of power for over five days as a result of a recent night of storms. Without power, how would you

cook? How would you illuminate your home at night? Stay in touch with your family and friends? What if it's winter? If the banks are closed and you cannot use your credit cards or an ATM, do you have cash at home? Do you have extra gas for your car? A generator? If you have made sufficient provisions for yourself and your family, you will also be in a better position to help others, as well.

We have grown so accustomed to things being the way they have always been, Normalcy Bias, some say that the catastrophic event that will occur will be that much more devastating to the vast majority of the population who have made no plans to take care of themselves and are not mentally and emotionally ready.

Probably the best thing you could do is get to know your neighbors. If you are not a member of a larger religious or social organization, now is the time to fix that. Forget Facebook...I'm talking real Facetime with real people just like in the good old days. And just like they did in the "olden days", when there is trouble, it will be the community's circling the wagons and pitching in together to help each other which will make the difference.

Our time is running out...

To read past editions of View From the Track visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Pure OnSense

Syria & Russia's perverse politics

Scott Zuke

As Americans grapple with the recent act of senseless domestic violence in Colorado, people in Syria are facing mass atrocities at the hands of their own government on a daily basis. The conflict, now increasingly referred to as a civil war, has claimed more than 19,000 lives and has illuminated the global community's lack of options for intervention.

In July, for the third time since the crisis unraveled, Russia, along with China, vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that would have threatened non-military sanctions against President Bashar al-Assad's regime unless it took steps to implement a peace plan proposed by Kofi Annan. Meanwhile, the situation in Syria is nothing short of horrific. Security forces have gone from shelling residential areas to using heavy artillery, tanks, warplanes, and ruthless, armed gangs to systematically assault and pillage neighborhoods. Tens of thousands of refugees have fled across the borders into neighboring countries, with many more internally displaced. Reporters, unable to access the most embattled areas, rely on videos posted to YouTube to document the escalating violence. The clips are filled with im-

ages of corpses, distant explosions, and the lightly armed rebel forces attempting to wage a war against a Syrian army using advanced weapons technology bought from Russia.

It is not surprising that Russia has continually sided with Assad, given that Syria is one of Russia's most important and lucrative arms buyers, but their alliance goes deeper than that. In terms of geopolitics, Syria is to Russia what Israel is to the United States—a lone ally and strategic foothold in the Middle East. There is also the issue of upholding national sovereignty as an unimpeachable law to prevent countries from intervening in others' internal affairs, a guiding principle championed by China that has caught on among today's modern authoritarian regimes in Russia, Cuba, Venezuela and elsewhere. Russia and China abstained from a Security Council vote that paved the way for the NATO-led operation against Libya that led to the fall of Muammar Qaddafi, and they are determined not to allow this to become standard operating procedure.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to understand why Russia has continued to make a spectacle of its resistance to Western efforts to end the crisis when it is so obviously sacrificing any semblance of moral high

ground to do so. The Putin regime has repeatedly called the opposition fighters "terrorists," despite the fact that it is Assad's forces who are systematically slaughtering children and employing artillery fire against civilian neighborhoods. The power between the two sides is completely asymmetrical, but the Russian delegation continues to portray rebel forces as the aggressors spurring a civil revolt, against the will of the people.

A plausible explanation was recently offered by David Kramer and Lilia Shevtsova, writing for *The American Interest*, who suggest that Putin's foreign policy is directly tied into his domestic political agenda and his strategy for maintaining public support for his authoritarian regime. "To reproduce personalized power with global aspirations," they write, "the Kremlin has to contain America and undermine the American order wherever possible—in Russia's own neighborhood or in other parts of the world." Russia's successful diplomatic blockade against America and the Western world's efforts in the Security Council may have been carried out mainly for the purpose of demonstrating to the Russian people that it could still significantly alter the course of international policy. Nevermind the plight of the Syrian people, who after holding on for over a year have given up hoping for the UN to come to an agreement on how

to help end the conflict.

"I hate losing," said the protagonist in last year's film, *Mon-ebyball*. "I hate losing even more than I wanna win." Mr. Putin's twisted and reprehensible version would read: "I want my opponents to lose even more than I want to win." It is a sign of the absurd state of politics in Russia that scoring points against the US by preventing international intervention against mass atrocity is meant to bolster Putin's image. Mere absurdity, however, would actually be better than the actual path down which the newly-elected president is taking his country.

In the span of only a few months, Putin has engineered an all-out meltdown of civil and political liberties for the Russian people. Through completely legal procedures in the legislature, which his party controls, he has backed new laws that assault the freedoms of speech and expression, freedom of assembly, freedom on the internet, and freedom of the press. It began with a law that would apply fines to protestors and protest organizers who attend unsanctioned demonstrations that equal or exceed the average Russian citizen's annual salary. It will hold organizers responsible for any violence that occurs, a stinging liability since it is frequently pro-government thugs who initiate aggression.

More recently, another law was passed that will force many hu-

man rights NGOs to register as "foreign agents"—a label intended to evoke Soviet-era fears of covert interference from US spies—and will threaten them with fines and closure if they fail to regularly submit detailed reports on their finances. The law was hastily written and passed, and had to be amended at the last minute when it was learned that the Russian Orthodox Church would classify as a "foreign agent" under the text because it accepts donations from abroad.

And finally, another law was quickly passed through the Duma to establish a blacklist of Russian-language websites, ostensibly to crack down on such illegal content as child pornography. Rights groups, including a special advisory panel created by and for the office of the Russian president, objected that the wording was too vague, and left the door wide open to allow for censorship of opposing political views.

Putin has taken up a strong posture against the US since resuming his presidency, vowing to retaliate against any plans to infringe on Russia's sovereignty. So far, though, every punch he's thrown has landed on either his own people, or on Syrians already facing annihilation from their own government.

Follow Scott on Twitter at @smzuke.

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

Down Under

And that's the truth

Submitted by Lindsay!
Melbourne, Australia

That a lie which is all a lie may be met and fought with outright, but a lie which is part a truth is a harder matter to fight.

—Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 'The Grandmother', 1859

Fahrenheit 451 is a book by Ray Bradbury about books and their burning. 451 degrees is the auto-ignition temperature of paper, and the story tells of the destruction of the written word because it caused unhappiness to minority groups and governments. The last thing any ruling body wants is for their past promises, dirty deeds, deals and mismanagement to be headline news - or even the object of academic study. Nor do they wish to see the history of proletarian struggle and reform taught to those who may, as a result, begin to rebel. Instead, they aim to get their citizens hooked on 'factoids', packets of words supposedly true, but mostly coined for convenience by those who hold that power is the ultimate aim and reward.

These 'Fool's Facts' are generally devoid of real truth and meaning, but produce strong emotive

responses because of brainwashing by the media: Fear, loathing, disgust and cynicism about what they consider bad, and hero-worship, envy, syrupy hope and misplaced trust about the 'good' things. A few decades ago we here in Australia elected a prime minister who had school history books revised to remove things we should not be taught because they 'did not reflect the truth'. Of course, that is exactly what they did do, but truth is destructive, truth helps remove the pus and stench of secret deals; truth, as the saying has it, sets us free. That is something politicians do not want their citizens to have, for they offer something far better: The appearance of truth, the factoid of believability, the delusion of democracy and the illusion of freedom.

Now, with the almost universal use of electronic communication, the challenge for governments has not been to burn books, but to doctor and distort the net so that the same result is achieved. From being the supposed saviour of free speech and the exchange of lucid, meaningful information, the internet and its spawns have byte bites, little misdirections, opinion shaping 'truths', all in the name of safety, protection, and the good of society. And they have it stitched

up very nicely, because if you dare to question the 'facts' as presented, or publish classified information, (millions of documents are classified because they may have a bearing on clandestine deals, the support of dictators, bribery, and other less savory things), you will be hounded, jailed, tortured and ridiculed.

When it is all boiled down, we are left with the fact that it is big business that runs the United States of America, corporations whose aim is to dominate as much of the world as they can, and have the government support them. Privatisation has become an unchecked cancer, unchecked because its public image has been papered over, has gone to the beauty salon, had elocution lessons, and looks real pretty. But underneath - oh my, it's not pretty at all.

Big business is not liberal, it is conservative. It thrives when government is also conservative, because the checks and balances that keep them in line are then dismantled, and factoid number one is unleashed: 'Reduce the size of Government, reduce taxation, everyone can make it on their own.' And the more right wing a country is, the more it actively dislikes its citizens.

You disagree? Consider this: there are about 7.5 million Americans currently under correctional supervision. That means some 3.1% of the population is in jail, 85% of whom are there for victimless crimes. There is nowhere

else in the world that anything approaching this percentage is reached; the total number of citizens in jails outside America is only just above the American total. It is in the interests of the incarceration business to expand this number, as that is how they make their profits, as well as being the mindset of many conservatives who fear for their way of life and wish to hide any stark reality.

On the world scale of suicide rates, America is 11th overall, and third for the 15-24 age group. Suicide rates go up under Republican administrations and down under Democrat administrations. Why? Because Democrats have a greater awareness of the plight many of their citizens are in, and with a little more social service reduce their feeling of hopelessness.

America is by far the biggest consumer in the world of illegal drugs. 42% of the population has used marijuana, 16% cocaine, 3% heroin; the graphs of age and longevity versus use are horrifying. It is indeed no country for old men - or women. The war on drugs has had no positive impact - how can it, when sections of government are involved in the supply? When truly gargantuan cartels have a stranglehold on production and distribution, with almost complete immunity from real action being taken against them?

Americans are the world's biggest consumers of tobacco; there are more deaths by civilian gunshot than anywhere else; it is the

most obese society on earth. And, apart from some reformers who run up against concerted discrediting, little has been done to redress any of these diseases.

It is the shame of your country, yet I know quite a few of you who are truly wonderful, caring people - from all aspects of politics - who have accepted the factoids, falsehoods and figments as the whole truth and nothing but it. Factoids, to be honest, are addictive, as they take little careful thought or analysis. In a society of speed and high priority, a factoid is easily and quickly digested, then regurgitated as the truth it isn't. There are those, too, who have written in the darkest of prose about these matters - Noam Chomsky for one - and who have had their writings published.

This, to me, is the one great hope - that although the fight against the forces of corporate insatiable greed is not going well, that liberal governments have to fight hard, and get lucky, to have even minor reforms such as the health bill passed into law, the ability and the right to speak out against the dark forces is still there.

Freedom of speech, as John Stuart Mill observed, is one of man's inalienable rights. Possibly the last of them, and therefore the most precious. Let's defend it to the hilt and forever as we seek to help the truth shine forth.

To read past editions of *Down Under* visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).

PASTOR'S DESK

Do pets go to heaven?

Pastor Wade Martin

How many of you have pets? Well way back when I was a little boy my parents surprised my brothers and I with a little puppy for Christmas. Marty was a peek-a-poo, half Pekinese and half poodle. We enjoyed him for many years. Then one day Marty ran away and we never saw him again. Now Marty was over 10 years old and ill when he left home. He wasn't known as a wanderer so my parents spent days looking for him. But we never did see him again.

My parents offered the explanation that perhaps Marty knew he was dying and didn't want to put us through any grief or trouble so he left home to die peacefully somewhere else. Quit frankly I couldn't think of a better explanation, so I accepted that explanation and still do to this day. Every now and then I think of Marty and I wonder if I will ever see him again, will I see Marty in heaven?

That brings us to our topic and question for today. Do pets go to heaven?

This question is one that I think many a pet owner has asked, if not aloud, quietly to themselves. I know some of you have asked this question of me in recent months.

Well sooner or later, for pet own-

ers, any discussion of pet loss comes around to this question. Lengthy articles have been written on both sides of the argument. An ABC News poll showed that 47% of pet owners believed the answer was yes that pets do go to heaven, and 35% said "no".

Christians tend to find this question particularly difficult, because we want to base "answers" to any spiritual question on the authority of the Bible. Consequently, most discussions of this question turn into scripture-slinging contests, addressing the issue of whether animals have "souls," can they be "redeemed," so on and so forth.

But the problem is scripture doesn't offer a definitive answer to this question. And there's a reason for this; it's not simply God's perverse decision to leave thousands of pet owners in the dark. Perhaps the reason the Bible is silent on this issue is because the Bible is about human redemption; it's a book about the choices humans must make.

And if pets do go to heaven it isn't due to anything you or I do to "get" them there — so perhaps it's no surprise that the Bible contains no specific answers for us on the matter.

Also, silence on the subject doesn't mean a negative answer either. The Bible is silent on many things, leaving us with a number of questions that we must explore and resolve using the hearts and

minds that God gave us — seeking an answer that's rooted, not in theology and doctrine, but in reason, love, and our personal experiences with God.

So what I hope to offer today is not a "hard answer" to the question because quit frankly I can't, but I do hope to provide a framework within which you can choose your own answer, based on your ability to reason and your understanding of God's love.

The Christian concept of heaven is linked with the concepts of salvation, redemption, and resurrection. Christians don't believe that "going to heaven" happens automatically; it's the result of conscious faith decisions made during one's life.

And while the Bible is very specific about the requirements for human salvation, it says nothing about salvation for animals. So this has led some folks to assume that, since animals can't be "saved," they can't possibly go to heaven.

However, another way to look at this question is to recall why the Bible states that redemption is "necessary" for humans. In scriptural terms, humans are "fallen" beings. Humans have free will, and therefore the ability to choose between good and evil. Humans can choose salvation and heaven, or choose to reject both.

Animals, however, have never "fallen" — and if one has not fallen, it's not at all clear that the step of "redemption" is necessary. Animals can't "choose" between good and evil; when animals behave badly in our homes, it is generally because of a conflict between their God-given natures and our human requirements. Animals have no need to be saved because they aren't considered "sinners."

This doesn't mean that we can necessarily assume that because animals have no "sin," they're automatically received into heaven. What it does mean is that the whole issue of "redemption" simply doesn't apply.

Whether animals go to heaven or not, the question of "redemption" is

not the basis for letting them in — or keeping them out.

Another common argument against the notion that pets go to heaven is that "animals don't have souls." Again, the Bible isn't exactly clear on this, so the question is not answerable on a strictly scriptural basis.

Lets consider heaven for a moment. What do you believe heaven is like? If you ask this question of most people, you're likely to get a description of a glorious garden, filled with beautiful trees and radiant flowers, with sparkling waters and soft breezes. Very few people imagine heaven as some sort of giant, sterile concrete parking lot, devoid of life.

We base our image of heaven on the beauties of the creation we live in now. And just as I can't imagine a heaven without plants, neither can I imagine one without animals. Whether or not animals have souls, I'm convinced there are animals in heaven. After all, God created all the creatures of the earth on the fifth and sixth days of creation, right before the creation of humanity.

You know God has a purpose for every part of his creation and I believe God uses pets to help humans learn about God's love and faithfulness. When I enter my house after being gone all day, the one thing I can count on is being greeted by my dog Molly with her slobbery tongue of love.

From our pets, we also learn mercy, compassion, patience, and understanding — and we also learn what it means to receive unconditional love. If pets are a means by which we are taught about love, must we assume that once we have learned the lesson, we're then forced to lose that love forever?

Are we to assume that God, the author of love, has so little compassion for us that He first gives us pets to love and pets to love us only later to say, "Oh well, I know that you really loved that little dog or precious cat I sent your way, but rules are rules so you won't see them again"? I don't believe that. God is a God of love and he wouldn't give us love one day, only to take it away permanently on another.

Now while I may wonder about whether I'll be reunited with my pets in heaven, I am certain of one thing: My pets aren't wondering the same thing. Theology is only of interest to those who wonder about choices.

Our pets live in the now, not in the next week; they deal with what is, not what might be, or could be, or should be. Pets don't ask, "What comes next?" This is a human question, based on human grief.

I firmly believe that God takes care of all his creation including the animals of this world. So when I ask whether I'm going to meet my dog again, I'm asking for my sake, out of my grief — not because I feel I have to worry that God will forget to look after my dog if I don't remind Him. I ask, because I want to know if my loss is eternal or temporary.

Would heaven be a wonderful place — would it truly be "paradise" — if our pets weren't there? For many, the answer is "no" — and obviously, God knows this! Placing restrictions on

what can or can't be in heaven is a fruitless exercise, much like debating how a camel can go through the eye of a needle; no one has brought back a report of what's in heaven, and sooner or later we're all going to find out anyway. In the mean time, on the issue of whether pets go to heaven or not, we are free to believe what we choose, based on our understanding of God and God's love.

Now, there are some who feel that it's important to be "right" about everything all the time, especially everything spiritual — that there's no room for spiritual "error" if you will.

These are the folks, I suspect, who argue most loudly and angrily against the concept of pets in heaven. And there are certainly many issues on which, for a Christian, there is no "wiggle room" for debate.

But I believe where the answer absolutely matters, where the answer has eternal significance for us, the answer is given. If the answer is not given, then it's quite possible the answer doesn't really matter at this point in our lives — there's no penalty for being "wrong."

If we believe that pets go to heaven, and this turns out to be incorrect, there's no penalty. Such a belief will not doom anyone to hell; it's not a salvation issue. Nor are we at risk of leading someone else "astray" if we allow him or her to hold onto such a belief.

If, for example, you're concerned about allowing a child to believe something you think is an "error," ask yourself whether having such a belief is more damaging to that child's faith than believing that God doesn't share or respect that child's genuine love for his or her pet, or care about his or her grief.

So what if we choose to believe that our pets are in heaven and then, when we get there, we find out we're wrong? While this may be painful to imagine, it's equally hard to imagine being disappointed in any way shape or form when we do get to heaven — whether we find our pets there or not.

As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:12: "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know full, even as I am fully known." This text means what we don't know now, we will know in the future; and what we don't understand now, we will understand in the future. And in the end we will not be disappointed.

So what's the bottom line? Do pets go to heaven or not?

Well every argument I've offered in favor of pets going to heaven could easily be used to argue the opposite view. So the key is not to seek a "definitive answer," because there is none. The key is this: On this particular issue, where the Bible is silent, we have the right to choose the answer that seems true to us — that comforts and consoles us — that's based on our best efforts to reason and understand God and God's love for all creation. In the future when we enter heavens gates, God will reveal all truth.

As for me, I believe pets do go to heaven, and I believe I will see my dog Marty again.

Thanks be to God for our pets, and for the joy and love they bring to our lives!

Amen.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Simon de Montfort



Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, was killed at the Battle of Evesham on August 4, 1265.

Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester—the Cromwell of the thirteenth century—was a French noble possessed of English property and rank through his mother. We know little of the early years he spent in France; but, after establishing himself at the English court, he soon comes into notice. By the favour of the young king, Henry III, he was united to the monarch's widowed sister Eleanor, notwithstanding a difficulty arising from a vow of the lady's never to wed a second husband. This marriage involved De Montfort in many troubles, and lost him, for a time, the friendship of the king.

In 1242, he distinguished himself in the war against the French. But he had now become well known as a political reformer, and as a champion of popular liberties; and it is not improbable that his known principles had been partly the means of raising him enemies at court. His name stood second among the signatures to the bold remonstrance against papal extortion and oppression in 1246, and in 1248 the King was driven by his remonstrances into a temporary fit of economy. Earl Simon had formed a design to return to the Holy Land, but King Henry, embarrassed at this time by the turbulence of his subjects in Gascony, persuaded him to remain and undertake the government of that country, where he soon reduced the rebels to submission. In consequence of King Henry's imprudence, the rebellion broke out with more fury than ever, and it not only required all the Earl's military talents to suppress it a second time, but he was obliged to raise money on his own estates to carry on the war, in consequence of the miserable condition of the royal treasury.

The rebel leaders now sought to injure in another way the governor with whom they could no longer contend openly, and they sent a deputation to England, to accuse him to the King of tyranny and extortion in his administration—charges which seem, if true at all, to have been excessively exaggerated. Yet the King listened to them eagerly, and when Earl Simon arrived at court to plead his own cause, a violent scene took place, which shewed that the

King could lose his dignity as easily as the Earl his temper, and they were only reconciled by the interference of Prince Richard and the Earls of Gloucester and Hereford. From this moment the King no longer disguised his hatred to Simon de Montfort.

Nevertheless, the latter consented to resume the command in Gascony, where he found affairs in greater confusion than ever. He was proceeding to execute his difficult task with his usual ability, when the King sent directions to his subjects in Gascony not to obey him, and appointed his young son, Edward, to govern in his stead. When the earl became aware of this treacherous conduct, he left Gascony and repaired to Paris, where he was held in such esteem that the regency of France, in the absence of its King, was offered him. But he remained steady in his duties to his adopted country, declined this great honour, and soon afterwards, when Gascony was nearly lost by the misconduct of King Henry's officers, he voluntarily offered his services in restoring it, which were gladly accepted. When the province was by his means reduced to obedience and order, the Earl, now reconciled with the King, returned to England, where King Henry's misgovernment had brought the Kingdom to the eve of a civil war.

Such were the antecedents of the great Baron who was now to assume a still more exalted character. The events of the Barons' War are given in every history of England, and can only be told very briefly here. At the parliament of Oxford in 1258, the Barons of the popular party overpowered the court, and compelled the King to consent to statutes which took the government out of his hands and placed it in those of twenty-four persons, twelve of whom were to be chosen by each of the two parties. The first name on the baronial list was that of Simon de Montfort, whom the Barons now looked upon as their leader. The insolent and oppressive foreigners, who, under Henry's favour, had eaten up the land, were now driven out of England, and the government was carried on with a degree of jus-

tice and vigour which was quite new.

The King, meanwhile, was behaving basely and treacherously, and he had taken steps to induce the Pope not only to absolve him from all oaths he had taken, or might take, but to interfere in his favour in a more direct manner. The Pope's brief arrived in 1261, when the King, whose friends had gained over some of the less patriotic of the Barons, ventured to throw off the mask, and proclaimed all to be null and void which had been done since the parliament of Oxford. The result of all this, after two or three years of turbulence and confusion, was the great battle of Lewes, May 14, 1264, in which the Barons, under the command of Simon de Montfort, obtained so sanguinary and decisive a victory, that the King, his son Edward (afterwards Edward I), and the King's brother, Richard, King of the Romans, remained among the prisoners, and the royal cause was for the time utterly ruined.

The principles now proclaimed by Earl Simon and the Barons, involved principles of political freedom of the most exalted character; which we can only understand by supposing that they were founded partly on older Anglo-Saxon sentiments, and that they were moulded under the influence of men of learning who had studied not in vain the writers of the classic ages. A rather long Latin poem, written by one on the baronial side soon after the battle of Lewes, and intended, no doubt, to be recited among the clergy of that party, who were very numerous, in order to keep constantly before their minds the principles which the barons fought for, gives a complete exposition of the political doctrines of what we may call the constitutional party of the middle of the thirteenth century, and they are doctrines of which we need not be ashamed at the present day.

The political doctrine fought for by the Barons is that the King derives his power from the people; that he holds it for the public good; and that he is under control, and responsible for his actions. Even feudalism is totally ignored in it, and it was the plebs plurima, the mass of the people, for whom Earl Simon and his barons fought, it was saludem communitatis, the weal of the community, he sought, and the King's defeat was a just judgment upon him, because he was 'a transgressor of the laws.' 'For,' we are here told, 'every King is ruled by the laws.'

The nobles are spoken of as placed between the people and the King as guardians of their liberties, to watch over the exercise of the royal power and prevent its abuse. 'If the King should adopt

measures destructive to the Kingdom, or should nourish the desire of setting his own power above the laws—if thus or otherwise the Kingdom should be in danger—then the magnates of the Kingdom are bound to look to it, 'that the land be purged of all errors.' The constraint to which a King is rightly subjected, is only a just power held over him to prevent his doing wrong, or choosing bad ministers—it is not making him a slave. 'He who should be in truth a King,' the poem says, 'he is truly free if he rule rightly himself and the people; let him know that all things are permitted him which are in governing convenient to the Kingdom, but not such as are injurious to it. It is one thing to rule according to a King's duty, and another to destroy by resisting the law.' 'If,' it goes on to say, 'a King is less wise than he ought to be, what advantage will the Kingdom gain by his reign? If he alone has the right to choose, he will be easily deceived, since he is not capable of knowing who will be useful. Therefore, let the community of the Kingdom advise; and let it be known what the generality thinks, to whom their own laws are best known ... it concerns the community to see what sort of men ought justly to be chosen for the utility of the Kingdom. It is a thing which concerns the whole community, to see that miserable wretches be not made the leaders of the royal dignity, but that they be good and chosen men, and the most approved that can be found.'

In accordance with these sentiments, a summons was issued, dated from Worcester, on the 14th of December 1264, calling a parliament to meet on the 20th of January following, addressed to the Barons, both lay and ecclesiastic, and two representatives from each county. Ten days later, on the 24th of December,

new writs were issued, calling upon each city and town in the Kingdom 'to choose and send two discreet, loyal, and honest men,' to represent them in the same parliament. This second summons was dated from Woodstock, and is the first instance in which the commons, properly speaking, were ever called to sit in an English parliament. If there were nothing else for which we have reason to be grateful to Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, we certainly have reason to be thankful to him for laying the foundation of the English House of Commons.

This great revolution was too advanced for an age in which feudalism, though in a weakened form, was established in our island, and physical force was distributed into too few hands to remain united. Success only made place for personal jealousies, and selfish motives led many of the barons to desert the popular cause, while others were quarrelling among themselves. A succession of intrigues followed, and new leagues were formed among the Barons, until, on the 4th of August 1265, the decisive battle of Evesham was fought, in which Simon de Montfort was slain, and the Barons sustained a ruinous defeat. The joy of the royalists was shewn in the indignities which they heaped upon the body of the great statesman, but his work remained, and none of the substantial advantages of the baronial war of the middle of the thirteenth century have ever been lost. The short period of the battles of Lewes and Evesham stands as a marked division between two periods of English constitutional history.

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Requiescat in Pace, Lonesome George... et alii

Bill Meredith

Museum visitor: "Pardon me, Sir, but can you tell me how old that dinosaur is?"

Guide: "Certainly, Ma'am; it is 70 million and four years old."

Visitor: "Amazing! But how can you be so precise?"

Guide: "Well, when I started working here they told me it was 70 million years old, and I've been here four years now."

... from "Meredith's List of the Oldest Known Museum Jokes," 3rd Edition, 1973.

I was taken by surprise last month when headlines in both the Washington Post and Time magazine announced that Lonesome George had died on June 24, at the age of 100. I probably wasn't the only one to be surprised, for to folks of my age there was only one Lonesome George. That was George Goebel, the TV comedian whose show we all watched in the 1950s, and I was pretty sure he died 20 years or so ago. However,

I have reached the age when I am never certain about facts, so I felt compelled to read the whole article. It proved to be a recitation of a story that is all too common in the history of Ecology.

It turned out that the Lonesome George who died last month was a turtle... or, more properly, a giant Galapagos tortoise. He was the last survivor of a subspecies that had lived on Pinta Island, one of a group of 15 islands in the Pacific Ocean, about 600 miles west of Ecuador. Pinta is a small island, and the tortoise population there never had been very big, but it was stable until 1958 when someone released a herd of goats there. The goats, having no natural enemies there, multiplied rapidly and ate all of the vegetation that the tortoises lived on. In 1971, a biologist found only one tortoise still alive there; he rescued him and took him to the National Park on the largest island, where he lived as a minor celebrity and tourist attraction. He seemed content in captivity, as nearly as one can judge contentment in a tortoise; he attained a weight of 197 pounds and a length of about five feet. He

mated several times with females of related subspecies, but none of the resulting eggs hatched.

Biologists always get a bit misty-eyed when the Galapagos Islands are mentioned, because Charles Darwin encountered the tortoises there on his famous voyage around the world in 1835. But the tortoises had been known to live there long before Darwin's time. The islands were discovered in 1535; Galapagos is the Portuguese word for tortoise, and the islands became famous because of them. Ships carrying gold and silver from the Spanish colonies would stop there for water, and sailors would capture as many tortoises as their ship could hold. Some of them weighed over 800 pounds, and they could live up to 18 months without food or water, so they were an ideal source of fresh meat on ships that had to spend months on the homeward voyage. The islands also became a favorite place for pirates to hide and attack the treasure ships; the earliest known map of the islands was made by an English pirate, Ambrose Cowley, in 1684. The pirates lived on tortoise meat; another pirate, William Dampier, wrote in his journal that "no pullet eats more sweetly."

Based on fossil shells and museum records, it is believed that there were once at least 15 subspecies of tortoise on the Galapagos, and it is estimated that their total population was around 250,000 when the islands were discovered. In addition to exploitation by sailors, the numbers were reduced by habitat destruction by farming and the introduction of predatory species such as pigs, rats and cats which ate the eggs and young tortoises. When Darwin arrived there were 12 subspecies left, and one of them was exterminated

by 1850. A survey in 1974 revealed a total population on all the islands of only 3060. Since then, captive breeding programs have increased the total population to about 20,000, but with the death of Lonesome George there are now only 10 surviving subspecies.

Biologists generally agree that the life spans of turtles, as a group, are among the longest of any animals, but like the old joke about the museum guide, it is hard to be certain of their accuracy. The shell of a turtle is covered with scales which grow by adding a ring of new material each year, and age can be determined accurately from the rings on young specimens; but in older individuals the earliest rings begin to fall off from wear or injury. Galapagos tortoises live in the slow lane; sexual maturity is not reached until the age of about 25, and they may live over a century after that, so age often has to be estimated by size. The most reliable ages are from specimens raised in captivity, but even these are not foolproof because tortoise life spans may exceed three human generations, and records are often lost or mixed up. One of the most believable records I found was of "Cha Cha," a tortoise given to an Indian Rajah and raised in the Calcutta Zoo; she was believed to be about six years old when she arrived, and lived in the zoo for 170 years before her death in 2004. The internet is full of less believable examples. One such article said Lonesome George was "at age 100, the world's oldest turtle," although the authorities at the Park where he lived admitted that his age was an estimation. Another source claimed a pet tortoise that lived for several generations with a family on the island of Majorca was 250 years old. More toward the far side, another source described a turtle that was "536 years when it was murdered and made into soup." (I questioned this one, because a nearby note said the world's oldest Uni-



corn was 230 years old.)

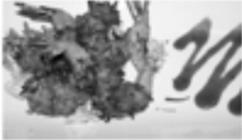
Unfortunately, the story of Lonesome George is a common one; he was unique only because he came from an area that had a well documented ecological history, and he lived long enough in captivity to become widely known as the last of his kind in this era of mass communication and advertising. Ecologists can provide lists of species that have been driven to extinction by human exploitation on almost every island in the world. Some of this was the result of prehistoric colonizations, like the Maoris who destroyed the Moa (also called "elephant bird") in New Zealand. Others were like the sailors who killed off the Dodo birds in Madagascar. Even on the North American continent, species such as the heath hen, a game bird in New England, and the Carolina Parakeet, were hunted to extinction in the 19th century. The millions of buffalo that inhabited the western states were reduced to a few small herds, and the wolves that preyed on them were wiped out in the Continental U. S., although they have recently re-entered from Canada. My grandparents remembered hunting passenger pigeons, which numbered in the millions before the 20th century; the last one, a female named Martha, died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1917, an avian equivalent of Lonesome George.

In addition to the buffalo and wolves, there have been a few tentative successes in bringing animals back from the edge of extinction. Around 1940 there were only 15 whooping cranes left in the wild, and captive breeding programs (often featured on TV nature programs) have now increased them to a few hundreds. The same is true for the California Condor, the largest land bird in North America; only 22 of them existed in 1987, but there are now 226 living in the wild. But at the rate that wildlife habitats are being converted to human use, hundreds of species all over the world are headed for extinction in the next few years. In a few cases, there will be a Lonesome George individual to remind us of their passing. But most of them will go quietly, unrecognized, and with them goes the stability of the world's ecosystems. As Pogo said, we have met the enemy, and he is us. Our time will come too.

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



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Raiders of the lost park

Tim Iverson, Seasonal Naturalist
Cunningham Falls State Park

As a Naturalist here at Cunningham Falls State Park I'm frequently running from one end of the park to the other. We've got about 5,000 acres, so that's quite a bit of running! As an employee I tend to see things a bit differently than the average visitor so it's great to get feedback on how things are perceived. Now that we're entering the "dog days of summer" it's important for us to remain in the eyes, ears, and shoes of the visitor as much as possible. Fearless families with eager young explorers frequently ask me how to get here or there in the park. Every now and then I'll even get "I've lived here for years, even drive by all the time, but I've never stopped in." So, that being said, there are some things to know about our wonderful little park. First, let's clear air. The park is essentially divided into two separate yet unique areas – the William Houck Area and the Manor Area. Whichever area you choose there is bound to be an adventure waiting for you!

I meet hundreds of people each and every weekend most of which want to know how to get to the lake and/or falls. Both of these and much more, are located in the William Houck Area. The Houck Area is located three miles West of Thurmont off Rt. 77, and offers picnicking, camping, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, and of course, the falls.

Now a trip to the park wouldn't be complete without a visit to our 78 foot waterfall, the largest cascading waterfall in the state of Maryland. However, usually by this time of year the majesty of our mighty falls has been reduced from a torrent to a trickle. But fear not intrepid day-tripper, we offer a great number of recreational opportunities and interpretive programs daily.

The lake is available for swimming from 8am until dusk. While swimming is only allowed in designated areas, there are two beaches supervised by lifeguards. If you're up for a nautical voyage and you own your own boat you're

welcome to use our launch ramp for a small service charge (electric motors only). If you still want to paddle but don't own any maritime vessels then you can borrow one of ours! The boat house offers rentals daily, and rates differ depending on length of time and type of boat.

If angling is your thing then we offer fishing in three different areas- Hunting Creek Lake, Big Hunting Creek, and Little Hunting Creek. Fishing licenses are required for anyone over the age of 16, and trout stamps are required if you plan to keep any trout. Please consult the MD Freshwater Sport Fishing Guide for complete rules and regulations, or stop by our Visitor Center to learn more.

The Manor Area of the park, located three miles south of Thurmont off Rt. 15, boasts the Visitor Center, a playground made primarily from recycled tires (it's a huge hit with kids), the historic Catoctin Iron Furnace, a campground, and our pride and joy – the aviary (I'm admittedly biased).

The aviary houses our Scales & Tales program. Scales & Tales, an environmental education program of the Maryland Park Service, affords people the opportunity to see live wildlife, mostly native to Maryland, up close and personal! Most people are truly awestruck to see an owl fly across a dark night sky, or a hawk soaring on a bright clear day. Fewer people have seen these creatures from merely a few feet away. Here at our aviary we have on display four different species of owls, three different species of hawks, and one vulture with a lot of personality! All of our critters (raptors and reptiles) are non-releasable due to injury or im-

printing, and wouldn't survive if released back into the wild. Now they have the opportunity to tell their stories, or "tales", about how they came to us, promoting environmental stewardship, habitat loss, and other issues. Scales & Tales could not help wildlife through education without the generous donations of our many supporters. Animal adoptions are possible too! Money received from donations and adoptions goes directly back to the Scales & Tales program.

Our talented naturalist staff (that's me...and a few other guys who are okay too) generally provides at least one program a day. Programming is different from day to day, except for our daily 'Feeding Frenzy' program where we feed the raptors in the aviary at 4:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday. Programs vary in topic, and most are suitable for all ages and are free (the park entrance fee does still apply). Program bulletins are posted throughout the park, or you can receive these event bulletin lists via e-mail as well. If you're interested in receiving these please e-mail us at: cfsp.events.list.serve@gmail.com. We do not sell this list to any outside solicitors, and you'll only receive e-mails directly related to park programming.

Every Saturday evening we provide extended programs complete with campfires and S'mores. These campfires will cover various topics of special interest, and many times feature guest speakers. Some upcoming campfire programs include:

- 8/11-Black bear campfire by local black bear expert Jeff McAfee



Ranger Tim Iverson shows off a Yellow Rat snake to children at the Cunningham Falls Aviary.

- 8/18- TBA
- 8/25- Stargazing program hosted by Westminster Astronomy Club
- 9/1- Flower Hill String Band (local bluegrass band) 8/11-

Programs are generally 30-60 minutes and change weekly, but you'll be sure to leave with lasting memories.

Now more than ever as the oppressive heat of August bears down on us we're prepared to help facilitate your exploration of nature and provide adventure

with a purpose. All of the staff here at Cunningham Falls State Park welcomes you to a family friendly environment that seeks to connect you to the environment no matter what adventure you've chosen to try with us. Whether it's hiking, boating, picnicking, swimming, fishing, visiting the aviary, or one of our excellent interpretive programs (I really can't pander enough about us) we're sure you'll find adventure while exploring our park time and time again.

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Adopt a resident of the Scales & Tales Program! All donations are tax deductible. The Scales and Tales program at Cunningham Falls is solely funded by donations and fees generated from educational programming. This money goes to pay for medical care, staff salaries, turtle food, and perch materials to name a few things on our list! Please consider adopting or supporting one of our animals as a gift for a friend or family member.

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Adopter name to appear on Certificate: _____

Animal adopting: _____
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IN THE COUNTRY

90th Annual South Mountain Fair

The 90th Annual South Mountain Fair will be held on August 21-25, 2012. Wow 90 years! The fairgrounds has changed so much since those first years when the exhibits were housed in tents. Some things haven't changed though. We still have loads of beautiful exhibits including beautiful needlework and crafts, baked goods and home canned fruits and vegetables, all made by some of the most talented people we know. No matter what the weather is every year the shelves are covered with beautiful fresh flowers and vegetables and the best looking fruit in the county. The amateur photography department has its own building now and continues to amaze us with the number of fantastic entries each year.

It takes hundreds of volunteers and several weeks of work to prepare for the Fair. Our volunteers are the best! They mow the grounds, they move tables and benches into the buildings and they display all the exhibits in the buildings, and much more. They make the Fair happen each year and it wouldn't happen without these fantastic dedicated volunteers!

We have a full schedule of activities for all ages to enjoy. The barns are full of animals and there's always something being judged at the barns. The 4-H/FFA youth have worked hard all summer to prepare their goats, sheep, swine and beef cattle for this week of showing. Most of the youth shows

are held on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

On Tuesday evening the winning baked goods are auctioned and the proceeds from the auction will benefit a local charity. Come out and support this year's charity and go home with a delicious pie, cake, or maybe some cookies or sticky buns. This year the proceeds will be given to the Adams County Cancer Patient Help Fund.

Wednesday night there will be the always popular draft horse pull beginning at 6:30 p.m. Also the entertainment in the auditorium will be the Battle of the Bands. The area's best Rock Bands will battle it out in the South Mountain Fair Auditorium. The winners are chosen by the audience.

Thursday's musical entertainment will be Russ & Becky Jeffers and Smokey Mountain Sunshine. Enjoy the music and fun of one of the longest and most popular running shows from the legendary Opryland Theme Park in Nashville. Russ & Becky and their band are truly talented performers and will bring an enjoyable mix of classic country, bluegrass, and folk music to their high energy and comedy filled show.

The fireworks has become a crowd favorite on Thursday night also. They begin at 10 p.m. and have been a spectacular show in the past. They can be viewed from just about anywhere on the grounds.

The South Mountain Fair wel-

comes country music legend and Grand Ole Opry star John Conlee on Friday night. John has been a favorite at the Grand Ole Opry since his induction in 1981. He continues to tour and proudly supports the U.S. military. John has had 26 songs that have charted in the top 20 and 8 number 1 songs on the national country charts, including his classic favorites "Rose Colored Glasses"; "Friday Night Blues"; "Backside of Thirty"; and "Common Man". Join John and his talented band for a great evening of traditional country music at the Fair.

Real Country, WHVR, and the South Mountain Fair present the Texaco Country Showdown on Saturday evening. Join us as the regions finest country vocalists and bands compete to advance to the State Final in Hershey and potentially to Nashville where the top prize is \$100,000. Singers and bands wishing to participate may contact Tim Michaels at Real Country WHVR at 717-637-3831.

New at the Fair this year will be sheep shearing and wool spinning demonstrations on Saturday. Kate Bostek will be demonstrating wool spinning in the morning. Kate also shows her prize winning sheep at the Fair every year. The Friends Through Fiber Sheep to Shawl Team will be demonstrating sheep shearing and wool spinning in the afternoon.

There will also be a rabbit show



on August 19 before the start of the Fair. About 500 rabbits are expected to be there. Also new this year will be 2 Myotonic goat shows on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. These goats are also known as 'fainting' goats because if they are scared or excited they may faint and fall over.

Registration of exhibits will take place on Sunday, August 19 from 2-4 p.m. and on Monday, August 20 from 4-8 p.m. Judging will begin on Tuesday morning at 8 a.m.

In addition to all the usual country fair exhibits and shows there are also carnival rides and games for all ages. The rides operate from 6-10 p.m. each night with ride armband special every night except Friday. The armbands are

\$16 to ride as many rides as you want all night.

The Fair opens at 4 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday and at 10 a.m. on Saturday and closes each night at 10 p.m. All entertainment is free with the cost of admission to the Fair which is \$4 for adults and kids 12 and under are free.

There's something for everyone to enjoy at this small country fair so we hope to see you all there. Mark your calendars for August 21-25.

For more information call the Fair office at 717-677-9663 and leave a message and someone will return your call, email jvirvin@embarqmail.com or check our web site at www.southmountainfair.com.

South Mountain Fair Information

90th Annual Fair August 21 - 25, 2012



Admission: Adults - \$4.00 - Children 12 & under - Free
Gates Open: T, W, Th, F - 4:00 p.m.; Saturday - 10:00 a.m.
Located along Rte 234, Arendtsville, PA
Phone 717.677.9663
Website: www.southmountainfair.com

FREE PARKING

DAILY ACTIVITIES:

Tuesday, August 21, 2012 - **4-H Day**

- 3:00 p.m. Open Sheep Judging, Show Arena
- 4:00 p.m. Fair Opens
- 4:00 p.m. Exhibit Buildings Open
- 5:30 p.m. 4-H/FFA Market Sheep Judging, Show Arena
- 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Ride Night Special \$16 Armband
- 7:00 p.m. 4-H/FFA Market Swine Judging, Show Arena
- 7:30 p.m. Food Auction in the Auditorium to benefit the Adams County Cancer Patient Help Fund.
- 10:00 p.m. Exhibit Buildings Close

Friday, August 24, 2012

- 4:00 p.m. Fair Opens
- 4:00 p.m. Exhibit Buildings Open
- 5:00 p.m. Dairy Showmanship Judging, Show Arena
- 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Rides Open NO SPECIAL
- 6:00 p.m. Holstein Dairy Cattle Judging, Show Arena
- 7:30 p.m. **Grand Ole Opry Star John Conlee - Auditorium - FREE**
- 10:00 p.m. Exhibit Buildings Close

Saturday, August 25, 2012

- 9:00 a.m. South Mountain Myotonic Goat Show
- 10:00 a.m. Fair Opens
- 11:00 a.m. Exhibit Buildings Open
- 2:00 p.m. Sheep Shearing Demonstration, Livestock Show Ring
- 4:00 p.m. 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale (Steer/Dairy Beef/Goat/Sheep/Swine)
- 4:30 p.m. Parade Of Antique Farm Equipment
- 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Ride Night Special \$16 Armband
- 6:30 p.m. **Texaco Country Showdown Auditorium - FREE**
- 10:00 p.m. Exhibit Buildings Close
- Only Livestock May Be Removed**



Wednesday, August 22, 2012

- 3:00 p.m. Open Goat Judging, Show Arena
- 4:00 p.m. Fair Opens
- 4:00 p.m. Exhibit Buildings Open
- 5:00 p.m. Open Swine Judging, Swine Barn
- 5:30 p.m. 4-H/FFA Market Goat Judging, Show Arena
- 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Ride Night Special \$16 Armband
- 7:30 p.m. **Peak 98, Battle of the Bands - Auditorium - FREE**
- 10:00 p.m. Exhibit Buildings Close

Thursday, August 23, 2012

- 10:00 a.m. Dairy Color Breed Judging, Show Arena
- 3:30 p.m. 4-H/FFA Dairy Beef Judging, Show Arena
- 4:00 p.m. Fair Opens
- 4:00 p.m. Exhibit Buildings Open
- 5:00 p.m. 4-H/FFA Steer Judging, Show Arena
- 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Ride Night Special \$16 Armband
- 7:30 p.m. **Russ & Becky Jeffers & Smokey Mountain Sunshine Auditorium - FREE**
- 10:00 p.m. Exhibit Buildings Close
- 10:00 p.m. **Fireworks Display** visible from entire fairgrounds

Sunday, August 26, 2012

Fairgrounds open to remove entries for all remaining departments



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If I should ever grow up

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

I was reading one of Derek Siver's blogs. I don't know why, other than he and I struck up a brief conversation back when he owned CD-baby.com and I was havin' trouble giving him my money. (He's about as opposite me as one can get.) Now that he's worth tens of millions of dollars, and I owe more than I'm worth—about \$1,200, we still touch bases. He's moved a few times over the years, West Coast, then East, Sweden and on to Singapore where he seems to have happily settled. I'm having a bad garlic year and he's encouraging me to learn more about growing the herb, food, medicinal. Derek mentioned a couple of books he thought worth reading so I hit the county library website and ordered both.

The Talent Code by Daniel Cole and Talent is Overrated by Geoff Colvin left me in the dust, though either is readable if one has at least the attention span and focus of a fruit fly (which I don't.) Both books get into how talent is created rather than a birth gift. Something about deliberate, deep (introspective) practice causing the brain to layer certain nerve fibers with an insulation called myelin so electric signals sent along the fiber are stronger. Whatever one is practicing at will be repeated later as if one has some innate skill. (Obviously, my deep practicing has been with less than useful skills. Bending an elbow thousands of times a month so's to lift and tilt a beer bottle hardly seems useful these days. And I doubt much myelin was being laid down along alcohol soaked nerve fibers anyhow.)

As is typical with me, I glimpsed the basic ideas of the books and lost interest in reading the rest of them. (Comprehensive reading is a skill I need to practice!) Still, I got enough out of the books to understand my problem. I don't know where I want to go. However, if I figure that out I know where to go to learn how to get there. Maybe.

Another aspect of growing a talent is the 10-year rule. Top performers in almost every endeavor; require ten years of deep practice before they (apparently) explode onto their chosen scene as a star. At age 58, I not only have to decide what I want to be when I grow up, I have to be willing to put ten years of deliberate practice into becoming it. I'm not sure any of the interests I have are interests I'm likely to be interested in at age 68. Maybe wine and mead making. Maybe garlic growing, maybe arrow slinging, and maybe bread building. If any of those things offer some monetary reward, well, the how of it escapes me, like most things involving the turning of a profit.

I suppose I could practice my storytelling, but I have trouble speaking English plainly and clearly. I haven't an interesting voice either. I've long suspected people who stand and listen to me pontificate

do so out of fascination more than interest. "My god, he can make almost speech like noises! I wonder, is he trying to tell us something? Will he attack if we try to slip away?"

There not being much use for an unintelligible, mush-mouthed storyteller I might turn to writing. Or maybe not. Somewhen after Sister Rosemary whacked my fingers with a ruler during a phonics lesson (1960, I believe it was) I kinda lost interest in much other than avoiding teachers in general. By the time I got to grammar, I was long since ready to escape the school system and would have if I'd had a clue as to how a preteen could live in the woods season to season without adults chasing me down and sending me back to prison. That, and I was puzzled and fascinated by my dad's intense interest in his getting an education. Sadly, Jack, Sr. didn't understand the difference between schooling and education any better than I did.

Beings Mom always said Dad was "a jack of all trades and master of none" I figure I can tread where he'd gone. Working in the factory to keep a roof overhead, learning to grow and sell garlic against the day I get a capitalist clue, pecking out my little stories to amuse myself until I get one right, practicing with the

bow until the arrow follows my will. Yeah, I think I can do these things. Maybe on Sunday mornings now that I'm finished with the IWLA youth program until this fall.

Jack 3 and I have decided to create a world where in we can place the fictional people that occupy our minds and see how they react to each other. Setting up a table in front of the factory to sell garlic, taters, green beans and the occasional melon from sunrise Sunday, until the sun comes over the building around noon, would give me a chance to read about garlic growing, practice my bow handling and scribble illegible notes between customers. I should get plenty done, as I can't imagine anyone in this area wanting garlic so much as to seek me out. More likely, I'll sit and peel garlic for the dehydrator. The few garlic customers I have now, get their garlic via the post office, or my handing it to them at their front doors.

I wonder what Jack 3 will think of my first character, a garlic growing, illiterate bootlegger who defends his family with cunning when he can, arrows if need be, and despairs when he loses loved ones to forces beyond his ken. Knowing Jack actually practices a philosophy (he's a Stoic, Roman I think), I suppose he'll be more impressed with the bootlegger's wives and their daughters who



accept the inevitable and make the best of it.

And that's what I'm working on. Making the best of what I have. Practicing at laying on the myelin until I cover some nerve well enough to discover that "Ah-ha!" moment when I realize I've found what I'm supposed to be doing.

Poor Wanda is sure it will be drinking homemade wine and mead, or napping. Maybe both.

I read these columns aloud until they

almost make sense to me. Wanda happens to be in the room as I mutter this one. I asked her what she thought of it so far. Proof of my storytelling prowess, she's sound asleep in the recliner behind me. (I think she's a Stoic too. A Greek one who simply endures.) Maybe I should look into marketing my recorded voice as a sleep aid?

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

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

I remember ...

**Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter**

I remember finding you in the SPCA all those years ago. Looking back, I was just so young back then — working a summer job to help pay for my books at college. You were young, too, just about six months old. You leaned against the cage like you could push yourself through the wires just to get closer to us.

Even while all the other dogs were barking and jumping, you were so calm, so sweet.

I remember sitting with you on the bench outside of the adoption area until we completed the paperwork. You were surprisingly well-behaved for a young pup.

I remember we decided to name you Max, after the dog in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, our family's favorite holiday special. Every year when I watch the cartoon, I think of you.

I remember dad made a crate for you — he's a scientist, you know, so he's good at coming up with contraptions. You slept there with your blanket every night and would always go right inside without any kind of fuss.

I remember, even in the beginning, how special you were.

I remember you loved to sit between me and Mel at the dinner

table. You never reached for anything you weren't given. It was almost like you were a fourth kid.

I remember you'd lie with your head on the table with the leftover meatloaf literally inches from your nose, but you wouldn't take it. We realized one evening that we had all walked away from the table and left you alone with the food, but you never took a bite. You always wanted to make us proud and happy. You never wanted to disappoint; it wasn't in your nature.

I remember how dad loved to share his cookies with you for dessert.

I remember when you learned to take food from our mouths. You were the most gentle creature. We could put the smallest nub of a carrot in our mouths and hold it out for you and we never felt your teeth. It was as though you always knew the boundary and you would never hurt us.

I remember the only thing you ever spit out that we gave you was a salt and vinegar potato chip.

I remember when you had to have surgery — I can't even remember what for now — and I was so very scared that something would happen and we wouldn't see each other again. Do you remember when I talked to you that day? I snuggled you and begged you to be okay. That was such a scary time. Thank heaven you made it through.



Peaches is a 5-year-old buff and white boy who is a very gentle soul. He likes other cats and long naps after breakfast. He has been at the shelter since June 23, 2011, and really needs to get out of the cage and into a loving home. If you are looking for a guy who likes being petted and enjoys the company of people, please come see Peaches.

I remember you'd always greet us when we came home from playing in the marching band during high school football games and later, when we came home from our freshman dorms at college.

I remember how much you loved to crawl into a chair with one of us for belly rubs. You always loved to be touched by your family.

I remember how much you enjoyed playing with Trudy and Allie.

I remember that you essentially became the matriarch of our canine family.

I remember you'd always race to the window and bark every time one of us said, "Where's the squirrel, Max? Get the squirrel."

I remember grandma always thought your name was Mack be-

cause she was always too endearingly stubborn to get a hearing aid. She'd say, "Where's Mackie?" and we all couldn't help but smile.

It makes me happy to picture both of you together now, just hanging out, spending time with each other. Would you say hi for me? I miss both of you. A lot.

I remember when I first knew time was running out with you. You stopped coming to greet us at

the door and spent a lot of time sleeping and didn't seem to care at all about squirrels anymore.

I remember trying not to think about it.

I remember the phone calls home to help mom and dad know when to make the decision to say goodbye, even while my heart was breaking.

I remember that you taught me more about love and loyalty and devotion and beauty and goodness than just about anything else in my life. You always had that quiet grace about you — even in the end when you were a little wobbly.

I remember your final moments and I hope you weren't too scared or confused or mad at us. I hope you know how very much we loved you and that we didn't want you to suffer anymore and we were all so scared that your quality of life wasn't good enough to justify keeping you with us. We wanted to do something for you after all you had done for us for almost 19 years.

I will remember your brown eyes and your gentle spirit for the rest of my life and when I see the photos of you, I will always, always smile and remember what it was like to love and be loved by you.

This is dedicated to Max. The best shelter dog ever.

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

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Summer heat

Kimberly J Brokaw DVM
Walkersville Veterinary Clinic

We all have seen the public service announcements, the signs at the firehouse, and other warnings about the dangers of leaving pets or children in a hot car. Every year people get distracted and forget about their pets, sometimes with disastrous consequences. Unfortunately, every year I see pets who suffer from heat stroke. It is important to know the signs that your pet is overheated, and to have a plan to prevent your pet from getting overheated. Slight increases in body temperature can be corrected by the dog through panting. However when dogs are unable to stabilize their temperatures, clinical signs can progress to confusion, rapid breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, internal bleeding, collapse, and seizures.

Obviously being left in a hot car, even with the windows partially down, is dangerous for the pet but overheating can also occur from just being outside too long. Several of the serious, heat related problems that I have seen have followed similar scenarios to the following.

Coal is a large Newfoundland. He has been the constant companion for a family with two kids. The kids grew up with Coal and while Coal is not a fancy show dog, he is a beloved pet. One afternoon the oldest son came home from school. He let Coal out in the backyard and went back in the house to make himself a snack. The son received a phone call from a friend and they decided to go to the mall. A few hours later the mother returned home from work and found Coal in the backyard. He was laying on the sunny deck and was unconscious. By the time Coal arrived at the vet clinic his temperature was 108 degrees. The mother was hysterical and kept saying "it can't be heat stroke, he was only outside for a few hours and it wasn't even that hot out." Unfortunately while it had only been 85 degrees outside, that had been too hot for Coal, with his large body and heavy hair coat.

I immediately placed Coal on a wet table and had my vet assistant start spraying him off with cold water. I shaved his legs and placed two intravenous catheters to give him lots fluids to further assist in cooling Coal down. As I continued to work on Coal he started having seizures and bloody diarrhea. I administered anti-seizure medications. Since the seizures continued despite moderate doses of medication, I gave more medications to put Coal in a temporary coma to prevent more seizures. I told the owners that Coal had a very poor prognosis for recovery but that we should wait until his temperature was back to normal to fully assess him. To my surprise as his temperature stabilized, so did Coal. By the end of the evening, while Coal was unable to stand or move, he was looking around the room and was aware of his surroundings.

Due to financial constraints, Coal was not transferred to an emergency hospital for the night but was rather released to care of his owners with instructions to come back to the clinic the next morning. The next morning, I received a call from Coal's owners. He was on his feet and acting almost completely normally, so they weren't going to come into the clinic. I had them pick-up some stomach medications to give to Coal and advised his owners to continue to watch him closely. While I would have preferred to do a recheck and make sure he was ok, I was pleased he was doing so well. Coal continued to improve and is currently back to normal although his owners have been cautioned that he is more vulnerable to another episode of heat stroke.

Coal was extremely lucky. I have treated several dogs who did not have happy outcomes. When taking your dog for walks in the hot weather, try to restrict walks to early mornings and late evenings. Do not leave them in cars. Be careful leaving them outside even with shade and water. If you feel hot while standing in the back yard for 15 minutes, your dog was probably ready to go back into the air condi-



Mommy didn't raise a dumb puppy! When the temperatures begin to broil, a bucket of cool water is this Jack Russell's favorite place to hang out.

tioned house 10 minutes earlier.

Some animals, such as horses, can't be brought into the air conditioning when it gets excessively hot. Fans can be set up in the barns. Horses can be hosed down whenever they are sweaty or breathing hard. Riding should be limited in extreme heat.

If fans are going to be used in a barn, make sure fans that are designed for barn environments are chosen. Agricultural stores like Tractor Supply Company sell fans that are designed for barn usage. Regular house box fans should not be used. As barns are typically dustier than houses, a fan with an enclosed/sealed motor is preferred to decrease chance of fire. (If you look at the back of the fan and see wires, the motor is not sealed.) When the motors aren't sealed, dust and debris get into the motor. This causes the motor to seize up, over heat, and catch fire. Fans should be cleaned at the start of the season to eliminate any dust that may have accumulated on them. The fan's cord should also be placed where horses can't reach and chew it. Misting fans are also available and can significantly help in keeping livestock cool. My suggestion would be to get an agricultural fan that has galvanized construction, enclosed motors with thermal protection, welded wire guards on

the intake and exhaust sides, and a heavy duty power cord that is kept out of reach of the horses.

A couple years ago a farm in West Virginia had 44 horses killed in a fire started by a residential box fan. The farm had taken many expensive preventive measures to prevent a barn fire. The farm had all new wiring, 20 fire extinguishers, and a fire hydrant 100 feet from the entrance. Hay was properly cured and was stored separate from the stable. The fire department was only about two blocks away, but by the time the fire was noticed it was too late. The box fan that started the fire was only two months old. I frequently see barns that have box fans in them or even

worse have multiple box fans with extension cords connecting them together. Horse owners take many precautions to prevent barn fires, but often don't think about the fire hazard of using inappropriate fans.

Overheating is usually preventable. Animal owners need to plan carefully to ensure a cool environment for their pet. If you suspect that your pet is overheating, spray him with large amounts of cold water, and call your vet immediately. This is a potentially life threatening situation and rapid action is required.

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



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THE MASTER GARDENER

Weeds – to be or not to be?

Mary Ann Ryan
Adam County Master
Gardener Coordinator

Not long ago, someone had asked me if I'd noticed the plants along the roadsides. He had commented about how beautiful they are. Then just today, he emailed me and said that the pretty roadside display of wildflowers is now gone. The local roadside caretakers have mowed them all down. So the question arises, is it necessary for these "weeds" to be cut or do they provide a benefit to the local ecosystem? And does it even matter?

If you've ever read any of my articles, you know my opinion will sway towards the benefits of keeping the "weeds" blooming, then cutting them down after bloom and seed. However, proper identification is imperative so invasive plants are not encouraged to take hold of any area. Counties and local municipalities may argue that the weeds are a visibility hazard, or mowing will control invasive plant species, which certainly is a concern. However, there are some good reasons to allow the roadside plants to bloom and set seed.

Yes, where driver's visibility is an issue, certainly cutting weeds is necessary. In the case of invasive species, yes, controlling them by cutting them prior to flower and seed is definitely the right choice. However, not all roadsides need to be controlled for visibility. Knowledge of what is growing along our roadsides – whether they are invasive or non-invasive - and what they do for our ecosystem is important if the right choice is to be made.

This time of year, late July-early August, brings us chicory, Queen Anne's lace, giant mullein and Joe Pye Weed. Queen Anne's Lace, introduced from Europe, can be considered a nuisance weed for the farmer. However, it is also food for the Eastern Black Swallowtail butterfly. Queen Anne's Lace is in the carrot

family, and can be found all over the US. The white flowers resemble lace, hence its name.

Chicory is a blue flower with rugged stems. Often seen in meadows as well as roadsides, this plant is good for animals that forage. Insects also visit the flower regularly. It is native to North Africa, Western Asia and Europe, but has naturalized quite well in our part of the world. It is used as a coffee substitute.

Giant Mullein has soft, gray leaves, almost like lamb's ears. It gets a tall – up to 10' – flower spike with small, yellow flowers. Not a native to the US, this guy is a European plant. However, bees and other pollinators are attracted to the flowers, and you may see some birds, like finches, feeding on the seeds. Like all the above wildflowers, mullein has medicinal uses. My guess is that mullein, chicory and Queen Anne's Lace was brought to North America from Europe for their uses as herbs.

Some of our native "wildflowers" that can be seen along the roadside, in fields and meadows beginning now through frost include goldenrod, asters and Joe Pye Weed. These particular plants have proven to be beneficial to the ecosystem – providing a food source for bees, butterflies and other insects.

Goldenrod, as its name suggests, has golden flowers blooming most of late summer into fall. Many species of this plant exists, and it is being cultivated extensively for the home garden. If you happen along a goldenrod, it's quite likely you'll see the flowers alive with insects – which is a good thing, as the insects will spread pollen to other plants.

Joe Pye Weed is a tall, purplish flower reaching 4'-5'. You may see this one along a wetter area, and probably will see butterflies visiting it, like the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail. Bees also love this flower. Another native, there has been extensive selections introduced for the home gar-



Teasel seeds are an important winter food resource for some birds



Mullein is an emollient herb, good for cough and cold formulas



Chicory is probably one of the most versatile of the roadside "weeds." It is used for medical purposes to flavoring in coffee.

dener. I have several of these plants growing to the rear of our garden and they create a great backdrop to the plants in front, while giving us lots of pleasure in watching the activity of the insects around these plants.

Many native asters grow in just as many different locations. From dry roadsides, to shady, wet locations, you can find an aster just about anywhere blooming in mid-late August. Another great pollinator plant group,

lots of action happens around these flowers. From white, pink to purple, they create quite a colorful display, especially when seen with goldenrod. It's funny how nature seems to do such a good job pairing plants.

So why should we care about pollinators? Considering that 75% of all flowering plants need pollinators to produce fruit or seeds, our food supply relies heavily on the pollinators, like bees, butterflies, other insects, birds and mammals. As our communities become an interruption of plant corridors, our pollinators, whether insects, birds or mammals, are having a more difficult time surviving. Small patches of plant life are just not able to support the insects needed to pollinate our food supply. And the plant life often chosen many times does not support the pollinators.

Did you ever look at a typical development in our area? What do you see? Grass, and if possible, that grass is free of dandelions (great pollinator plants, by the way) and other weeds, foundation plants that are made up of mostly evergreens (like yews, junipers and arborvitae). You may see some perennial and annual borders, but they probably don't link into the neighbor's plantings. Grass meets grass, plantings are confined to the

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THE MASTER GARDENER

foundation of buildings, and vegetable gardens, if any, are in the middle of the yard. The corridors that could be present to allow for lots of vegetation, food and predator protection are none existent.

Imagine a community that allows the Queen Anne's lace and chicory to grow and flower along the roadsides? How about a community that has perennial borders and flowering shrub borders growing alongside of the neighbor's border? What if the foundation planting was 10' wide instead of 3' and connected to a planting along that shrub border, that's connected to the neighbor's, and that neighbor's plantings are connected to their neighbor's? And what if the goldenrod, that is growing along the roadside beside the asters, are planted in those shrub borders? Just imagine! Not only would the beauty of all the color be overwhelming, but the life that abounds would be magnificent! From butterflies, to hummingbirds, to fox and other mammals, the excitement of the corridor would be unrecognizable from today's typical yards. Questions about why your zucchini flowered but never had fruit would no longer be a typical question.

And how about this - allow the dandelion and chicory to grow in your yard. What kind of pollina-

tor activity do you think would come into your world? Less chemicals would be needed to manage the weeds. Allow shrub borders, perennials and annuals grow outside their typical limits of the foundation. Again, less chemicals would be used to manage the bad insects, as beneficial insects would visit and take care of those bad bugs. Wow, another benefit! Now we are contributing to cleaner water! Imagine the birds you would see visiting the yard. Think of the predator protection you and your neighbors are providing. Think of the food source you are providing to the pollinators. And what about the pollinators you are encouraging to feed on those apple trees that are in the neighboring orchard, or the tomatoes your neighbor is growing, or the green beans the farmer down the road is growing - imagine the impact!

So, bottom line - get to know your environment. Learn the plants that grow around you and what they provide. Make educated decisions on plantings, as it not only affects you, but your family, friends, the entire community, and ultimately, the world.

To read past gardening articles visit the Master Gardener section of emmitsburg.net.

The Small Town Gardener Sun, sand and surveillance

Marianne Willburn

A quick overnight to the beach this week means different things to different members of my family. For my daughter it is a chance to celebrate her birthday in unusual surroundings. Her brother benefits by virtue of his filial connection, and my husband has time away from fluorescent lighting and office shenanigans.

Each one of them started this day fairly early, bleary eyes focused on upcoming sand and sea, but I was up earlier - long before the sun had started to fill the sky with light sliding gracefully between rose and whitest gray. Two days away at this time of year means instant death for tender seedling flats and potted plants - a great quantity of which inhabit a patio greenhouse on my deck.

The most delicate are given space in the lifeboats first, coming in to fill my family room with all manner of green. I do a quick scan for poisonous tempters that may beckon sweetly to my home-bound Labrador, and close up the shutters to preserve cool air and moist soil.

Outside in the garden proper, everything is so dry it seems pointless to fling a sprinkler about, so instead I play favorites and deeply water a first year Hydrangea quercifolia and a temperamental line of Caryopteris clandonensis 'Longwood Blue.' The others will have to wait for the possibility of an "isolated thunderstorm" - an elusive phenomena often promised and rarely granted in my neck of the woods.

And once at the beach; yes there is surf and sun and sand - a million beach umbrellas and endless pee-wee golf courses. There are boardwalks and bicycles and scooters that whiz through traffic on their way to al fresco lunches with blonde college sophomores named Becky. The hum of the East Coast summer is almost palpable.

However, there are also new plants to be discovered in this little beach town a full zone and a half warmer than home. So while my children point and shriek at fiber glass volcanoes spewing red water on unwitting golfers, I am busy with research, reconnaissance, and if I'm lucky, a little bit of retail.

There is no shortage of nurseries proffering exotic plants to tempt the gardener weakened by the taste of rum punch and the smell of boardwalk fries on sweet sultry evenings. These plants represent the promise of an endless summer - and those of us from cooler climes may buy impulsively - but sadly they will not survive our endless winter without a heated

greenhouse or a spare room on standby.

Often they are not even hardy to the climate of the nursery itself - but since when does truth have anything to do with sales? Here in this little Zone 8 town, Mandevillas, Bougainvilleas, and Never-in-My-Villas jump at the consumer with the brightest of yellows and the happiest of reds; yet I know that these beauties only thrive in a double-digit zone. I question the owner and she tells me how much they like the balmy, humid weather right now.

"But what about your winter?" I ask, thinking she might have a frost hardy variety up her Tommy Bahama sleeve. She doesn't. "No, they're only here for the season." she admits with a smile, "but I could sell you a hardy Hibiscus or some hot pink ice plants."

So much for retail therapy.

Notebook and camera it is then - documenting plant combinations like the nerd I will always be. Whether my toes are deep in the sand or painted pink for the evening boardwalk, I am scanning for new ideas.

While the children shriek from atop a spaceship, I am enraptured by the fiery trumpets of common Campsis radicans peeking out from under an ancient seaside carousel - contrasting magnificently with the deep blue petals of a neighboring Nicotiana. A white variety of Thunbergia alata climbs a cerise Oleander - and a mystery coleus invites a surreptitious tip pruning while the rest of my family visits the candy store for shark gummies and salt-water taffy. Later we eat candy apples in rapturous silence, and I show my husband my new trophy, swimming in a water bottle until we can get home to a dusting of rooting hormone and a pot.

As we leave the next day I fight one last twinge to pull over and buy something frivolous to commemorate this spontaneous weekend - but since it will only commemorate it until our first hard frost, I settle for a different kind of frivolous - a purple dress with sequins that makes me smile when I twirl.

Perhaps I'll buy a hardy banana when I get home and call it good.

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Skirmish on the Catoctin Mountains

John Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society

By September 13, 1862, a small portion of the Confederate army occupied South Mountain at Turner's Gap and Fox's Gap, the Wise family would have to leave their farmstead to avoid getting caught in the crossfire of the two opposing sides. They loaded up a wagon and headed west to a local church to take refuge there. As they left, an artillery shell came bursting through the woods, and General Daniel Harvey Hill, seeing one of the Wise children frightened and crying thought about his own child of the same age. He said a few soothing words to the young Wise girl and went back to work.

Allen Sparrow had taken many of his valuables to Pennsylvania. Upon arriving in Wolfesville, he heard the sounds of cannon firing. These sounds were from the Battle of South Mountain. At Wolfesville, receiving accurate news was hard to come by. He had heard that Middletown was torched by the Confederates but seeing the church steeples in the background in Middletown, he knew it wasn't true.

The Battles on South Mountain were heard far and distant. Near Emmitsburg, Maryland, Right Reverend Monsignor James T. Dunn of Mount Saint Mary's Seminary recorded "The battle of South Mountain, which lasted all day Sunday, the 14 of September, 1862, could be plainly heard at the College. As we were going up to Mass to the old church on the hill and as we were returning from Mass, we could hear the firing distinctly. Yet, recreation went on on the terraces and the ordinary routine of college life was followed, as if nothing unusual was

happening. After vespers, which were held in the church on the hill, at 3 p. m., a few of us, under the care of Mr. John Crimmens, went down the Frederick pike, along the mountain side, to a place where a stream crossed the road well on towards Mechanicstown, and stood listening with awe to the sharp, ringing volleys of musketry and then the quick, sullen booming of the cannon, as they came along the reverberating sides of the mountain. The falling shades compelled us to tear ourselves away, as the rules required us all to be at home in time for supper. Again and again we stopped, as one report louder than another followed us, as if begging us to stay."

The civilians in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania also heard the gunfire during church services. The sounds of artillery fire echoed up the Cumberland Valley and the citizens of Waynesboro knew that they must prepare to assist in any way they could. The women of the town hurried that evening to get supplies and comforts together for the wounded. During the night one woman screamed upon finding out that her son had been killed at South Mountain. This was only the beginning of what was to come.

The morale of the northern people was at its lowest point and the Maryland Campaign would change that, in that the Battle of South Mountain would be the turning point. As September 14, dawned the citizens of Maryland had not seen the death and destruction that war brings with it. The battles on South Mountain would be the forefront of what the Maryland population had never experienced before with the sounds of gunfire, the loss of life, and the care for the wounded. The battles of South Mountain

would be a political turning point of the American Civil War, although today, Antietam has that distinction. It could be argued that South Mountain was one of the most important battles to be fought, after all if it wasn't for South Mountain, then Antietam wouldn't have been fought and the Emancipation Proclamation would have been delayed.

The armies would meet on the farm fields surrounding Sharpsburg during the evening of September 16. The bloodiest single day of the Civil War would start at daybreak on the 17. Many civilians prepared for this by hiding personal belongings and even fleeing their homes. One farmer hid eight horses in his cellar by tying feed sacks to their hooves to muffle their sounds. Upon a knock on a door by a soldier, one man hid under his wife's crinolines to avoid detection.

Right Reverend Monsignor James T. Dunn wrote in reference to the Battle of Antietam: "The battle of Antietam followed immediately after South Mountain. During two days, the 16th and 17 of September, the battle raged, and more men were killed than in any previous battle of the war. The New York papers of the time even asserted that it was as great as the battle of Waterloo. As studies and classes and recreation succeeded one another, during those fearful days, little attention was paid, if even the students were conscious of it, to the battle."

In Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, the town's people wrote about the earth shaking throughout the day, as the percussion from artillery made it seem as if an earthquake had hit. Windows rattled, floors shook, and objects fell off the walls inside of homes. The carnage revealed the next day would be devastating and would not be experienced again until ten months later when the Confederate army invaded Maryland and Pennsylvania, meeting at Gettysburg.

After the Battle of Antietam, every community in the north and south were affected in some way or another by the amount of bloodshed that occurred at Antietam. Whole regiments were almost wiped away from the earth. Here, in Maryland as well as in portions of Pennsylvania, com-



munities were turned into hospitals, caring for the wounded and dying. Women were turned into nurses, assisting in saving the lives of others. One organization that helped was the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland, as they were called upon by Washington.

Elizabeth Ann Seton, was the founder and first Superior of the Sisters of Charity in the United States. Just after the Battle of Antietam, the Maryland state authorities petitioned the Sisters at Emmitsburg for help. The bodies of the blue and gray were scattered along the ground until many of them were moved into hospitals. For several days the Sisters went from site to site helping with the care of the wounded men. The soldiers were surprised to see the Sisters and bestowed upon them the nickname of the "Black caps."

After the Battle of Antietam, the Confederate army forded the Potomac at Shepherdstown. There again the armies would meet. The civilians of Shepherdstown would be caught in the crossfire of war. Rumors spread throughout the town, but with so much confusion, people there didn't know if these rumors were true. All communications leading to the town had been cut, due to the war being waged in the Shenandoah Valley before Manassas. The railroads lay in waste. By September 13, the citizens of Shepherdstown awoke to see that their town was occupied by stragglers of the Confederate army.

By September 15, thick fog covered the town and the people there had no idea of what was to come. Casualties from the Battle of South Mountain began to pour in. Everyone in town prepared for the massive hoard of Confederate wounded. By the 17, the sounds of war were close, and the surge of wounded soldiers completely overwhelmed the town. The citizens were so fatigued with the care they provided to the Confederate soldiers. By September 19, the war had approached them as the Confederate army began entering the town followed by the reserves of the Union army. Artillery fire aimed at the Confederates and their counter fire placed Shepherdstown right in the middle.

As a result of the Maryland Campaign, the war was brought to the civilian population in the North. The sites of the carnage, and the moans of the wounded and dying were now imprinted into the memories of those who experienced it. The sites of war took months and years to erase. Even in 1864, several Confederate soldiers with General Early's army still saw damages suffered from the Battle of Antietam that took place almost two years earlier.

Although the war moved back into Virginia, the Union army still laid in wait. By October, General JEB Stuart and his Confederate cavalry launched a raid that now took the war north of the Mason & Dixon Line to Chambersburg. From there he would enter back into Maryland at Emmitsburg, where he was hailed and received additional recruitments. These recruits were the men who were previously afraid to leave their homes to enlist, for fear of pro-Unionists punishing them. Now they had protection.

Because of the Maryland Campaign, many things changed, although the fear was still there. Politically, the people of the north saw the war take on a new agenda. This was not only a war to preserve the Union, but it became a war with a political agenda that included the freeing of slaves. The war would enter Maryland several more times and by 1864, Maryland citizens saw a path of destruction and the ransoming of its towns, including a threat to Washington, itself.

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

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VETERAN'S PROFILE

Lance Corporal Phillip Mort, USMC

Michael Hillman
Emmitsburg Historical Society

"Video games glorify war. War is not glory, but pure and simple hell. In real wars, when you get hit, you can't hit a reset button and go on playing. When you get hit, you go down. Too many who got hit, never get back up."

—Phil Mort

It was hot outside. The temperature was already pushing 102 degrees and was headed higher. The humidity was so thick that the word "oppressive" would not do it justice. But thankfully, the weather was supposed to change that night and the weeklong hot streak that had settled upon the area would finally be lifted. One week was more than I cared to suffer.

For Phil Mort, the 102 degree, 100 percent humidity was just a reminder of what life was like day in and day out while serving his tour in Vietnam. It set the tone for the interview that was to follow.

"So you want me to tell you what it was like to lose a friend?" replied Phil to my opening question. "OK, I can do that, but first you need to tell me how many friends and how often?"

"Wow," I thought, this was going to be harder interview than I had imagined.

"First off, you have to understand. I, like just about everyone else, was in my own world. All we wanted to do was survive and go home. Every day I saw death and destruction. People I saw in the morning were dead in the evening. When fresh replacements showed up, you didn't want to know their names. You didn't want to know where they were from; you didn't want to know anything about them. It was easier that way. One day they would be there, and the next day they were dead. The only way you could survive was to become numb to the world around you.

"The Tet Offensive was in full swing. Everyone was getting attacked, so my unit was constantly on the road. Everyone needed

ammo and we were the best way to get it to them in the quantities they needed.

"On a return run from Khe Sanh, we ran into an ambush at a place called 'Rock Pile.' It was called that because it was a pile of rocks. The Viet Cong had built a hospital deep within it and we were always getting ambushed there. When the mortars started to fall, I jumped out of my truck and hid behind it. Seconds later I saw a shell explode 15 feet away. It was pure luck that it missed me. We lost a lot of good soldiers that afternoon before the battle was over.

"We no sooner returned to our base at Dong Ha than we got orders to load up and head to Hue. Hue was the former imperial capital of Vietnam. Prior to the war, it was one of the most beautiful cities in Vietnam. But it was ground zero for the Tet Offensive. It was nearly captured by the Viet Cong and was only reclaimed by the US Marines and the South Vietnamese after weeks of block-by-block fighting that left the city in ruins.

"The convoy for Hue was miles long. The first truck to roll had left hours before I ever left the base. I passed a truck that had hit a mine in the road. There was nothing anyone could do but push it off the road into a rice paddy. There was not time to stop and mourn. The convoy had to keep rolling. I was just about to cross a bridge when I saw a friend from Fountaindale, Denny Martin. He had parked his jeep in the water and was cleaning it. I only had a few moments to stop and talk to him before I had to get rolling again. It was a surreal moment, catching up on old times next to a blown up truck in a rice paddy.

"But back to your original question – what was it like to lose a friend. It was hard. Before I had left for Vietnam, I had married a girl from Emmitsburg. She was a Catholic, and I was a Reformed. As we planned on raising a family, I agreed to become a Catholic and George was my teacher while I was

in Vietnam.

"We didn't have churches or meeting rooms to meet in. Instead, George would give me books and material to read and we would talk when we could. I really grew to like him. George had 30 days left in his tour, and when we finished talking about religion, he would talk about going home. He was looking forward to getting married to his long-time girlfriend and raising a family. An avid baseball fan, he already had tickets to the first game he could attend upon his return.

"I was about to graduate and become a Catholic. One morning, after a fierce mortar attack on the base, I dropped by to say hello to George and was told he was dead – a victim of the mortar shell. I never had a chance to say goodbye.

"It really hurt me. His death broke my heart. I had seen so much death and destruction that I had long ago become numb to it, but losing George cut through all that numbness. It cut me to the bone.

"There were a lot of guys from Emmitsburg who fought over there – Jimmy Washer, Jerry

Wagerman, Sunny Humerick, Pat Topper, Billy Smith, Bob Hardman. Even though we rarely got to see each other while in Vietnam, when we did, it always allowed us to escape the horrors of the war, even if only momentarily.

"Upon our return from Hue, we were sent further south to Phu Bai and Camp Evans, then back to the camps up North. It was a continuous loop: first North, then South. We couldn't wait for the fighting to end so we could resupply the troops; they needed the supplies then.

"While supplying the bases up North along the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), you could see the B-52s drop their bombs on enemy positions north of the border. The B-52s would no sooner make



Phil Mort, Dong Ha, Vietnam, 1967



The Battle of Hue lasted for four weeks and was the site of one of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam War. 2,500 U.S. Marine battalions attacked and soundly defeated more than 10,000 entrenched enemy troops to liberate its 140,000 citizens at the cost 142 American lives.

Hue was Vietnam's old imperial capital as well as its cultural capital. It gracefully retained the glory of Vietnam's past while its universities educated Vietnam's brightest minds for the future. Hue was a symbol of everything the Vietnamese people admired and respected.

their turn home after dropping their bombs than you would see columns of dirt thrown high into the air. The planes would no sooner disappear than the VC (Viet Cong) would shell the base as if to say, 'You missed us. We're still here.'

"One day, at Con Thien, a newly arrived officer wanted to take some photos of the DMZ and ordered a driver to take him to the top of a local hill. They had no sooner stopped than a mortar round landed in the truck's

cab. I was sent to retrieve the remains of the truck. There was nothing left of the diver and the lieutenant. The inside of the cab looked like someone had taken a fire hose full of hamburger and sprayed the inside of the truck.

"The only way you could survive those scenes was to become numb to them. War truly is hell on Earth."

To read past Veteran's Profiles visit the Historical Society section of emmitsbug.net.

Blue Ridge Sportsman's Association

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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August 5 - Bingo

August 10 - Outlaw Shoot

August 18 - Horseshoe Tournament

August 25 - Wagner Super Shoot

August 31 - Outlaw Shoot

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Sat. - Breakfast - 7-11am • Lunch - 12-4pm
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HISTORY

A short history of Rocky Ridge

James Rada, Jr.

Rocky ridge has always been there. That is the rocky ridge the ironstone ridge that runs from Virginia up to Gettysburg, Pa. and produces the red slate soil.

Rocky Ridge the town is a different matter. No one is quite sure when the name came into use.

"Even residents knowledgeable about their local history are reluctant to assign a specific year as the village's date of founding," Marie Anne Erickson wrote in a 1991 Frederick Magazine article.

A 1980 Frederick Post article noted that "Time has swallowed the name of the man who gave Rocky Ridge its name."

The land that makes up the town, or parts of the town, has been called by various names depending on the owners. The Historical Society of Frederick County has a type-written document titled History of Rocky Ridge, Maryland that in 1789, the village was called Ogleton after the family who owned the land. It is apparently noted on a privately-held deed of property owned by the by Valentine family at the time.

The Valentine Family, whose members appear throughout Rocky Ridge's history, owned a large amount of property northeast of town. Jacob Valentine owned land called "Stony Hill." He bought a tract from George Valentine called "White Oak Hill" in 1783 and had the properties resurveyed and listed as "Valentine's Good Will."

Henry Krise, a Revolutionary War soldier, owned a large parcel east of the present-day town that he called "Turkey Thicket." He had bought additional property and had it resurveyed in 1800 and the name became "Krise's Establishment."

John Eigenbrode was a blacksmith who owned property west of town on the road to Loys Station.

Other people joined this group of founding citizens, building businesses along the roads and their homes near their businesses. Rocky Ridge has never been a large community, even in its heyday when it had five general stores, dance hall and churches, the population was less than 100 people within the town itself.

Churches

The Church of the Brethren is oldest church in Rocky Ridge. The Monocacy Congregation, which uses the church, was formed in 1842 and met in a log school every other week. Elders Philip Boyle, O.E. Michael, Peter Miller and Daniel Miller, all from the Pipe Creek Church in Carroll County formally organized the new congregation in 1855 at which time a stone church was built. Daniel P. Saylor was the minister in charge of this new congregation for more than 30 years until his death, according to the History and Biographical Record of Frederick County, Md., Volume I.

The Mt. Tabor Lutheran and Reformed Church was built in 1875 of stone from the John Ott Farm, about a mile north of the church. The original trustees were Edward Long and Michael Lippy for the Reformed congregation and James E. Valentine and Michael Eichelberger for the Lutheran congregation.

Though Mt. Tabor Park is now thought of as the park with the wooden slide, it was originally conceived as a religious retreat. In the early part of the 20th Century, the land owner, Howard Brevard, decided to cut down the oak trees on the property and sell the lumber.

"Dr. [P. E.] Heimer [the pastor at the Reformed Church] has always been and still is a great lover of trees and he thought it would be a shame to destroy all of those beautiful trees," according to



The old Rocky Ridge railroad station was the connecting point between the Emmitsburg railroad and the old Western Maryland railroad. While traces of track are still visible between Emmitsburg and Rocky Ridge, nothing remains of the old Rocky Ridge station.

History of Rocky Ridge, Maryland. "So, it was decided to buy six acres of this ground. This was purchased on August 30, 1919 and was dedicated September 21 of the same year."

A tabernacle, which could seat 200 people was built the following year. It is still used for Sunday services during the summer. However, the park also became a popular gathering spot for picnics, festivals and family reunions.

Because of the popularity of the park, additional land was purchased in 1923 and 1925, bringing the total acreage to 16. Community picnics at the times were so popular that as many as 10,000 people might attend.

A group of volunteers built Frederick County's longest and steepest slide in the spring of 1950. It is made of hardwood flooring surrounded by a structure made of lumber in the park. The slide is 35 feet high and 100 feet long.

A 1951 fire destroyed the slide, which became one of the first fire calls for the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company. Firefighters were on scene for 7.5 hours. The slide was re-

built after the fire and remains a popular attraction.

Schools

Nothing is known of the first schoolhouse in Rocky Ridge except that it was made of log and was where the Church of the Brethren met until 1855.

Sometime after 1882, the Joshua Biggs family donated two acres of land along the road from Rocky Ridge to Creagerstown for the purpose of building a house for the school teacher and contributed to the building of the second school house. "This was a one-room brick building in which Dosia Long, the writer's aunt taught for several years. Miss Long was also an artist having studied in Paris, France," according to the History of Rocky Ridge, Maryland. Other teachers who taught at this school were William Martin, Marian E. Eichelberger, Emma J. Eichelberger and J. H. Seabrook.

This property and the building was sold in 1927 and a new school was built on the south side of the road leading from Rocky Ridge to Thurmont just a short distance from the town square.

Roy Dinterman remembered play-

ing hooky from school as a child and playing practical jokes at school. "Someone would untie the bell rope, which then dropped through the hole. The teacher would pay a quarter to one of the kids to put it back up," Dinterman recalled.

This school had two rooms and was built of brick. It closed in 1942 when the Frederick County Board of Education began busing students to schools in Emmitsburg and Thurmont.

Community

Rocky Ridge got its own U.S. Post Office in 1870. James Black was the first postmaster and the post office was located in his store, which was on the southwest corner of the town square. William Biggs became the postmaster on August 1, 1893, and the post office was moved from Black's store to Biggs' home. Even as late as 1915, mail was still delivered on horseback.

When the U.S. Postal Service closed the Rocky Ridge post office in 1991, the Rocky Ridge Fire Company voted to rent the meeting room in the fire hall to the post office for free. The post office signed a \$1 a year, five-year contract with the fire company and dedicated the new post office on December

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16, 1991.

Electricity first came to Rocky Ridge in 1922, according to History of Rocky Ridge, Maryland.

Robert Biggs, a former resident of the town who was then a lawyer in Baltimore, gave the community a \$1,000 endowment for a library in 1934. The community raised another \$600 and added a wooden room onto the school building that served as a library for the Rocky Ridge Community. The interest from the endowment was used to buy new books each year. It became the Robert Biggs Memorial Library. When the school building was sold, the library's contents were moved to the Junior Order United American Mechanics.

The Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company took responsibility for the library in 1990. The company officers also became the library officers. The library is now housed in the Rocky Ridge Activity Building.

Businesses

One of the early named businesses in Rocky Ridge was the Western Maryland Railroad. A station opened in Rocky Ridge in 1870. Sheridan Biggs was the first freight agent and telegraph operator. He served in that position until 1907.

W. H. Albaugh opened the first store in Rocky Ridge in 1882. James Black eventually bought the store and began operating it. The building burned down in 1912. Elsworth Valentine built a combination store and house on the same site in 1918.

The Englar Cigar Box Company operated in town from 1887 until 1920. The factor was located where the volunteer fire company parking lot is now. The company manufactured wooden cigar boxes cigar makers before cardboard boxes became the norm. The company's motto was: "Superior quality, best lumber, neatly finished." The wooden cigar boxes are now considered collector's items if one can be found.

Isaac Fisher opened the Rocky Ridge Elevator Company in 1900. It closed in 1914 when the building was destroyed by fire. N.O. Sharer and Charles Wood reopened the business on the same site in 1915. It continued until 1945 under various owners until the Thurmont Cooperative took it over.

Grayson Valentine and his son, Ira, built a general store in town in 1902. It was located on the town square opposite the Elsworth Valentine store.

William Clem opened a garage in town in 1921 that is located on the road between Rocky Road and De-tour near the town square.

The largest business currently in Rocky Ridge opened in 1966. The Baltimore Brick Works was located on 800 acres and used Gettysburg shale to make 40 million bricks a year in 30 different colors. It was a subsidiary of the Arundel Corporation. Today, the company is one of the four Redland Brick Company manufacturing plants. The bricks are now fired in a computer-controlled kiln and formed by placing mud in wood molds.

Some of the other businesses that were known to have been in the town were a blacksmith shop owned by Michael Eichelberger, a stone mill along the Road from Rocky Ridge to Creagerstown was owned first by Jerry Martin and then John Long. The latter operated well into the 20th century. A couple of people have run small coal mining operations in town over the years as well.

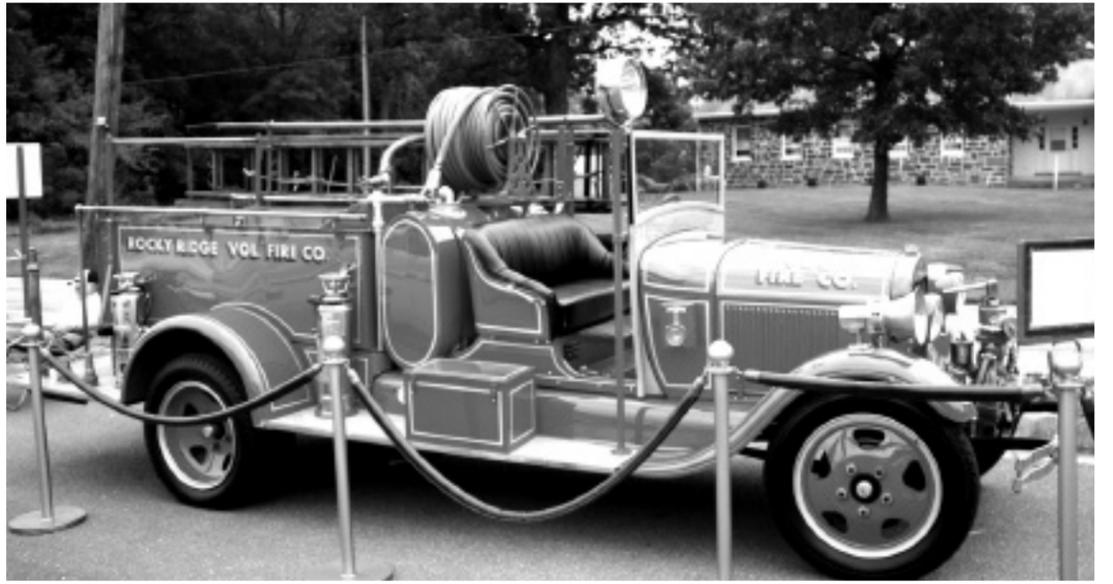
Fire Company and Fires

A large fire swept through town on a Saturday night in 1911, marking Rocky Ridge's greatest catastrophe.

"I was so scared. I didn't know what to do," Ethel Mumma told the Frederick Post in 1980. She was only 15 years old at the time. "We had no fire department, and all of the people living in the nearby houses were busy taking all of their furniture out of their homes and putting it in the street. They were sure that their houses would be engulfed in the fire."

The fire began in one of the five general stores in town at the time. A bucket brigade was formed that tried to douse the adjacent houses and keep them from burning. The store was lost as well as the dance hall above it.

For the most part, though, Rocky Ridge was fire free as long as the residents were vigilant. For example in 1931, sparks from the Western Maryland Railroad engine ignited nearby brush and started a fire that was moving toward town. Luckily, a group of people at a reunion in Mt. Tabor Park



Since formal government is absent, the Rocky Ridge Fire Company is the nucleus around which this great little community revolves.

saw the flames and moved quickly to put them out.

The Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company was formed on May 9, 1949, with Marshall Fishpaw as president. A light company was being formed at the same time and one of the first duties of the fire company was to maintain the street lights in Rocky Ridge as well as the pond that the company would draw water from to fight fires.

The Rocky Ridge Hall Association provided the company with its first fire hall on Longs Mill Road just south of town in 1950. At the time, it was also agreed that any Rocky Ridge organization would be able to use the hall free of charge.

Fire calls in the early years of the company were rare. Many years there were fewer than 10. Nearly all of these early calls were made verbally rather than with an alarm.

The first piece of equipment purchased was a Model A Ford engine from the Vigilant Hose Company for \$1,000 in 1951. It was paid for through the company's fundraising efforts that included dinners, card parties and festivals.

An engine room was needed for the engine and William Martin and his wife sold the company the land in 1952. Leon Stover and Roy Dinterman built the engine room.

The first new fire engine was purchased in 1955. It was a Dodge truck with an American Fire Apparatus body that had a 400-gallon booster tank and a 500 GPM front mount pump. The engine and the equipment for it cost \$1,175.

In 1964, the fire company purchased 1.5 acres north of the town square on Motters Station Road. The land already had a house on it, which the fire company rented. Construction of a new fire hall on the land began in October 1965 and the building was dedicated a year later with Congressman Charles MacMathias and Maryland Comptroller Louis Goldstein attending.

The Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1955.

According to history of the fire company on their web site, "The blizzard of 1993 took its toll on fire calls, the company had a diabetic call where the ambulance crew came on snowmobiles, and then the company had to watch a house burn down, because the road was blocked and the engines could not get there."

The company purchased land for \$35,500 in 1994 from the Church of the Brethren to build a new fire hall. The land is on Motters Station Road. The following year, the fire company purchased a Morton building for the new hall, a 90 x 81-foot engine room and a 30 x 102-foot office area. The building's total area was 10,350 square feet and cost \$255,000.

The fire company celebrated its 50-year anniversary during 1999 with a number of different events throughout the year. During the kick-off banquet

on January 28, the web site history noted, "We gave the souvenir booklets, mugs, and pocket calendars away at the banquet. We had around 216 people there. The banner was displayed inside the fire hall, and we set up another little display at the back of the fire hall. It was a fun and exciting year. We had T-shirts, golf shirts, and sweatshirts made up with the old fire station and the model A and the new fire station and Engine 132 on the back. The banner that was on display was a picture of the Model A Ford with 50th anniversary and 1949-1999 dates on."

Other events included a breakfast in February, a banquet in March, a ladies auxiliary basket bingo in April and an open house in May. More than 265 people attended the open house event.

Rocky Ridge Today

Although there are several thriving businesses in town most residents prefer the quiet, bedroom atmosphere that continues to exist.

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

“Virtue of Patience”

Major Ted Streeter, USA Ret

My previous two articles explored the lighter side of the espionage game. And, there are many more such examples – for instance, the time we apprehended what we believed to be a saboteur inside a major US Army ammunition storage depot in Germany. But, we quickly learned that our saboteur was just some poor guy who had had a major fight with his wife, bought a bottle of brandy, got blindingly drunk, somehow penetrated the heavily guarded perimeter wires, and passed out on one of the ammunition storage bunkers. But, there were also many serious incidents, one of which I’d like to discuss in this article. Since I believe this will be my last article, I would like to take this opportunity to reminisce and philosophize a bit.

observations that, I believe, are peculiar to the Cold War recruitment of voluntary agents. The first is the importance of ideology in recruiting personnel from the Soviet Bloc. A good example of that is “George”, a KGB defector, rather famous in the intelligence community, to whom I spoke on a couple of occasions. George was thoroughly indoctrinated and a true believer in Marxist ideology, before being transferred to the KGB station in London.

Once there, however, he found that the West was not the decadent society that it had been portrayed as being. George began to ponder the differences between London and Soviet society, and eventually concluded that a life of freedom was definitely the choice to make. From that point the next step was easy. Recruiters from the East, however could rarely use

some way dissatisfied with spouse, job, system, etc., or who loved the extravagant life style, and combining that with money. Sometimes the former factors weren’t necessary. Money is a great motivator in the capitalist world.

I’ve been out of the business for some time now, but I imagine that all of that has changed. We no longer face a state-sponsored political ideology, but rather are now opposed by a transnational, religious adversary. Those who have argued about religion, know that it’s well nigh impossible to get one’s opponent to admit that his or her faith may be flawed or to expect them to see its own weaknesses. And, there is a degree of fanaticism involved, which formerly did not play that great a role. I do not pretend to be an expert on Islam, but from what I have read and heard, portions of it can be interpreted to advocate killing non-believers (us), and achieving martyrdom if one dies in the process. That makes it tough when trying to recruit volunteers to penetrate terrorist organizations. On the positive side, however, something is working. You’ll notice that many of those arrested (most recently the Capitol Hill bomber) have been duped into believing that they are working with Al Qaeda or another terrorist organization. So, kudos to our guys and gals in the FBI and the law enforcement community!

As to non-voluntary recruitment of Western personnel, I need say only one word – sex! While other factors may have at times played a minor role, the overwhelming method of involuntary recruitment was some variation of the “honey trap”, usually involving an unhappily married middle aged male who just happens to meet a young, voluptuous, willing, foreign national female, becomes “involved”, and is



“Honey Trap” - Anna (Any) Chapman

entrapped. Oddly enough, heterosexual sex has been the overwhelming culprit. When I first started my career, homosexuality was considered a security factor, and those who acknowledged the practice were denied a security clearance. That persisted until, I believe, the mid-1980s. But to my knowledge (and I could be wrong), other than the Burgess & Maclean case in the ‘50s- no sex-related espionage case has involved homosexuality. And, all of this discussion brings us to “Bob”. It has been said that espionage is the world’s second oldest profession with none of the virtues of the first. I can’t (won’t!) discuss the virtues of the first, but a primary one of the second is patience; the ability to wait until the right time to make the move. In Bob’s case, the KGB waited about 11 years for an opportunity that it first spotted in 1973 or ‘74.

After I retired from the US Army, I was employed by a small, foreign service agency, now defunct, in Washington, D.C., where I ran the counterintelligence effort. In the late 1980s, we received word from another agency that Bob- then returning from the Soviet Union to a high post in our agency, had been co-opted by the KGB. We called Bob in for an interview, and over a period of time, his story emerged. By the way, no water boarding took place!

Bob was a young Republican who had worked hard for the reelection of Richard Nixon and, as a reward, was given a minor post in the White House. One of his duties was maintaining liaison with young Republican groups around the country, and in that capacity he somehow met Vladimir (Vlad), the accredited US correspondent for “Izvestiya”- a top, Soviet newspaper. Bob and Vlad became close friends over the next couple of years until Vlad was recalled to Moscow. Bob eventually left the White House and joined our agency. After a year or so, Bob was posted to Africa – Kenya, I believe – and after a short period - who should he run into, but his old friend Vladimir! Complete chance right? What a small world! It seems that just by chance, Vladimir had also been posted to Kenya. The two resumed their friendship until Bob returned to the US for a few years. He was then posted to the Soviet Union, and lo and behold, who should he meet upon arrival but good ol’ Vlad, who had heard “through the grapevine” that Bob was coming to the USSR. Bob and Vlad resumed their ways, and all went well until just before Bob was to return to the US, when the trap was sprung.

About a week before his departure, Vlad called Bob and asked that they meet at the apartment of a mutual, artist friend. Bob agreed. Upon arrival, Bob found Vlad, the artist and another man, “Mikhail”, seated in the living room. After introductions, Vlad and the artist excused



I was a very small cog in the machinery of the intelligence engine, but over the years developed a few ideology as a recruitment tool. For them, the right approach was spotting an individual who was in

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

themselves and left. Mikhail then told Bob that he (Mikhail) was an attorney who represented a young lady who claimed that Bob had impregnated her. Mikhail produced photographs of the two in compromising positions, and stated that should the lady press charges, Bob would not be allowed to leave the Soviet Union until the matter was settled. Also, his career and marriage would both be shot. However, Mikhail stated that if Bob would just sign a document (in Russian) that Mikhail had prepared, Bob would be free to leave. He, Mikhail would fix the situation and no one would be the wiser. By the way, Mikhail, added, someone would contact him in Washington, after he had settled into his new job and advise him as to how the matter had turned out. Bob, weighing all the possibilities, signed the document, and the KGB had him. Bob's Washington contact would have, of course, advised him that if Bob passed certain information to the contact, that Bob's activities in the USSR would remain in confidence. Bob could not do otherwise, because the KGB now had a document signed by him.

Bob was polygraphed on the Soviet Union phase of his activities and relationship with Vladimir, and his account of what had transpired turned out to be accurate. However, Bob refused to be polygraphed on anything prior to his Soviet Union tour. I am absolutely convinced- although I can't prove it, that very early in their relationship, Vladimir spotted Bob's weakness for extra-marital sex (if you'd met Bob's wife, you'd understand), and that he nurtured that weakness throughout their times together, waiting at least 11 years before springing the trap. Had we not learned of it, Bob would have occupied a high position in our agency- as a Soviet mole. Patience is indeed a virtue. Bob, incidentally, was not prosecuted. He was dismissed from the Foreign Service and now lives.... who knows where?

I left the profession in 1995- after 34 years service. I consider myself very fortunate to have entered it just when the Berlin Wall went up and to have left a few years after the demise of the "evil empire". Now all, I would imagine, has changed. But, my time left me with memories that those currently in the community, will never experience, memories that illustrate what the Cold War, the bipolar world, was all about.

I recall walking into what was advertised as a grocery store in Moscow, to find the shelves bare except for a few cans of something and a couple of scrawny, greenish chickens hanging from meat hooks behind the counter. I remember shopping at the giant GUM department store in Moscow. I was a pipe smoker at the time and tried to buy one where ever I went- which was an experience in the Moscow GUM. First, if you could get waited on, you picked out your merchandise. The clerk then wrote a chit describing it, which you took to the



In the Cold War, both sides used the polygraph in a never-ending effort to ferret out double agents.

cashier. You paid the cashier, who stamped your chit, and then you returned to the counter to try to get waited on again. When and if you were successful, the clerk inspected the chit, took out the merchandise, and sent it to the wrapper, where you would go to stand in line while that process took place. Only after all was completed, could you leave the store with your wares. The whole system was the epitome of what one local resident told me - "We pretend to work and they pretend to pay us."

Most of all, I remember standing in Red Square at night, gazing at the Kremlin atop which sat a huge, brightly lit, red star. Here was the seat of world Communism, from which emanated the suppression of eastern Europe, the Cuban Missile crisis, the invasion of Afghanistan, and all of the other initiatives designed to defeat my country and the West. It was an eerie, almost religious feeling that I shall never forget.

I also remember, when packing for a trip to Eastern Europe, to al-

ways include at least one carton of cigarettes. A pack of Marlboros could do wonders there, except for Romania, where Kents seemed to be the cigarette of choice.

I remember checking into the Sheraton Balkan, in Sofia, Bulgaria, with my traveling partner, to be told that our rooms were not yet ready. We checked back in a half hour with the young Bulgarian desk clerk to be told that they were still not ready. A half hour later- the same thing. We asked to speak to the manager, who was Danish, as the Balkan was being managed by a Danish company. The manager simply instructed the kid to give us two other rooms- a decision that would be made by any desk clerk in the West without prompting. It occurred to me how sad it was to be raised in a system where individual action was discouraged if not prohibited, and that it was this quality - the power and desire of individual initiative - if any, that would ultimately result in the Western

victory over Communism.

Lastly, I recall two trips to Czechoslovakia, one in the mid-80s and the other in 1992. Prague is a beautiful city, untouched by World War II, full of historic facades (not to mention some of the best beer to be had). But, in 1985 the city was leaden - dark, gray- without life. On a couple of occasions I would stop to ask directions (in German), and people would immediately flee, afraid to be seen in the company of a Westerner. Western European broadcasts were all jammed. The airport was segregated into two parts, enforced by armed guards - one for those flying within the Eastern Bloc and the other for those traveling to the West. No contact was allowed. I remember stepping onto the Air Austria plane for the flight to Vienna, and immediately being overcome by a feeling of freedom- of release from the oppressiveness of Communist society. I returned in the summer of 1992

to find Prague alive and thriving. Flowers everywhere. A Peruvian band playing in Wenceslas Square, and the streets thronged with American soldiers and their families- all in search of that famous Czech crystalware.

Although Cold War lasted for only 50 years- a nanosecond in human history- it was unique in so many ways that will never be duplicated. I'm sure that future writers will recall similar tales from their experiences during the war on terrorism, but none in my mind will equal the period when one half of the world faced the other and we came very close to blowing ourselves to pieces. The Cold War provided me not only with a career, but with the chance to serve my country in ways that not many people experience. But, we've moved on, and as for the Cold War- I guess it's goodbye to all that.

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OVER THE WHITE BOARD FENCE

In for a penny, in for a pound

Michael Hillman

When I finally got on the plane, all I could think was: "He's safe." It had started out as one of the most frustrating days of my life, yet it finished as one on the most fulfilling. The only thing I had left to do was write the events of the past 24 hours down before they became a distant memory.

The day's events were set into motion on a Friday night as I was dropping copies of the paper off at the Cunningham Falls State Parks Scales and Tales office when John Zuke, one of the part time rangers asked me if I wanted a peek at their latest addition. I have become friends with John—the father of the paper's Pure On Sense columnists, Scott Zuke—over the past few years due to our interaction for the park's monthly In the Country column in the paper. This time however, I sensed a note of sorrow in the tone of his voice. Something was wrong.

John walked me into the aviary and over to a large water tub in the bottom of which lay the largest turtle I had ever seen. It was easily a foot and a half long, if not longer.

"He's an African Spur-Thigh Tortoise" John said. "A man from Frederick said that he had found him a few days ago while doing some excavations in Gaithersburg, and brought him home." John then went on to tell me the sad plight of what happens to most of these creatures.

Bought at pet stores when they are no bigger than a half-dollar, they amuse and entertain children—for a while, that is. As they mature quickly, much like the juvenile owl, the time and cost of maintaining them soon tire their owners, and many are simply left outside to fend for themselves. Having grown dependant on human support, few survive for long in the wild. As sub-Saharan desert natives, the tortoises that do manage to survive the summer months die from exposure during the long, cold months of winter.

"But this guy got lucky, given his

size, it's clear someone loved him." John said. "So I don't think we got the full story on him. Pets like this don't simply wander off. Something happened."

The anguish in John's eye was clearly evident.

I wanted to know more about the history of the turtle, so John continued to explain....

"He was taken from the man who found him because they thought he was an endangered Maryland Wood Turtle, which he is not, so he has to go back to the man who found him."

"How did animal control get involved?" I asked.

"Someone called and filed an animal cruelty complaint. It was claimed he was keeping the tortoise in a trashcan, which is cruel to begin with, but in this heat it could be a death sentence," answered a clearly dejected John. Something was clearly wrong.

"Can't the state do something?" I asked.

"No," replied John, "as he is not endangered, we can't do anything legally for him here. Animal Control can warn him, but God only knows what will happen once they leave. If he's to survive, someone is going to have to step forward and help the tortoise."

John's words played over and over in my head. Who was that someone? Like many in this country, I had become accustomed to a nameless person always stepping forward to be "that someone." I knew from my years of reading that there were countless tortoise sanctuaries. Surely one of them could be contacted to help this tortoise. But John was right. As a state employee he was restricted in what he could do. As we both stood quietly looking at the tortoise, I realized that my time had come to be that "someone."

"OK," I said, taking a deep breath, "talk to the guy and ask if he is willing to give him up to a tortoise sanctuary. If he is, I'll pay the cost of getting him there."

John's smile returned. "I'll do that.



Thanks."

The next morning, Saturday, I opened the paper to see a rather negative story regarding the state's handling and confiscation of the tortoise and of the individual who said he had "found" him and his ability or qualifications to care for the tortoise. The individual who found him clearly came out looking disreputable. I now understood John's unspoken concerns.

As I was recounting with my wife my conversation with John, the phone rang. It was John.

"Are you still willing to cover the expenses of getting the tortoise to a sanctuary?" he asked.

For a split second I hesitated. It would be easy to say no. I had no idea what the cost might be, and I had yet to get to that part of the story with my wife. If I was to renege on my offer, now was the time to do it. But I couldn't. "In for a penny, in for a pound," I thought.

"Sure," I replied, "Tell him I'll cover the expenses."

I hung up, shaking my head and wondering how I always managed to get myself into these situations. I had set aside a week to play catch-up on a long list of overdue farm proj-

ects, I had to get ready for a competition the next day, and on top of all that, I had to fly to South Carolina the next afternoon for work. Now, I needed to find some way to locate a tortoise sanctuary open on Saturday and find a way to get him to them safely. I secretly hoped the guy would reject my offer and opt to obtain the care for the tortoise himself. But just in case, I set out to find an open sanctuary. I finally found one in Lancaster, about a 2 hour drive away that would take him.

About an hour later, John called. "The guy has agreed to give you the tortoise." He gave me the man's address and phone number.

Now I really was in for a "pound." There was no going back.

I called and confirmed with the man as best I could that he was indeed willing to surrender the tortoise to a sanctuary. I could barely understand what he was saying. At best I could only understand every fifth word. All I could hope was that he was understanding me. But, when I finally convinced myself that he indeed understood what was going to happen, I told him that I was on my way.

"I'll be on my porch waiting," he replied.

At 4 pm, a half-hour after my call, I pulled up in front of his house, and as promised, he was sitting on his porch waiting for me. I was directed to take the car around the block and down an alley leading to the back of his house, which I did.

I grabbed my camera, with the intention of getting a photograph of him handing me the tortoise for a story for the paper. But I was unprepared for what I saw next. The yard the tortoise lived in was strewn with empty beer bottles and trash. The tortoise was being handed about as if it was a ball. Bounced around from person to person, and up and down as if it were a baby, the stress on the tortoise's face was clearly evident. When one person insisted on putting it on their head for a photo, I put my best poker face on. All that was on my mind was 'this animal was going to die unless some-

thing was done to help him.'

John was right. 'Don't say anything,' I thought to myself, 'take the photo, get the tortoise, and be gone. Deal with what you are seeing later.'

I once again went over the plans for the tortoise, and once again, the man confirmed his agreement. After taking the photographs, I put the camera over my shoulder and picked up the tortoise and began to head to the car. I had barely taken my second step when I suddenly found the tortoise torn from my hands.

"You're not taking George!" the man shouted. He demanded a story be run in the Frederick News-Post saying he was a hero for finding the tortoise, and then and only then would he give him to me. And without another word, he turned and went into the house with the tortoise.

I stood frozen in my tracks as my mind tried to process what just had happened. A minute or two later, the man came out of his house, clearly agitated, and in a spew of profanity, told me to get out of his sight. So I left.

I called my wife and told her I was coming home empty-handed. It was a long drive home as I ran the events that had just transpired over and over again in my head. What had I done wrong? What could I have done differently? What should I do now?

In for a penny, in for a pound.

I called the Park and told John what had happened, and I knew that he was extremely saddened by the news. When I got home, I caucused with my wife as to what to do next, if anything. But having seen the tortoise first hand, I knew he needed help. In order to get him that help, I was going to need some help of my own.

I began making calls to everyone I knew who might know someone who might be able to serve as an intermediary. A local church leader or animal activist? A member of his local community? Anyone who the man would trust and would listen to.

But every call ended the same: expressions of support, but no com-



Ranger John Zuke examines the rope around Chester's leg in order to determine how best to remove it without harming Chester.

THE GREAT TORTOISE RESCUE

mitment of action. Simply put, no one wanted to get involved.

By 10:30 p.m., I was losing all hope, and in one last act of desperation, or brilliance (I was too tired to tell), I called Blaine Young, one of our county commissioners and owner of a local taxi cab company whose office is just blocks away from the man's house. "Maybe," I thought, "just maybe, Blaine has a taxi cab driver who knows the guy and who can help."

To my surprise, my e-mail to Blaine was answered in minutes. "Call me... What's the address?" was all it said.

My hopes jumped. I called Blaine and relayed the day's events. "That's just down the road from me. Let me walk down right now and see if I can resolve it."

"Great!" I said.

"Just one question," Blaine asked, "If he wants money for the tortoise, how much are you willing to give him?"

The question caught me off guard. I had been operating under the assumption that all I had committed was my time, now I was being asked to commit money. But it was a fair question. A question that needed to be asked and deserved an answer.

"\$500," I replied.

"You're willing to pay \$500 for a turtle?" Blaine asked in disbelief.

"Yes," I said. I had already invested the penny, so might as well fork over the pounds.

"Ok, let me see what I can do." Blaine replied.

For the next 20 minutes I paced the floor of my kitchen. Did I really just offer to buy a turtle for \$500? What was I thinking? How did the events go from a simple "will you help this tortoise," to me paying \$500 for him? Things were spinning out of control and I was no longer sure where they would end up.

Twenty minutes to the minute the phone rang. It was Blaine. "He agreed to sell him to you for \$350. Meet me at his house at 9 a.m. with the money and we'll do the trade."

I breathed a sign of relief. Three hundred fifty bucks was a lot of money, but at this stage I no longer really cared. If that was what it was going to take to get the deal done, then so be it. I e-mailed the tortoise sanctuary and told them the deal was back on and to expect the tortoise Sunday afternoon.

The night flashed in a blink of an eye, and before I knew it, I was sitting in front of the man's house again watching Blaine knock on the door. And knock more on the door. And even more. With each unanswered knock my heart sank. The deal was not on. I was not going to get the tortoise.

Blaine turned to me and it was obvious he too was dejected. The noise from the air conditioning unit in the house was masking the knocks and we had no way of knowing when the man would wake up.

Once again, I left empty handed, and once again I had to call John to tell him about my lack of success.

Blaine was committed to making one last try to get the tortoise before

he headed out for a family trip, otherwise he would try again that evening upon his return.

I tried to keep my sprits up, but I found myself wandering aimlessly around the farm for the next few hours, trying to put together a fall back plan on what to do if Blaine should succeed, but only after I had left town.

I had no sooner cancelled for the second time the appointment at the tortoise sanctuary, when I got the call I had been waiting for. "I got him, come on down and get him," piped a cheery Blaine.

In what seemed like a flash, I was once again in town, albeit this time I knew it would be for the last time that day, and for that purpose.

Blaine had warned me that the man had tied a rope around the tortoise's arm. He didn't know why the man had done so, just that he had. When I finally saw the tortoise I was thrilled, but one look at the nylon rope tied tightly around his arm, as if used as a leash, or tether to keep him from wandering, told me that my day was not over yet.

The tortoise had withdrawn the tied arm into the shell and was now having trouble extending the arm, making its removal difficult at best, and something I was clearly not qualified to do. There was only one place to go, back to where the events of the prior 24 hours had all started. Back to Ranger John.

Like me, John's elation at seeing the tortoise quickly turned to concern as he looked at the rope. For close to half an hour, John and another ranger gently worked with the tortoise encouraging it extend its arm far enough out so the could begin cutting the knots on the rope.

With each failed attempt, the idea of calling in a vet to sedate the tortoise and use surgical tools to remove the rope became a more probable solution. But, in one final attempt, John managed to coax the tortoise to stretch out his arm, allowing him to grab it long enough for the knots to be cut and the rope finally removed. The stage had now been set for the final act.

Saying his goodbyes, John gently placed the turtle in the back of my car and I headed off to my backup tortoise sanctuary, to the farm of Rusty Ryan, an avid turtle, tortoise and everything wild fan. Being on the Board of the Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, I couldn't think of anyone I trusted more for the proper care and treatment of the newly freed tortoise.

Rusty and his family greeted us as we pulled into the driveway. Rusty

quickly examined the tortoise, and as I recounted the day's events, he shook his head in disbelief. As I watched the tortoise explore the temporary sanctuary Rusty had set up for him, Rusty laid out his plans for overseeing the tortoise's upkeep. Or at least I think that's what he was telling me. I was too busy enjoying watching the tortoise. While I can't say for sure, he seemed to have an expression on his face that said, "This will do, this will do quite nicely."

Epilogue

As Pat Harvey used to say, "And now for the rest of the story."

While everyone was working to secure the release and safety of the tortoise, its owners, SueLyn and Bill Athey were desperately looking for him. "Chester," as they called him, had last been seen on the day when the man who claimed to have found him was working on their property on behalf of Potomac Edison to repair storm damage. The couple had alerted the crew chief and advised him to warn his people that they owned a tortoise and he was on their grounds and to not hurt him. That's the last time they saw Chester.

Bought in a pet store 12 years ago and no bigger than a silver dollar, Chester lived the good life, roaming free on the Athey's acres. It was his territory; he never strayed from it.

As the days went by, Bill Athey began to extend his search. His attention focused on the Potomac Edison crews. Had one of them picked Chester up? Bill eventually tracked down the central staging area for the electric company's crews and managed to get the attention of a foreman. At Bill's request, a note was put on a bulletin board asking anyone who had worked near his home and who might have information on the whereabouts of Chester to come forward. As luck would have it, several crewmembers did come forward, having read the news stories on his plight run in the daily paper.

Friday morning, more than 8 days after Chester had gone missing, Bill got the call he had been waiting for. It didn't take Bill long to find the initial story on the paper's web site, and confirm his suspicions. The photo of the man who supposedly found Chester was in fact one of the temporary crewmembers that had been on Bill's property doing work. The race was now on to recover Chester.

Bill quickly contacted the Frederick Animal Control. They contacted Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. Strawberry Hill contacted Rusty



Bill Athey and Chester shortly after their reunion. It's a toss-up as to who was happier to see the other!

Ryan, who then contacted me.

Once Bill had convinced me that he was in fact Chester's owner and once Bill realized that I was not part of the original theft and was only trying to protect Chester, the conversation warmed up exponentially. Having lost animals before, I understood only too well Bill's desire to once again have Chester home.

Less than 45 minutes after first contact, Bill pulled into my driveway. His first act was not to shake my hand, but to hand me \$350, the amount I had paid to secure Chester's release. If I had any doubts left in my mind about the quality of Chester's owners, they evaporated forever, then and there.

As we drove to the Ryans' property, Bill recounted, blow-by-blow, the actions he had taken in his search for Chester. Once done, I provided my blow-by-blow on the efforts of all those involved to secure Chester's safety. The more I told him, the broader the smile his face bore.

When Bill finally saw Chester, he bent down to say hello. Funny, he was the first person who didn't try to pick Chester up. Instead, he came down to Chester's level. Chester resounded by stretching his head up toward Bill's as if greeting an old lost friend.

As Bill carried Chester back to his car, all I could think about was the twists and turns this story had taken. On his return trip, Bill dropped by Cunningham Falls to thank the true hero of this story, John Zuke. For if it hadn't been for John, God only knows what Chester's future would have been. John set the wheels in motion that led to his rescue and eventual reunion with his family.

Later that evening, Bill called me to thank me once more. As for Chester, he spent the evening grazing in his favorite field and then retiring to his regular resting spot for a long night's sleep. While we will never know what he dreams tonight, I think it's safe to say that his final thoughts before he nodded off were, "Thank God I'm home."

Thanks to everyone who played a part in allowing those to be Chester's last thoughts as he drifts to sleep.

Editor's Note: Just before this paper went to print, the construction company who had hired the individual who claimed to have found Chester reimbursed Bill the \$350, plus an additional \$600 to make amends for what happened. Bill called me and asked if I would distribute the \$600 to the organizations who facilitated Chester's rescue. Needless to say, I agreed.



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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Reading curriculum

Colleen Cusimano
Candidate for Board
of Education

What curriculum are we using for reading in FCPS?

One can visit the FCPS.org website and find information regarding the curricula in use for Social Studies, Math, Science, and other subjects. There is no information regarding Reading. It turns out we are using an eclectic collection of materials, mostly developed by our own curriculum staff.

When I went to school in the 1970's, I was taught read-

ing using phonics-based materials and teaching methods. As my children began school in the 1990's, there was greater emphasis on "sight-based" or "whole language" reading instruction. This was based on a premise of memorization – where the child would remember the appearance of a word he learned, and on using context of material to understand meaning of new words.

As these two very different teaching philosophies were embraced by various school districts, a debate raged over which method was best. It is widely accepted that proficient reading ability is a

cornerstone to learning.

In 1997, the National Institutes of Health convened the National Reading Panel to study the issue and make a recommendation. This panel released its report in 2000 – resoundingly supporting a phonics-based approach and identifying five key elements necessary in effective reading instruction. The elements are:

1. phonemic awareness
2. phonics
3. fluency
4. vocabulary
5. comprehension

Early-reading programs that fully incorporate these five elements into their materials and methods are termed "scientifically-based reading research" (SBRR) programs.

According to research, roughly 60% of students will gain moderate reading skills using the whole-language approach. Often, for the remaining students who struggle to master reading skills, a phonics-based approach is then implemented to remedy their reading problems. Supporters of phonics-based approaches point out that close to 100% of students can successfully use the phonics-based instruction, making it the better choice.

High-quality Instructional Materials

If we want our children to be proficient or advanced readers, we must provide them with the highest-quality instructional materials available. For those children who cannot learn using whole language instruction, valuable time is lost struggling to adapt to curriculum that may never work for them. At even greater risk are the children who learn to read adequately, but

miss the opportunity to obtain the mastery of reading that SBRR programs provide. Their lack of comprehensive reading proficiency can impact their future success at every grade level and into their future.

Independent Review

FCPS must conduct an independent review of our reading instruction curriculum, and ensure that it is consistent with SBRR, particularly at the early-learning K-3 years. We should identify staff that have been trained in SBRR methods and materials, and incorporate this essential training into our professional development for elementary reading instruction. We should endeavor to have the highest-quality, peer-reviewed and proven instructional materials available to our teachers and schools.

Comprehensive Teacher Training

School systems that require SBRR reading methods and materials must offer teacher training, as 80% of teachers have never been taught SBRR. (reference) As many of our seasoned, career teachers have retired, and been replaced by teachers new to the field, this training has been even more scarce, as Education schools do not require the training.

"Strong reading instruction is part of a strong curriculum with high and definitive standards for student learning. Where progress does occur, it is due to strong leadership, well-designed curricular materials, content-rich professional development, valid screening and progress-monitoring assessments, and classroom coaching. It is also due to teachers' use of screening and diagnostic data to group children for instruction, monitor their progress, and solve instructional dilemmas."¹

¹ Louisa Moats, "Whole Language Hi Jinks", 2007

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Job #1 for Frederick County Public Schools:
To educate and graduate responsible and productive citizens of good character who are equipped with knowledge and skills for the 21st Century.

SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Tech bar

Stephanie Long
Emmitsburg Librarian

With so many different types of electronic gadgets on the market, it can be hard to figure out which one will best suit your needs. There are eReaders, which allow you to read books in an electronic format, and there are tablets, which in essence are mini, touch screen computers. Recently we set up a Tech Bar at the Emmitsburg Library which we hope will help you figure out which device suits you best.

Our Tech Bar is located next to the Children's section and allows you to play and experiment with five different devices- the iPad, Motorola Xoom, Nook, Sony eReader and Kindle. We are encouraging anyone who would like to test drive any of these devices to stop by the library for a visit and spend some time playing with each device.

Each device has its own pros and cons. The iPad and Motorola Xoom are both sleek tablets that are easy to use and offer lots of different free apps for download, including a few apps that work with library databases and services. The iPad and Motorola Xoom allow users to surf the Internet, whereas the Nook, Sony eReader and Kindle are all eReaders that strictly allow users to read electronics books.

Don't worry about not being able to "work" the devices; the friendly staff here at the library will be happy to assist you with the devices. If we can't figure something out we have manuals for each device that can help and we also have a few books you can check out.

To be honest, when eReaders first came out I was a bit hesitant to purchase one because I didn't want to pay for books I could get for free at the library, but with Maryland's Digital eLibrary Consortium anyone with a current Frederick County library card can download up to four free eBooks onto their eReaders. The consortium, or OverDrive, offers both popular fiction and non-fiction eBooks and audiobooks.

Even if you're not in the market for a device you can still stop by and play with any of the devices. From personal experience I can say that they are a lot of fun to play around with. For more information on The digital consortium, visit fcpl.org or stop in the library- we love answering questions.

Upcoming Emmitsburg Branch Library Events

Ongoing Storytime Programs

Mondays
Time for Two's @ 11 am

Fun and interactive programs just for twos to help develop pre-reading skills.

Wednesday
Babies with Books @ 10:30 am

Interactive story programs tailored for babies with music, rhymes, and movement.

Thursday
Preschool Storytime @ 10:30 am

Celebrate a love of reading through books, music, and activities.

Upcoming Events in August

Thursday, August 2 @ 1 pm *registration required*

Junior Gardeners Flower Arranging, Elementary & Middle School Ages.

Presented by the Silver Fancy Garden Club of Emmitsburg where all participants make their own summer teacup arrangement.

Saturday, August 4 @ 11 am *registration required.*

Dreams & Wishes, Children's Program.

Exploring your dream world through literature, science and imagination.

Tuesday, August 7 @ 2:30-4:15 pm.

Craft Connections, Children's Program.

A make & take craft linked to your favorite fun books makes for a super summer activity.

Thursday, August 9 @ 5 pm *registration required.*

Indoor Campfire, Teen Program.

Telling scary stories around the campfire and snacking on yummy smores and other campfire goodies. Bring a friend and bring a scary tale to share if you know one. Boo!

Saturday, August 11 @ 10:30 am. Summer Reading Finale: Sign Language Dreams, all ages.

If you dream of learning American Sign Language, this hands-on program is for you! Take a trip through the night with signing storyteller Kathy MacMillan and learn basic signs through stories, songs, and interactive activities.

Thursday, August 16 @ 5pm *registration required*

Back-to-School Makeovers, Teen Program

Before the bus comes and the school bell rings, join us for makeover fun. Presented by The Temple: A Paul Mitchell Partner School.

Thursday, August 16 @ 2-4 pm Drop-In Lego Party, Children's Program.

We've got the blocks. You make them rock! Build and create with an amazing assortment of LEGO pieces. Little blocks for the big kids and big blocks for the little kids.

Thursday, August 23 @ 5 pm *registration required.*

Amazing Race, Teen Program.

Join us for our very own "Amazing Race" right in the library. Tackle different obstacles and challenges in the hopes of becoming Emmitsburg's very own "Amazing Race" champion.

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Mother Seton School will be open every Tuesday for visitors to come and 'Take A Tour' of the school and get more information about our educational program.

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Colleen Cusimano
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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Sophomore Year

A new kind of leash

Kyle Ott
MSM Class of 2015

It's hard to beat the heat without AC, but that's exactly what two intrepid young boys set out to do one hot August day. The oppressive heat coupled with the sweltering light of the sun made for an impossible adversary, a foe made all the more intimidating by the boys' small size and insignificant ages. Despite all these things working against them, these two unlikely heroes set out to make the Dog Days of August their family pet.

The above encounter, while being only slightly (ok, maybe more than that) embellished for creative reasons, was exactly the sort of thing that my younger brother Kollin and I set out to accomplish many years ago when we had left our birthplace in New York and moved to Pennsylvania to be closer to our mother's parents. In addition to the normal rigors associated with moving, we also had to contend with a change in the way we lived, trading one kind of house for a completely different one. In a very short period of time, we abandoned our clean, climate-controlled apartments in Cortland and moved to a small house on a hill in central Penn-

sylvania. The house was a cramped affair for a family of four. Though small, it was a quaint place to raise two rambunctious boys; it lacked one vital trait necessary for surviving the August heat: air conditioning.

Thus, my parents were faced with a conundrum: how do you raise two small children in a house that is equal parts home sweet home and hotbox? The solution, while simple, proved to be the source of success for our mission of summer survival. What was this clever solution you may ask? Simply, we had to find ways to stay out of the house. It may sound unorthodox (and let me tell you, it was), but the concept proved to be utterly successful in its execution. As long as there were fun ways to get out of the house and distract us from the heat, we could easily survive the long summer days and slink back home when the sun had set and the nights were crisp. With our enterprising mother, a dedicated father, and two boys who could easily be amused by a paper bag, empty or otherwise, we had no shortage of entertaining excuses to leave our house. My brother and I set out to beat the heat in style with tons of ideas and our eagerness to use them.

One way that my brother and I would beat the heat that August was to make a solemn quest to visit every single public playground in the area and rate them on a scale. We judged every playground as shrewdly as an experienced merchant would examine his wares. We measured how high the swing-sets could take us into the air, how fast we could spiral down the slides and how much monkeying we could do on the monkey bars. Of course, such decisions had to be made thoroughly, and as such we devoted a day to playing on each playground to make sure it was properly tested. It didn't matter to us that the heat continued to beat down on us; we had all the toys we could ever want. Distracted as we were by our task, we were able to completely ignore the heat and squeeze a week's worth of fun out of our public parks. Culminating this week (and coincidentally occurring on one of the hottest days in August), we crowned one playground the greatest of them all and devoted an entire day to playing on it and appreciating our personal favorite.

When the days turned too hot for even our adventurous spirits, we turned to a little hole in the wall haven: a tiny candy store called Georges. This little store in Hanover carried every kind of candy imaginable, from sour peach gummies to fourteen kinds of Tootsie Rolls. The elderly couple who ran and

owned the store, not for profit but for the community's enjoyment, was incredibly accommodating to a pair of energetic young kids and was always pleased when we'd walk through the door. My brother and I would be given a single dollar (a virtual fortune to us) that we could spend on whatever we wanted. So, much like a kid in a candy store (pun intended), we would whittle away the hours munching on sweets and enjoying life.

My brother and I then turned our attention from playing around to learning something about ourselves and the world around us. We embarked on the now legendary "Library Tour." In order to escape record temperatures, we devoted a week of our time to journey to every public library within driving distance and spend an afternoon reading the works inside. The immediate benefit of this epic sojourn was being able to get out of the sweltering streets and into lovely climate-controlled buildings. The true benefit, however, came from the appreciation of knowledge that was being fostered right under our noses. When we toddled into a library we were treating it much as we had treated those first playgrounds: as places with things inside for our amusement. In reality, a love for learning and an appreciation for the written word were being engrained into our minds, an appreciation that persists even to this day.

While these stories may seem like

a window into a simpler, more innocent time, they help to illustrate an important point about human ingenuity and the ability to face adversity head on. Overcoming something as simple as the August heat may not seem like much, but the skills honed by defeating small challenges can cause the kind of personal growth that can lead to amazing changes down the road. For example, when I think back to the days when I was unsure of what I was going to do with my life and I first considered a career in English, my thoughts turned back to those summer days spent among the stacks of our public libraries, curled up with a book that stimulated my imagination and my mind in equal measure. Those formative days have led up to my decision to pursue writing as a career, attend Mount St. Mary's University, and begin writing for The Emmitsburg News-Journal.

So the next time the sun beats down upon you, or you're drowning in a wave of heat, treat the heat as a challenge and allow the summer to mold you into a stronger person. After all, it only takes a little ingenuity to take the snarling Dog Days of August, and make them faithful companions. I'm Kyle Ott; won't you sit and read with me for a while?

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

Junior Year

Once upon a heat wave

Nicole Jones
MSM Class of 2014

We've all experienced those days when the miserable heat and even worse humidity makes it feel as if we really could be melting. This is the story of one of those days.

Buzz buzz I reluctantly open one eye and seek the culprit that ruined my perfectly good dream. Of course, it's the alarm on my phone telling me that 9 o'clock is far too late to sleep in on a perfectly good summer day. I pacify the alarm and

tumble out of bed, reaching for my tennis shoes and a hairband. A quick stretch and I'm off on my morning run. When I open the door, a wall of humidity and heat stops me in my tracks. What's the relative humidity today? 104 degrees Fahrenheit. That's just ugly.

A half hour later, I'm soaked from head to toe in sweat, and I revel in the basement's cool air as I return indoors. Heading upstairs to the kitchen for a glass of water, I notice the temperature is something similar to what I would expect to feel radiating from an oven. I check the air conditioner. It's making a horrible sound, like it's grinding up pebbles, and spits out a pitiful stream of lukewarm air. Mom will be thrilled. I call her and let her know that our faithful air cooling contraption has finally kicked the bucket. She tells me she's already called the repair man to come out and replace it.

It suddenly seems crucial that I have that glass of water and return to the basement where it's 20 degrees cooler. The television is already on and displaying a golf game, courtesy of my grandparents who still aren't quite sure how to turn the TV off and resort to muting it instead. They drove up from North Carolina for a weeklong visit in order to attend my cousin's outdoor wedding. Which is today. Hopefully we don't all melt before she says, "I do."

I check my email, watch a quick show, and before I know it, it's noon. Time to bring the horses in. Stepping back outside I feel the full force of the day's heat, which has

culminated into a stuffy haze thick enough to cut. A post I saw on Facebook suddenly seems perfect: "Satan called. He wants his weather back." Hopping in the RTV, I ride down our gravel road to the barn, where two horses stand looking miserable as they swish their tails at the flies that are undoubtedly swarming around them.

The moment I walk into the barn and start setting up the stalls – putting hay in the corners and water in the buckets – a curious head pops in over the open Dutch doors. My mare, Ruby, desperately wants relief from this heat. I open the door for her, and she walks in willingly, immediately sticking her nose in the water I've prepared. Three, four, five gulps later, and she has already drunk half the bucket. I plug in an overhead fan, and she positions herself under it, closing her eyes. That's my cue to leave her alone.

I prepare the second stall and walk out into the far pasture to retrieve our only other horse, Bravo. Since he's completely blind, we keep him separate from Ruby, who can be a bit rambunctious. His head perks up, ears twitching in my direction as he hears me unclip the chain on the gate. He takes a couple hesitant steps towards me, proving to me just how eager he is to go inside.

With both horses comfortably inside the barn, I head back up to the house where my grandfather greets me, hose in hand as he dutifully waters the plants which wilt in such a way that I'm sure they hate this extreme heat as much as I do.

The morning has raced by, my parents are home from work, and it's time for everyone to get ready for the wedding. A simple enough task, you may say, but not when the AC is broken and your parents insist it is

too hot upstairs to prepare in their own bathroom. Sure enough, in the time it has taken me to shower, my mom has moved into my bedroom; by the sounds of it, my dad did the same thing to my brother.

I'm sure it would have been comical to watch as the five of us raced in and out of our little bathroom. I dove in to gather an armful of supplies in the hopes of avoiding the chaos by preparing in my bedroom. My mom walks in behind me and promptly jumps in the shower, and my grandmother lurks outside the door hoping I can help her with her necklace. My dad waits for the shower while my grandfather sits on the couch, the only one who is ready and unperturbed by all the commotion. Hot air fills my room as my mom and I dry our hair, and I can't be sure but the fumes from the hairspray may be suffocating me. Suddenly, everyone is in the car but me as I'm left cramming my feet into heels and hopping out the door in pursuit.

When we arrive at the venue, I procrastinate getting out of the car. It is four o'clock and sweltering; I just want one more minute of the car's air conditioning before I sweat. We are ushered to the property's garden, where rows of white chairs await us. A small basket filled with programs sits along the garden path; everyone is sure to grab one – who turns down a free fan? Though there are certainly people here from the bride's side of the family, as many people as possible squeeze into the groom's side where there is just the slightest bit of shade from a neighboring tree. We are no exception.

The music starts and the bridesmaids trickle down the aisle, each one walking just a little faster than the last, until the bride herself

emerges with her father. Despite the wretched heat, she looks beautiful in a simple, understated gown and bird cage hair piece. Throughout the ceremony, my program is put into good use as I fan myself, achieving a breeze that is weak but welcome. In a matter of minutes I feel and probably look as if I've walked under a waterfall. My fellow guests aren't any better off as everyone fans themselves and dabs their foreheads with tissues. We're all more than grateful that everything is said and done in about 20 minutes, and we can't get inside fast enough.

Much to my delight, the rest of the evening is spent talking and eating, making speeches and taking pictures in the cool of the banquet hall. The only reason to step back outside is to leave, which we do around eight o'clock. It's a little early, but my mom and I still have hungry horses to feed, and I'd prefer to get home before they've destroyed the barn.

The horses are whinnying as we pull up, not understanding what could have possibly been so important that we had to feed them this late. Under the breeze of the fans, they've obviously recovered from their heat induced comas as they paw impatiently for another pile of hay to replace the ones they've eaten.

Around 9:30 pm, my mom and I are finally able to walk into the house and stay there. A long day of sweating has made me thirsty; as I head upstairs for a drink, I notice the air conditioner was replaced while we were out. Instead of the delightful oven temperatures I experienced earlier, it now feels like I've been dropped into a freezer. I like it better that way.

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

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THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Senior Year Summertime

Samantha Strub
MSM Class of 2013

Summertime is the time of year when it is acceptable to waste the day away doing absolutely nothing. It is accepted and even encouraged to lie around and be lazy.

You spend the day sitting at your 8-4 job, working but wishing that you could be somewhere else. Your job suddenly becomes unimportant as you stare out the window wishing it were quitting time. I always tend to sit at my desk and daydream the hours away, almost begging the day to hurry up and be over so I can leave my responsibilities aside and enjoy the summer. Sadly, my responsibilities and the desperate need for money take a toll on my summertime enjoyment. I always end up working extra hours or working on the weekends in order to make the money needed for tuition and bills. As I'm working, my mind wishes that it could go back in time to when my summers were carefree enjoyment. They always say that you don't know how good you have it until it's gone. That statement couldn't be any truer; I had no idea how good I had it back then. Now, as responsibilities call, I plan my summertime enjoyment around working, but that doesn't make those lazy days of summer any less enjoyable. In fact, I appreciate them even more and the memories are just as timeless.

My favorite pastime during the summer is lying out by the pool. Those hot and sunny summer days are the perfect times to lie outside by my pool and tan. You plug in your headphones, lie back and relax while the sun's rays shine down on you. It is the perfect way to spend a truly lazy day—basking in the sum-

mer rays while listening to some tunes. When you lay out with a friend or siblings, the laughs go right along with the great enjoyment of relaxing and tanning by the pool, though someone always ends up getting thrown into the pool. Some of my fondest memories are of my siblings, friends and I. As an added bonus—you're getting tan!

I'm famous for bringing another friend with me when I lay outside—a book! As they say, books are friends that are always ready to talk to us, and I always have a book in my hand. I even have a purse big enough to allow me to carry a book in it. It is a favorite pastime of mine to always have a book in hand. I will lie outside for hours with a book in my hands. During the summer, I have the time to read pleasure books. During the school year, I still read but I read the novels that are assigned during class. I wish I could read more but between classes, working two jobs, and homework I simply do not have time. One of the reasons I always look forward to the summer is so that I can read all of the books that I have wanted to read since last summer. Over the summer I usually end up reading probably about fifty books or more because during any free time I have, I read. That is one of the reasons that I have a purse big enough to carry a book in it because I bring a book with me wherever I go. You never know when you're going to need something to do. On days when I have nothing else to do, I read while lying outside and occasionally jumping in the pool when the heat becomes unbearable.

On the days when we are not relaxing by the pool, my family and I are out on the boat, catching some waves. My dad bought

our boat when he was deployed in Washington State. It was a surprise to all of us, even Mom. It was sitting in the garage of the house we rented when we moved out there while Dad was deployed and we were admiring it, wishing we could use it when Dad calmly said, "Well, we can use it because it's ours." The boat became our new toy. Any day that Dad had off, we went exploring in the boat. It also became bonding time on summer days for our family because no matter what age you are, everyone enjoys the boat. Every summer since then, my family and friends go out on the boat when we have off and spend the day tubing, skiing and swimming. We usually bring drinks and food and have a picnic either on the boat or at a beach. The days we spend on the boat are always relaxing and much needed. We relax on the water without a care in the world, watching the clouds go by.

When the heat isn't too hot to bear I go riding. This is more difficult now that I no longer own a horse, but that is what friends are for right? When it is not too hot I make a point to go riding. There is no greater feeling in the world than sitting on the back of a horse on a warm summer day. The wind is blowing your hair and you are sitting in the saddle without a care in the world except for the pasture and the trail before you. Usually you think about the different techniques that will help you attain the skills that you want your horse to learn or perfect but that does not take any effort; that is a natural tendency for any horseback rider. You would think about that no matter what, but during the summer it comes more naturally. For a horseback rider, the summertime is when you really focus on working while also making sure



that you take the time to go on trail rides, camping, and swimming with the horses with the company of good friends. Some of the best summertime memories I have are from when my riding buddies and I went off on a riding adventure.

No matter where you are from, every hometown has its own summertime celebrations. The traditions that I have grown up with or just recently started to create are memories that will stay in my heart forever. Who doesn't like good food, music and rides? If you answered no one, that is what I was thinking. That is what Summerfest and the Wisconsin State Fair bring to my hometown every summer. There are always good bands that come for pretty cheap or even for free. It is a guaranteed good time with your friends that we wouldn't miss for the world. The fair food makes the trip down to Milwaukee well worth it. The cheese curds, funnel cakes and Hawaiian Shaved Ices always call my name. Some people come for all of the varieties of fried food such as fried butter, Oreos, cheesecake, corn dogs, peanut butter, pickles, and

even fried chocolate-covered bacon. Personally, I do not think most of these things that are considered deliciousness sound all that appetizing, but people all over rave about them. Without fail, my friends always dare me to go on the rides that they know I hate. Why I continue to go on them year after year is beyond me, but somehow that is always how it works! I think it is because when I want to go on the Ferris wheel, they have to go on with me even if they are afraid of heights. So it becomes a tradeoff. The best part is walking on the grounds laughing and goofing off with your friends, trying to find ways to stay cool during these lazy summer nights, and eventually hopping on the back of a motorcycle to go home.

It is guaranteed that the best summertime memories come from the laughs and the friends with whom you share the experiences. Don't forget to use the rest of the summer to have lazy and unforgettable summer days and nights.

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

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THE GRADUATE

Why so long?

A reflection on the benefits of long articles

Kelly Conroy
MSM Class of 2012

1600 words. The blank page stares back at me. Every month. A daunting task? Or an exciting opportunity? Writing for the ENJ is not a typical writing assignment. The Emmitsburg News-Journal is not a typical newspaper.

Have you ever skimmed through the various sections of the Emmitsburg News-Journal? If you're reading this article, then you probably have. You'll find everything from interviews with the "old-timers" of Emmitsburg to gardening tips. You can read about life at Mount St. Mary's University and updates from local government leaders. But have you ever wondered WHY there are the sections that there are?

Or what about the layout of the paper? How is the order of the articles chosen? Is it random? Or is there a purpose for each article being on a certain page?

Still more questions seem to remain. How are the authors chosen to write for the paper? How are the topics for the articles decided upon? What is the paper's connection to Emmitsburg.net? What is the purpose of the website?

As a reader, have you ever wondered why the News-Journal is only published monthly? Does the paper help you to feel more connected with the community?

In a series of articles, I hope to share some behind the scenes information about the ENJ and explore WHY we do what we do. Is our paper a model for other communities to follow? Or is it an outlier that will not last? In this first article, I will explore the topic of the length of our articles.

Look up something on Google. Check my email. Put in a load of laundry. Cut up an apple and eat it with peanut butter. There can be many temptations for distractions when a writer is at work on a 1600 word article. The length can feel overwhelming. About 550 words fit on a single sheet of paper that is single spaced with an extra space between paragraphs. If you're a fan of double spacing, then only about 300 words fill a page. That means that a writer of a 1600 word article needs to type three single spaced pages or over five double spaced pages.

A typical college essay is 500 words. It's not quite two double spaced pages and consists of an introductory paragraph, one to three

body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. After a year in college, this type of paper becomes a standard that every student needs to master. It's important to be able to state your points clearly and write the paper quickly because there are always so many to write! The ENJ takes a different kind of approach. Writing a long article isn't supposed to be comfortable; it should be challenging for both the writer and the reader. The writer needs to take time and effort to write a quality piece and the reader should delve into the depth in the articles.

Perhaps the length of articles in the ENJ teaches us something about life. It's so easy to be caught in the whirlwind of life. We jump from one activity to the next with no breaks. Even Sunday, which traditionally has been a day of rest, has become just another day of chaos. My grandma has told me about how stores used to be closed on Sundays and families would spend time together. The ENJ makes us slow down and read more than a couple sentences. It takes time to soak in the information.

Not all of the articles in the ENJ are 1600 words—some are longer and some are shorter. The "News" articles in the first four pages are shorter articles. However, there is nothing restricting them from being longer. If more details are needed to tell the whole story, then a longer length is permitted. The Chronicles of Emmitsburg in the History section often spans two pages to give a deeper look at Emmitsburg in the past. The Cold War Warriors is another section that often needs two pages to adequately share a story. The Four Years at the Mount section consists of four, half page articles. It's easy to get a glimpse of life at the Mount from the two page spread.

At this point, I hope you don't feel like my article is dragging on! I happen to be writing a 1600 word article and one of the most important aspects about writing long articles is keeping the reader's attention. How is this done? Some writers add humor to their articles. Others make references to literary characters or historical figures. Some writers quote authorities on the topic of their article. No matter the tactic, every writer needs a lot of substance to write a 1600 word article.

The substance necessary to write a long article often makes reading the article worthwhile. It might be possible to write a very short article about the importance of Earth Day. However, just because it is possible to write a short article does not mean that it is always the best idea. Bill Meredith, in the May 2012 issue of the ENJ, was given the opportunity to write a full page article on Earth Day. He was able to give details about the history of Earth Day and offer the reader reasons why Earth Day should be more eagerly embraced. The length of the article definitely allowed, in part, for the quality of the article.

Sometimes the essentials of a story are left out because of the short length of an article. Consider for example, the article, "In for a Penny, In for a Pound," in this month's edition of the ENJ. Mike Hillman relates the fascinating story about an African tortoise named Chester. The basic details of the story are that the tortoise was taken from his home, allegedly mistreated and eventually returned to his original owner. But, simply hearing the basics of the story is not entertaining!

Do we really just want 30-second sound-bites of news? Do we only want to read about local events and not any more thoughtful articles?

I know that my imagination was captured in reading "In for a Penny, In for a Pound." I kept thinking to myself, How is this tortoise going to be saved? and I can't believe that someone would treat a tortoise so poorly! I was actively engaged in the article because it was full of details. The details of every step along the way—how Mike first heard about the tortoise, what he saw when he went to rescue the tortoise, what he felt when retrieving the tortoise seemed hopeless, and how others in the community helped him—contributed to the vibrancy of the article.

ENJ's coverage of the rescue of Chester the tortoise is very different than the attention it received from a local daily newspaper. On July 7, the daily paper published an article about the tortoise that was under 500 words and left the readers with more questions than answers. Readers commented on the article and complained about the confusing title, the lack of a picture of the tortoise to accompany the article, and general confusion about the actions of the man who had supposedly found him.

Three days after the first article

about Chester the tortoise was published, another article on the same topic was available. This time, the article included very different details. The article attempted to explain the roles of Mike Hillman and Blaine Young in aiding the tortoise. However, on-line readers commented about the story being "hard to follow" and the facts didn't seem to match up with the first article. The confusion lead one reader to question if the story was only being published because Blaine Young, a Frederick County Commissioner, played a role in the rescue.

Then, on July 14, the daily paper published a final article about Chester the tortoise. This article focused on the original owner's recovery of Chester. Again, because of the need to be brief, a reader would need to do some work to try to piece the story together.

The Associated Press's version on the tortoise's plight was so short that readers were left scratching their heads as to what the big deal was! The need to be brief killed the Associated Press's version of the story.

In all fairness I think it worth noting that daily paper's series of articles were written under a very stringent time constraint and as the story was developing, while the ENJ's article was written after the story had happily concluded.

That said, the story of Chester's rescue is a prime example of why allowing writers free-range on the length of their articles is extremely important. The story about Chester the tortoise was somewhat complex. There were a lot of people involved and it was important to portray their actions appropriately. The current approach to journalism to focus on short articles did not allow the full story to be told, and as a result, people did not appreciate the acts of all those involved in Chester's rescue. The article in the ENJ leaves the reader satisfied. The article takes up two full pages—because that's how much space was needed to tell the WHOLE story! If one page would have been sufficient, then it would have just been one page. If the story would have needed four pages to tell, then it would have also been given that space.

One of the most frequent compliments we receive at the ENJ is, "I have no sooner finished reading the last edition when the next edition shows up." That compliment speaks volumes. It means that, unlike other papers that find themselves in trash cans the day they arrive, the ENJ remains on desks and nightstands all month long, providing weeks of enjoyable reading. The thought of that pleases us.

So while most newspapers are in a race to the bottom when it comes to challenging or thoughtful journalism, we're happy to chart a different course. The issues facing our communities and our country are challenging. The solutions to those issues will not be found in trivialized sound bites, but in thoughtful, and yes, often-lengthy articles. Our founding fathers knew that and never shied away from using as many words as necessary to make a point or get the full story across. Neither are we.

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



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2012
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LIONS CLUB 50/50
Louise McGonigal - Littlestown

HARNEY AUXILLIARY

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2nd - Joel Yingling - Harney
3rd - Jeannie Green - Westminster
4th - Nancy Blum - Westminster
5th - Scott Bircckhead - Felton, PA
6th - Angie Forest - Thurmont

HARNEY FIREMENS

1st - Reba Speilman - Taneytown
2nd - Pine Hill Farms - Harney
3rd - Dave Lawrence - Littlestown
4th - Pine Hill Farms - Harney
5th - Wanda Woodson - Gettysburg
6th - Rose Knox - Taneytown
7th - Jane Lawrence - Taneytown
8th - Joel Yingling - Harney
9th - Carroll Hahn - Taneytown
10th - Mike Slaybaugh - Harney
11th - Kim Fox - Thurmont
12th - Jerry Harris - Taneytown
13th - Ken Keith - Littlestown

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THE SECOND LIEUTENANT

Preparing for paradise

2nd Lt Julia Mulqueen, USA
MSM Class of 2012

In about six weeks, I will be in Hawaii. I am so excited I can barely focus on my day-to-day duties here. Sometimes I dream about it, picturing myself with my toes deep in the sand on North Shore, watching the waves break. Sometimes I taste bits of roasted pig melting in my mouth. Sometimes I swear I can actually see the expanse of the Pacific Ocean laid out before me from the volcanic crater Diamond Head. It is difficult for me to express how truly blessed I feel that my first duty station is Hawaii. This is the stuff of dreams. For four years, I pushed myself mentally, physically, and emotionally so that I would be prepared to lead soldiers. Never once, however, did I think that I would have the opportunity to lead these soldiers from paradise.

The island of Oahu holds special meaning for my family. About 20 years ago, the five of us lived there. My father worked at Schofield Barracks, Oahu as a company commander. I was just a few months old when we moved there. So I learned how to walk, talk, and swim there. My brothers were in elementary school, and my mom spent her time caring for us and finishing up her last few college credits at Chaminade University.

When I move back there in just a few weeks, I will be following in my father's footsteps. I could never say it out loud, but it makes my soul jump for joy that I am following down the same path as my dad, and going to one of the same units he was in makes it that much more real to me. However, I will have to go there completely by myself. No longer am I the tiny one-year-old in diapers, with my parents and brothers standing right beside me to care for me. So as excited as I am to be moving to Hawaii, I am also quite nervous. I have no idea the possible complications that might arise as I go about the moving process, and I do not have anyone to do it for me. Luckily, however, I do have a cell phone that contains the numbers of my mom and dad, two people whom I'm sure will do anything to help me.

I also have the Army to help me along. They try to make it easy on second lieutenants because they know we do not have much experience in the real world yet. The Army handed me a checklist of things to do and people to meet with before I can head to Hawaii. This means that the upcoming weeks might be a little hectic for me. Between my classes here I have a lot to accomplish. The first of which is scheduling my flight out. I will graduate from this course in early September. After graduation, my cunning plan is to visit home for a few days and then fly from there.

This visit home will be my last



opportunity in a long time to see my close and extended family. My parents always taught me the importance of family, but now I am learning that importance first hand as I realize that I will soon be very far away from my family for a very long time. Every other time I have watched them leave, I have known that I will see them in just a few weeks. This time, however, it could be a year or more before I am able to be with them again. And I know just how upset my mom will be to see me go. I feel as if I should take some of that pain with me. Sometimes I do not understand why it must be this way between parents and children. As a child, I never once thought I would move so far from my parents so soon after I graduated college. I always pictured that I would just be a few blocks away from them. My father always reminds my mother and I, though, that he and she would be

failures as parents if we children simply remained at home with them forever. So even though I am the third child in a row to join the military and travel far from home, even though I can feel my mother's heart break just a little each time one of us leaves her, I know that we are doing good. I know that we are living just as she wants us to, and most importantly, I know that one day all of us will be together in the same house again. I just have to trust that our family will remain just as strong as always.

My journey to Hawaii will be filled with other emotional firsts, too. By that I mean my shipping my car. I have a tiny horizon blue MINI cooper with a white top. His name is Steve, and he is my most favorite possession in this world (though I only own part of him because I am still paying him off. Perhaps he is my bank's most favorite possession in this world, too?) Either way, the

transportation office here has told me that once I put my car on a ship bound for Hawaii it will take anywhere from 30-45 days for my car to arrive on the island. This means that I must ship it fairly soon. Now because that car is my most favorite possession in this world, I am having trouble stomaching knowing that my car will be alone and cold on a ship for so long. Who will tenderly scrap the bugs from his windshield? Who will gently wipe down his leatherette seats? Who will run him through his gears? I am being a little facetious, sure, but deep down I am concerned for him. So with this, too, I must learn how to trust in others. I must trust the ship's crew to do its job and deliver Steve to Hawaii without any disasters.

The checklist the Army gave me also includes things to do now that will make the transition once I arrive easier. For example, I was able to call my unit in Hawaii and chat about what I might be doing down there. Because I am a logistician, I will be part of the Brigade Support Battalion. Hopefully, they will have a platoon leader slot for me when I arrive. Then I would be able to slip right in and work with about forty other soldiers. The platoon sergeant and I would be responsible for their training and their overall wellbeing. An alternative to that could be my assuming one of the Battalion staff assistant positions. Al-

though I would rather lead a platoon right away, it would be nice to slip into a staff position because it would give me time to become acclimated to the area and see how the unit works before immediately having to stand in the spotlight. Either way, I am sure I will continue to learn even more about the Army and continue to experience the stuff of a lifetime.

Finally, I was able to speak to my unit about where I could live on the island. It turns out that a fair amount of the single lieutenants opt to live in Honolulu. Even though it is a bit of a drive to get to base and there is traffic, apparently it is worth it to live there. If I rented an apartment in the city, I would be right in the middle of everything. I think it would be exciting to live there, and for me, it would be worth the drive. I often daydream about what it might be like to live there. I also like to surf the net, looking at potential properties and picturing my furniture in the rooms.

Altogether, though I know it will be difficult to leave the mainland and experience so many changes all at once, I know it will be worth it in the end. I cannot wait to move to Hawaii, and even more so, I cannot wait to start my career as an officer in the 25th Infantry Division.

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



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ARTS

The Gettysburg Community Theatre

In January 2009, Chad-Alan Carr, a musical theatre performer originally from Houston, walked into an empty building in downtown Gettysburg, PA and started crying. It had always been his dream to have his own theatre and his dream was finally coming true.

A group of artists, educators, and business men and women gathered with Chad to form a 501c3 not-for-profit theatre organization called the Adams County School of Musical Theatre (ACSMT). Its home would be the building known as the old Elks building located at 49 York Street in downtown Gettysburg. The first time he saw the inside of it, it brought Chad to tears as he saw the incredible potential and character that it held to become the only children's theatre company in Adams County. After many hours of volunteer labor to renovate the interior of the first floor of this building, the theatre opened its doors about one month after Chad first saw the space.

The school holds classes in musical theatre, voice and dance

for ages 4-18 and produces 10-12 musical theatre productions per year. Now in its fourth year, the company has gone through so much growth in its short history, that has recently gone through a name change to become Gettysburg Community Theatre. Now with productions for students as well as adults year-round, classes in musical theatre, voice and dance during the school year and summer day camps, Gettysburg Community Theatre and their Founding Executive/Artistic Director, Chad-Alan Carr, are very excited for the future.

Originally from Houston, Texas, where he is a well known Musical Theatre triple threat performer, Director and Choreographer, Chad relocated to Central Pennsylvania in 2005 where he has directed highly acclaimed productions of Disney's High School Musical, A Chorus Line, Cats, Camelot, Man Of La Mancha, My Fair Lady, Disney's 101 Dalmatians KIDS, Les Miserables, Peter Pan, Footloose, Oklahoma!, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Hello Dolly!, Disney's Beauty And The Beast,

and Children Of Eden among others. Chad received his formal training as a scholarship student of the B.F.A. Musical Theatre Program at Sam Houston State University where he was also later awarded a Distinguished Theatre Alumni Award for Achievement In Professional Theatre. He has had the great privilege of teaching side by side Mr. Bob Fosse's protégé, Chet Walker, the co-creator of the musical FOSSE.

Chad has also worked with such nationally acclaimed artists and Broadway veterans as: Jack Dabdoub, Marie Danvers, Rob Gallagher, Greg Graham, and Broadway Actress/Director/Producer, Jana Robbins.

With well over 200 productions to his name, Chad has been involved in professional and community theatres across the country for the past 20 years. He performed in the 50th Anniversary Broadway National Tour of Singin' In The Rain, which toured 46 states in the US, plus Canada. Chad served as the Artistic Director for Children's Theatre for the Gettysburg Festival in 2008 and 2009



and sang the role of King Kaspar in Amahl And The Night

Visitors for Music Gettysburg! at The Majestic.

Chad performed the title role in Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Lutheran Theological Seminary for Music Gettysburg!, and last summer played Fagin in Oliver! at the Kline Theatre for ACSMT. Chad is now seeing his dream come true, with the opening of this community theatre. He wishes to thank every student, parent, volunteer, staff member, board member, sponsor, and patron for being a part of it all.

Gettysburg Community Theatre will present The Victim (a new musical about bullying PG13) on August 10 and 11 at 7pm, Disney's Aladdin jr. (G) on August 17 and 18 at 7pm and August 18 and 19 at 2pm, That's Entertainment (a Hollywood music revue) in October, Disney's The Little Mermaid jr. in November, and A Christmas Carol in December. More information on auditions, classes, performances and ticket orders can be found online at www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org or by calling the theatre at 717-688-5098.

The mission of the Gettysburg Community Theatre is to inspire creativity and confidence, provide cultural enrichment, and instill a love of the theatre arts in young people through quality education, training, and performing experiences in musical theatre. To accomplish this mission, the Theater provides a fostering environment to train a well-rounded young theatre artist to succeed in all aspects of the discipline while enriching the region's artistic culture.

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\$125 (nonmembers \$135); materials \$20

Professor Kerrigan's School of Magic (ages 6-9)
August 13-17
1-3 p.m.
\$125 (nonmembers \$135); magic kit \$25

Dirty Hands Pottery Camp
Session 2: August 6-10 (ages 11-14)
1-4 p.m.
\$125 (nonmembers \$135); materials \$15

Drawing the Future: Beyond the Earth to the Moon (ages 8-10)
August 13-17
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
\$125 (nonmembers \$135); materials \$10

August Classes for Adults

Market Fresh Cooking 2
Thursday, August 2, 5:30-8 p.m.
\$30 (nonmembers \$33); materials \$20

Cooks' Nook: Summer Salads
Thursday, August 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
\$30 (nonmembers \$33); materials \$15

Introduction to Adobe Photoshop
Mondays, August 6-27, 5-8 p.m.
\$143 (nonmembers \$158)

Intermediate Digital Photography
Tuesdays, August 7-28, 6-8 p.m.
\$95 (nonmembers \$105)

Simply Pretty Vintage-Style Braicret
Wednesday, August 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
\$36 (nonmembers \$40); materials \$15

Introduction to Wheel Throwing
Thursdays, August 2-23, 6-8 p.m.
\$85 (nonmembers \$105); materials \$20

Fused Glass Sun Catchers
Saturday, August 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
\$24 (nonmembers \$26); materials \$10

Stained Glass Sun Catchers
Saturday, August 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
\$24 (nonmembers \$26); materials \$10

Working with Oils
Wednesdays, August 8-29, 5-8 p.m.
\$143 (nonmembers \$158)

September Classes for Adults

Outdoor Drawing
Wednesdays, September 5th - 26th
1-3pm, \$85 (nonmembers \$95)

Pie Crust 101
Tuesday, September 11th, 6-8pm
\$21 (nonmembers \$24)

Piano 1
Thursdays, September 6th - October 11th
10:45 - 11:45am, \$300 (nonmembers \$110)
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The trip of a lifetime

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

Day #1

The day has finally arrived. I can't believe it's already been over a year since I attended the first interest meeting about this summer study abroad program in Salzburg, Austria. My bags are packed and I'm ready to take on Europe! We had an 8-hour plane ride during which the man in my row insisted on getting up at the most inconvenient times, but despite those slight disruptions, the flight actually went by a lot faster than I had expected.

We landed in Munich, Germany and then took the train to Salzburg and finally the bus to our American school in Salzburg. During the train ride, we got to see some of the most gorgeous scenery as we went through the country. As I expected, I was taking pictures nonstop (which I'm sure will not change throughout the trip), even as the train was speeding by towns. As we arrived in Salzburg, all I could think about was how this town will be my home for the next month, and I couldn't be more excited for the adventures that are to come.

Day #2

This whole jet-lag thing is throwing me off. It's six hours ahead of US time here, so I'm honestly confused as to which day it is right now! This day kind of blurs together with the first, because we had to try to stay awake so we would get accustomed to our new sleep schedule more quickly, even though all we wanted to do is fall asleep right then and there. So, to keep ourselves busy, we all went out to explore the town of Salzburg.

Again, after just one day, I took hundreds of pictures. The architecture here is spectacular- I love the colors, the detail, and the quaint feel of it all. As an art major, I can't help but look around and see art in absolutely everything I see here. So much attention and care went into the creation of this town, and the aesthetic feel of it makes me already know that it's going to be hard to leave come the beginning of July when I'm on my way back to the USA!

There are so many gorgeous churches here. The Cathedral has a statue of two angels holding a golden crown on it and a statue of Mary in the courtyard in front of the building. If you walk on a certain path toward the church, you see the crown slowly being lowered onto Mary's head. It was absolutely amazing. The amount of thought, detail, and history that is involved with every part of this town is breathtaking, hence the amount of pictures I have taken already. After wandering the town as a group, we were free to roam wild and free around Salzburg. Let the adventures begin!

Day #5

Today, we went to a series of churches in Salzburg. Our teacher explained the different time periods and art movements in which they were built, which of course intrigued me as an art student. When we walked into all three churches, my jaw dropped each time. They were absolutely gorgeous. Each one was so intricate but each had its own distinct style. The Salzburg Cathedral (the "Dom") in town was from the Baroque period, so it had an extremely ornate structure that caused everyone to walk in and look around in awe as they took it all in. St. Peter's Abbey (in German: "Erzabtei St. Peter") was filled with gold detail throughout its interior. So much detail went into making the paintings appear more realistic and lifelike, rather than the stylized versions that were found in the previous church. The Franciscan Church (in German: "Franziskanerkirche") was the most modern of the three churches we visited, but was still so beautiful with stunning architecture. It had high arches that made the ceiling seem to go on forever, and two golden guards stood at the sides of the altar. All of them were so striking, and I can't wait to go back and spend more time in them.

Day #13

Agenda for today: trip to Vienna! I've heard from many people about how beautiful Vienna is, so I was really looking forward to finally seeing it for myself. As soon as we stepped off of the train, the beauty of the architecture here immediately struck me. Just like in Salzburg, every building had its own unique look to it, but at the same time they all seemed to fit together perfectly. The range of col-

ors and styles of the buildings that we came across kept me looking around all day like a bobble head. It's a wonder I didn't get whiplash from it! Vienna has more of a city type of atmosphere than Salzburg, and I have to admit that I've never seen myself as a city girl, but this is one city that left me in awe. It was beautiful, and to say there was a lot to do there was an understatement. A month wouldn't even be enough time to explore this city, but we only had one day! So, I did what most art enthusiasts would do if they came to Vienna: I went to the Belvedere Art Museum.

Sorry to sound like a broken record, but once again, I was struck by the architecture of the museum. There were three separate palaces, separated by a grandiose courtyard and a garden with many fountains and statues dispersed throughout. It looked as if royalty should be residing in it, so as a tourist, I of course had to take about ten pictures in front of it. I may be living here for a month, but I will still be taking touristy pictures the entire time!

The museum was organized by art movement, which I think was a great way to be able to encourage the viewers to really try to analyze the characteristics of the movements to the art itself. The museum had sections for medieval art, Impressionism and Realism, modern art, and many more. There was something there for someone of any taste in art.

One of the biggest attractions there was "The Kiss" (in German: "Der Kuss"), which was painted by the Austrian Symbolist painter Gustav Klimt between 1907 and 1908. This was the height of his "Golden Period," during which he created many works with the gilded style that can be seen in "The Kiss," which portrays a couple passionately embracing and wear-



The author in front of the Belvedere Art Museum, Vienna, Austria.

ing ornate robes. The grand display and the crowd of people surrounding the work (not to mention the guards standing around it) made it clear that this painting has really made an impact on the art world.

We have already seen and experienced so much in the short time we've been studying abroad. I've learned a few essential German phrases to get me through the trip, mastered the public transportation systems, and tried foods I never thought even existed. I can't wait to see what else lies ahead. This has al-

ready been the trip of a lifetime, and I know that there is so much more for me to learn and experience in the weeks to come.

Author's Note: I encourage all of you to travel. We never stop learning, and traveling will help you discover more about yourself, your own culture, and the culture of others than you ever thought was possible. Auf Wiedersehen from Salzburg, Austria, and I will see you soon, Emmitsburg!

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MOUNT SPORTS

Scholar athletes of the year

Elizabeth Puleo
MSM Class of 2013

When most people think of Mount St. Mary's University, they think of Division I sports and the exciting games that take place at the Mount. However, there is much more to the university than the thrilling sporting events it has to offer. The Mount is built on a strong academic tradition and graduates students every year with high GPAs and many academic honors. Despite the fact that the Mount is not as large as some other D1 schools, it is still an extremely prestigious school and is a very impressive school from which to graduate. According to the Mount St. Mary's University website, 95% of Mount graduates are employed in their field of study within a year after graduation, and 26% are enrolled in graduate school. Needless to say, the Mount takes pride in their nationally renowned core curriculum and academically well-rounded students.

This past year, the NEC (North-east Conference) honored four athletes from Mount St. Mary's as scholar athletes. Gigi Gibilisco and Megan Kinsella represented the track team as they both earned academic recognition, and Mark Quaranta (men's

baseball) and Mike Salomon (men's tennis) also were named for their academic merit.

Gibilisco, who is a recent graduate and ran distance for the Mount's outdoor track and field team, had an impressive career at the Mount, where he shattered several conference records. This past May, Gibilisco ran the 800-meter in 1:49.86 and now holds the conference record. He qualified for the NCAA East Preliminary round in the 800-meters this past spring, finishing in 18 place with a time of 1:49.88. Gibilisco was also part of the men's winning 4x800m relay team at the Penn Relays, which set a Mount record. After earning NEC Academic Honor Roll all four years at the Mount, he was chosen to for a spot on the Capital One Academic All-District first team and was placed on the national All-American ballot. This is Gibilisco's third time to receive Scholar Athlete of The Year, which is an amazing honor to receive once, but three times is very impressive.

As a rising senior, distance runner on the Mount's women's outdoor track and field team (and writer and English editor for this very newspaper!), Kinsella also joins her fellow teammate after a notable year. At the NEC Track & Field meet, she was named to the second team All-NEC

as a result of placing second in the 3,000m steeplechase and setting a school record. Kinsella also became the fifth women in Mount outdoor track and field history to be recognized as Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Despite being named Scholar Athlete of the Year and being a two-time All-NEC cross-country selection, Kinsella is extremely humble and has a bubbling personality. When asked about how she felt about being named Scholar Athlete of the Year, Kinsella seemed truly honored. "It's really cool to be named an NEC scholar athlete. It's always nice to be noticed for hard work."

Another rising senior is the catcher of the Mount's baseball team, Mark Quaranta. Some say catchers can't bat, but Quaranta is proof that is not always true as he finished the year ranking fifth in the league with a batting average of .333 and ninth in on-base average (.401). He ended the season with a .323 career average, finishing second in the club with 30 runs, 12 doubles, 4 homers and 34 RBIs. Quaranta is also a two-time NEC Academic and Commissioner's Honor Roll selection and he earned the William McGowan Endowed Scholarship from the Mount St. Mary's Richard J. Bolte School of Business this past year. When asked about how he balances school and athletics, Quaranta gave some good answers. "I don't think I have any tricks but I have certainly spent a lot of late nights in the library. One thing that has helped me is surrounding myself with other athletes who share in my drive and determination. As a group, we push each other to strive for success in both academics and athletics." Quaranta is the sixth baseball player to be named Scholar-Athlete of the Year in program history.

Last (but certainly not least) to be recognized for his academic excellence is Mike Salomon. He is an upcoming senior and a member of the Mount's tennis team. Salomon was named to the second team All-Conference and led the NEC with 24 singles wins and his .828 win percentage was tops among those with 10 or more decisions. The 24 singles victories ranked fourth on the Mount's single-season list. Salomon was a perfect 5-0 against



Quaranta getting ready to hit another homer

league rivals and 14-3 in No. 4 flight dual match competition. He is a two-time NEC Academic Honor Roll and Commissioner's Honor Roll selection.

Along with the four athletes recognized as Scholar Athlete of the Year by the conference, 60 student-athletes from the Mount were named to the NEC Academic Honor Roll. Mount St. Mary's is very proud of their student-athletes who put just as much into their academics as they do into their sports.

One-on-one with the Mount's new men's assistant basketball coach.

Mount St. Mary's has a very strong tradition when it comes to basketball. After the hiring of Coach Jamion Christian back in March, the team has been hard at work trying to prepare for the upcoming season. Along with getting the team to perform at their best, Coach Christian cleaned out the offices and hired a new assistant coach, Ben Wilkins. Wilkins comes from William and Mary, where he spent four seasons on the staff. Wilkins also worked as a video coordinator at North Carolina State from 05-06 and was an assistant coach at Barton College from 2003-05.

To try to get to know our coach a little better, I asked him some questions, and he provided me with some great answers. He really seems like a nice guy who has already fallen in love with the Mount.

Elizabeth Puleo: Did you play any sports growing up? If so, what did you play?

Coach: I played basketball, football and baseball when I was younger. At the high school level, I only

played basketball. I am still a huge football fan, especially the Steelers.

(I am a huge Steelers fan so this guy definitely is awesome in my book!)

EP: Have you always had a love for basketball? And why do you love it?

Coach: My love of basketball started when I was younger and watching Michael Jordan. He was the one that really drew me into the game. I didn't start playing basketball until the 6 grade.

EP: What do find most valuable about coaching?

Coach: What I find most valuable about coaching is the ability to help mentor young adults. Through coaching, you have the ability to help impact someone's life.

EP: So far, do you like the Mount?

Coach: I love the Mount. There is a family environment in the athletic department.

EP: What are you most excited about at Mount St. Mary's?

Coach: I am most excited about the future of our program. The Mount has a lot to offer its students and athletes. The Mount offers everything needed to build a successful program on the court, in the classroom, and in the community.

EP: Who or what inspires you most in life?

Coach: What inspires me in life is the drive to be successful. I am very fortunate to be living a dream. Since I can remember, I have always wanted to be a coach.

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MOUNT CREATIVE WRITERS

Life of Joy

Megan Kinsella
MSM Class of 2013

Then there was the time Ms. Joy got a tattoo. I remember sitting on my curb on a lazy Saturday afternoon, waiting for her to return home from a supposed grocery shopping trip. I didn't have long to wait, because she soon came speeding down the street in my direction, waving vigorously with both hands as she passed and pulled into her driveway. I jumped up and raced across the street, laughing and shaking my head as I went, wondering for the hundredth time who in their right mind had issued this woman a driver's license. I opened her door and she slowly raised herself from the seat, smiling and winking at me as she braced herself on my shoulder. Ms. Joy never in her life did anything slow, and she was in peak physical condition for an 85 year old woman, so I knew something must be wrong.

"Ms. Joy, did you hurt yourself? Is everything okay?"

"Of course I'm alright, Jake," she said. "I'm always alright!"

And with that she turned and started hobbling toward her front door. I gasped as my eyes fell on the back of her white tee shirt. Splashes of blood seeped through the fabric and ran in grisly patterns down her little back.

"Ms. Joy, you are NOT okay!" I yelled at her, and ran to stop her from moving any further. "You need to sit down, I'm calling an ambulance. What happened?"

"I don't know what you're talking about, Jake" she said as she giggled into her hands. "I'm feeling fine. Quite fine, actually."

"Oh come on Ms. Joy, cut it out... you're bleeding!"

"Bleeding? Where? I don't see any blood."

"There is blood all over your back! Did you get hit? Who did this to you?" I demanded.

"Oh! That? They said that should heal in a week or so, nothing to worry about. Now come inside and I'll fix us some Pop Tarts."

I walked into the house after her, exasperated that she was keeping something from me and upset that she was in so much pain. We reached the kitchen and she flipped on the light. She called me over to the table and braced herself with one hand as she lifted the back of her shirt with the other. What I saw shocked me, but only for a few seconds, as Ms. Joy's antics had trained me to never remain shocked for long.

On the old woman's back emerged the whiskers, growling mouth and fierce eyes of a huge, ferocious lion. The animal spanned the expanse of her entire back, its pointy ears tickling the tops of her shoulder blades and its glistening teeth reaching almost to her rump. But, as I stepped back to get a better look, I couldn't help but notice the unmistakably familiar twinkle

in the beast's eyes. It sure suited her, alright.

"A tattoo! Ms. Joy, why did you get a tattoo?" I exclaimed.

"Well, why not?"

I should have been able to anticipate that response by now, but she sure knew how to keep me on my toes.

By senior year it was time to start thinking about my life after high school. I was never a great student, but I didn't have enough life experience yet to set out on my own and look for a job to support myself. Dad suggested enlisting in the army, but mom burst into tears at the very thought of it. I honestly could have cared less at that time which way I was headed, as I was completely content with my life on Piccadilly Lane alongside my best friend Joy. Needless to say, I had to face the decision at some point, and Ms. Joy was there to face it with me.

One day in late September, Ms. Joy and I were enjoying a routine game of James Bond on her ancient PlayStation. In between blasts from her machine gun that decimated an onslaught of threatening Russian mobsters, she turned to me and shouted full voice: "I've got it!"

"Yeah that was a great hit, Ms. Joy, but watch your back there's more coming."

"No you silly fool, I know how to solve your dilemma!"

She proceeded to clear away a spot on the coffee table and wrote three words in bold letters on a piece of paper: "SCHOOL," "WORK," and "ENLIST." She taped the paper up on her living room wall, then ran into the kitchen and returned, yielding a butcher's knife.

"Close your eyes," she said.

"What the heck is going on, Ms. Joy?"

"Just trust me! Close your eyes and throw the knife toward the

wall. Whichever word the knife sticks to, or closest to, that's what you'll do."

Trusting her as I always did, I smiled and closed my eyes. I took a deep breath, then threw the knife through the air. It landed with a dull thud flat against the wall and slid down to the floor.

"No, no, no, your technique is all wrong," she squealed into my ear. "Put more spin onto the handle and flick your wrist! See, watch me."

Ms. Joy took the knife and without even a second's hesitation lobbed it toward the wall, looking like a crazed huntress out for blood. I was impressed but not surprised to see the knife slice neatly through the drywall, where it stayed until she bounced over energetically on her tiptoes to retrieve it.

I followed her lead and soon stood staring at the knife swaying ominously back and forth, stuck into the wall three feet to the left of the piece of paper, closest to the word "SCHOOL."

I went directly home and sent my application to Penn State that afternoon. "Never test fate," she would always tell me. And I wasn't about to challenge her on this one, especially since she still clasped the butcher's knife in her tiny fist.

I finally got my license a few weeks before graduating high school and, much to the chagrin of mom and dad, she taught me how to ride her motorcycle. I caught on surprisingly fast, and we spent that final summer speeding through town together, Ms. Joy donning her shiny silver helmet and me wearing the black one she got me for my 18th birthday. On the right side of the helmet, she had engraved the word "Live" in fancy, script font and underneath it the letters "O.M.A.A.T." in bold block letters. When I asked her what it meant, she giggled to herself like she usually did when reaching into her mind for an old memory, then her eyes got as big as moons and she smiled that toothy grin that I



loved so much. She winked at me and whispered, "Jake, if you remember nothing else for your entire life, please always remember to live one moment at a time. One moment at a time, my friend."

* * *

I stand up and tiptoe to the back of the church, slip silently through the heavy wooden doors and into the May sunshine. It feels good to be back in Allentown, even if it is only for a couple hours. A slight, warm breeze blows through my hair, which is long enough to tie back into a ponytail, and I know when mom sees it she will give me a disapproving look but say nothing because she knows I won't do anything about it until I want to.

Yeah, that's right, when I want to. I smile, realizing for the umpteenth time how much of an effect Ms. Joy has had on my life. Breathing deeply, filling my lungs until bursting with fresh springtime air, I look up into the mesmerizing, blue sky—cornflower blue, like the wildflowers in her garden—splattered with soft, lazy clouds, as white as her dancing afro. I let out my breath loudly and freely, and the exhale

turns into hearty laughter.

"She was so... alive," I say out loud to no one. "So alive."

I walk to my car, whistling something that resembles "Glory Glory Hallelujah," and skip the last few steps. As I fit my key into the car door, I hear a slight disturbance in the tree branches above my head. Feeling as though I've been here before, I look up to see a tiny gray bird peering at me curiously, his fuzzy, white-helmeted head tilted to the side. He lightly hops toward the end of the branch closest to me to get a better look, his shiny black eyes probing mine.

"Hey there," I say quietly.

He chirps in reply, then just like that he takes off, fluttering through the air, his little wings beating madly and his body teetering helter-skelter this way and that. And I might have imagined it, the glare from the sun may be doing funny things to my vision, but I'm pretty sure he turned and winked at me before dancing away into the eternal sky, in search of his next adventure.

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SIMPLE SERVINGS

Sushi in today's world

Sharon Racine

Sushi is a relatively new obsession for me. For a long time, I couldn't get past the idea of voluntarily consuming raw fish, but when my sister insisted I try it (on her dime), I finally agreed. That was four years ago, and I haven't looked back since.

This stuff is life-changing in every dramatic sense of the phrase. Not only is it low in saturated fat and high in protein, but the real kind of sushi (you know, with the raw fish) is high in Omega-3 fatty acids, which health professionals claim helps boost heart health. That is, as long as you keep the soy sauce to a minimum.

Sushi originated from Japan, and consists of cooked, vinegar-treated rice (called "shari") and other ingredients (called "neta"). All types of sushi contain shari, but each sushi's neta can vary. The raw fish portion of sushi is referred to as sashimi. The type of sushi we eat today is relatively contemporary, and was invented by Hanaya Yohei at the end of the 19th century. As an early form of fast food, this new form of sushi was prepared quickly and could be eaten on the go or in more informal settings.

As sushi became more popular around the world, different variations began appearing, particularly in North America. These variations began with the creation of the Califor-

nia roll (consisting of avocado, real or imitation crab, cucumber, and tobiko), which is the only type of Western-style sushi found in both North America and Japan. Other popular types of Western-style sushi include the Rainbow roll (California roll with 6-7 types of sashimi) and the Spider roll (fried soft shell crab and other fillings such as cucumber, avocado, lettuce, and occasionally spicy mayo).

Luckily my friends and I have this love for sushi in common. Though I could easily polish off two six-piece spicy tuna rolls by myself, it is nice to have company to share with. Which is another reason why I love sushi – it's a versatile and inexpensive meal option that everyone usually agrees on, and will honestly never get old.

My friends and I have dressed up on a Saturday night for sushi at a fancy-ish establishment on the famed Newbury Street in Boston, but we've also ordered it to go and enjoyed it in a park during the summer. Just this past Sunday, my boyfriend and I ordered it as an hors d'oeuvre of sorts before a low-key dinner. This versatility got me thinking – what other foods can be chopped, rolled and sliced into bite-size pieces that will work as both appetizers and meals?

As it turns out – a lot!

Source: www.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sushi



Mitsuko's Perfect Sushi Rice
Via FoodNetwork.com

Ingredients

3 3/4 cups Japanese rice, such as Nishiki (or 5 rice maker cups)
3 3/4 cups water (or 5 rice maker cups)
1/2 cup rice vinegar
4 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon salt

Instructions

In a large bowl, add rice and cover with lots of water. Stir rice in water with your hands, then pour off most of the water, and agitate 10 to 15 times by quickly moving your hand back and forth, swishing rice against side of bowl. Rinse the rice several more times, until the water that drains off of the rice is almost clear. Transfer the rice to a colander and let drain for 1 hour, undisturbed. Transfer the rice to a rice cooker, add the water, cover and cook as directed by manufacturer's directions.

While the rice is cooking, bring rice vinegar to a boil in a small saucepan, and then remove from the heat. Add sugar and salt and stir until dissolved. Allow to cool to room temperature.

When rice is done, allow cooked rice to remain in rice cooker for 10 minutes. Transfer rice to a large shallow mixing bowl (traditionally a wooden tub, called a hangiri), so that rice forms a mound in the center of the bowl. Using a diagonal slicing motion, gently cut into rice with a wooden paddle (called

a kijakushi), and pour cooled vinegar mixture over top of rice. «Cut» rice several times to evenly distribute vinegar mixture, then allow to cool. Gently turn rice over from time to time with paddle so that rice cools evenly. You might want to consider using a fan if time is of the essence. When rice has cooled to body temperature, it is ready to use for sushi rolls. Rice can be kept at the proper temperature by placing it in an insulated container such as a small ice chest, covered with a damp kitchen towel. Makes enough rice for at least 7 large rolls.

Inside-out Spicy Tuna Roll
Via FoodNetwork.com

This five-star recipe guides you through an authentic creation of the traditional Japanese fast food. Make sure you have all the necessary supplies before starting!

Ingredients

1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons hot chile paste
1 teaspoon hot chile oil
1/2 teaspoon toasted sesame oil
4 sheets toasted seaweed (yakinori)
Prepared sushi rice (at least 3 cups cooked rice), recipe follows
1/2 pound sushi-quality fresh tuna, cut into 1/2-inch wide strips
Wasabi paste
2 tablespoons finely sliced scallions
3 tablespoons toasted black sesame seeds

Instructions

In a small bowl combine mayonnaise, chile paste, hot chile oil, and sesame oil and stir to combine.

Place 1 piece of toasted seaweed on top of a sushi roller (makisushi), with the short end closest to you. Using lightly wet fingers, press enough rice onto the seaweed to completely cover the seaweed, and press firmly so that rice adheres to seaweed. Turn seaweed over so that rice side now faces down. Arrange strips of tuna on top of seaweed, with the tuna strips running vertically in line with the short side of the seaweed, about 1/3 of the way into the seaweed sheet.

Spread a small amount of wasabi on the tuna, then sprinkle with sliced scallions. Using the sushi roller as a guide, carefully begin rolling the seaweed up, pressing as tightly as possible so that the roll is firm and compact. Once the roll is completely rolled, reposition roll on sushi roller and press again. Sprinkle sesame seeds on a flat surface and lightly roll in seeds to coat. Allow roll to sit for a few seconds before slicing with a sharp, damp knife.

Cut roll into 6 or 8 pieces and serve with dollops of sauce spooned on top, or alongside for dipping. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

Peanut Butter and Jelly "Sushi" Rolls
Via AllRecipes.com

This fun recipe is great for kids and adults alike! I plan on serving these genius creations at my next party – I'm positive they'll be a crowd pleaser. After all, who doesn't like a good, old-fashioned PB&J?

Ingredients

2 Tbsp peanut butter
2 Tbsp jam or jelly of your choice
2 slices whole wheat bread

Instructions

Remove crusts from bread. With a rolling pin or large soup can, completely flatten crust-less bread slices.

Spread 1 tablespoon of peanut butter on each slice of bread as a base layer. Spread 1 tablespoon of jam or jelly on top of peanut butter on each slice of bread.

Roll each slice into a tight spiral; cut each spiral into 4 pieces.

Continued on next page



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Preserving Pippin Apple history

The Historic Fairfield Inn, located eight miles west of Gettysburg, has been in continuous operation since the 1700's. In the 1750's Squire Miller purchased 247 acres from Baltimore's holding, built a home in 1757 (the original section of The Fairfield Inn) and then a Tavern in the 1780's. The Inn holds the first liquor license in Adams County. During this time, the Miller family farmed the land while serving travelers. The Inn operated as a stage-coach stop and was used as a Civil War hospital and as a safe house for run-a-way slaves.

The farm yielded many varieties of fruits, one being the Pippin apple. Today, the Pippin is not as popular as it was in the 1700's.

One of the oldest apple varieties of the United States, the Pippin was widely grown and praised in Colonial America. It was a favorite of Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, George Washington and Ben Franklin. In the 1800's the Pippin was exported to London where it was also a favorite of Queen Victoria. The apple got its start as a chance seedling or pippin in the village of Newtown, now called Elmhurst, NY, located on Long Island.

The Fairfield Inn's holdings of 247 acres are long gone but in 1984, a Pippin seedling was planted on Arbor Day and a plaque was erected commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Inn's Tavern license. Today, the tree is grand and

yields ripe green apples perfect for use in pies, tarts and turnovers which are made at the Inn for customers. Last year, the plaque came into disrepair and local customers of the Inn and the Fairfield area, Chris Talbot, Charles Dalton and Steve Sites took it upon themselves to repair the sign.

"We are so fortunate to have great customers who not only frequent our establishment but truly care about the history of Fairfield" said, Sal Chandon, owner of The Fairfield Inn. The town of Fairfield celebrates the Pippin apple every year on the last weekend in September during an event called Pippinfest. There is a town-wide juried craft exhibit lining the streets, vendors selling apples made every



way imaginable, live music, car shows, demonstrations and good ol' fashioned small-town fun.

For information on the Pippinfest town fair visit www.pippinfest.com.

Senior Benefit Services

Senior Benefit Services, Inc. has long been recognized as one of the nation's largest distributors of insurance plans for today's retirees. The company now brings its expertise to Thurmont with the opening of a new branch conveniently located in the Thurmont Professional Center at 60 Water Street in downtown Thurmont. The branch will provide localized services to Thurmont and its surrounding areas.

The branch will be managed by local resident: Karen Simundson, a graduate of Mount Saint Mary's University with a degree in Accounting and a minor in Finance. She will be supported by Shawn Graff and Phyllis Nizer all of whom specialize in working with individuals who are approaching retirement

or who have already retired.

The Thurmont office will provide Medicare updates and plan comparisons, prescription drug plan information during the Annual Election Period (including state assistance qualification information), free beneficiary reviews on retirement, savings, and life insurance plans, and strategies to ensure that you receive the most benefits from social security. Senior Benefit Services also focuses on enabling their clients to have an income stream during retirement that they cannot outlive and also providing strategies to replace lost social security income for surviving spouses.

Beginning in June, Senior Benefit Services will be hosting a monthly "Open House" for res-

idents who are either going onto Medicare or who plan to retire within the next 12 months. Held on the second Thursday of each month, the event provides residents with an opportunity to receive information to help guide them in their upcoming decisions. Be sure to stop in to get your questions answered while enjoying re-

freshments and desserts in our relaxed setting.

More Information About Senior Benefit Services

Currently Senior Benefit Services, Inc. conducts business in 47 states, including Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. While Senior Benefit Services, Inc. is recognized as one of the largest providers of Medicare related plans in the Northeast, it

also provides its clients with access to the most competitive Life, Home Health Care, Long Term Care, Dental, Cancer, Heart Attack and Stroke insurance plans. To find out how Senior Benefit Services can help you, please call (301)271-4040. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Evening and weekend hours are available by appointment only.

Mini Cucumber Sushi Rolls Via AllRecipes.com

Another great party recipe, these mini cucumber "sushis" make a great and healthy finger food. Light and refreshing - perfect for a summer barbecue!

Ingredients

1 long seedless cucumber, ends trimmed
1 carrot, shredded
1 (4 ounce) package low-fat cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup raisins
24 long fresh chives for tying

Instructions

With a peeler, slice cucumber into eight 1/8-inch thick slices lengthwise. Cut each slice into 3 pieces crosswise.

Place about 1 teaspoon shredded carrot onto the bottom edge of a cucumber slice; place about 1 teaspoon cream cheese onto the carrot, and press 2 or 3 raisins into the cream cheese.

Roll the cucumber slice tightly into a spiral, starting at the filled end. Tie roll with a chive to secure. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

What is Qigong?

Renee Lehman

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Principles

As I have discussed in previous articles, TCM is the oldest continuously practiced medical system in the world (more than five thousand years). TCM deals with balancing the flow of the natural vital energy, or Qi (pronounced "chee"), which flows through all living things. This Qi flows through the body on specific pathways called Meridians, and is essential for health.

When the Qi is balanced, moving smoothly, and in sufficient quality and quantity, health and wellness are promoted. When the Qi is unbalanced or blocked in any way, disease or dis-ease, will occur. This dis-ease may show up as symptoms on a physical, mental/emotional, or spiritual level. It is important to realize that these symptoms are only the end result of an imbalance, and not the illness itself.

The ancient Chinese also observed a cyclical pattern in nature. They called this

the Five Elements. These Elements are felt to be the prime energetic building blocks from which everything in the material world is composed. So, every living thing and every person is a unique embodiment and combination of these Five Elements. The Five Elements are Water, Wood, Fire, Earth, and Metal. Therefore, when it comes to our health, if all Five Elements are in balance within us, then we are at a state of optimal health/wellness.

Qigong

TCM uses Qigong (pronounced "chee gung") along with acupuncture, acupressure, massage and herbal medicine as a way to open the door to healing and allow the body's organ systems to work in harmony. Qi is usually translated to mean the vital life force that flows through all things in the universe. The second word, Gong, means accomplishment, or skill that is cultivated through steady practice. Qigong is the art and science of increasing vitality, health maintenance, illness prevention, and healing that originated thousands of years ago.

Qigong can be divided into martial, medical, or spiritual categories depending on the purpose of the specific practice. No matter what style of Qigong is practiced, they involve a combination of simple movements and postures, breathing techniques, and focused intentions (including meditation and visualizations).

There are styles of Qigong that are used for one or more of the following: cleansing and healing the body, invigorating your Qi, storing your Qi, and circulating your Qi, etc. There



are styles that involve vigorous movements, such as Kung Fu (pronounced "kung phoo"); and there are slower, more gentle styles similar to Tai Chi (pronounced "tie chee"). Qigong can be practiced sitting or standing, and in a stationary or moving position. Most styles are simple and gentle, so that anyone can practice them at any age.

Deep breathing is important in Qigong. The goal during Qigong is to change from shallow chest breathing to deep abdominal breathing. Deep breathing has the effect of expanding lung capacity, promoting circulation of oxygen in the blood, massaging the internal abdominal organs, and helping digestion and assimilation of food.

During Qigong the goal is to focus your mind on something that allows you to enter a quiet, meditative state. The greater the level of peace and quietness that can be achieved mentally, the greater healing that can be achieved.

Qigong Research

According to the study on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use Among Adults and Children: United States, 2007 (done by the National Institutes of Health, NIH), about 625,000 American adults had practiced Qigong in 2007, an 18.6% increase over the number practicing Qigong in 2002.

Those who maintain a consistent practice of Qigong

find that it helps one regain a youthful vitality, maintain health even into old age and helps speed recovery from illness. One of the more important long-term effects is that Qigong reestablishes the body/mind/soul connection.

Many health care professionals recommend Qigong as an important form of alternative complementary medicine. The gentle, rhythmic movements of Qigong reduce stress, build stamina, increase vitality, and enhance the immune system. It has also been found to improve cardiovascular, respiratory, circulatory, lymphatic and digestive functions. Western scientific research confirms that Qigong reduces hypertension and the incidence of falling in the aged population (National Qigong Association, www.nqa.org). If you are interested in reading more about the health benefits of Qigong, go to the website: <http://www.qigonginstitute.org/html/usgovernment.php>, there you will be able to read an NIH interview with Dr. Roger Jahnke, OMD, entitled: Awaken the Healer Within: How Qigong and Tai Chi - Chinese Mind-Body Wellness Practices - Promote Healthy Function.

How is Qigong Different from Physical Exercise?

I like the way that my Qigong teacher, Dr. Nan Lu answers this question, so I am going to paraphrase his response: Generally, exercise makes your physical body change. To go beyond just physical changes, you need to have a practice like Qigong. Qigong, because it benefits your vital life force, works from the inside out. There is an ancient Chinese saying, "To change the outside of yourself, you must begin from the inside." Qigong helps improve your body's function; it balances your emotions, and sharpens your intuition. By opening up your intuition and increasing your Qi, Qigong is the key to discovering your very special inheritance that is locked away inside of yourself. You discover your unlimited potential!

"If you want to be healthy and live to 100, do Qigong."
—Dr. Mehmet Oz

If you are interested in seeing some Qigong practiced, visit the following websites: http://nihseniorhealth.gov/cam/faq/video/cam4_na.html?intro=yes, <http://nccam.nih.gov/video/taichiDVD>, and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyLPA8t4WbU&feature=relmfu> (Dr. Nan Lu).

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.



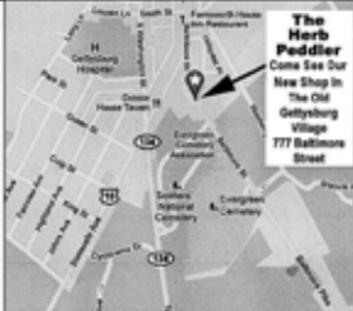
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Keep Moving

Exercise is for kids, too!

Linda Stultz

Everybody thinks kids get enough exercise because they are always running around. Well, that may have been the case years ago, before video games, vcr's and the internet. The number of overweight youth in our country is alarming, and getting higher each day. I am concerned that our children do not get the amount of exercise they used to in school so it is up to us as parents to encourage them to move more. Finding time to play with them more can be a challenge but worth every effort we can put forth. Showing them how important keeping their bodies healthy and slim is not the only benefit of spending more time with them. They will remember time you spend with them more than any gift you could ever give them. They are not the only ones benefiting from you playing with them more. You will also feel better about yourself spending more time with them and you will feel healthier in the long run by getting more exercise yourself.

Kids need to develop an exercise and healthy eating program when they are young. We, as adults, need to set a good example. I realize with today's busy lifestyle, it is very difficult to set aside time for exercise and a good balanced meal. It is much easier to grab fast food or pop something in the microwave and sit in front of the TV. We need to take care of ourselves and teach our children how important it is to take care of their health. People don't think much about their health until something happens to them or a loved one. Once they decide they need to do something, sometimes they jump in too deep and too quick. Health Maintenance is the key to a long life. Keep your body fit before it breaks.

Exercise needs to be incorporated into our daily schedule just like brushing your teeth, taking a shower, or any other activity that we do to take care of our body. Our muscles need attention too. The old saying "use it or lose it"

really does apply to our muscles. If we sit too long, our muscles atrophy and it takes twice as long to build muscle as it does to lose it. When kids are taught a healthy lifestyle from the beginning, they will continue that eating and exercise program all through their life. Children usually live the way their parents do and starting them out when they are young sets them up for a healthier life and hopefully less health problems, especially keeping them from obesity which is the biggest health challenge of our time. We all know that obesity leads to diabetes, heart problems, depression and many more concerns. It is so much harder to lose weight than it is to prevent gaining it in the first place. I know those pounds crept up quickly but the key is to watch your weight and not pack on too many pounds before you decide to do something about it. This statement may sound simple but I do realize it is a big problem and I do not want to make anyone feel bad. Weight gain is the one thing that causes so many other health problems but is also something that so many people just can't control. There are many places and programs that



can help. Please look into what is available to you and really think about participating in one of these programs if you feel you are not able to reach your health goal alone.

I am very interested in helping young people develop a good exercise program, so that when they get older they don't have to with many of the aches and pains that could be prevented. If you are involved with any youth groups, please think about adding exercise to your planned activities. Exer-

cise can really be fun, as well as beneficial.

Our children are the future and we need to take care of their future as well as our own. If they are healthy today and know how to keep themselves healthy their future will be bright and happy. We always want the best for our children and teaching them to be healthy and happy is the best gift, lesson and love we could ever pass on to them.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 717-334-6009.

Fitness Matters

Inga Olsen
Anytime Fitness Personal Trainer

Question: I'm curious what dietary changes I should make in order to stave off heart disease? Just trying to be proactive rather than reactive!

Answer: First of all, kudos for focusing on prevention! As far as diet is concerned, there are definitely some modifications you can make, but to be honest, they aren't all that new. For starters, you could try following the DASH diet, which stands for Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension. This diet focuses on specific amounts of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy products, and lean proteins. Sounds pretty healthy, right? In fact, the diet has been shown to reduce hypertension, and can also decrease the risk of heart disease and stroke over time. But even if you don't follow a comprehensive diet, you should still try to limit your sodium intake, reduce your intake of saturated and trans fats, moderate your alcohol consumption (no more than 2 drinks per day for men and 1 drink per day for women), and increase your intake of omega-3 fatty acids. All of these changes will go a long way in helping to protect your heart, and the rest of your cardiovascular system. If you want additional information, check out the American Heart Association website, www.heart.org, or consult with a registered dietitian.

Question: I lift 5 days per week

consistently, but my strength gains have flat-lined. How do I continue to get stronger? I don't think I can lift any more than I am right now. Help!

Answer: I don't really have much information to go on here, but let's see if I can provide some insight. First of all, there's the distinct possibility that you're working out too much. Maybe your volume (the combination of sets and reps) is too high—a common problem for those looking to gain strength as quickly as possible. And how long has it been since you've taken some time off to allow your body to fully recuperate from the stress of exercise? Some much-needed rest may do the trick, and amazingly, people often come back even stronger. I also wonder if you're changing up your workouts enough. Many people get into the habit of using machines or free weights, but then never gravitate toward other forms of exercise. Cables, tubing, bands, kettlebells, medicine balls, and even bodyweight exercises can all increase strength, so you should try to change up your routine reg-

ularly. Lastly, you have to remember that strength doesn't just increase exponentially on a continual basis. There is a threshold that you'll reach at some point, and you could be there already. If you feel like you need help with your current program, talk to a certified personal trainer.

Question: I see quite a few advertisements for multivitamins these days, but I've never really thought about taking one. Now that I'm the big 4-0, I'm focusing more on my health. Do you think taking a multi is a good idea?

Answer: In a word...yes! Nobody follows a "perfect" diet, so taking one makes sense. There are actually a number of health organizations that currently recommend multivitamin/ mineral (MVI) supplements for all individuals. I like to think of an MVI as insurance. You pay insurance for your house and your car, so why not take a multi to ensure that you're getting all the nutrients you need to function and feel well? In most cases, your body will use what it needs, and will eliminate what it doesn't. The hard part is finding the right supplement. You also want to make sure that the

one you take includes these nutrients at functional dosages, which means that the ingredient levels actually affect your health in a beneficial way. Unfortunately, many of the most popular MVI's only contain the Recommended Dietary Allowances, which are nutrient levels designed to prevent deficiency diseases, not necessarily enhance health. You should also look for products that are manufactured by reputable companies that follow good manufacturing

practices and FDA regulations. If you need help choosing the one that's right for you, contact a registered dietitian.

About the author: Inga Olsen is the Club Manager and NSPA Certified Conditioning Specialist and Nutrition and Weight Management Specialist at Anytime Fitness in Thurmont. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.

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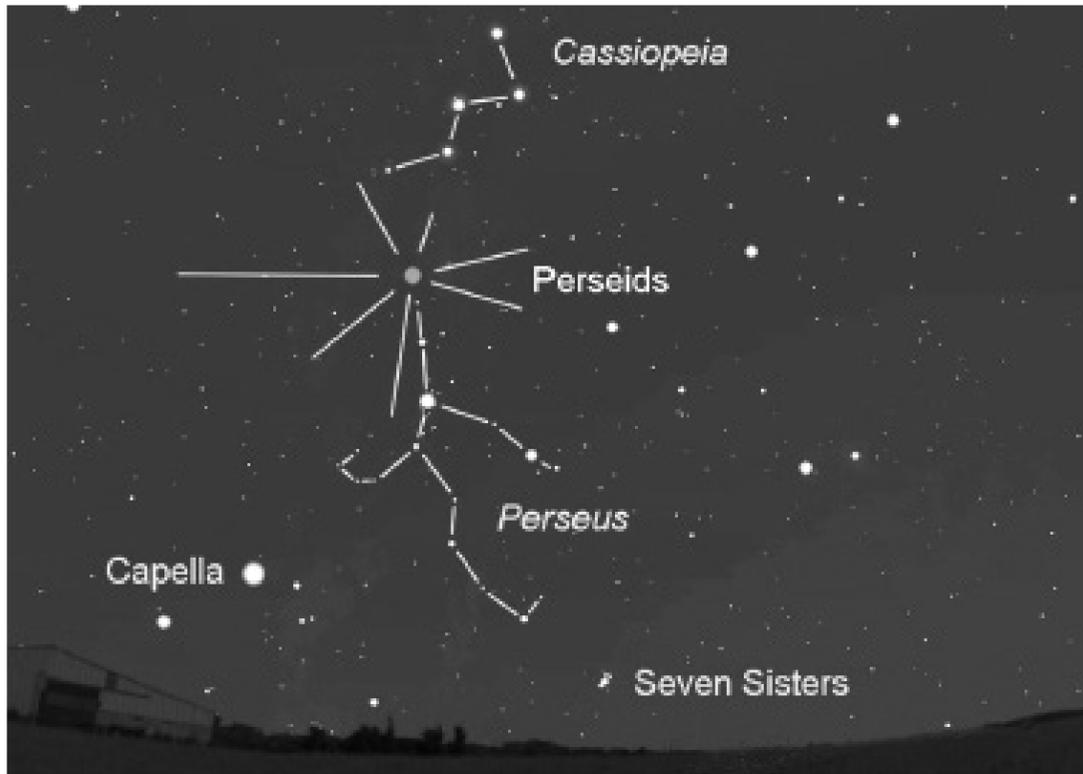
The night sky of August

Professor Wayne Wooten

For August 2012, it is full moon on August 2nd, the Green Corn Moon. The last quarter moon is on August 9th. The waning crescent moon passes by Jupiter on the morning of August 11th, and by Venus on the morning of August 13th. On August 12, it is the peak for the Perseid Meteor Shower, our best annual celestial fireworks show, and the waning crescent moon will sit midway between the two brightest planets.

If you have a dark sky site, you will see about a bright meteor every 5-10 minutes from midnight until dawn. They will seem to come out of the constellation Perseus, rising in the NE just before midnight. The new moon is on August 17th, and the waxing crescent moon passes five degrees south of Saturn on the evening of August 22nd, and then 3 degrees south of Mars later that evening. The first quarter moon is on August 24th, and the second full moon of August, a "blue moon", is on August 31st. The first two weeks find the moon waning in the morning sky, making the darker evening skies idea for observing the Milky Way.

Mercury will be briefly visible in the morning sky in mid August, just to the lower left of the waning crescent moon on August 15th. It will be directly the very slender crescent moon on August 16th, but soon disappears behind the sun for the rest of August. At the same time, Venus reaches greatest western elongation, 46 degrees west of the Sun on August 15th; through the telescope Venus appears on the edge of its orbit as seen from Earth, and exactly half lit, and 23" of arc across. On August 1st, Venus was a wan-



It is once again time for the Perseid Meteor Shower! Set aside the night of August 12 to enjoy one of the greatest celestial fireworks shows of the year!

ing crescent, 41% sunlit, and 28" across. By the end of August, Venus is waning gibbous phase, 58% sunlit but now on the far side of its orbit, only 21" across. Mars is moving rapidly eastward in Virgo, passing between Saturn and Spica on August 13-14th. Jupiter rises in Taurus about 3 AM at the start of August, and about midnight by month's end. It is at opposition on December 3rd, rising in the east at sunset and up all night. But the best telescopic treat is still Saturn, now moving eastward away from Spica in the southwestern sky. Enjoy the rings, now open about 11 degrees, for by the end of September it will be lost in the sun's glare in the west.

The Big Dipper rides high in the NW at sunset, but falls lower each evening. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers

north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo. Look for Saturn to the upper right of Spica,

and drawing closer to it night by night as Saturn revolves around the sun in its slow 30-year orbit. From Spica curve to Corvus the Crow, a four-sided grouping. It is above Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years away from us.

Hercules is overhead, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. It is faintly visible with the naked eye under dark sky conditions, and among the best binoc objects on the map back page when you download the Sky-Map pdf file.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the NE sky. Binoculars reveal the small star just to the NE of Vega, epsilon Lyrae, as a nice double.

Larger telescopes at 150X reveal each of this pair is another close double, hence its nickname, the "double double"...a fine sight under steady sky conditions.

Below Vega are the two bright stars of the Summer Triangle; Deneb is at the top of the Northern Cross, known as Cygnus the Swan to the Romans. It is one of the most luminous stars in our Galaxy, about 50,000 times brighter than our Sun. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle. If you scan the Milky Way with binocs or a small spotting scope between Altair and Deneb, you will find many nice open star clusters and also a lot of dark nebulae, the dust clouds from which new stars will be born in the future. It is just below Cygnus and above Aquila that we find the exquisite planetary nebula Messier 27, the Dumb Bell Nebula.

To the south, Antares rises about the same time in Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Just above the tail of the Scorpion are two fine naked eye star clusters, M-7 (discovered by Ptolemy about 200 AD) and M-6, making one of the best binocular views in the sky.

East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. This stellar nursery is ablaze with new stars and steamers of gas and dust blown about in their energetic births. In the same binocular field just north of the Lagoon is M-20, the Trifid Nebula.

Farmers' Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Hazy, hot, and humid (1,2) with scattered storms (3,4). Fair and not so warm (5,6,7,8) with showers and severe storms (9,10,11). Fair and hot (12,13,14,15) turning cloudy in the northern part of the region, storms in the southern part (16,17,18). Fair again and rather warm (19,20,21,22,23,24) with more showers in the north and storms in the south (25,26,27). Fair and very warm (28,29,30,31).

Tornado Watch: The Hagerstown Town and Country Almanack sees no tornado activity in the Mid-Atlantic Region in the month of August.

Full Moon: August's Full Moon will occur on August 31st. It has been commonly

referred to as Dog Moon for 'The Dog Days of Summer' which end on Saturday, August 11th. It has also been called Full Ripe Moon or Fruit Moon because of the many summer vegetables and fruits that come ripe at this time and Sturgeon Moon because sturgeon season begins in many parts of the world.

Holidays: Where did the Summer go? September (and Labor Day) is right around the corner and that means back to school for many. Make a list of school supplies that will be need in those first days and buy them now. Encourage high school seniors to complete at least one college application before school starts.

The Garden: August is the peak of the hot and dry season and

if you don't get adequate rainfall, your flower and vegetable gardens will need some extra watering during the month. If you use a thick mulch, water will be retained much better. To ensure a happy harvest, pick vegetables in the morning hours when the sugar content is highest but be very careful not do when plants are wet or you will more than likely spread disease if it is present. Also, bruised or scratched vegetables spoil quickly and damaged plants are targets for pests and diseases. Use clippers or a sharp knife to harvest tough or brittle-stemmed crops such as broccoli, cabbage, eggplant, peppers, and squash. They can be damaged if pulled or torn from their stems.

J. Gruber's Thought for Today's Living: "Congratulating oneself is not the best evidence of success."

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COMPUTER Q&A

Email for beginners

Aysë Stenabaugh

Choosing an Email Provider

There are three different ways that you can obtain an email address.

1. Through your internet provider- most companies such as Comcast, Verizon, or CenturyLink provide their users with at least one free email address with their internet account.
2. From a private domain- Much like you see websites @thewebsite.com you can register your own domain name. This is popular for companies for example my business email is help@thecomputertutor.info and my website is www.thecomputertutor.info. They have the same private domain that I registered.
3. Online from a free email service- The most popular ones include Gmail, Yahoo Mail, MSN, and other popular websites.

access your email from any computer with email access as long as you know what website to visit and your username and password to access it. Your email is stored on a remote server so you don't have to worry about losing your emails if your computer fails. Remote servers can have problems but they usually backup their servers making it less likely to result in a permanent loss of data. Please note that if you access webmail while using an email client such as Microsoft Outlook you may not see your emails because they have been deleted from the server. There are different settings that you modify to change the behavior of your webmail.

Using an Application

If you like having a program that downloads all of your email rather than going to a website you can configure email client software to organize and send your email. The most commonly known email client is Microsoft Outlook. Outlook is part of the Microsoft Office Suite. Outlook offers integration into other Office software as well as many extra features. Most of the time Outlook is more than most people need unless you are utilizing its features for business purposes. Outlook Express is a much more toned down version of Outlook that is ideal for most users. Outlook Express is not a standalone Windows program (it can't be purchased or installed by itself) as it was only included in certain versions of Windows 98 and Windows XP. Now Windows does not include an email client but offers Windows Live Mail as a free download for those who want it. Live mail offers most of the same features that Outlook Express did but in a more aesthetic way. Mozilla Thunderbird is another free client that can provide you with a simple way to view your emails as well as the possibility to integrate many add-on and extensions for added functionality.

Common Questions

My email client is asking for a password but I don't have / don't know it! How do I get access to my email? When your email was first setup a password was provided by you so that no one else could access your private information. If you don't know your password and are using webmail you can look for "forgot/lost password" to learn more about recovery options. If you are using an email client to view and reply to emails you must contact support from your domain.

How do I switch email providers or obtain a new email address? Once you decide who you want your email provider to be and you setup an account you will need to inform everyone

of your new email address. You can do this many ways including sending a group message to everyone in your contacts telling them about the new address or including your new email address in all new emails you send out. One way that you can continue to get email from your old email account is by accessing the old account and forwarding all new mail to your new email address. Old mail that you wish to keep can be forwarded individually if you wish to do so.

How do I save my contacts/address book? Most webmail clients and email application clients provide you with the option to export your address book. To do this you usually need to open your address book, locate the export button, and choose a file type to save the export as. The most universal type is .CSV and can be used in

most cases when you attempt to import the file later. Some email clients allow you to print out a list of your address book while others do not

If you find yourself with more questions about email or other computer troubleshooting questions feel free to contact me, Jester's Computer Tutor at: help@thecomputertutor.info or (717) HELP-4-ME. You can also find our web site along with free news and computer tips at: www.thecomputertutor.info or on our Facebook page!

For friendly, affordable and fast computer repair contact Jester's Computer Services located at 5135 Fairfield Road, Fairfield Pennsylvania at (717) 642-6611.

To read more articles by Aysë visit the Authors section of emmitsburg.net.

Email Provider	Pro's	Con's
ISP Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Free Support <input type="checkbox"/> Built in virus protection and spam filters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lose address if you move or change ISP's <input type="checkbox"/> Webmail usually limited with minimal features
Private Domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Choose any email user-name <input type="checkbox"/> More storage space and less limitations on features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Small cost <input type="checkbox"/> Takes more time and skill to setup account and email address
Online Email Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Always available with internet connection <input type="checkbox"/> Integration into mobile applications and other software 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> More prone to spam and hackers <input type="checkbox"/> No live support

There is no right or wrong email provider to choose. Each one has their own unique qualities although some may be easier to use and have more features than others. Here are some pros and cons to help you make an informed decision on the best email provider for you.

Choosing an Email Client

There are two ways that you can access your email from a computer or mobile device— online through your email provider's website, or through an application that is either built in or has been installed and setup on your computer or device. Common email programs include Outlook, Outlook Express (yes there is a BIG difference), Windows Live mail, and Mozilla Thunderbird to name a few. With so many choices it can be confusing as to which one is the best option for you. First we need to determine if we should access your email through a webpage (webmail) or through a program. Accessing Webmail

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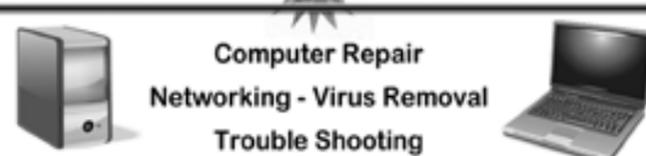
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Summertime home maintenance

Doris Kiser
Central Maryland Sunrooms

Summer is going by so fast that it seems like just yesterday the kids got out of school and were looking forward to their summer vacation. It's only a matter of days now and they'll be starting back. It also seems like just yesterday many of us were outdoors doing spring cleanup around the house.

Well it's time to do a checkup on some of those chores you had on your list this past spring. One item that should be on your to do list is checking and cleaning your spouting and downspouts. We've already had several thunder storms come through our area which can cause spouting to overflow should they be clogged with debris. And don't forget to check your downspout. Again, debris

going into your downspout will also cause overflow. It's not only the problem of overflow but also if the water is shooting into a flower bed or into shrubbery with mulch this causes another area in need of cleanup.

While cleaning our own spouting the other week we found the making of a bird nest. No babies or eggs but there was considerable twigs, leaves and mud. Quite a bit had already made its way into the downspout so we had extra time involved getting a clear passage.

After completing that chore we've now made the decision to install a gutter guard product in our spouting. It's no longer as easy for us to get the ladder out and make the climb up to do this every few weeks. So if you're having this same issue, consider the advantage of having some type of

gutter guard protection for your spouting. There are many on the market to choose from.

Also check your downspout to see where the water is draining to. Is the water draining away from the foundation of your house? If not consider the potential damage this could be causing to the foundation of your home.

And speaking of your house foundation, check any water hose you may have outside. If you have the faucet turned on and your hose has a nozzle on the end that you use to turn the water usage on and off, keep a close check on it. Hoses can split, nozzles can go bad. The result is water running and this causes not only the waste of water but the potential for water to seep into your foundation and basement. We've had this happen to us and now take the extra few seconds to turn the faucet off.

Another area to consider is your windows. Has it been awhile since last time you did

some serious cleaning of not only the glass but also the window frames? Over time the tracks of the sashes and screen can fill with dirt and debris. By taking the time to use a brush to clean these areas you may notice the windows will open and close a little easier. This is also a good time to check the screen for holes and rips. Another recommendation for you windows is to use the latch when the windows are closed. This keeps the window sashes tight together, helps to keep air out and over time by using the latch often you may not have as much problem with trying the latch the sashes together.

If you are thinking of replacing your windows, now is a great time to get that done. There are so many advantages to having new replacement windows it's hard to list all of them. For some the air that comes through during the winter months when you are trying to keep the heat-

ing cost down is they're number one reason to get this project done. For many others it may be that they can no longer open their windows have the window sash stay up. The window is just plain worn out. Consider this when you are pricing new windows. Sometimes the cheapest isn't always the best and you may only get a few years use out of them till you start to have problems with the hardware. It's always good to ask about the manufacturer of the windows you are getting a quote on. How long has the company been manufacturing windows and who will be installing them? Also, find out if there are any extra charges such as removing the old windows and disposing of those old windows. Many contractors include those charges in their price, some don't.

If you are considering a new storm door there are many models to choose from. Over the years the manufacturers have made many improvements to their products and homeowners have a good selection to choose from. There are many advantages to having a storm door. To be able to cut down on air coming around the entrance door will be help with those heating costs during the winter. To be able to leave the entrance door open for more light to come in is another advantage of having a storm door installed. Many storm doors can be vented which is also a great benefit to you.

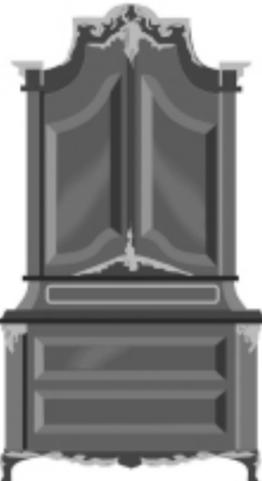
These are only a few suggestions for you to consider but could benefit you greatly and save you time and money. Your home is so valuable and important it is always a must to keep up the maintenance needed to keep it that way. Some tender loving care can go a long ways and you can be assured you are not wasting your time by investing into your home. There are many home improvement projects you can consider, but consider what benefit you will receive the most value from. For some it may be new windows, new spouting, new doors, new roof or maybe even a new sunroom to be enjoyed all year round or for those seasons when the weather isn't too cold. Whatever the project look for a reputable contractor and make sure they are licensed and carry insurance.

Hope your summer has been enjoyable so far and if you are considering a home improvement project for this coming fall or winter don't hesitate to give us a call or stop by our showroom at 5241 Taneytown Pike, Taneytown, MD. Our showroom hours are Tuesday through Friday 10:00 AM till 5:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM till 1:00 PM. If you need an after hour appointment we will gladly set that up for you.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesdays

Strawberry Hill's Wednesday Woods Walkers - Join us for a walk in the woods! We'll pick a new trail each week and get fit while having fun. The first 3 walks are free, and then sign up as a member to continue to participate. Feel free to bring your dog (on a leash) to join us, too. Come as a guest for 2 weeks free of charge. For more information visit strawberryhill.org or call 717-642-5840.

Thursday Nights

Hauser Estate Winery's Thirsty Thursday. Light food available for purchase and drink special! Hauser Estate Winery, 410 Cashtown Road, Biglerville. For more information visit www.hauserestate.com.

August 1

Ladies Night a Hauser Estate Winery. Can't make it to the beach...how about joining us for Ladies Night instead. Bring your girlfriends for an evening of shopping, wine and laughs! Hauser Estate Winery, 410 Cashtown Road, Biglerville. For more information visit www.hauserestate.com.

August 2 & 16

Bike Night at Sanders Square, Fairfield. Come show off your ride or just come to look at all the styles, shapes and colors of the bikes that show up. Join us for good food, ice cream camaraderie and hopefully sunshine.

August 4 & 18

Strawberry Hill's Meet the Naturalist - Bring your questions and curiosities to our on-staff Naturalist. Learn about the Animal Ambassadors and what they eat. Feeding time will begin at 10:00 am. Bring in a picture of

something interesting you found outdoors. If we don't have the answers you're seeking, we'll gladly help to find them. For more information visit strawberryhill.org or call 717-642-5840.

August 4

Reid's Orchard & Winery presents Music in the Valley. Join us for music in the Valley featuring The Willys - an interesting mix of acoustic alternative, electric power pop, punk and straight out rock and roll. Reid's Orchard & Winery, 2135 Buchanan Valley Road, Orrtanna. For more information call 717-677-7047 or visit www.reidsorchardwinery.com.

August 10 & 11

Gettysburg's Community Theater - The Home of Adams County School of Musical Theater - presents 'The Victim' a new musical about teen bullying written by Hanover PA teen, Zachary Terrazas. The theater is located at 49 York Street, Gettysburg. \$11 Reserved Seating. Tickets can be purchased online at www.acsmt.org or by calling the toll free office number 866-967-8167.

August 11

Annual Mount Tabor UCC Church's Annual Big Picnic. Everyone welcome!

August 12

Strawberry Hill's Summer Tree Identification - Join us for a hot summer day's walk in the shade of the Strawberry Hill forest! We'll get familiar with a dichotomous key to identify at least ten local trees by leaves and bark. For more information visit strawberryhill.org or call 717-642-5840.

Cunningham Falls State Park's wilderness

survival course. Learn skills such as fire making, building a shelter, edible foods, mental awareness, etc. Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Meet at the amphitheater, located in the William Houck area campground. For more information call 301-271-7574.

August 12

Hollabaugh Bros. Annual Peach Festival! Come for a day of special music, wagon rides, peach sundaes, peach samples, peach products, and peaches galore! Hollabaugh Bros. Fruit Farm and Market, 545 Carlisle Road, Biglerville. Proceeds benefit the Land Conservancy of Adams County. Free parking, no admission. For more information call 717-677-9494 or visit www.hollabaughbros.com.

St. Mary's Church all you can eat spaghetti dinner. St. Mary's Church, 256 Tract Road, Fairfield. For more information call 717-642-8815.

August 13 - 19

The Annual Rocky Ridge Fire Company's old fashion Carnival and Fair! The very best in small town fairs! See article on page 4 for more details. See ad on page 24 for schedule of events.

August 17 & 18

Gettysburg's Community Theater - presents Disney's 'Aladdin Jr'. The theater is located at 49 York Street, Gettysburg. Tickets can be purchased online at www.acsmt.org or by calling the toll free office number 1-866-967-8167.

August 18

18th Annual Civil War Music Muster Civil War brass bands, fife and drum and parlor. All performances take place at the

Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, followed by a concert at the Pennsylvania Memorial in the early evening. For more information call 717-334-1124 x8023. or visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org.

August 21 - 26

90th Annual South Mountain Fair. A small country fair featuring rides for the kids, barns filled with farm animals, many homemade needlework exhibits, photography, home canned fruits and vegetables, fresh produce and fruits, and beautiful flowers, all on display. South Mountain Fairgrounds, Route 234, Arendtsville. In addition there is nightly entertainment in the auditorium, a fireworks display one evening, and the antique tractor and farm machinery parade another evening, and so much more. Something for everyone to enjoy! For more information call 717-677-9663, visit www.southmountainfair.com or see article on Page 15.

August 24

Strawberry Hill's The Birds of the Battlefield, an Important Bird Area. Would you like to know more about the birds of the Battlefield? From Passenger Pigeons to the American Rob-

in, and wild turkeys to whip-poor-wills, come to learn a few identification tips and hear some of the lore of these animals that were present at the time of the Civil War. The Campfire programs are held at the Amphitheater on West Confederate Avenue, Gettysburg. To learn more about Strawberry Hill visit www.strawberryhill.org or call 717-642-5840.

August 25

Saint Anthony Shrine's Summertime Cruz-In. \$10 fee to show your car. Top 2 vehicles will split 1/2 of the gate money. Also available: 50/50 Raffle and Door Prizes, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Drinks, Music. Stop in, look at the cars and enjoy the evening with friends. For more information call 240-529-2737.

August 26

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's Birthday Celebration and Family Fun Day. For more information visit www.setonshrine.org.

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TO OUR SERVICE AWARD HONOREES AND OUR DISTINGUISHED RETIREES, THE REST OF US SAY WITH GREATEST SINCERITY, "THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE."

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Professor Joseph J. Vince, Jr., Sociology

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Shelagh Bolger, President's Office, Special Events Coordinator

Dr. Christopher Bradley, Science, Assistant Professor

Jamion Christian, Athletics, Head Men's Basketball Coach

Gayle Coats, Athletics, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach

David Cortina, Physical Plant, Groundsworker

Nicole D'Agata, Admissions Office, Admissions Counselor

John Detig, Grotto, Grotto Worker - Part-time

Anthony DiBartolo III, Athletics, Assistant Men's Lacrosse Coach - Part-time

Steven Drasdis, Recreational Services, Assistant Director of Recreational Services/ Intramural/Club Sports

Christopher Duffy, Outdoor Adventures, Director of Outdoor Adventures

Kimberly Eyler, Accounting & Finance, Staff Accountant

Dr. Corinne Farneti, Bolte School of Business, Assistant Professor

Bedig Galladian, Campus Activities, Assistant Director of Campus Activities

Dr. Kristy Hamilton, Psychology, Visiting Assistant Professor

Karlle Herbert, Communications, Director of Web Communications

Dr. Pratibha Kumar, Communication Studies, Assistant Professor

Andrew Marfo, Public Safety, Patrol Officer/Dispatcher

Katherine McGrau, Accounting & Finance, Comptroller

Leah Mort, Financial Aid, Administrative Assistant

Edward Nolan, Bolte School of Business, Academic Advisor: Wounded Veterans-2-Workforce Program

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Randall Phyll, Center for Student Diversity, Assistant Director for Student Diversity

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Samantha Rife, History/Political Science, Administrative Assistant

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Jace Spoonhour, Physical Plant, Custodian - Part-time

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Clare Tauriello, Career Center, Director of the Career Center

Bradley Weikert, Physical Plant, Groundsworker

Dr. Paula Whetsel-Ribeau, President's Office, Special Assistant to President for Community Leadership

Ben Wilkins, Athletics, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

Tony Wilkinson, Physical Plant, Painter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MASTER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION SESSION

Thursday, Aug. 8

5-6 p.m.

Mount St. Mary's Frederick Campus, 5350 Spectrum Drive, Frederick

Learn more about how you can get your MBA in two years from the Mount! Classes held in Emmitsburg and at the Mount's Frederick campus.

MASTER IN HEALTH ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION SESSION

Wednesday, Aug. 8 & 29

5-6 p.m.

Mount St. Mary's Frederick Campus, 5350 Spectrum Drive, Frederick

Learn more about the only accelerated MHA program in Maryland offering Lean Six Sigma Methodology.

Classes are held on Monday evenings in Frederick.

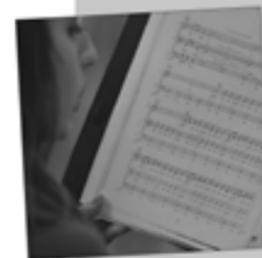


OPENING DAY PICNIC (EMPLOYEES)

Thursday, Aug. 16

OPENING CONVOCATION AND FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

Wednesday, Aug. 23



NIGHT AT THE DELAPLAINE

Wednesday, Aug. 29

7:30-9 p.m.

Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

The Department of Visual & Performing Arts will showcase the Mount's musical and theatrical performances during an open house. Admission is free.

Download MOUNT MOBILE for free!



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