

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

EXULTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION —EDWARD R. MURROW

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And there were in the same county shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

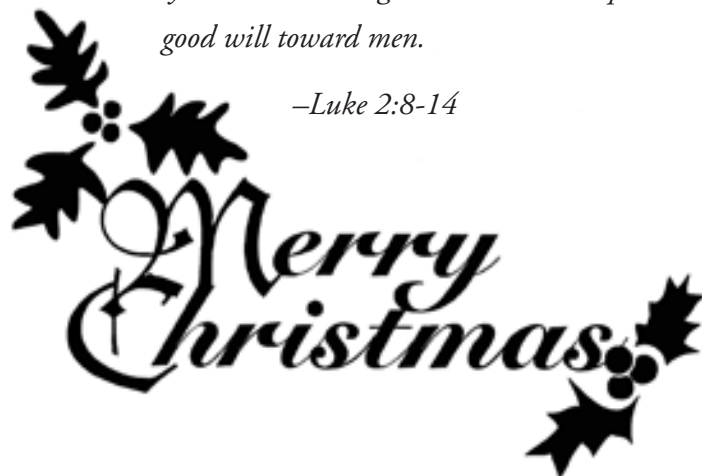
For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

—Luke 2:8-14



Merry Christmas from the staff of the Emmitsburg News-Journal: Shea, Morgan, Angela, Harry, Chloe, Collin, Danielle, Sharon, Valerie, Kay, Mary Ann, Renee, Jen, Shannon, Bill, Lindsay, Jack, Tim, Brian and Mike.

Camp Eder's Annual Christmas Tree Festival

Christmas is right around the corner as thoughts of hot cocoa, decorating the Christmas tree and fresh baked Christmas cookies fill the minds of many already, including the staff and volunteers at Camp Eder. They are busy working hard to prepare for the 8th Annual Christmas Tree Festival, a community event that celebrates the birth of Christ.

Designed as a "Celebration of the Birth of Christ" the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival offers a place where families and individuals can experience an evening of refuge from the many things that pull our attention away from the true reason for the season. Camp Eder, located on Mt. Hope Road in Fairfield, invites neighbors, friends, and families to join in the festivities December 7 and 8, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. each evening.

This tradition began in 2011 with an idea to offer Christmas trees for folks to decorate and display in Geigley Lodge at Camp Eder. Each tree is sponsored by an organization, group, or individual, which they can decorate with a theme of their choice. Attendees can vote on their favorite tree. It's a great opportunity to get involved with Camp Eder and

the surrounding community, and it's always a lot of fun!

Festivities include light displays, music, story telling by Dave Weiss, a bake sale, kids' activities, horse drawn carriage rides and a luminary garden. You don't want to miss our mouth-watering turkey dinner and soup! New this year, Messiah College Piano and Violin Duet will be here both days. Additionally, Camp Eder also boasts beautiful walking creek side trails for those who want to take the celebration outdoors. Each evening, guests will hear the bell ring at 8 p.m., signaling the start of a serene candlelight service in a semi-shelter outdoor pavilion. The service closes with an A Capella "Silent Night."

Feel even more a part of the event by donating non-perishable food items including small bags of rice, oatmeal, applesauce, and cereals for families in need. All donations will go to Fairfield families in need via Fairfield Menonite Church Food Pantry.

If you're available the weekend before the Christmas Tree Festival, take some time to stop by Camp Eder while they Deck the Halls on December 1. Those in attendance will bake cookies hang the lights,



Camp Eder's Christmas Tree Festival is always a great hit – with kids aged one to ninety-two.

decorate for Camp Eder's Christmas Tree Festival, and enjoy some camp traditions. You will eat delicious meals, have joyous fellowship, and make memories.

Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival is a delightful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and is open to people of all ages. Mark your calendar now and plan to come to Camp Eder on one or

both evenings, December 7 and 8. Grab a hot cup of Camp Eder cocoa, find a cozy spot by the fire, listen to Christmas carols and stories, take in the wonders and beauty, reminisce with friends, and recall the birth of Christ, the true meaning of Christmas. For more information, call the Camp Eder office at 717-642-8256 or visit www.campeder.org.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Historical wayside exhibits unveiled

As part of a Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) grant, the town has secured \$9,000 to create three wayside exhibits, which, once approved, will be placed at the Town Square, Emmet House and the Doughboy Statue. The long-term goal for this project is to create a historic walking tour for visitors and even residents of the town.

This past April the Town started working on the project as the MHAA grant application was being completed. The grant application was submitted March 1, and the grant funds were awarded in July. In August, the Town had the first meeting with Ruth Bielobocky from Ion Design Firm to officially kick off the project. A site visit to Emmitsburg to view the potential sites to feature kicked off the beginning stages of design work for Bielobocky, who after visiting Emmitsburg began preliminary sketches for the overall design of the signs. Scott Grove of Grove Public Relations LLC worked as the writer and researcher for the historical content of these signs. Together, they created a formal proposal, which they brought forth to Emmitsburg's Board of

Commissioners on November 1 for discussion.

Wayside exhibits, as explained by Bielobocky, were developed by the National Park Service as a way to include photos and diagrams to interpret the resource in front of you. Wayside exhibits can act as a substitute if no ranger or docent is available to help visitors interpret a particular site. Additionally, they can become tools for tourism development.

As described by Grove, the purpose of creating these signs is to provide a basic overview and orientation of Frederick's founding and development. Additionally, designers wanted to show how Emmitsburg is, was and continues to be a nexus of commercial transportation and historical activity. Funding obtained from Maryland Heritage asked that the signs show an emphasis on the Civil War where possible. Several of the photos depicted on the signs showcase not only the Emmitsburg during the Civil War, but also WWI and WWII.

Commissioners presented several corrections concerning grammatical errors as well as historical accuracy. All seemed on board with the

idea of installing these signs, once corrected, but hope to see other areas of the town showcased as well, including Mount St. Mary's University and the Daughters of Charity. According to Mayor Don Briggs, these three signs are just the beginning of a project that may hopefully be expanded on in the future to encompass more of Emmitsburg's historical sites. "We have a lot of history here and would like to add more exhibits," noted Briggs.

The total project cost for all three, approximately three-foot signs, is \$18,000. With the \$9,000 grant from MHAA, the town is responsible for providing the remaining \$9,000. \$6,850 will be a cash match from the town, and \$2,150 will be in-kind/staff time for research and installation.

The Town hopes the Board will give official approval at the upcoming January 7 town meeting. If everything continues as planned the Town would like the fabricated exhibits received in February 2019. A ribbon cutting ceremony would be held in early spring, most likely March or April. The grant requires the project to be complete by July 31, 2019 at the latest.

Emmitsburg news-briefs . . .

Town awarded Community Legacy Grants

Emmitsburg recently received grant monies from the Community Legacy Program for the Emmitsburg Façade and restoration program and the ADA accessible playground. \$75,000 was awarded for the ADA accessible playground, which will complement the \$125,000 already awarded from Playground Open Space. The playground is now almost completely funded and according to Mayor Don Briggs, may hopefully begin construction in the spring or summer of 2019.

Additionally, \$50,000 was awarded from the Community Legacy Program for façade and restoration in Emmitsburg. Community Legacy is a matching grant program in which the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provides 50% matching grants for exterior façade and other exterior improvements, and the property owner pays the other 50%. The maximum grant is \$12,500 per property, per State fiscal year,

as long as money is available. To date, the town has received close to \$700,000 worth of façade work over the past six years thanks to this program.

Town passes amended trailer ordinance

The town voted to approve a text amendment related to trailers during the November 5 town meeting, allowing trailers to be used as storage sheds in an industrial zone as long as they are not visible from any adjoining residence.

In August 2011 the town passed a trailer ordinance, which prohibited the use of trailers as storage facilities in any zoning district within town limits. In 2017, town staff noticed C-containers located on properties within the industrial district, and property owners were sent citations to remove the trailers. Business owners brought their complaints to the attention of town staff, who after consulting with the town attorney, created an amendment.

One property that currently

utilizes C-containers, Quality Tire, is not in compliance with the new amendment. Zoned as B2, not industrial, the business is not currently in compliance. The business uses the trailer to collect tires, which are picked up and recycled once the trailer is full. Commissioners discussed ways to allow the trailer to remain on the property such as building a carport to house the trailer in, constructing a fence, or planting a vegetative buffer. Town staff will look into what may be allowed in order to "hide" the trailer, and will update the Board at a later date.

Town on its way to Tree City USA certification

As part of their "green" initiative, Emmitsburg is looking to become Tree City USA certified, and during the November 5 town meeting, they took one step closer to the certification by passing a tree care ordinance. The ordi-

nance provides guidance on how to take care of trees within town, maintain trees, and addresses public safety concerning trees.

The process to become tree city certified is a four-part process that consists of creating a tree board, adopting a tree care ordinance, creating a Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, and creating an Arbor Day proclamation. The town has already enacted an Arbor Day

proclamation, and according to Town Clerk Madeline Shaw, the town has already met the budget requirement. Additionally, after discussions with the Department of Natural Resources, the town's Green Team can manage the Tree Board; it does not have to be a separate entity.

The Board of Commissioners unanimously accepted the tree care ordinance. The town is on its way to Tree City USA certification.

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Fairfield seeks \$10.3 million to fix mold

In an attempt to address the school's mechanical systems' failure this summer, causing widespread mold issues at a high price, Fairfield Area School District is looking to do some major work within the buildings in hopes of more permanent remediation.

This past August, after an incredibly wet summer, Fairfield Area School District announced that the district was dealing with mold issues in all of its buildings. This caused the beginning of the school year to be pushed back until September 4. The area most heavily affected by the mold was the Elementary School building, with a large amount of the mold found in the upholstered furniture and underneath the desks. As part of the remediation process, the ventilation system, carpets, ceil-

ings, curtains etc. were cleaned and approximately 300 pieces of furniture were replaced. As part of the remediation contract dehumidifier equipment was rented by the school district and ran until the buildings were switched over to the heating system. The project cost an excess of 1.5 million.

Mike Rader from the engineering firm Barton and Associates reviewed the school's mechanical systems and offered suggestions for changes and updates. He has been reviewing the buildings since September, after the mold issue occurred. The overall goal of his proposed project is to create an environment where mold is less likely to grow and thrive in the future, by eliminating the high indoor humidity.

As discussed by Rader, most of the

school's units are beyond their useful lifespan, so he has recommended replacing a majority of the units and utilizing a two-pipe rooftop system for the high school and middle school. The air will be ducted to all classrooms, which will vary the amount of air going to each space dependent on each room's individual needs. Additionally, each room will have its own humidity sensor in order to address the dehumidification of the entire building. Both resolutions will offer energy savings throughout the entire school. New boilers were also recommended. A similar mechanical system will be utilized in the elementary school building.

Throughout all the buildings, upgrades to the building management system will be made in order to allow better visibility and con-

trol over the new systems. All ceilings and lighting will need to come down as the pipes and ducts are being replaced/worked on. Rader recommended completely replacing the ceilings and lighting rather than trying to reuse it.

The projected useful lifespan of the new equipment is estimated to be about 15-20 years. The estimated cost of the project is \$10.3 million; with the majority of the cost, approximately \$7 million, allocated for remediation in the high school. In order to finance the project, the school would ask for a \$10.3 million bond, which would include yearly payments of \$400,000 - \$500,000 per year.

As recommended by Rader and his team, the project would preferably be done all at once, instead

of in phases spanning across several years. Phasing the project would be incredibly difficult. Also, as discussed, contractors are already lining up their work for the summer, so time is of the essence if the school district intends on completing this project next summer.

The other option, as presented, would be to continue utilizing dehumidifiers in the building at a price of half a million dollars for the summer months. But even purchasing dehumidifiers causes concern if the area experiences heavy rainfall like it did this past summer.

The board will need to evaluate the budget wisely, and may be looking at a full tax increase in order to budget this project. The board voted with a majority in favor of moving forward with the bond issue process. Further news on this project to follow.

Borough passes regulated fireworks ordinance

During their November 13 Borough Council meeting, Council members voted to approve an ordinance regulating fireworks within the Borough.

Last fall, Pennsylvania enacted a law governing the purchase of fireworks in the state. Until last year, the only fireworks Pennsylvanians could legally purchase inside the state were those of the novelty-kind such as sparklers, ground-based fireworks and trick noisemakers. Meanwhile, out-of-state residents could purchase larger fireworks such as Roman candles, firecrackers and bottle

rockets in Pennsylvania. This rule changed last year with the enactment of a state law that legalized the use and sale of the "aerial types" of fireworks to state residents while imposing a twelve percent tax on those purchases as well as the state's sales tax.

In August, a fireworks ordinance was brought to the Council for discussion. The ordinance, at that time, would have permitted residents to use fireworks on limited days, including the day before, the day of and the day after the ten National Holidays, totaling 30 permitted calendar days per year.

During those permitted days fireworks would have been prohibited from 1 a.m. - 8a.m., a resident must have had the property owner's permission, the person must have been 18 year or older and may not have been under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If any of the above were violated, the Borough was proposing a \$100 fine.

Over the course of three months, Council discussed the ordinance, and made changes. The Council, while looking to keep the rules and regulations in place during the holidays, discussed that 30 days of permissi-

ble fireworks, holidays aside, was too many. Members discussed changing the number of days to only include New Years Eve, New Years Day and Independence Day, for a total of only three days of allowable fireworks in the Borough. Consumer fireworks will be now only be allowed in the Borough from 8 a.m. on December 31 until 1 a.m. on January 1, and from 8 a.m. on July 4 until 1 a.m. on July 5. Any display fireworks will require a permit from the Borough and must be approved by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Additionally, Council discussed

the fine originally associated with the violators of the ordinance, citing that the steep \$100 fine was too high for a first time offense. Instead, Council settled for a graduated scale that set a \$25 fine for the first offense and a \$100 fine for any subsequent offenses thereafter. The new fireworks ordinance was passed unanimously, just in time for the holidays.

In other Carroll Valley news, the Borough is proud to announce that there will be no tax increase this upcoming year; the tax rate will remain 2.45 mills on each dollar of assessed value. This is the seventh year in a row the Borough has gone without a tax increase.

Liberty looks to increase taxes

During the November 13 Liberty Township budget workshop meeting, Township officials discussed the \$50,000 shortfall in the budget.

After reviewing the first draft of the budget, residents provided their opinions on ways to even out the budget, which included cutting the township's full-time employees to part-time.

After the recent resignation of the Township's Police Chief Brand Briggs, some residents felt as though this would be the optimal time to disband the Police Department. Police coverage could be left to the state police and Carroll Valley. As it currently stands, Liberty Township and Carroll Valley have a relationship in which police service is reciprocated; Liberty Township does not pay Carroll Valley for any coverage. However, if Liberty Township decides not to hire a new Police Chief full time, the Carroll Valley Police Department would most likely require a contract based upon payment for coverage, because reciprocation between departments would no longer be even.

As discussed by the Supervisors, there are three options available to them. They could disband the Police Department and rely on the state police; they could tie in with another local police department such as

Carroll Valley, under contract; or they could keep their own police department. Other residents, however, disagreed with completely ridding the Township of its own Police Department. Some noted the Police Department could be kept, without hiring a full time Police Chief. They could also hire a Police Chief and cut out their part time police officers that only currently provide a minimal number of hours to the

township. The budget, as presented, had a line item budgeting a \$59,500 salary for a new Police Chief, and \$12,800 for part time police officers. The township could take care of the \$50,000 shortfall by choosing not to hire a new Police Chief or completely eliminating the Police Department.

If the township would choose not to eliminate the Police Department or cut their employees to

part-time, they would be looking at increasing taxes or taking funds from their Capital Reserve account, of which there is approximately \$200,000. The status of the roads within the township are in ill-repair, because the township hasn't had the resources and funds to repair them as they should. After much discussion between Supervisors, a 0.1125 mil tax increase this year was proposed. This increase would give the township \$18,238, and they would borrow the rest

from the Capital Reserves fund. The township proposed having this tax increase set for the next four years.

In regards to the Police Department, residents proposed taking a census via email or postcard that would allow the residents to weigh in on whether or not they wish to keep the Police Department. No official answer regarding a census was given during the meeting. For now, applications are being accepted for a new Police Chief.



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THURMONT NEWS

Thurmont raises \$18,000 for breast cancer awareness

Thurmont's 5th Annual Gateway to the Cure once again surpassed their prior year's goal in raising funds for the Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund. In its fifth year, Thurmont was able to raise \$18,000 for the Patty Hurwitz Fund at the Frederick Memorial Hospital/James Stockman Cancer Institute. On November 20, the town proudly presented the check to Jeff Hurwitz and Sadie Wolf, Senior Development Officer at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

"Words cannot begin to express the gratitude and appreciation to each of you for your participation and donations for Thurmont's Gateway To The Cure!" stated Thurmont's Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder. Thanks to all the generous donations from the community, The Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund and Gateway To The Cure is making a difference in breast cancer treatment,

research, and support in Frederick County at Frederick Memorial Hospital/ James Stockman Cancer Institute.

The Gateway To The Cure Gateway started five years ago with a goal to sell a case of pink light bulbs and two dozen businesses in support of the fund which has grown immensely over the last four years. The Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Memorial Hospital has been able to raise over \$1.7 million for this fund that began in 1999. This money has helped to provide patients with the best options in early detection and treatment of breast cancer without having to travel long distances to receive treatment. Thus far, funds raised for the Patty Hurwitz Fund have made the new James M. Stockman Cancer Institute a reality for cancer patients in the community. Additionally, 3D and CAD Mammography Systems have

been purchased to assist in the detection of breast cancer at an earlier stage and a healing space for patients and families at the Center for Breast Care at FMH Crestwood was created.

As in years past, the town sold pink light bulbs, Gateway to the Cure tote bags, pink pinwheels, magnets, candles, cookbooks, and t-shirts, and new this year, the town sold Gateway to the Cure water bottles. Many businesses throughout the community also had "pink" specials to help raise funds. Timeless Trends Boutique held a ladies night benefit to raise funds, Gateway Orthodontics sold pink braces and mouth guards, Roy Rogers sold strawberry shortcakes, Thurmont held a 5K run/walk, and a zumbathon was held. These were just a select few of the 48 participating businesses and events this year that contributed to raising \$18,000.



Additionally, Catocin High School's football team and cheerleading squad sold pink t-shirts and 50/50 raffle tickets in support of breast cancer awareness. Despite the dreary weather experienced during their "pink" games, they were able to raise \$1,243 this year.

Without the support of the community and businesses throughout

Thurmont and surrounding areas, Gateway to the Cure would not be possible. Thurmont looks forward to next year and hopes to continue raising the bar every year for this great cause. Thurmont has donated \$62,000.00 through the 5th Annual Gateway To The Cure to the Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at FMH.

Thurmont adopts new planning and zoning fees

Thurmont's Board of Commissioners voted to approve fees related to planning and zoning during their November 27 meeting. The objective of installing a set of fees is to recoup some of the costs that the town has been and will be investing on behalf of those that are coming forward to build within the town.

The recommended fees for planning and zoning are based on similarities to other neighboring municipalities and what they use the fees for. As noted by Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick, Thurmont is the last munic-

ipality that has not yet begun to capture these costs. Many fees, especially fees related to advertising site plans can be quite costly to the town, but have thus far been covered by town funds.

The recommended fees fell under five categories covering different types of site plans. Any work and discussion with town staff before "official" plans are presented does not come at a cost to potential builders. For a concept plan submission and review, which includes subdivision plans, the town recommended charging a \$250 base fee plus any additional professional ser-

vices including advertising, legal and engineering fees.

Three categories existed within preliminary site plan and review. For a category site 1 plan, residential, the town proposed a \$350 base fee plus \$25 per lot or dwelling unit plus any additional professional service fees. Category 1, residential, includes larger construction projects such as new construction or the relocation of buildings, commercial and industrial building. For category 1, non-residential site plans, the town recommended a \$350 base fee plus \$50 per acre and any additional professional service fees. Cate-

gory 2 site plans, which include smaller projects that are typically residential, the town recommended charging the zoning certificate fee (which is already in place) plus any additional professional service fees.

Lastly, for an annexation submission and review, a \$500 base fee plus \$25 per acre and any additional professional service fees was recommended. The additional professional service fees within each recommended category would be invoiced to the applicant, meaning they would pay for the additional services as they are accrued.

After discussion among Commis-

sioners and staff, it was proposed to change the annexation submission fee to \$500 plus an additional \$25 per acre for any acreage above 25 acres plus the additional professional service fees. Additionally, they proposed increasing the Category 1, non-residential base fee to \$500 and eliminating the per acreage fee of \$50 per acre. The additional professional service fees will remain in place, as they do within each provision.

The recommended fees were adopted and will become effective on January 1. These fees can be re-visited in the future and revised as necessary.

Ethics law amendments proposed

During the November 27 Thurmont town meeting, the Board of Commissioners discussed proposed amendments to the town's ethics ordinance. Amendments must be made in order to remain in equivalence with the state provisions.

In 2010 municipalities were required to adopt local ethics laws that included conflicts of interest and financial disclosures that were equivalent to the state provisions. Thurmont adopted its ethics ordinance law and the Ethics Com-

mission approved the law as being in compliance with the Maryland Public Ethics Law in 2014. Thurmont's Chief Financial Officer, Linda Joyce, briefed the Board on the changes that were recently mandated to the county and municipal ethics laws.

Requirements under the state's ethics law are changing and modifications have been made to the Maryland Public Ethics Law, some of which include changes to local government ethics laws. Those changes include

additional disclosures of state elected officials that local governments must incorporate into their ethics ordinance for their elected officials.

Four amendments were proposed as follows. Officials may not lobby until one calendar year after leaving office. Members of the Board of Commissioners may not assist another member for compensation for a matter that is subject to legislative action. Secondly, effective January 1, the Commission may not pro-

vide public access to the portion of a financial disclosure statement that includes an individual's home address. For governments with lobbying provisions, such as Thurmont, a former lobbyist who is or becomes subject to this chapter as an employee or official other than an elected official or appointed official may not participate in a case, contract or other matter as an employee or official other than an elected or appointed official for one calendar year after the termination

of the registration of the former lobbyist if the former lobbyist previously assisted another party for compensation. Lastly, also effective January 1, if the filer's spouse is a regulated lobbyist they must disclose the entity that has engaged the spouse to lobby.

The amendments as proposed, if adopted, will bring the town into compliance with the newly adopted state ethics law amendments. The town must at least be equivalent to these laws. The Board will vote on this matter during the December 4 meeting.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 1918

December 5

Aged Farmer Killed By His Own Team

Having tripped over a guardrail and thrown under his own team, Daniel Hartman was almost instantly killed Saturday morning when a heavy wagon passed over his body. Hartman, 78, slipped and fell while walking by the side of his four-horse team on the way to the field for a load of fodder. As they came out from the farm, the four horses hitched to the team made a quick turn towards the covered bridge over Tom's Creek. Hartman tripped over the guardrail on the bridge and fell on it. The wheels on one side of the wagon were also on the guardrail and passed over the upper part of his stomach. The son stopped the team as quickly as possible and hurried to his father's side, who gasped his last breath just as he reached him. The Hartman's reside on a farm near Emmitsburg on what is known as Hampton Valley Road. Mr. Hartman was particularly fond of his horses. Mr. Hartman was born in Franklin Township, but 40 years ago he moved to his farm near Emmitsburg where he has since resided.

Hog Casualties Number 32

Thirty-two hogs were killed in a collision on the Western Maryland Railway at Thurmont Saturday morning when a train of freight cars drifted unexpectedly down grade and ran into the engine that was taking water. The stock car carrying 144 hogs was completely demolished. Thirty-two hogs were killed or died from their injuries in the crash. The other swine escaped unhurt. They were let loose from their enclosure and gave a lively chase to those who tried to place them in pens again.

The wreck was on the main line of the Western Maryland, but it did not cause any serious delay. The demolished car was thrown to the side of the tracks and it was not long before the wreckage was cleared away.

Western Maryland Robbed Again

The freight office of the Western Maryland Railroad and the Hagerstown and

Frederick Electric Road in Thurmont was entered by thieves last weekend and ransacked. Consignments of goods and the freight house were opened and a small amount of money and tickets at the trolley station were stolen.

Harney Raises Money For Red Cross

\$88 was cleared at a chicken soup supper held at Harney on Saturday evening for the benefit of the Red Cross. The collection for the Red Cross at the postponed Thanksgiving services in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Monday night amounted to \$17.50. The services were under the auspices of the tree lodges and had been postponed from Thanksgiving evening because of inclement weather.

Boys Returning Home

Stanley Bussard and Quinn Florence arrived in Thurmont from overseas Tuesday morning. Arthur Fox of Creagerstown arrived home on Wednesday morning. Bussard entered the service in November 1917, enlisting in the Aviation Corps. Private Guy Lewis arrived home early Sunday morning. Mr. Lewis was among the first of the Thurmont boys to go across, he being attached to the air service detachment. He landed in England and remained in that country until after the armistice had been signed. He sailed from a French port and was on French soil three days before leaving for home.

December 12

Lt. Edger Eyler Dies Of Wounds

Lt. Edger Eyler, of Thurmont, a graduate of the Army's War College, died of wounds received in action October 1st. Lt. Eyler had one more year to complete the theology course at Gettysburg Seminary and enlisted at the outbreak of the war. He was commissioned at Ft. Niagara and was elevated to First Lieutenant while at Camp Meade. Prior to entering the Lutheran Seminary, Lt. Eyler attended Gettysburg College.

Roy Kelbaugh Killed In Action

Word has been received that Bugler Roy Kelbaugh of Thurmont was killed in action on November 8. Kelbaugh was

a member of Company L of the 313th Infantry and was sent to Camp Meade a little over a year ago. This past July he went overseas with the 79th Division.

Dr. Stone Returns

Lt. D. E. Stone Jr., of the Medical Corps, who has been stationed at Camp Green, Charlotte, N.C., has returned to Emmitsburg to resume his practice. He signed up for the Medical Reserves and is subject to call when needed. The return of Dr. Stone is especially welcomed since there is much sickness in Emmitsburg. The present number of influenza cases is larger than at any previous time.

December 19

Emmitsburg Motor Car Co. Sued

A suit has been brought by George Sander of Freedom Township and member of the Former-Former Boozer Association, against the Emmitsburg Motor Car Company, in which damages of \$2,000 are claimed. The action grows out of a collision between an automobile, sold by the Emmitsburg Motor Car Co. to Miss Rebecca Shorb and a team driven by Mr. Sanders who was returning from his mountain still with a prized haul of his 'Mountain Thunder.'

Mr. Sanders, citing evidence recently published by the University of Harney that women's brains did not have sufficient capacity to master the art of driving, feels that the Emmitsburg Motor Car Company should not have sold Miss Shorb the car. "By selling a car to a woman," Mr. Sanders said, "they have endangered all hard working men who have to use the roads to make a living, and thus are liable for any damage they produce. Women should stick to their proper roles - namely cooking, cleaning and taking care of youngins, and leave complex tasks that require thinking to men."

The suit has brought much attention as Miss Shorb's lawyer has challenged the legitimacy of Emmitsburg Justice of the Peace Schuff's hearing the case, as Squire Shuff is rumored to be part owner of the Sander's still.

Victory Singing

The victory songs are not to be confined to Gettysburg in the future. It is

the plan to have weekly programs at no less than a dozen places in the county every week. Charles Landis has been appointed to head the organization of singers in Fairfield. There is a great deal of musical talent in Fairfield and it may be that some of these singers will contribute their services to other localities. Residents are encouraged to join in the singing of songs which are not familiar or soon will be so.

Infant Harbaugh Dies

Lloyd Harbaugh, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Harbaugh, of near Weeping Willow school house, died on Friday of pneumonia following influenza. He was one year old. The funeral was held on Saturday, interment being in the Fountaindale Methodist cemetery.

December 26

Little Child Wanders Away

On Sunday evening a scare came to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dern of Detour. At five o'clock, and near dark, Erma, three years old, was missing from the home, and the grieving parents began searching everywhere for her little tot. Not finding her on the premises, the alarm was spread to neighbors near and far and soon dozens of people were looking for the lost child. Automobile and lantern lights were flashing along dark rooms and through fields.

At seven o'clock, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Keilholtz, who reside more than a mile from the child's home, heard a noise as that of a child crying in a meadow some distance from their house. Taking a lantern they went in the direction of the unusual sound, where they discovered the little child and a little dog - but they knew nei-



Lt. Edger Eyler was the first Thurmont boy to lose his life in WWI.

ther. They took her to her home and many questions were asked of her, but she could not tell her name. Finally she was asked if her name was Dern, and a smile on her face answered the question. The Keilholtz' lost no time in getting to the sad home with a little child, and great was the joy of the parents when their Erma arrived. The ringing of the large dinner bell announced the return and brought many persons to the Dern home where all joined in the celebrations of the child's safe return.

Joke Costly To Hunter

As a result of a practical joke which he perpetrated upon Harry Stoner, John Foreman, of Fairfield, is in the hospital with his right leg amputated below the knee. Foreman and Stoner were hunting turkey in Bear Valley. During the noon hour Foreman left his friend and crawled into a thicket and gave out several wild turkey calls. Stoner, believing he saw a turkey in the bushes, blazed away and Foreman toppled over, his leg pulverized by multiple gunshots.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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We wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope you have a prosperous & Happy New Year!

FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

On Tuesday, November 13th, the Borough Council met and approved the advertisement of the proposed 2019 Budget. This action made the proposed 2019 Budget available for residents' review prior to its final adoption at the December 11th Council meeting. The 2019 Budget is the end-product of a three-step review process over a three-month period.

The first review was performed by the Borough Manager when analyzing the Borough Department submissions. The second review was performed by the Finance Committee. The third review was performed by the Borough Council during their Budget Workshop. At the November meeting, the public was given the opportunity to review the proposed budget. The tentative budget is based on a millage rate of 2.45 mills that is 24.5 cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation which means there will be no Carroll Valley Borough tax increase for 2019.

The Borough, County and Fire Taxes are remaining at the same level as last year. The distribution of the total tax paid approximately breaks down as follows: Carroll Valley is 14.12%, Fire Tax is

1.44%, Adams County is 24.15% and Fairfield School District is 60.29%. The proposed budget can be reviewed at the Borough office or at www.carrollvalley.org for the online version.

Thanksgiving is behind us and now on to December. The start of winter, also known as "winter solstice" is December 21st (Friday). This is the shortest day of the year. Hanukkah is celebrated from December 2nd through December 10th. National Chocolate Covered Anything Day is celebrated on December 16th. I had to include this one for those chocolate lovers who need an excuse to have a piece of you know what. Christmas is on December 25th and the first day of Kwanzaa falls on December 26th and ends January 1, 2019.

It is unfortunate, but please keep in mind, that house break-ins spike during December through January, the holiday season. There is a lot of information on the internet on how to prevent this from happening. However, maybe the approach should be doing those things that reduce the risk of a burglary. Let's review some facts: (1) Break-in occurs when no one is home; (2) Entry is by a basement/first level window/patio door; (3) Burglary occurs

during the day because the criminal can use the daylight to determine whether someone is at home and/or able to look into the house to determine whether it is worth the gamble; and (4) the Burglar wants to be in and out in the shortest period of time, probably about 5-6 minutes.

If these are the facts, some things to consider: (1) Do those things to give the impression there is someone at home; (2) Landscape around your house in such a way to make it difficult for someone to gain entry into the house through basement/first level windows. One suggestion, place thorny rose bushes under windows which may make thieves think twice before going in that way. Also, trim bushes so no one can use them as a concealment cover when casing the house; (3) Do not leave valuables (laptops, tablets, etc.) in plain view of a window or patio door (use sheer curtains that let in light but block the view); and (4) Place your valuables in places that will take time to find. Remember, reduce the risk. If you come home and discover a break-in, do not touch anything and immediately leave the house. Call 911 for assistance.

The months of November and

December bring to mind the feelings of the approaching holiday season – the spirit to give to those less fortunate, especially children. Two programs to consider to satisfy that urge to help are: Toys for Tots and Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield. Toys for Tots began as a Los Angeles charitable effort in 1947. Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, was inspired by his wife Diane when she tried to donate a homemade Raggedy Ann doll to a needy child but couldn't find any organization to do so. At her suggestion, he gathered a group of local Marine reservists. They collected some 5,000 toys for local children. Their efforts were so successful that, in 1948, Toys for Tots was launched as a national campaign. In 1991, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation was created. Their mission was to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. There is a Toys for Tots box in the Borough's lobby. Toy donations will be picked up on December 8th.

The Ruth's Harvest is about feeding hungry children. It is a volunteer program that provides hungry children with a backpack of food for them to eat when they are not getting school lunches. They receive individually packed servings of food to cover seven meals and two snacks

for Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday. There are three ways to help: donate food, make a monetary contribution and/or volunteer your time in distributing the food packages. There is a Ruth's Harvest collection box in the Borough's lobby that contains a brochure that provides a description of all food items needed, where a check can be sent and the point of contact person for volunteering.

Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 8th from 7:30 am to 11:00 am at the Fairfield Firehall. Breakfast is \$5 while children 10 and under are free. I have been told by an air traffic controller that Santa plans to arrive at 8 a.m. Sensitive Santa will be available at 11:30 a.m. by appointment. Call Gayle Marthers at 717-642-9270.

December Borough meetings are: Planning Commission (Dec 3rd), Borough Council (Dec 11th), and Parks/Recreation Committee (Dec 11th). The Borough Office will be closed on Dec 24th and Dec 25th. Please reduce your speed to make sure you, your loved ones, your friends and neighbors will be safe. If you have any questions call me at 301-606-2021 or email MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. Happy Holidays! I wish you and your family good health and happiness topped with loads of good fortune in 2019. Happy New Year!

State Representative Dan Moul

The new legislative session begins on Jan. 1. Even before swearing in day, I have already laid plans for 2019-20, in which I will continue my work to stand up for taxpayers and our most vulnerable citizens. In doing so, I plan to introduce a number of important bills to build on our recent successes.

You may recall that I founded the Commonsense Caucus two years ago following a frustrating state

budget impasse. I am proud that this growing group of fiscal watchdogs was able to avert yet another state budget stalemate earlier this year and erase a more than \$2 billion budget deficit without raising income taxes or sales taxes. In fact, we were able to invest in Pennsylvania's Rainy Day Fund for the first time in a decade. In the 2019-20 fiscal year, you can rest assured that the Commonsense Caucus

is stronger and more determined than ever to protect the interests of Pennsylvania taxpayers.

A number of government reforms were enacted last session, including legislation authorizing wine and beer sales in grocery and convenience stores. In our current state budget, state lawmakers provided \$60 million in grant funding for school safety enhancements, and restructured the public pension and unemployment compensation systems, saving millions.

Other long-awaited education reforms were also adopted, most notably a permanent and predictable Basic Education Funding formula and legislation to protect and retain our best teachers. Simply providing more state tax money for education does not guarantee our children will be better educated. Where that money goes and how it is used makes all the difference.

The new education funding formula will help to ensure our schools are funded fairly, consistently and appropriately. The Pennsylvania Department of Education now has a website that enables you to track how your tax dollars are being used for education. To access SchoolWatch, visit www.paschoolperformance.org.

Greater emphasis is also being placed on career and technical education to support the current labor force and the jobs provided by employers the Commonwealth is attempting to attract. Having

a trained and ready workforce is a key consideration of any business or industry seeking to relocate here. It is critical that our workforce is adequately prepared to take on the family-sustaining jobs these employers can provide.

State lawmakers are also attempting to remove barriers that keep people from working. We are seeking to establish sensible work requirements for eligible, able-bodied individuals who receive government-paid human service benefits. This will help ensure that our limited public assistance resources are available for those who truly need them. To help Pennsylvania's working poor, we aim to break down the so-called "benefits cliff" for child care assistance programs to permit low-income families to earn more before it affects their child care benefits.

Last session, we also enacted a Clean Slate law to provide people with low-level, nonviolent misdemeanor convictions to have their record sealed from public view so as not to prejudice them and prevent a second chance at gainful employment.

When the new session begins on Jan. 1, I will renew my efforts to rein in the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) following the recent audit by the state auditor general, which found gross abuse of power and misappropriation of state funds. I have already called on SRBC executive director Andrew DeHoff to resign and I am preparing to introduce legislation to require legislative oversight of the SRBC.

Lawsuit Abuse Reform Bill Signed into Law

Landmark legislation that I sponsored to further protect the rights of property owners has been signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf.

Act 98 of 2018 is the most important piece of lawsuit abuse reform legislation to get through the General Assembly in recent years. It encourages landowners to open their land and water areas to the public for recreational purposes such as hunting, fishing, hiking and boating.

Previous law limited landowner liability for such activities as hunting and fishing. The new law expands these liability protections for landowners when they allow free, public use of their land for recreational activities undertaken for exercise, education and pleasure, including snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle riding.

Adams County has a lot of farmland, trails and open spaces that could be available for public use, but some landowners are reluctant to allow it out of fear of being sued. My legislation shields landowners who permit public use of their land at no cost. This does not preclude voluntary contributions collected by the landowner for use in conserving or maintaining the land or paying property taxes or liability insurance. The new law maintains that landowners should not be held responsible if someone gets hurt on their land through no fault of the landowner.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

I am very proud to report that the dedication of the Adams County Human Services Building took place on Monday, November 26. Both the County Commissioners and the Adams County Court participated in the program. The complex near the intersections of Boyd's School and Biglerville Road, will resonate for decades to serve Adams County residents in an environment that is operationally effective, fiscally responsible, pleasing for staff to work and clients to visit. Taking the empty Herff Jones Year Book plant, purchasing and renovating it at a very favorable rate, leaving leased property behind, and turning the complex into what it has become, is a great example of good operational and fiscal management with excellent results. I believe there are significant days to be remembered in Adams County Government history, and the November 26 HSB dedication is one of them!

While we are on the subject of the Adams County Human Services Building, the complex was conceived and designed to accommodate and increase the effectiveness of numerous functions. As part of that philosophy, it was always envisioned that Children & Youth Hearings, Juvenile Probation Hearings, Domestic Relations Hearings, and Central Court would move from the downtown Courthouse to the Human Services Building to create a better overall environment for those proceedings. Parking will definitely be more conven-

nient and the physical space(s), security enhancements and technical improvements will create an enhanced level of service delivery. The inaugural session of Juvenile Court took place on November 15, and from all reports went smoothly despite the eventual snow closure that day.

Domestic Relations Court is slated to begin on November 27 and Central Court on November 28. For those of you who have experienced it, Central Court can be quite a busy day on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse and the design and flow of the HSB should improve that dynamic. The opening of the larger central courtroom will also complement the magisterial courtrooms of Magistrate Judge Beauchat & Magistrate Judge Harvey. Magistrate Beauchat has been at that location and Magistrate Harvey will join him January 2. Magistrate Harvey's county owned building on East Middle Street will be sold in the spring at public sale.

The three Adams County Commissioners comprise the Elections Board when and if they are not running for office. The November 6th General Election saw an unusually large turnout of voters for a non-presidential election of 58.5%. Out of total Adams County voter registration of 67,025, total ballots cast were 39,262. What made that percentage even more commendable was for most of the morning voters endured torrential downpours. In fact, during my visits to 19 precincts, I observed turn-

out was heaviest from 7 – 11 a.m. when the rain was the heaviest. Although there were some lines in the morning our Voter Registration & Election office reported no significant issues. Monica Dutko tells me that this was the largest turnout for a mid-term election ever. A shout out to Adams County voters for getting out the vote in Adams County on November 6th! Last but not least - best wishes and a job well done to retiring long-time Adams County Voter Registration & Elections Director Monica Dutko!

The budget process, from July through November, is an on-going and demanding process for staff and administration. At the November 14 Commissioners Meeting, the Board voted to adopt the 2019 Tentative County Budget. The budget contains no tax increase with total Tentative Revenues of \$64,424,714, Tentative Expenditures of \$63,599,904 leaving a Tentative Contingency Reserve of \$824,810. The Tentative Capital Budget is \$2,879,703. Adams County continues to be in a strong financial position with an AA2+ Bond rating and very healthy reserve. Staff and management is to be commended as they continue to refine the budget process including trends, needs, income and expenditures.

You have to have your head buried in the sand to have knowledge that the opioid epidemic has arrived in Adams County. Due to our relationship with York County MHIDD

and Health Choices joiner, and after a review period that took over nine months, Adams County has finally been approved to receive a \$654,428 grant towards the construction of a substance abuse recovery center in Adams County. The project will involve renovating the Mercy House beside St Francis Church in downtown Gettysburg. The Mercy House had been a convent for the sisters of Charity, who in 1863 helped to care for the wounded soldiers, and for generations taught students at the St Francis Xavier grade school. We are proud to announce that this history of caring for others will continue at this location. When completed in 2019, the building will be rented to the RASE project, a regional non-profit specializing in substance abuse recovery services.

The RASE project anticipates a drop in center for clients seeking services, individual and group counseling rooms, case management offices, and four apartments for clients in recovery. The location is ideal in that it is located close to medical ser-

vices, county offices, the Gettysburg police station, and public transportation routes. The building will be largely renovated with grant funding, while the county will continue to own the property and will collect rent. As a board we have prioritized increasing drug and alcohol services in our prison and at the Human Services Building. This facility will add one more tool in our tool box to fight substance abuse and the growing opioid epidemic in our community.

This a wonderful time of year in Adams County with many indoor and outdoor activities. Pick your own Christmas trees and the many tree farm in Adams County. The Christmas Carol is at the Majestic Theater. Home For The Holiday is featured at the Gettysburg Community Theater. Hit the slopes, ice rink or snow tube park at Ski Liberty. Visit one of our flourishing winery's and distillery's. Strap on those cross country ski's at Gettysburg National Military Park or Michaux State Forest. Whatever you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

Our most sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas, a warm, Holiday Season, and a New Year of Love, Peace and Prosperity!

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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Council President Bud Otis

Alas, it is time to depart the County Council. I am humbly grateful for those who took a chance and voted for me as an Independent this last election cycle. I wish only the very best for the citizens of Frederick County and the newly elected Council.

It was a great four years in office. A number of times we were able to broker negotiations and create valuable legislation to move the county forward. Other times, not so much! To say that it was challenging is quite true. However, I have high hopes that the next mix of individuals will listen to each other and come to positive solutions that will support all our citizens.

We are all very fortunate to live in a beautiful and prosperous county. Over the past four years, I have voted as the swing vote numerous times on critical issues, from the County Budget to various legislative items. The budgets have been conservative. They have allowed key services to increase in order to better respond to our residents. Our property rate has remained constant at \$1.06. We

are living within our means as a county.

Our emergency responders from the 9-1-1 call center operators, to firefighters, to sheriff deputies saw increases in staffing and better pay. FCPS teachers went from dead last in starting salaries across the state to several rungs up the ladder. The Board of Education budgets were funded above maintenance of effort all four years as they lagged behind previously. Our excellent AAA bond rating among all three bond-rating agencies sets Frederick County in an elite group of about 50 out of 3,000 counties across the nation to have achieved this prestigious distinction. We approved grants for our local non-profits to help better serve our more vulnerable residents. Citizens and Montevue is back under the county and fulfills a promise made to our seniors, along with saving taxpayer money. New libraries, new parks, upgraded infrastructure, more preserved agricultural land, two new elementary schools (Butterfly Ridge and Sugarloaf), completion of Frederick High School, and one

of my primary goals – strengthening our Ethics laws and creating an independent Ethics Committee nomination process.

We have supported the creation of a new county division – the Senior Services Division incorporated the previous Department of Aging. This is advancing forward the initiative to take care of our seniors, as they are the fastest growing population in our county.

Regarding the Monocacy Scenic River Plan, I tried to bring both sides of this issue together to generate consensus, but was unable to unravel the divide between land-owners, environmentalists and farmers. It will be up to the incoming Council to hear from more of the public and hopefully support a Plan which protects our vital natural resource and assuages the fears of land-owners. We all want clean water for our future generations!

I helped craft the Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) legislation creating county support for our almost 18,000 veterans. This bill was co-sponsored by CM Kee-

gan-Ayer and CM Chmelik. The VAC includes seven voting and seven non-voting members. As I was designated the Council's representative on the VAC, it will need to be filled by one of the seven Council Members. It is my hope that the VAC moves quickly to get started! There is much work to do.

One of my personal favorites was the passage of the bills allowing tiny homes (Accessory Dwelling Units) under 800 square feet to be built in Frederick County and not pay school impact fees. This legislation was created to help with affordable housing for seniors and may also apply to adult children coming back home after college wanting a separate living space. This bill was co-sponsored by CM Fitzwater.

Two of the most moving highlights of my tenure include the Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony held last April in conjunction with Congressman Jamie Raskin and the American Legion FSK Post 11 in Frederick. MG James Jackson, the Director of the Vietnam War Commemoration assisted us

in pinning 108 Vietnam Veterans. Identified during that ceremony was a Gold Star Family. To honor them, this past September we held our very first Gold Star Family Tribute to honor PFC James Moore, Jr.'s ultimate sacrifice. He lost his life in combat on April 2, 1966 at the tender age of 19. It was a heartfelt and well overdue thank you to his family. His mother, Katharine Moore and his sister, Alma Palm were given his posthumous Purple Heart engraved with his name from the U.S. Army, special Gold Star pins along with Department of Defense, Vietnam War Commemoration Certificates signed by the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Very honored to be part of this special tribute along with other elected officials and dignified guests.

I have traveled almost 40,000 miles in visiting businesses, attending events, representing the Council on a number of boards and commissions, and recognizing various organizations for their respective contributions to our county. It has truly been an honor.

It has been a productive four years indeed. I thank you all for allowing me this privilege.

County Notes

County Council President Bud Otis' Statement On Monocacy Scenic River Plan

As the Frederick County Council will have a newly elected body sworn in for duty on December 3, 2018, it is fitting and proper to pass the baton. Tuesday, November 13th was our last meeting as seated Council Members, unless there is an emergency need to meet.

The Monocacy Scenic River Plan has proven to be quite a contentious issue, polarizing farmers, land-owners and environmentalists. It will be best suited for the next Council to address this issue. It is my hope that the newly elected body will take the time to listen to all the citizens who would like to speak to the Plan and broker an agreement that all can support which provides a safe water supply and secures property rights.

My sincere desire is for everyone to stop and listen to each other and not simply entrench in opposite positions. It is a beautiful river, our natural resource, and we must work together to preserve its vitality.

I wish the very best for the citizens of Frederick County and the new Council in the next term. It has been quite an honor to serve all of you.

For more information, contact Ragen Cherney at 301-600-1049 or via e-mail at RCherney@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Business Is Booming in Frederick County

One hundred percent of Frederick County businesses asked during Business Appreciation Week said they like doing business here, County Executive Jan Gardner announced today during her weekly public information briefing. "Our high quality of life is one of the main factors driving the economic growth in Freder-

ick County, along with location and growth potential," said Executive Gardner. "Clearly Frederick County is a great place to do business!"

A record number of Frederick County businesses expect to expand in the coming year, according to feedback received during the county's 18th annual Business Appreciation Week visits. Executive Gardner announced that 73 percent of the more than 100 participating businesses said they have plans to grow their operations, compared to 30 percent four years earlier. Most said business this year has been better than last year, and were even more optimistic about the coming year.

Organized each year by the Office of Economic Development, Business Appreciation Week is the largest business retention event in Frederick County and in the state of Maryland. This year's event ran from October 15-19. Visits were made to businesses from Emmitsburg to Brunswick and from Mount Airy to Myersville. Based on information gathered during the week, business is booming in Frederick County.

Through the week, teams of ambassadors thanked businesses for choosing Frederick County. Ambassadors, who included local and state economic development partners, also asked what the county could do to help local businesses succeed. The event provides the Office of Economic Development the opportunity to assess the local business climate, look for trends and provide feedback to the community and elected officials.

When asked how business has been this year versus last year, 71 percent of those who responded said it was better than last year and 21 percent said business held steady. Businesses were very optimistic about what 2019 holds,

with 86 percent predicting a better year next year and 13 percent expecting similar results to this year.

Business Appreciation Week helps OED stay in tune with the pulse of the business community and provides an opportunity to meet or reconnect

with businesses. OED makes a concentrated effort for its ambassadors to visit as many businesses as possible in diverse industries throughout the county so that it can stay abreast of the business environment. BAW helps to position the county to be able to adapt

to emerging markets, new employee skill set needs and new ways of doing business to stay competitive.

To learn more about Business Appreciation Week, visit www.discoverfrederickmd.com/baw or call 301-600-1058.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

As we approach the holiday season, it is a time to give thanks, reflect on our blessings, and look forward to the future.

Personally, I am grateful for the love and support of family. I have been married to my husband John for 35 years and together we have three adult children and one wonderful grandson. We are fortunate that two of our children are married and have married wonderful, generous and kind people. We are grateful that all three of our adult children are employed and self-sufficient.

I am greatly blessed to have both of my parents living in good health in their own home surrounding our family with unconditional love and regular advice. My dad has the best sense of humor and is sharp as a tack while my mother remains clearly in charge. I often tell people that I know it's been a bad day when both my husband and my mother exclaim "You did what?" And, it is no secret that I am more concerned about my mother's opinion!

This year, I am thankful and humbled by the confidence the citizens of Frederick County have placed in me by re-electing me to continue to serve our community as

Frederick County Executive. The trust to provide leadership and to shape our community's future is a responsibility I take very seriously. It is work that I love. I am committed to represent everyone and all geographic areas of Frederick County. You can count on me to work hard to make life better for the people who live here.

I am filled with optimism for a bright future.

First, I fully expect the newly elected county council to work collaboratively to meld ideas and perspectives to move Frederick County forward. The childish antics of the past will be gone and will not be missed.

Second, I expect open, honest and transparent government. Good processes are already in place and strong ethics laws combined with good people will ensure government that people can trust. Citizens deserve honest government.

Third, I expect a term filled with accomplishment that reflects the priorities expressed by people during the campaign. People clearly want residential growth to be managed better. Citizens want solutions to overcrowded schools and congested roads as well as more options to work

locally. And, maybe most important, people want to preserve what we love about Frederick County – our rich history, our cultural amenities, our agricultural heritage and our nature beauty. People want Frederick County to be a special place to live and work with a strong sense of belonging and community.

The time is now to secure our future.

My priorities include adopting and advancing Livable Frederick, a master plan to ensure our bright future; ending school overcrowding by building needed schools and putting strong laws in place to prevent school overcrowding from being re-created in the future; and significantly increasing our investment in agricultural preservation to preserve more land now before it becomes more expensive and impossible to do.

It is critically important that we support the economic viability of agriculture. As agriculture goes, so goes our rural towns and villages. This is easier said than done because local government cannot control commodity prices but we must make a strong effort to support diversity and options in agriculture and to attract a younger generation of farmers.

We will continue to implement the recommendations from our Seniors First Initiative and make sure our Senior Services Division meets the needs of active seniors to our frail elderly. This is a work in progress to make sure our seniors can live life to the fullest and age in place at home.

We are blessed to live in a safe community and feeling safe is fundamentally important to a high quality of life. Keeping our community safe does not happen by accident but rather by good planning and a focused investment in people, training, and equipment. Citizens will soon see the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1 which will bring new technology and capability to 9-1-1 Communications. We will continue to invest in our Fire and EMS service as well as in law enforcement to ensure the best and the brightest to keep us safe.

And, we will continue to attract new businesses and jobs as well as support the expansion of our existing businesses by implementing our GO Strategy for economic development so more people can work where they live. Our economy is thriving and we are seizing our opportunity to be a place where people work on the cure for cancer, develop new innovation and technology, and manufacture traditional and state of the art products.

We are not without challenges and one of the most daunting is the heroin and opioid addiction crisis. I look forward to the successful implementation of a detox facility to provide hope for recovery and to working collaboratively with all our partners including law enforcement, educators, public health providers, and our faith community to bring an end to this epidemic. This is a challenge that morphs and changes with stronger and more deadly drugs, but we are up to the fight.

As we approach Christmas and the holidays, take advantage of the many wonderful community events to celebrate the season. There really is something for everyone to enjoy from the Kris Kringle parade, to municipal tree lightings, museums by candlelight, and so much more. Enjoy time with friends and family, reflect on our blessings, and be generous and kind to people in need.

Frederick County is a great place to live, work and raise a family. We have outstanding public schools, wonderful cultural and historic amenities, great parks and libraries, and a truly caring community. Our collective task is to protect what we love and embrace our opportunities.

From my family to yours, best wishes for a joyous, fun-filled, happy and blessed holiday.

County Councilman Kai Hagen

It is common knowledge that both electoral politics and governance has become more polarized, more intensely partisan and ideologically-driven. And, to no surprise, that has often led to it also being less civil, or more rancorous and vitriolic.

I'm thankful that the worst of that has not generally been true of many or most of the elected officials serving in our local municipalities or in county government in Frederick County. But, without naming names or assigning blame along partisan lines, anyone who has paid close attention to county government the last four years knows that such polarization and acrimony has, shall we say, not been absent.

And, unfortunately, in our recent local elections, we also saw some of the campaigns in more contested and contentious races resort to bitter and nasty, even malicious, personal and political attacks.

It would be better, of course, for many reasons, if that didn't happen at all. But I am very pleased and heartened to note that very little of that occurred in the races for the seven seats on the next county council.

And, in the race for the two at-large seats, in which I was a candidate, although there were some significant differences between candidates, all five of the candidates and their campaigns conducted themselves in a civil and decent manner, focusing on the issues, their experience and their point of view and policy preferences. This was evident at the many candidate forums in which we all participated, additional campaign appearances, and all other forms of public outreach I am aware of.

It would be nice to take such campaigns for granted, but since that clearly isn't the case nowadays, I would

like to express my genuine appreciation to the other candidates who ran at-large: Susan Reeder Jesse, Bud Otis, Danny Farrar and Phil Dacey.

Again, this did not happen because we all agreed about many of the important issues and challenges and choices facing Frederick County. Having a civil debate or a civil campaign does not mean you have to compromise what you believe, and it doesn't mean you can't or don't criticize positions and policies you disagree with.

And the same thing can be said about governance as campaigning.

Having had the chance, over the years in some cases, or throughout the recent election in others, to meet and engage with and get to know, to varying degrees, all of the other members of the newly elected and incoming county council, I am sincerely convinced that the seven members of the new council are going work well and productively together, in a civil manner.

That should always be the goal, and the expectation.

Frederick County is a wonderful place. But we also face a variety of significant challenges, and opportunities, and choices. We owe it to all the citizens of the county to address these issues in a thoughtful and effective manner.

Local government is about local issues. And I have long believed that the great majority of what local government is charged to do is not inherently partisan in nature. Again, that certainly does not mean we aren't going to disagree, on some matters small and large, and strongly at times. We will.

But as our still new charter government moves into its second term, we can demonstrate that a council with

a diversity of perspectives, representing and working on behalf of a county with an even greater diversity of people and perspectives, can function efficiently and effectively, for the benefit of everyone in our community.

In thinking about this for a while, I've found there is an abundance of information and suggestions and support for those who are interested in breaking free of the growing political

polarization, the deepening partisan divide and the increasing incivility and rancor that characterizes so much of the discussion and debate among ourselves and our elected officials.

The subject is too big to enumerate all those things here and now, but one thing I came across was the "Better Angels Pledge." Here it is:

As individuals, we try to understand the other side's point of view, even if we don't agree with it.

In our communities, we engage

those we disagree with, looking for common ground and ways to work together.

In politics, we support principles that bring us together rather than divide us.

If we start our four year term by assuming we all care about our community, that we all have good intentions, and that we're all in this together, I'm confident we can live up to the ideals expressed in that clear and simple pledge.

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THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas in 2018

Chris Spruill
Incarnation United
Church of Christ

Maybe you're not feeling good about this year's Christmas. Perhaps you feel like the world is in a bad place and you don't feel like celebrating. Your checkbook or wallet may be complaining about the amounts of money you are spending on Christmas presents. It's possible that something happened that has you in a foul mood and you just want to skip ahead to January.

I have good news for you. You're not alone. There are a number of people who feel like this Christmas is not the same as the ones before. Stories of war-torn areas and moments of strife between nations abound. The news seems to be filled with stories of hatred and evil at a time where we are trying to begin the preparation for the most wonderful season of the year.

There's a good chance that people were feeling much like you are feeling in the years leading up to the birth of Jesus over two thousand years ago. The Roman occupation force government was taxing its "citizens" to within an inch of their ability to pay and many people had lost all hope.

But then, a light appeared in the night sky over a tiny little backwater town in a small province of Palestine. Bethlehem had been promised that she would become something more than just that tiny little town. And that promise was about to be fulfilled in a pretty amazing way. This was more than just any old light in the sky. Seen from afar, it stimulated the interest of a group of individuals who had been searching the sky for signs about the coming of something better than anything anyone had ever seen.

And so they began a journey. They started moving west to follow the light of the new star that had never appeared before. They

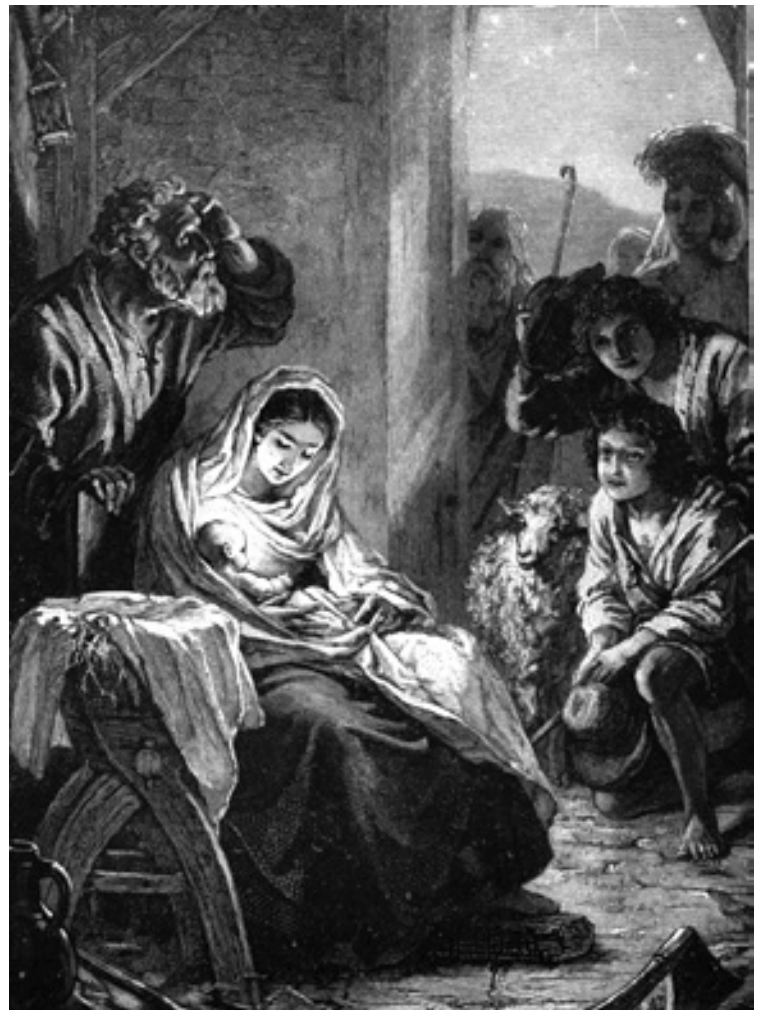
wanted to see this amazing gift.

At the same time, menial shepherds were minding their own business and tending their flocks in the hillsides outside of Bethlehem. I imagine it was just like any other night before for them. It was quiet. It was dark. The sheep were milling about ceaselessly, but the shepherds had everything under control. Tending sheep can be a thankless job but at least it was a job and at least they were making some money to help provide for their families.

Then it happened! The night sky was split open and angels appeared in the heavens and the shepherds had no idea what was going on. The fear they felt was palpable but they were assured by the angels that there was no reason to fear. They heard the most amazing news about a baby that had been born that very same night. They were given instructions on how and where they would find the baby. And so they began a journey. They wanted to see this amazing baby.

Joseph and Mary had traveled a long way from their home in Nazareth. Traveling had to have been difficult for Mary because she was very pregnant with her firstborn child. But Caesar had called for a census and the two didn't have much choice other than to go to Bethlehem where one of Joseph's famous ancestors, King David, had been born. Of course, the town was completely filled with others on the same type of journey. Despite Mary's delicate condition, the couple couldn't find a comfortable place to stay. Finally, an innkeeper took pity on them and offered them space in the stable behind his inn. It was there where Mary would give birth to the tiny baby, Jesus.

She already knew what was coming. She had been visited by an angel promising her that she was carrying the very Son of God. Joseph had been visited in his dreams by angels as well. He had stuck by Mary through her pregnancy, knowing that the child she was carrying was not his – but



belonged to God and would belong to the entire world.

The baby came into the world and a great light began to shine that would never be extinguished. Darkness might threaten, but it would never be able to completely take over the world ever again. Jesus changed everything. The coming of the Christ Child meant that the entire world was made right again and that all of us would always be able to depend on Jesus to stand up for us no matter what.

Fast forward over two thousand years. While things might look dark and bleak to you today, I want you to know this.

The darkness will not win.

The bleak winter cannot overcome us.

When the dust settles after the holidays, life will return to something resembling normal again. While it may still look like there are forces in control that are working against us, we need to remember that there is one force that we have on our side that can never be overcome. All that is troubling us today will pass. The light will shine in our lives again. The Apostle Paul tells

us in the eighth chapter of Romans, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD."

If you're not feeling good about Christmas this year, remember that the reason for Christmas is not presents or decorations or parties or even good feelings. The reason we celebrate Christmas is because a small child came into our world and changed it for the better – forever!

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Joy

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Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight and Communion,
December 24 at 7:00 PM

Contact Rev. Richard Baker at
rwb1.pastor@yahoo.com or 443-375-9556



THE BOOK OF DAYS

December

Dark December has now come, and brought with him the shortest day and longest night: he turns the mist-like rain into ice with the breath of his nostrils: and with cold that pierces to the very bones, drives the shivering and houseless beggar to seek shelter in the deserted shed.

He gives a chilly, blue, steel-like colour to the shriveled hops and haws, and causes the half-starved fieldfares to huddle together in the naked hedge for warmth; while the owl, rolling himself up like a ball in his feathers, creeps as far as he can into the old hollow tree, to get out of the way of the cold.

Even the houses, with their frosted windows, have now a wintery look; and the iron knocker of the door, covered with hoary rime, seems to cut the fingers like a knife when it is touched. The only cheering sight we see as we pass through a village, is the fire in the black-smith's forge, and boys sliding as they break the frosty air with merry shouts—on the large pond. The falling snow from some overladen branch, under which we are passing, makes us shake our heads as we feel it thawing about the neck.

We see the footprints of the little robin in the snow, and where it lies deep, the long-eared hare betrays her hiding-place by the deep indentments she makes in the feathery flakes.

Now the mole is compelled to work his way deeper underground in search of food, as the worms he feeds upon are only to be found beyond the reach of the frost, below which he must penetrate or starve, for his summer hunting-grounds are now tenantless.

That lively little fellow, the water-wag-tail—the smallest of our birds that walk—may now be seen pecking about the spots of ground that are unfrozen in moist places, though what he finds to feed upon there, unless it be loosened bits of grit and gravel, is difficult to ascertain.

Many a shy bird, but seldom seen at any other season, now draws near to our habitations in search of food; and sometimes, when entering an outhouse, we are startled by the rush of wings, as the pretty intruder escapes by the open doorway we are entering.

The blackbird dashes out of the shed as the farmer's boy enters to fodder the cattle, frightening him for the moment, so unexpected and sudden is the rush; for cattle must now be attended to early and late, and the farmer finds plenty to do, although there is but little labor going on in the fields. Sometimes he has to hurry out half-dressed in the night, for there is a cry of 'murder' in the hen-roost, and he well knows that the fox has

broken in somehow, and will not retire supper-less in spite of the loud outcry.

The housewife, when she counts her chickens next morning, and reckons up her loss. Though a thief, the fox is a beautifully formed animal, and I like to see him trailing his long bush through the snow, and to hear his feet stirring the fallen leaves as he steals through the wood.

What a brave heart the pretty robin must have to sing at such a season and if anything can tempt us out of doors, it is a hope that we may hear his cheerful song.

Beside the song of the robin, the green ivy gives a life to the nakedness, especially when we see it clambering up a gigantic tree, whose branches are bald. In summer we could not see it for the intervening foliage, though it was then green with young leaves. We love to see it romping about our gray old churches, sometimes climbing up the old square tower of the one, and burying under its close-clinging stems the twisted chimneys of the other, forming a warm shelter for the little wrens and titmice from the biting frosts and cutting winds of winter.

Then there are the bright holly-bushes, with their rich clusters of crimson berries, which throw quite cheerful warmth around the places in which they grow, and recall pleasant visions of the coming Christmas, and the happy faces they will flash upon when reflecting the sunny blaze from the snug warm hearth.

Here and there, though never very common, we see the mirth-making mistletoe, generally growing on old apple and hawthorn trees, and very rarely on the oak; and it is on records which have been written from ancient traditions, that wherever the Druids selected a grove of oaks for their heathen worship, they always planted apple trees about the place, so that the mistletoe might be trained around the trunks of the oaks.

The black hellebore, better known as the Christmas-rose, is one of the prettiest flowers now seen out of doors, though but seldom met with in the present day, excepting in old gardens, which we much wonder at, as it is a large, handsome, cup-shaped flower, sometimes white, but more frequently of a rich warm pink colour, and quite as beautiful as any single rose that is cultivated.

Still, there are occasionally days when the sun comes out, and a mild south wind blows, shaking the icicles that hang from the gray beard of grim old Winter, as if to tell him that he must not sleep too sound, for the shortest day has

come, and the snow-drops will soon be in flower, and then a flush of golden crocuses will be seen, that will make his dim eyes dance again as he rubs the hoary rime from his frosted eyelashes.

And on these fine December days, great enjoyment may be found in a good bracing country-walk, which will send a summer glow through the system, and cause us to forget the cold. The sky appears of a more brilliant blue, and looks as if higher up than at any other season, while the winter moon, often seen at noonday, appears to have gone far away beyond her usual altitude.

We see a new beauty in the trees which we beheld not before—the wonderful ramification of the branches as they cross and interlace each other, patterns fit for lace, nature's rich net-work—scallop and leaf, that seem as if worked on the sky to which we look up; and we marvel that some of our pattern-drawers have not made copies of these graceful intersections of spray and bough as seen amid the nakedness of winter.

Sometimes the branches are hung with frost, which, were it not of so pure a white, we might fancy was some new kind of beautiful shaggy moss, in form like what is often seen on trees. The bushes, sedge, and withered grasses are covered with it, and look at times as if they were ornaments cut out of gypsum or the purest marble; while some portions of the hedges, where only parts of the branches are seen, look like the blackthorn, which is sheeted with milk-white blossoms long before a green leaf appears.



We often wonder how, during a long and severe frost, the birds contrive to live. That many perish through cold and want of food, is well known. Many pick up insects in a dormant state from out the stems of decayed trees, old walls, and they also forage among bushes, the underneath portions of which being dead, form a warm shelter for such insects as the gnats.

On the 22nd of December, the sun enters the sign of Capricorn or the Goat. The idea thus allegorized by a climbing animal is said to be the ascent of the sun, which, after reaching its lowest declination at the winter-solstice, on the 21st of this month, recommences

its upward path, and continues to do so from that date till it attains its highest altitude at the summer-solstice.

Soon some little hardy flower will be seen here and there, and far across the snow we shall hear the faint bleating of new-born lambs, and the round green daisies will begin to knock under the earth to be let out, and so frighten grim old Winter in his sleep, that he will jump up and hurry away, looking with averted head over his shoulder, for fear he should be over-taken by Spring.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers' Book of Days visit www.the-bookofdays.com.



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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

With the election over – will Christmas help?

Shannon Bohrer

The elections are over and Christmas is on its way. Hopefully Christmas will elevate our moods and put the stress associated with the elections behind us. Of course while the campaigns can be annoying, they reflect our democracy in action in that we get to elect our representatives, providing all the votes are counted. I hope that most of you are satisfied with the outcomes, even if not all of your candidates were successful. I was pleased, with only a few exceptions.

Many of us like it when the campaigning ends because the negative campaigning can be depressing. In many of the political advertisements the candidates often tell us why the other candidate, or person in office, is not fit for the position. Telling us how bad the opponents are seems to be the norm in politics. It must be effective since it appears to be so common. Of course, what we often see and hear are opposing descriptions of two people, that if the descriptions were correct, neither one should be elected.

This year's election seemed to amplify our differences more so

than I remember is previous elections. Considering how bad some previous elections were, saying this years were worse - says a lot. I don't ever remember so many individuals in public life being vilified for words spoken and association with a particular political party, or candidate. As citizens we do have the right to free speech, but the degrading behavior seemed magnified this year. The negative tones in our politics can be depressing and is not conducive to behavior of what many say is our better nature. Do we really have a better nature, or, do we like conflict and having an enemy? Will Christmas bring out our better nature?

Some behavior demonstrated during the election seemed to appeal to our desire for conflict. Elected officials were having meals in restaurants when they were verbally harassed by protesters and then forced to leave by those criticizing them. As citizens we do have the right to free speech, but annoying someone in a restaurant, no matter how much you disagree with them, can be a crime. At a minimum it is disturbing the peace. What was just as disturbing as the behavior was that

this behavior was encouraged by a few elected officials. Encouraging physical conflict with speech – is not a direction we should take and it borders on prohibited speech.

At least with the elections over, we can all look forward to better times with Christmas just around the corner. The holiday decorations did seem to start early. In early November, before we even voted, I noticed Christmas trees decorated with lights and placed in front of commercial businesses. I wondered if the Christmas trees there to make us feel happy or where they there for commercial reasons? I am sure they were for commercial reasons, but they can still make us feel good, especially after an election. Christmas always seems to make us feel better, or maybe more thoughtful and caring about others. At least I think so? Well, maybe? As least - I hope so.

Christmas is supposed to be a special holiday when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It can be uplifting and inspirational; "peace on earth and good will towards man" reflects noble ideals. As to the good will toward man, that seems difficult in an election year, but maybe that is just what we need. Maybe

Christmas is the antidote that we need following an election? Christmas reminds of us of our better nature, that I believe we do have. At least we have it – sometimes. Of course it would be nice if peace did exist, even if it was just one year. Then again, maybe peace on earth would be nice for a month. Maybe we should begin with just one day.

Did you ever wonder, or ask where the idea of good will toward man started. Was there a time in the world where everyone was so rude that the idea of being nice to others did not exist? If that did exist, there could have been a period of enlightenment when someone theorized that we could be nice to each other and just get along. After all, it does seem nice sometimes when we work in the same direction.

Maybe we should view peace on earth and good will toward man as a directional goal, where we would like to be and how do we get there? While politics often seems to create disagreement there are times when the holidays can also foster disharmony. Christmas is when a few family members, some of which we really don't care for, get together. In the spirit of Christmas, we have parties and dinners and we feel obligated to invite a few relatives that we often don't socialize with. Sometimes, when family members who don't gen-

erally see each other all year get together, tension and stress can occur. Of course the tension and stress can be magnified with the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Then, if we add political differences to the mix the tension and stress, along with the alcohol, can create a very memorable family Christmas gathering. A good rule is there should be no political conversations during Christmas gatherings.

I am certainly not trying to create the impression that the Christmas spirit is all bah, humbug, but I am saying that the holiday spirit can be challenging at times. While most of us see Christmas as an uplifting holiday, good spirits and cheers, we are often reminded of our differences that seem to divide us. Maybe that is the part of the problem, which is that we sometimes believe that our differences are not a good thing. Being different or having differences is not necessarily a bad thing. In the spirit of Christmas maybe we should be looking at ways to celebrate our differences. During this Christmas season, maybe we should asked ourselves, what would Jesus do and how would he see our differences?

Merry Christmas

To read past editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Common Cents

Fool's Gold

Ralph Murphy

Competition in society is so common that it is often taken for granted, ignored and then can lead to major misunderstandings. In most economic theory it is spelled out as the driving force for wage and price levels determined in the markets. Optimal output presumes fidelity in producing a good or service better than others to meet demand. The problem in current markets is to include politics in rigged processes that serve a few at the expense of the many who make up the system.

There may be agreement as to a strategic objective, but no consensus as to how to reach it. This usually results in failure. Unfortunately, pooled interests have a security function that serves as a governing link. This seems especially true in the case if the expected output is vague. Current issues that are in the news have owners, unions or modern guilds that are linked to the production of conventional goods and services. However, they are subsidized and coercively maintained long past their likely value.

Guilds were common in Europe through the early 18th century and they determined "hiring and firing, licensing requirements and

determined import or export policies." They were routinely tied to civil structures to include religious organizations or academic institutions for their perceived legitimacy or other bonding and often had their own defense structures. A 14th to 17th century, German-administered Hanseatic League was the strongest such guild as it controlled most all North Sea and Baltic port access from modern Belgium to western Russia. It was at its peak in 1450 AD and then gradually ebbed. The League was composed of guilds but by the late 18th century merchants and artisans throughout Europe were losing strength to emergent higher technological interests closer to industry.

This phenomenon skipped across the Atlantic and was incorporated into colonial, New York City of 1768 as a Chamber of Commerce that, as with the guilds, was "tied to secret societies linking trade unions, businesses, and security services" of vetted members. The stated objective of the Chamber was to protect clients' business interests, but the government link continued with American statehood.

Plagued by the advancement of arbitrary personal interests, the Chamber created costly caps and productivity losses similar to the guilds. These Chamber of Com-

merce specifications are very common world wide even today. They could easily be replaced by a simple legal structure and apparatus that allows optimal production based on talent and resource availability. The Chambers restrict it and if government security or intelligence can be lead to believe it is in the common interest to keep them operational- then poor ideas and systems can be extended almost indefinitely.

With adequate social discipline, varied systems and players can sort out and get their various wants and needs within a conventional legal framework that insures privacy, or protection against property theft and personal injury. There can be other caps or redirects to action depending on cultural bonding. Religions can play a real "make or break" role, depending on their dogma or a theologian's intent. If it is deeply interpersonal or clearly costly- then their actions may need to be reviewed. Other types of bonding, to include cultural directives that limit thought or actions. Such cultural directives may come from literature or oral tradition that may channel them in ways that limit productivity. They can be useful from a more benign, binding standard.

Over the past decade a phenomenon has occurred in the

growth of financial advisory and investment markets known as Hedge Funds that "pool capital from accredited or independent institutional investors" with the objective of hedging or diversifying risk. Unlike mutual funds, hedge funds can be leveraged directly by bank loans. Hedge funds must include two or more clients with approved high-level assets. The funds are kept in private accounts although there was an effort to establish a trade market or index. They are also self-policing as to other investment standards within wide legal limits.

Hedge Funds were lightly used before 2008, but with easy bank access they appeared able to present Central Bank loans as earnings. This strategy continued until arbitrary loan access was recently exposed and largely redressed here and abroad. It followed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 that had given fund managers unexpectedly easy loan terms. But key provisions were repealed last spring by Congress making them more competitive. Demand or savings interest rates should now rise as well. Regulators also have tightened loan guarantees which are specific as to traditional return on the money since easy access led to serious losses. This was especially true in overseas project money in hostile or misunderstood markets.

The Hedge Funds were valued last year at over \$3.1 tril-

lion in assets under management. But that trend is probably over and done with amid theft penetration concerns of their clients. They probably can invest them better themselves. The hedge funds' high yields were often suspiciously generous for the actual investment returns made by the managers.

If resources or training are available to produce a good or service and it isn't otherwise considered a social or other type of threat- the production should be allowed in the interest of conventional growth. A government role that maintains an internal policy commitment to a private sector interest can advance a very limited group's interests at the expense of the broader community. The government's role actually should be to prevent that type of hostile intervention- not coordinate it.

Federal authority seldom provides a useful, hands-on role in the actual production of massed resources- despite its expressed intentions. Regulatory and linked-legal, enforcement officials tend to be different personality types from those of the goods' suppliers. This differentiation should be enough to exclude them from any direct tie to actual market output. They should be excluded in the interest of optimal productivity.

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

The American Mind

Corporate welfare and the hunger games

William Hillman

This week, Amazon announced it is moving their East Coast headquarters to New York and Northern Virginia. The State of Maryland offered \$8 billion in incentives, but it was not enough to get Amazon to move a few miles north from Crystal City VA. Newark NJ offered \$7 billion and could not get Amazon to move across the river from New York. The final costs to New York \$61,000 per job compared to \$23,000 each in Virginia.

This is crony capitalism at its worse, public risk for private profits. Corporations using their size to extort public funds is bad for capitalism and the future of our country. Politicians that permit this are shortsighted at best and outright dangerous at worst. It's been going on since the Gilded age of the late 19th century, but the risks today are greater than ever before and threaten the future of our nation.

The Sherman Act and the Anti-Trust Laws of the 1890's protected the American consumers and small business from Corporate monopolies.

Who will protect consumers, taxpayers, and the free market when those that make the rules are partners in these monopolies?

Businesses and corporations must be able allowed to fail. The cleansing power of failure is the fundamental difference between a free market economy and a controlled economy. Growth, strength, and anti-fragility only come from failure and the fear of failure. For growth, old

orders must yield to new. Success and robustness come from fighting in an open market and constantly preparing for a challenge to the company's market share.

Businesses with financial ties to the government will use their government partner to enact regulations that protect their interests against competitors and the seemingly bottomless pocket of the taxpayer as a hedge against bad management and inefficiency.

When politicians give tax breaks to the likes of Amazon and Comcast, someone has to pay for the public services for these corporations. Trash does not pick itself up for free and criminals do not lock themselves in jail. The politicians can pay for tax giveaways in one of three ways: decrease services and funding to the citizens and other business, increase taxes on existing businesses, or float bonds and let some future generation figure out how to pay for it all.

New York City and Arlington Virginia have just made a sizable investment in Amazon, yet have no rights or hold no shares. These municipalities have a financial interest in Amazon succeeding, but Amazon has little to no responsibility to these municipalities. Amazon can pack its bags and walk away from the mess it creates with no responsibility.

The Politicians who have bet on Amazon, have tied their own future to the success of Amazon. And they will do anything, or give away anything to make sure they don't lose that bet.

Amazon is not alone in the field of

hunting taxpayers' money. Foxconn, a Taiwan based electronics firm, agreed to build a factory in Wisconsin, where it received \$3 – 4 billion in incentives. The 13,000 jobs created cost more than \$200,000 per job.

Politicians are happy with this arrangement because they get to pretend to be a hero. They will cut the ribbon at the corporate opening, and claim responsibility for bringing in X-number of jobs. But they will never talk about the costs.

I don't blame the corporations for taking the money if the politicians are willing to sell out their citizens.

In Philadelphia, a ten-year property tax abatement program for Comcast and developers cost the city over \$26 million, most of which would have gone to the city's failing school district. Comcast gets a new building, in exchange for classes without textbooks and schools with leaking roofs and mold problems. In fact, 7 of the largest "corporations" in Philadelphia receive some sort of government subsidy or property tax break. The largest land owner in the city is the University of Pennsylvania, with an \$11-billion endowment and a President paid \$3.5 million per year. Yet it does not pay a dime in real-estate taxes to the city. Each year, the University of Pennsylvania and its self-described progressive leadership passes "Its fair share" of its Multi-Million dollar bill for city services onto the poor and middle class of the city, and does not pay a dime into the city school system, like every other property taxpayer in the city does. So much

for the wealthy "Paying Its Fair Share".

This repeats in every city. "The real estate firm developing the University of Maryland Baltimore BioPark is seeking \$17.5 million in public financing and a special designation that would eliminate property taxes for at least five years to build its next building on the West Baltimore campus. The subsidy for the roughly \$110 million project is designed to help BioPark developer, Wexford Science & Technology, lure a branch of the Cambridge Innovation Center to Baltimore. The Massachusetts-based firm provides co-working space to start-ups and would lease about 40 percent of the 250,000-square foot building." – Baltimore Sun, November 2, 2015

Remember those banks that were "Too Big to Fail", that we taxpayers bailed out back in 2007? They are back and bigger than ever. Back in the 2000's, their executives made millions while we picked up the tab for their fraud. Our government was so heavily invested in the banking industry, there was no way the government could let them fail. They were never worried about repercussions from the fraud they were committing. They made billions from a fake market they created, and when that bubble burst, we paid the price to clean it up. Every American taxpayer should be up in arms over the fact that no one went to jail. Contrary to what we were told, I've never seen a bank commit fraud! Banks are inanimate brick buildings. People commit fraud and thanks to "Crony Capitalism", the men who committed one of the largest frauds in our history, walked away free and rich men.

And we didn't learn a darn thing. The banks that were "Too Big to Fail" are even bigger. JP Morgan sits atop the list

of banks that could threaten global stability. It has amassed an incredible \$2.56 trillion in assets, twice as big as it was in 2006. Most of its growth is thanks to the government-backed takeover of failed Bear Stearns and Washington Mutual. Wells Fargo is sitting on \$1.93 trillion, up nearly 300% since 2006.

Of the 30 "Too Big to Fail" banks three quarters are significantly bigger today than ten years ago. When they fail, and they will, who will pay the price? Certainly not the banks.

During the Obama and Bush administration we saw agencies like the EPA and DOE pass regulations to protect and favor politically connected companies. In 2014, the now bankrupt Solyndra corporation received a \$535 million investment from the DOE at the Direction of then President Obama. During his administration, Obama enacted almost 4000 EPA regulations. Most of these regulations were designed to eliminate small manufacturing, and in some cases, entire industries such as coal. The EPA regulations put American manufacturing at a great disadvantage in favor of China's manufacturing. And if Obama had his way, those jobs would have never come back.

Government should be in the business of making sure the playing field is fair. New, innovative businesses should have equal opportunity to develop and grow. When it gets into the business of picking winners and losers, hold on to your wallet because politicians are really bad at picking winners, but really good at finding ways of making themselves rich.

To read past editions of The American Mind, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Down Under

Fifty shades of belief

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

It is wrong always, everywhere, and for anyone, to believe anything upon insufficient evidence
–William Clifford, The Ethics of Belief 1877

Another year draws to a close, and we are all that much older. Not necessarily wiser, relaxed or better informed, but alive and mostly kicking. It has been a year of turbulence, disaster, surprises and changing fortunes. Bad and horrifying things have affected so many of us, but wonderful and uplifting things have also happened. Crazy things have been mixed with genius, the worst has stood alongside the best and performed their thing. In other words, things have been pretty much as expected.

Technology has kept its headlong dash toward the impossible, change has kept us guessing, and quiet times have retired. Growth in population, anxiety and shortages have stepped to centre stage, and this manic/comic era is our entertainment.

Here in Melbourne Australia we are growing at an unprecedented rate – over 2,000 people per week

– and we are set to soon pass the 5 million mark, 20% of the Australian total. We are running out of room, infrastructure and services, but our unemployment is way down and business is happy. Our political scene is odd, to say the least, but it's better to be laughed at (which is what much of the world is doing) than to be put in the straightjacket of inflexibility.

Your political scene is even more unbelievable than ours, but many of you seem to think it's better than it was, and it surely is a sign of the times. Every paper I open, every magazine I read gives reasons why things are as they are and what it means. Why the Senate is now more strongly Republican, why the house turned blue, why the president is so popular – on and on with opinions, all slanted somewhat differently, all pretending to know. And most failing to have an overview, to appreciate the social changes that are taking place across the world, that are shaping the future in ways that are not only inevitable, but are tipping points.

This idea is far from new. When something reaches a certain level or concentration it alters fundamentally, and cannot be changed

back to its previous state. Breaking an egg is the simplest example, because once done it cannot be put back in its shell. Greenhouse gas concentration is the best known and most profound, for it is altering our world in ways that are now readily seen and experienced. Extreme weather is fact, not make-believe, and it cannot be reversed because it has already passed the point where that was possible. (Actually it was reached about ten years ago, but politicians don't want to know that, because they can do nothing about it except show they are trying to fix the unfixable).

There are other tipping points that go unnoticed because they are diffuse. Two are information technology, and population growth. These are far more complex, but equally important because one overloads the understanding, the other the world's resources. Like greenhouse gasses, they are the result of our endeavours; population growth is the result of our inbuilt drives, information the result our intellect and nature.

The boom in population is causing untold suffering in many African countries, bringing fear and disquiet to Europe as mass migrations continue. Resources are strained to breaking point – especially the amount of water available – as are the tolerance of European

citizens who have to bear the brunt of their migration. They are turning to rejection instead of acceptance. Plight and suffering are falling on deaf ears, liberal governments have far right candidates pushing in and succeeding, fearful of the future. Together with the stresses of climate change, conditions are reaching the point where the use of violence and repression is becoming normal and even encouraged.

We know all this because we have first hand accounts of it. Travelers see and photograph it for themselves, then pass it on to their friends who do not have to rely on instant and ubiquitous tweets or facebook news. News that is indistinguishable from lie, that is false because it doesn't care about truth, and whose purpose is sowing the seeds of doubt and confusion. This is a bigger scourge on civilisation than all the plagues ever seen, and like a cancer is spreading through the land. We, the cynics, maintain our rage which the present government acknowledges with a wink and nod, complicit in the game. Knowing this, we shrug our shoulders and sooner or later want to give in. Whatever doesn't suit them is branded as false news, which so many accept because they have neither the education, the wit or awareness to doubt what they are told.

In contrast, when our news sources are in the hands of respon-

sible journalism and editors who insist on verification of the story, we are informed for future sane decision making. We are able to uphold the basis of democracy, to begin to trust our government a bit more.

And then something remarkable happens – we become less anxious, we don't start each day worried and fearful. We begin to see the duplicity, to understand the reasons behind the barrage of static. News needs the ability to verify it. Evidence is essential in science and trade, but are are now asked to forgo that so that the grisly history of the current leader is blacked out.

As William Clifford wrote in 1877, 'No real belief, however trifling and fragmentary it may seem, is ever truly insignificant; it prepares us to receive more of its like, confirms those which resembled it before, and weakens others; and so gradually it lays a stealthy train in our inmost thoughts, which may someday explode into overt action, and leave its stamp upon our character.'

I wish you a safe, honest and peaceful season in 2019. That you are able to come to just one shade of truth, one that sustains a future harmony and joy – and avoids the tipping point of anarchy.

To read past editions of Down Under, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

Of Aesop, Gershwin & feeding birds

Bill Meredith

"I got plenty o' nothin', and nothin's plenty for me."

—Ira Gershwin, "Porgy and Bess"

Editor's note: Time got away from Bill this month, so least his fans go through withdraw, we opted to re-run an old one from his extensive archive.

Time continues to speed up; we have scarcely got used to writing 2006 in our checkbook, and December is here again. We are in that strange, unnamed season between fall and winter, when the leaves have come down but we haven't had a real snow yet. The first week of the month was warm enough to play golf in shirtsleeves; the second week, daytime temperatures struggled to get out of the 30's, and sometimes didn't make it.

It will be like that for a while; the solstice will come on the 22nd, but most creatures won't notice because it will keep getting colder until February. About the only ones that are having any fun this time of year are the great horned owls; this is their mating season, and one of them was in my back yard at 1 a.m. last week, advertising his availability. But even that won't last long; by Christmas they will be starting to incubate their eggs, and that's hard work even when it isn't so cold.

2006 was a mast year of moderate proportions; the local trees were preparing a hearty crop of nuts and fruit until the drought came in August.

They still did pretty well; the trees in our yard were loaded with acorns and English walnuts, and the squirrels got busy back in September, running around with their mouths full of nuts and digging up the lawn to bury them. My wife was inspired by their industriousness and insisted that I plant garlic in the herb garden now instead of waiting until spring; then when it got cold this week, the squirrels forgot where the nuts were and started digging up the garlic bulbs. They apparently didn't like the garlic after they got to it, but they kept digging it up just for spite.

The flowering crab outside my window was loaded with tiny red-orange apples after the leaves fell, and I spent a rainy afternoon watching a flock of cedar waxwings stuffing themselves until they were chased away by starlings. The starlings descended in a black cloud that would have made Alfred Hitchcock shiver, and by the end of the day the tree was nearly bare. The same thing happened to the honeysuckles a few weeks earlier. They were covered with bright red berries that looked like a supply sufficient to last all winter. One day the robins decided they were ready and began to feast; but they didn't have sense enough to do it quietly, and before long the starlings heard them, and that was that. They ate everything in sight, and when winter gets here in earnest, food will be scarce.

One of the books I learned to read before I started to school was Aesop's Fables. I'm not sure I actu-

ally read it, for it had been read to me so often that I had it memorized, but I can remember going through it and pointing to each word as I recited it. It was an illustrated child's version, of course, and every chapter ended with the phrase, "...and the moral of this story is..." In one of the stories, the industrious, provident ant worked all summer storing food while the frivolous grasshopper played and slept in the sun; then winter came, with its inevitable results. The moral was obvious, and it applied personally; I could see my father working in the fields all summer to make hay and grow corn and potatoes, while my mother canned garden produce. We were ants, and so were most of our neighbors; we knew some people who were grasshoppers, and I saw how they lived. To a five-year-old, this was reality, not metaphor.

I was two years old when the Gershwins' opera, "Porgy and Bess," opened in Boston. I wasn't aware of it then, but some years later when the individual songs began to become popular, I thought "I got plenty o' nothin'" was offensive when I heard it on the radio. I knew nothing of the context of the song then... I hadn't encountered poverty, segregation, or exploitation yet... so the thing that came to mind when I heard it was the ant and the grasshopper.

Growing up in a farming community where the central ethic was the value of work, I couldn't imagine how someone could sing "nothin' is



For many, watching birds feed at a well stocked bird feeder is a joy – it's hard not to smile knowing that so little can do so much for so many. Maybe that's their Christmas gift to us.

plenty for me." I hadn't learned any academic biology yet and I assumed animals think like people do, so I was puzzled that squirrels seemed to be the only creatures of my acquaintance that made any effort to lay up supplies for winter. Rabbits and birds didn't plan ahead, and yet they seemed to get by just as well; apparently, nothing was plenty for them. Things like this bothered me at the age of eight or ten.

How the mind makes connections between observations and memories is one of the last great unsolved mysteries in science. While I watched the waxwings and starlings stripping the crab tree, my mind went back to childhood and mused about how they would wish they had saved some crabapples later this winter, and Porgy's song came wafting through my mind again, just like it did 65 years ago. I was amused to find that it didn't bother me any more. Age probably has something to do with it... few things bother me as much as they used to... or maybe studying biology for 50 years has brought some understanding of animal behavior.

I now know that squirrels don't consciously plan to store food for winter, any more than they consciously decide to grow thicker fur; it is all the result of hormones and instincts. Some creatures survive the winter because their ancestors devel-

oped an instinct to store food; others survive because their ancestors developed instincts for a variety of ways to find food, or to adapt to unusual foods in times of scarcity.

We humans started out the same way, but we spent the last 50,000 years or so learning to make fire and invent wheels and agriculture and language. What we store is ideas, and with them we control our environment in ways beyond the capabilities of animals. Somewhere along the line we invented the idea of giving gifts for Christmas. Most of the gifts are things the receivers don't really need, but we feel better for giving them.

So when I filled the feeder with sunflower seeds last month, among the first of its visitors were nuthatches, whose normal diet consists of insects; they would survive without the feeder, but I feel better for feeding them. And they let me watch them; maybe that's their Christmas gift to me. So if anyone reading this is trying to think of a Christmas gift for a child, give them a bird feeder and a copy of Aesop. That will have a better effect on them than the latest computer game, although you may have to wait a few decades to see the result.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Dreaming of a green Christmas

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

Despite being nestled within the coldest months of the year, Christmas brings with it a sense of warmth and vitality. Nevermind that we're months away from verdant green grasses and the sultry summer sun. Christmas provides an internal jingle that rings with silver bells and is wrapped in wreaths and garlands of evergreens.

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

Historically speaking evergreens have been a part of the winter season for millennia. These plants were brought in and adorned the homes of many ancient peoples across cultures and continents. December 21st and 22nd typically has the fewest daylight hours of the year, and is marked as the winter solstice. Most ancient cultures worshipped the sun as a god, and this solstice symbolized the triumph of life over death as the days would begin to grow longer from this point forward.

Evergreens were a symbol of health and virility, and reminded them that green plants would grow and farms and fields would once again produce food. Ancient Egyptians, Romans, Celtic druids, Vikings, and Germanic barbarians all had similar traditions.

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

The tradition of decorating Christmas trees spread, and was fairly common by the 1800's. In early America things had progressed slower due to heavy puritan influence. In 1659 the state of Massachusetts banned any form of celebrating the Christmas holiday, with the exception a church service, and provided strict penalties for violation of this law. By the mid 19th century there had been a huge influx of German and Irish immigrants and the political and cultural influence of puritans waned.

Many Americans were still unsure or uninterested in this Christmas custom, but in 1846 the English Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert (of Germany) were pictured in an English newspaper surrounded by their children standing next to a Christmas tree. This

picture made the custom highly fashionable with English and American political elites and upper class citizens. It wasn't long until the Christmas tree became commonplace in nearly every English and American home and town square.

The modern Christmas tree has its roots planted squarely in these traditions. However, contemporary cultural concerns have roiled a debate among more environmentally conscious consumers. This has left some discrepancy between what is the most ethical choice between tree purchasers - natural or artificial? There are certainly merits to both choices, but environmental agencies and universities have come down squarely on the side of natural or real trees as being the most environmentally sound choice.

Most Christmas trees are commercially farmed, harvested, and shipped regionally to surrounding areas and states. While a real tree is essentially carbon neutral, it is estimated that it is responsible for approximately 7lbs of carbon dioxide per tree via transit activities. It also worth considering that a tree takes about 7 to 10 years or more from planting to harvesting. During that time it stores carbon, provides oxygen, habitat and food sources to wildlife, and maintains soil and water quality.

Whereas, an artificial tree is responsible for approximately 106lbs of carbon per tree, but can be used over many years. Artificial trees are typically made of PVC, but have often been found to be coated in paint with traces of lead in it (usually originating from China). After 9 years these lead based paints have been shown to break down and can cause health risks to vulnerable populations, such as the elderly or small children, due to lead contamination.

One research study showed that a consumer would have to use an artificial tree for up to 20 years before it had a smaller environmental impact than a natural tree. Most manufacturers recommended a shelf life of 10 years. After which these trees should be replaced. Once trashed they either end up in a landfill taking centuries to decompose or being burned in an incinerator releasing carbon and other carcinogenic chemicals into the atmosphere.

Better ways to reduce impact while celebrating the Christmas season is to ensure that you properly recycle your tree. Many localities provide tree recycling services which will turn trees into mulch for parks, gardens, public space, and trails. Living Christmas trees are increasingly becoming an alternative for an even greener Christmas option. These trees are harvested by balling the roots and transplanted into a pot or mesh container. After the Christmas holiday is over you can plant your tree in your yard or another location and it can continue to provide habitat and other positive environmental contribu-

tions to the ecosystem.

By considering how to reduce our Christmas carbon footprints we can help ensure that future Christmases will be white enough to leave actual footprints in the snow. Using LED lighting for trees and home decorations significantly cuts down on energy, and by using the lighting less in general will affect the amount of impact we have. Upcycle old newspaper into wrapping paper, ensure batteries for new and old toys alike get properly recycled and not just trashed, and employing similar solutions helps to turn a white Christmas into a green holiday.

The read past articles by Tim Iverson visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



Evergreens have been a part of the winter season for millennia. These plants were brought in and adorned the homes of many ancient peoples across cultures and continents.



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REAL SCIENCE

Mother Seton School Science Fair

Michael Rosenthal

I recently attended the Mother Seton School STEM Fair, on which I have reported several times before. The STEM Fair, for students in grades 3 through 8, was every bit as remarkable as it has been in the past. The students presented the results of their projects by including in their presentations a hypothesis, the materials utilized, the procedures undertaken, their observations, the data obtained, and the conclusions drawn from their study. The journal in which they recorded their observations was presented along with information boards outlining the experiment or study.

The students were mentored by Danielle Kuykendall, the Mother Seton Science teacher who directs this program along with other Mother Seton staff members. Ed Hatter, who had previously served in the capacity, served as a mentor to the students. If any of you readers would like to serve as a student mentor in the future, please contact Ms. Kuykendall at Mother Seton. Judges at the STEM Fair include: Edison Hatter, coordinator, Dr. Lisa Simmons, Tres Kelly, Lee Hand, Jose Ramirez, Zoram Kahn, Jaime Orndorff, Ron Albaugh, Mike Hillman, Daniel Zurawski, Anna Martin, Caroline Mullineaux, Alex Wivell, Brody Holz, Neoline James, and Like Szukalski. The procedure followed by the students for their presentations is modeled upon that which is used in achievement of undergraduate and graduate college degrees. There were approximately

100 students' projects presented.

Here are the winners in each grade along with the title of each First Place research project.

Third Grade: Ellie Rajaski – What Affects The Ripening of Bananas? In second place is Catalina Caretti.

Fourth Grade: Jacob Marron – Does Air Pressure Affect Our Weather? Jacob constructed a barometer to measure the impacts. In second place is Emma Simmons, third place is Sarah Simmons, and Jillian Jurchak earned an Honorable Mention.

Fifth Grade: Ben Hochschild – Does The Shape and Size of a Turbine Blade Affect Its Efficiency? In second place is Kyle Kauffman, and tied in third place are Fin Taylor and Maryn Rajeski.

Sixth Grade (two winners): Carl Mazaleski – How Acids Affect the Rate of Corrosion; and Brady Koenig - Strength to Fight Chemo – a response to his father's cancer treatment. In second place is Taylor Johnson, in third place is Faith Collins, and Honorable Mention was earned by Connor Jessup and Aidan Shranatan.

Seventh Grade: Sophia Launchi – Gum and Concentration – The Chewy Truth. In second place is Julia Wivell and Clytie Pavlovic. In third place is Danica Ramberg and Honorable Mention was awarded to Emily Flynn and Zoe Dougherty and to Wyatt Hill and Santiago Canada-Fraga.

Eighth Grade: Helen Hochschild and Annika Guenther – Do Cats Have a Paw Preference? In second place is Mackenzie Orndorff. In

third place is Brendan Guinan, and Honorable Mention went to Carter Loher.

No Grand Champion was designated this year.

As I walked through the room viewing the fascinating presentations, I chatted with some of the students who were present at the time. The level of scientific understanding of their work was remarkable. I couldn't help but think of my own development as a scientist. In a very good grade school, I never had any stimulation of this sort. It was actually my senior year of high school where I was stimulated to choose a career in science. Even though not all of these students will choose a career in science, they will develop an intelligent understanding of scientific issues by participating in such an excellent approach to science as one finds at Mother Seton School.

In addition to the winners, I found a number of other projects on topics that were very interesting. Here are a few of those:

What Wives Tale Works Best To Not Make You Cry While Cutting An Onion? Kiernan Myles

Does Sleeping Near Phones At Night Affect Your Health? Ripleigh Maring

Multiplication of Worms By Feeding Different Foods. Danica Ramberg

Do Rabbits Have A Food Preference? Emily Flynn and Zoe Dougherty This project won a 7th Grade Honorable Mention, as noted above.

Some students chose projects that are more engineering related:

Blender Bike Rack. Brendan Guinan, the third place eighth grader, created a "Blender Bike Rack". This was a bicycle with a blender mounted on it that can "make a milkshake, a smoothie, instant breakfast, and more, all while riding your bike."

Lucky, The Dancing Robot by Vincent Reaver.

Let's consider now some updates



Third grade 1st place winner Benedict Hochschild even wowed the nuclear engineer judge with his insightful experiment on the effects of shape changes on wind turbine blades – Benedict is going places!

in topics we've discussed in previous Real Science articles.

Those of us who worry about progress in science have some reassurance, as Congress passed and President Trump signed some science budgets for 2019. Budgets were approved for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Defense (DOD) Science and Technology and Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science and Energy Programs. These approvals represent five of the 12 science agency budgets for 2019. The remaining agencies remain at 2017 levels for the time being. The NIH increase was supported by both parties in Congress and is \$2 billion, the fourth in a row for NIH. The DOD increase was 7.6% to \$16 billion, and the DOE Office of Science saw a 5.2% increase to \$6.6 billion. The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy received a 3.6% increase to \$366 million. Congress, even before the elections, has been strong supporters of energy in these categories. Environmental agencies, such as EPA, are more at risk, as the debate over environmental impact continues. Do you believe in global warming? I, like the great majority of scientists, do believe in it.

Our son-in-law and daughter just purchased a new electric car, a Tesla, and we received a drive in it. Wow, talk about innovative. It is so different from anything on the

road now. Henry Ford wouldn't believe it. What is so striking to me is how quiet and smooth it is, and how the control panel looks so different from anything I've ever seen in my driving experience. The next step in this evolution of innovation is the development of an electric airplane. Yes, an electric airplane! At least 14 electric aircraft are in development, including the single-seat Kitty Hawk Flyer and Wright Electric's 150 seater. The closest to readiness for "takeoff" is The Alice, a nine-seater from an Israeli starter company named Eviation. It has three propellers, two of them on the wingtips and one on the plane's tail. The battery is rather large – 4.2 tons, 60 percent of the plane's total weight. Eviation's hope is that the plane will be in service for regional commuter flights as soon as 2022.

California continues its innovative strategy in energy production; they have made a strong commitment to offshore energy production. You may recall that we have previously mentioned that there has been a significant negative reaction to offshore turbines on the east coast, as many citizens find them aesthetically unpleasant. Even so, The University of Maine, with a \$40 million grant from The Department of Energy, has developed a floating wind turbine platform, and hopes it will power 8,000 to 14,000 homes by 2021. In progressive California, a state that is committed to going 100% renewable, people are friendlier to the idea. There is, however, a legitimate concern about the potential impact on birds, fisheries, and marine mammals, and continuing study is underway.

The plan is to enable utility companies to lease waters in Central and Northern California for wind projects. If all goes as planned these floating windmills could be up and running, producing power within six years. One of the problems to overcome is the depth of the water there, and thus the difficulty in anchoring the turbines. A new technology, developed and tested in Europe, is expected to overcome that problem. California has committed by law to be fully dependent on carbon-free electricity by 2045!

To read past articles by Michael Rosenthal visit, the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Garlic guru

Jack Deatherage

“So you know the Deatherages? They’re friends of yours? Well, you just hit the bottom of my list of socially acceptable people.”

The DW and I would to burst into laughter at the expressions people took on when Marda made such pronouncements. To have known Marda is to have despised her, or not. We loved the rude, frumpy, cantankerous queen b (the “b” generally, but not always followed by “itch”). Mutual acquaintances couldn’t understand my laughing at Marda’s disparaging remarks about me when I wasn’t present. What they didn’t know was I’d heard worse from her while standing next to her.

“You’re not in my will. I’m leaving you nothing. Can I put you down as the contact to okay the ending of my life? Just in case I’m brain dead and on life-support. Since you won’t inherit, you’ll have no reason to unplug me prematurely.” We had that kind of relationship.

When she hired our kidlet to work her gardens she warned him, “If you don’t do the job to my satisfaction I will fire you. And that will not be the end of my friendship with your parents!” (Years after she fired him, he wrote: I was actually attempting to teach the slugs to eat the weeds for me, thus allowing me to claim their efforts as my own. If that slowed them down, well, it’s not my fault that their work ethic left me wanting. Damn slugs, I tried for days to teach them and they devolved into a sort of communism, arguing about the classes and suggesting that I was some sort of tyrant attempting to steal from them. I don’t claim to understand what went wrong, I don’t even know where they heard about Karl Marx, but they were fervent in their refusal to respond to my attempts and in the end revolted against me, resulting in my hasty dispatch.)

In spite of having fired the kidlet, Marda, a serious cook in her own right (her home’s galley kitchen rivaled those of some restaurants I’ve been in), offered advice as needed when the younger Jack decided he wanted to become a commercial cook. That she had little good to say about this area’s restaurants didn’t stop her from urging the young one to seek employment in any of them to begin his education. He eventually worked in four of local restaurants, two

of them still open for business. (That Marda sold herbs and spices, and grew gourmet garlic varieties, and had few restaurants as her customers may have had something to do with her disdain for local eateries. However, given the collection of international cookbooks she maintained I’d guess she really did see most of the locals as inferior.)

We first encountered Marda while visiting Willow Pond Farm outside of Fairfield twenty or so years ago. She walked us about the farm’s gardens while attempting to educate us on the uses of culinary and medicinal herbs. Her sarcastic wit endeared her to me and follow-up visits to the farm were seldom a disappointment since the farm’s owner was as caustic about Marda as she was about him. Listening to them berating each other over Latin names of plants was hysterically funny considering I couldn’t remember, let alone pronounce any of the names they flung back and forth with mutual contempt!

During our last visit to Willow Pond, Marda informed us she and her husband Micheal, were going to open their own herb/tea shop on a tail-end of the local mountain range a few miles northeast of Fairfield. They had been experimenting with various types of garlic, and would be offering those to discerning customers as well. As I had recently begun using fresh garlic in my own cooking, and the DW was familiar with that area of Adams County, we decided to visit the shop one late June afternoon.

I don’t care what any pedestrian cook thinks they know about garlic. Unless they’ve walked among shady trees sheltering stacked rows of freshly lifted locally grown garlic from the sun’s degrading rays, they are merely kitchen babes babbling about field stones thinking they are gems. The aroma of freshly fork lifted garlic was amazing! There couldn’t possibly be a level of interest beyond that!

Marda kicked that thought out of my head when she began cutting slivers of garlic from the assortment of cultivars and offered them for sniffing and tasting. None. I repeat- none of them were as harsh or bitter as the bulbs I’d been buying from the local supermarkets. I was captivated by the variations in flavors as well as

the sometimes painful burn some of the cultivars caused. (Marda claimed, and later plantings of my own confirmed, that seriously cold winters produced seriously hot garlic. Once cooked, the ability to burn a tongue vanishes.)

It took me less than a year to become one of Marda’s regular customers, standing in line in July with other garlic junkies, begging for an early release of any garlic to sooth the desperation building as the harvest matured. Given my fixation, how could I not plant a few cloves- okay, 110 to be exact. (Marda and Micheal planted 10,000 that same year.)

“So, you’ve come to spy on my garlic beds have you?”

“No Marda. Eh-hem. I, uh- I need some Tellicherry pepper corns.” While she’d go in the house to fill the pepper order I’d walk about her garlic plantings taking in as much as possible- how the stalks were sizing up, the spacing between them, the height of their raised rows.

“You should have brought a camera and a notebook. We both know how poor your memory is.” She’d remark when she caught me studying a particular row. “Those are blah blah blah. That variety grows like that and will eventually straighten out when the weather warms. I’ll save you some seed bulbs if you’d like to try them in your flatland garden.”

Micheal died after a long struggle with cancer. Marda asked me if



Rumor has it that the day Jack posed for this photo more cars chose to bypass Emmitsburg than in any time in the town’s recorded history.

I could bear her grief having heard I’d borne the brunt of a Gulf War vet’s struggle to maintain his sanity during his deployment. I allowed I could handle it, we’d become friends enough that I couldn’t refuse. It was not long after she’d recovered, as much as she ever would, that she asked me to be the one who would allow her to die should that circumstance ever arrive.

She also urged me to get hold of some ground I was certain to have access to as long as I’d need it for growing garlic commercially. She was well aware her days in the business were fading. On June

12th of this year she remarked, “I think this is the last year for garlic and the tea shop. I’m tired. When you have the ground, I’ll copy all of Micheal’s notes and give you his contacts at Penn State. Once you’ve mastered the basics of growing garlic on a commercial scale I’ll help you with the hard part- the marketing.”

Her gardener found her dead in her bed four days later. Another hole in our hearts.

To read past articles by Jack Deatherage visit, the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Holiday chores

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Wow! December already! And what happened to fall? Now that we are in the midst of the holiday season, many chores, sometimes fun chores – sometimes not, live on a list. That list may include things like: shop for friends and family, find a wreath for the door, get a centerpiece for the table, put up the Christmas tree, string lights outside. The chores sometimes may seem burdensome, but what if we made all of them fun?

Let's start at the top...shop for friends and family... If they are gardeners, I might have a few suggestions. 1. Gardeners love plant books, especially with pictures. Garden design book have great pictures and ideas that can be incorporated into your own garden. Books about plant science will also be a hit. Yes, give a gardener a book about botany, and they will love it!

2. Give a houseplant. Most garden-

ers appreciate house plants. This time of year, there are lots of indoor plants that are flowering. Cyclamen, Christmas cactus and poinsettias are the easiest to find – just about anywhere. And where a non-gardener would throw them away after they are done blooming, a gardener will try to keep it alive all year long. It will become a challenge for them to see if they can get it to re-bloom next year.

Other plants you might choose could include orchids. Phalaenopsis, or moth orchid, is a very common and easy to grow. Once they are in bloom the flowers can last for a few months! The diversity of flower colors ranges from purple and pink, white, yellow, speckled and stiped. It likes an eastern window and does well in temperatures above 60 degrees. Moth orchids typically are planted in either moss or bark. Moss would probably need less water than the bark, but on average, water about once a week. If the house is dry, put the orchid on top of a tray of peb-

bles to increase humidity.

3. You can't go wrong with an amaryllis or paperwhites! These bulbs are for indoor flowers. Amaryllis typically can be purchased in a box that has the pot, soil and bulb. Easy to give as a gift, and something for the gardener to look forward to after the holiday. These bulbs usually take six to eight weeks to come into bloom, and the larger the bulb, the nicer the flower display.

Amaryllis can also be purchased as an individual bulb. (This is the way I prefer to purchase them.) When you can see the bulb, it's easy to tell the quality and size. It can still be easily given as a gift – just purchase a clay pot and box it yourself!

Paperwhites are often sold in pre-packaged bags or sometimes loose in a box. Either way, these are fun gifts to give. They have a strong fragrance when in bloom, so keep that in mind when gifting these bulbs. The gardener can plant them in a pot of potting mix, or in a shallow dish of pebbles and water, for forcing indoors.

So we've checked off the gift-giving. Now onto a wreath for the door. If you have some evergreens, why not make your own this season? Gather a crate full of 12" – 18" evergreen cuttings of all different textures. Some of the most common evergreens we might use are spruce and pine. However, cypress, yews, junipers, boxwood, and hollies are great to add to a wreath for variation. Get yourself a wire wreath form from a craft store and some wire on a spool. Bundle small grouping of evergreens and begin wiring them onto the form. Before you know it, you'll have a beautiful wreath! After the base is complete, add some berries, ribbon and



When you are done trimming that Christmas tree bundle the evergreen cuttings and begin wiring them onto the form. Before you know it, you'll have a beautiful wreath!

cones to complete the look.

Our Master Gardeners are very talented, and one in particular taught me how to make a living wreath. Which brings us to our next item on the list: a centerpiece. A living wreath is simply a form that takes the shape of a wreath that plants can live. Typically, moss is used to hold soil in place; wire is used to hold the moss in place; plants are planted through the moss, hence, a living wreath.

This time of year, we would probably use succulents as our plant of choice. There are hardy succulents, like Sedums and Sempervivens, and there are succulents that would be grown in the house, like jade plants and echeveria. If you choose to use the hardy succulents, the wreath would need to go outside, and be brought in when ready to use. Other plants that might be used in a living wreath at other times of the year might be pansies in the spring or herbs for the summer. These wreaths are great for the table with a candle in the mid-

dle during the holidays. Make it even more fun and invite some friends for a wreath-making party! A little mulled cider and holiday cookies would make a great day with friends!

Alright. We have the gifts, the door wreath, the centerpiece, and now onto the Christmas tree! What kind of tree should you get? An artificial tree is the answer if it's up for 4+ weeks. Cut trees, whether cut your own, or pre-cut from a lot, will get very dry after four weeks in the house. And live trees? They last about 7 - 10 days in the house, so if you are looking at a balled and burlapped tree that can be planted in the yard after it's completed its duty inside, be sure to get it back outside in a short period of time.

Here are some tips on pre-cut trees: If choosing from a lot, be sure to check for freshness of the trees to ensure longevity in the home. Check for fragrance of the tree, as the fresher the tree, the more fragrant it is. Also shake the tree to see how many needles drop. If the tree has been cut for a while and the weather is warm, it won't hold its needles.

Another way to purchase your Christmas tree is through a 'Cut Your Own' tree farm. This way your tree will be the freshest it can be. Most tree farms have many varieties and sizes and often offer tree baling and loading as well as seasonal foods and drinks.

After getting your tree home, make a fresh cut about 1 inch above the base. Place your tree into water right away, even if you are not bringing it inside immediately. Don't let it dry out! Treat your cut tree as you would a fresh bouquet of flowers.

Locate the tree by a wall or corner where it will not be knocked over. Keep the tree away from heat sources, such as fire places, wood stoves, and heat ducts. Keep fresh water in the tree stand always and keep the room cool. Following these steps, your cut tree should last up to three weeks!

And what about a live tree? Balled and burlapped trees are very cumbersome to handle. So knowing how and when to handle these trees is imperative to the life of that tree.

A living Christmas tree should be in the house for no more than 7-10 days. Before entering the house, it should be conditioned first. Keep the tree in an unheated, protected location for a few days before bringing it inside. During this conditioning period, be sure the root ball is watered. If the ball dries out,

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener

Tired of predictions? There's a better way

Marianne Willburn

Gird your loins with a bit of Under Armour and tuck in a Hot Hands pack. The forecasters have consulted the Oracle and it looks like those of us in the Mid-Atlantic may be in for a cold, snowy winter.

Or not.

It's tough to fault them for throwing something out there, no matter how hard they had to pitch it, poor darlings. Hundreds of thousands of media hours are currently devoted to the prediction of results – whether sports coverage, winter devastation or election waves – and no matter how wrong they may turn out to be, audiences continue to lap them up.

Thus the networks respond with more coverage, we grab another Coke and a bag of Doritos, and we all sit together in a heightened state of anticipation and blood sugar watching to see if the predictions play out.

Will Holtby save 35 or 37 shots on goal tonight? Will it be a cataclysmic blue wave or a gentle blue lapping? Will we have three feet of snow during our cruelest season of the year or will it be an inch and a light spanking? The Nation stands trembling.

Those of us who prefer to stand on the sidelines quietly humming Que Sera Sera and feeling superior about it, do, as it happens, have some sense of perspective born of detachment. When you don't follow pre-[insert x] coverage, you look at those that do and wonder why they waste all that time worrying when they could simply tune in the next day and save everybody a lot of time.

Granted I do not follow pre-game coverage because I don't care about actual game coverage and do not wish to be forced into this new role of network hockey friend and widow for any longer than I have to. But I should care about the election and the weather, right?

The results, yes. The predictions, no.

Whichever once-in-a-lifetime-never-again-armed-don-is-coming election is on the horizon, the fact remains that once I've voted, I cannot vote again. When the deed is done, I try to keep the radio, cell phone and TV news off, and in twenty-four blissfully pundit-free hours I get to see how everyone else voted too and react accordingly. (I believe current protocol favors weeping in the town square or looking insufferably smug).



My vote doesn't count in the meteorological arena. Nor can I petition a higher authority for a better winter based on the worrying predictions I may or may not have seen. Well I can, but I have very little chance of a higher authority putting those concerns above things like Middle East unrest and how much it costs to buy toilet paper in Venezuela.

Once winter begins, it has begun. Time to get down to the business of dealing with it. Why spend precious hours adding another level of anxiety to modern lives already characterized by anxiety?

No really. Ask yourselves that question.

Here are a few facts about winter. It's coming. It's not summer. We won't be wearing shorts. I will have to heat my home, and depending on the severity of the season, that will either take more or less of my resources.

If I am a smart ant, I will prepare for a hard winter with six cords of wood in the bank and a full tank of oil. I will make sure my tires are sound and my generator is serviced. I will heel in the potted plants that need extra protection and make sure my Netflix queue is well stocked with movies that make me laugh when I want to start screaming at the sky.

In short, I will prepare for winter – any winter. Whether it's 6 degrees above normal or 10 degrees below. Literally.

I am exceedingly thankful for the modern miracles that can alert us to an ice storm next Thursday or the possibility of snow over the weekend, but until there is a 80-90% chance that the winter in front of us will actually be the winter the long term forecasters predict (and I'm not talking about the 80% accuracy claims some of them continue to make against evidence to the contrary), I'd rather focus my attention on getting the barn roof ready for that long period of cold, ice and general ugliness that starts at this time of year and doesn't let up until April.

What the forecasters say about what's coming should not affect anything other than my sense of humor. In fact, I'm over 90% sure it won't.

Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of Big Dreams, Small Garden. You can read more at www.small-towngardener.com.



Research studies show that a consumer would have to use an artificial tree for up to 20 years before it had a smaller environmental impact than a natural tree.

roots will die, lessening the survival rate of that tree.

When bringing your tree inside, place it in a large bucket or pan to prevent the soil and water from staining the floor. Again, keep the root ball moistened at all times. Locate the tree in the coolest room of your home, away from any heat sources, like a fire place, wood stove, or heat ducts. You don't want the tree to break its dormancy, which will cause tips to grow, and then die when exposed to the cold weather again.

After you are finished with the tree indoors - and remember, no more than 10 days - you'll need to re-condition it to the outdoors. Place the tree in an unheated, protected location for a few days, and then it should be ready to plant.

Hopefully, the ground won't be frozen when you're ready to plant the tree. You can prepare for this possibility ahead of time by digging the hole before the holidays and storing the soil

in an unheated garage or storage shed. That way, when you're ready to plant, the hole is already there, and you won't have frozen ground to use to backfill. If, however, the hole is not dug, and the ground is frozen, place your tree in a sheltered area and mulch the root ball heavily. Keep the soil ball moist until the ground is workable.

After planting the tree, water it well, and mulch it. This will protect the root ball through the rest of the winter months. The tree should remain dormant until the spring when it will start growing with all other vegetation.

Everything is checked on our list! Except hanging the Christmas lights! If you have any extra greens from that wreath making project, use some as garland and tie it to the string of lights to add a bit of extra interest.

There, all done! Now rest and enjoy the season!

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

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory.
John 1:14

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A PRICELESS CHRISTMAS GIFT...

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

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



Ace is an incredibly unique boy - he's a male tortie cat! This coloring is quite rare in males. He's about 6 months old and raised in a foster home where he was around all kinds of other animals. He's a sweet guy looking for a forever home. He'll make a great addition to any family.



Boss Man was surrendered to the shelter because his owners could no longer afford to keep him. He's a 6-year-old orange boy who has spent time around dogs, so he's the official "dog tester" of the shelter! He does have a history of UTI, but he's been on urinary food at the shelter and is doing well.



Carrot came into the shelter as a stray in May 2018 as a little kitten and now he's seven months old! He's growing up in a cage and we can't figure out why. He is an awesome cat with a wonderful personality. He loves to play and snuggle all at the same time. And the purring is out of this world! If you're looking for an amazing feline companion, Carrot is your guy!!



Chocolate Murray is a 9-year-old brown tabby boy who came into the shelter as a stray, but we found out he had been adopted from us when he was a kitten - nine years ago. We have not been able to find his owners, so now he's again looking for a home. He'd make someone a great companion.



Khaleesi is a 4-year-old tabby and white girl with medium hair who was brought into the shelter because her owner was moving. She is a very sweet girl who loves attention but may do best as the only cat in a quiet home. If you have the right place for Khaleesi, please come adopt her!



Lady Bug is a 5-year-old brown tabby girl who came in as a stray in April. She's a real sweetheart and likes to supervise anything that's going on, as cats will often do. If you're looking for a fun friend, come meet Lady Bug! She's ready for her forever home and will make a great addition to a warm and loving family.



Mabel was brought into the shelter as a stray when she was a little kitten. She's now 1 year old and growing up in a shelter. Mabel is a really sweet girl who loves to play with her mouse toy and would make someone a wonderful companion.



Shirley was brought into the shelter as a stray in March of this year so we know very little about her past. She is a sweet, 3-year-old girl that is full of adventure! She loves to explore and can't wait to search out all the cool spots in your house!

...A HOME FOR A SHELTER PET

Thoughtful gifts

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal
Shelter

Gracious sakes, could someone please explain to me where time goes anymore? I swear it was just the beginning of June yesterday, wasn't it?

Wasn't it?

Alas, I see that it is actually

December and I feel a little old in the fact that time seems to be moving faster and faster for me.

I'm clearly a little shocked to realize the holidays are approaching and as per usual, I have nothing even remotely prepared or planned.

So, I start thinking about thoughtful gifts. The kind that give the receiver pause or maybe

a warm feeling in his or her heart.

One great way to give to the person who has everything is by making a donation in his or her name to the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter.

This kind of present actually gives more than once. You give to the person who's getting the honorarium and you give to the homeless animals who find themselves spending the holidays in a kennel.

We have a number of people who opt for this kind of gift and it always does my heart good to see it.

The holidays, after all, should be more about altruism than consumerism and a donation in someone's name is a fantastic way to keep that tradition going.

At CVAS we have an annual budget of \$600,000. I can hear the gasps now. I realize that sounds like a lot, but from a non-profit standpoint, we really do try to keep our numbers low. We look for as many cost-saving measures as we can at the shelter, but our main concern is the health and well-being of our animals, who often come to us in varying degrees of illness.

You'd be surprised from what a stray dog or cat can suffer.

We've had a dog come into us with a compound fracture of his back leg and a cat with a tail almost completely severed in half.

Those are just two cases out of more than 2,000 who come

through our doors every year.

In a lot of respects, running an animal shelter is a lot like running a hospital or nursing home. Our "residents" are simply four-legged.

In addition to the physical injuries, animals also arrive at CVAS with various illnesses, including but not limited to upper respiratory infections, kennel cough, eye and ear infections, lack of vaccinations, worms, fleas, and a variety of skin infections and problems, all of which need to be treated.

In addition to the cost of the medicine required to get an animal healthy, we also need to consider the environment in which our pets are housed. Crates in an open building would be less expensive, but would lead to the spread of disease. The lack of disease control and management would require the animal to be on the costly medications for much longer, thus bringing our costs up in the long run.

Our goal is to get an animal in to CVAS, get him healthy, get him into our adoption area and get him home.

In order to do that, we need to choose quality over a quick fix. We need strong flooring and superior ventilation in order to maintain a healthy environment.

We need specific cleaners made for animals, most of which are not inexpensive.

Every animal in our adoption kennels is also spayed and neutered, a surgery that is reflected in our annual budgetary figures. Our animals also have needed surgery for cherry eye and hernias.

We have factored all of this into our annual budget so that we can ultimately keep our costs low.

We also need people — trained employees — to care for the pets, give the medications, provide food and monitor their well-being. It's not an organization where someone can come in for two hours and leave the animals alone for the remaining 22 hours in the day.

In order to reach our budget goals each year, we rely on the help from our supporters and donors. We receive very minimal funding from our local government and state. We receive no funding at all from the county. Tax dollars are not coming to us.

We are a non-profit organization that still continues to save animals because of the people who help us financially each year.

With the holidays upon us, if you have someone on your list who may be a little tough to buy for, why not consider giving a donation in his or her name to CVAS?

I promise you, the four-legged souls in our kennels would be very, very grateful.

Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 263-5791 or visit their website at www.cvas-pets.org. CVAS also operates thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the stores.



Vienna was surrendered to the shelter because her owner could no longer care for her. Vienna is a 9-month-old Great Pyrenees who is timid when you first go into her kennel to leash her, but once she is leashed she is fine. She is a real sweet girl who will need someone who recognizes her grooming needs. Vienna will require regular brushing to avoid mats. She will also need patience as she still has some puppy behavior and will need some work with training. Vienna is a gentle girl but is also quite shy and may need some time to adjust to new people and a new home. Vienna must meet all family members that reside in the home. Because of her shyness, she's not in our general adoption area, so you'll need to ask to meet her if you're interested.



Angel came from the beaches of Mexico where she was rescued as a stray. She became too much for her owners and found her way to CVAS. She's a 2-year-old mixed breed who can be a little timid when she first meets people. Once she gets used to you she is a lovable, playful girl! She does like to jump up on people, so this behavior will need some training. Angel has never been with children but has been with other dogs and cats. Because of this, Angel must meet all family members and age restrictions may apply, so ask staff about that. Angel is in our isolation area because of her shyness. She will need an approved adoption application to be seen. If you think you can help her, please stop out.



Skylar was surrendered to the shelter because her owner moved and couldn't take her along. She's a 1-year-old lab mix who can be a little shy with new people, but once she gets to know you, she just loves attention. Skylar can be a little dog selective - there are some she's okay with and others not at all, so she may have to be the only dog in the home. She also chases cats, so felines wouldn't work, either. Skylar is a very loyal girl who knows how to sit. Because of her shyness, there may be age restrictions for children, so make sure you ask the staff. Skylar is ready for her forever home and can't wait to be part of a loving family. She would make a great addition to any family.



Sunshine was an aptly named girl! She came into the shelter as a stray and is just a sweetheart. She's a 3-year-old terrier and we think there may be some Shar-Pei in there because of her skin folds. She loves attention and scratches on her bum! Sunshine seems to like it better when she goes up to the person to say hello, instead of the person coming to her and she would do best in a home without cats. She did have some skin issues when she arrived and we're working on them, but with some good food and some antibiotics she looks and feels so much better than she did when she came in! Because we have no past history on her, age restrictions for children may apply. If you're looking for some Sunshine in your life, come out and see her!

PETS

The acquaintance of a cat

Julianna Gorduyn

I do not know what perfect affection is, perfection, or even true love. Whatever defines these terms is not for certain. All one can do to define these terms is by living them or enduring the nature of them. For me, I am defining them through the acquaintance of a cat. Things are not simple in this universe. From my experience definitions are things or maybe even feelings. For me perfection, true love, and pure affection is my cat, Jar Jar Binks. He makes me feel and see all three of these things that people have confliction over. These answers to these definitions are so simple to me. Answers are in the little things. These little things hold answers, and these answers hold magic.

There are things in my life that I vaguely remember; things like my childhood. But specific parts are seared into my brain. For example, a specific, crispy October evening I was introduced to my first true

love. I was around seven years old and I had just arrived home after completing a vicious night at my karate class. My mother was sitting in the dimly lit living room watching American Idol. In her hands she was holding a puny black and white ball no larger than my palm. She had him flipped upside down and he was purring, kneading, and grasping a small warm bottle between his paws. I fell in love instantaneously.

My mother planned on taking Binks to the pound since he would add another food bill to our already growing family of fluff. She could not say no to me for Binks had already chosen me. He was mine and I was his. Binks nursed and grew we did everything together. I bought him a small stroller and I would wheel him around all over the house. He has not left my side for the past twelve years and two moving trips. To me he was not a kitten a pastor found under his house he is part of my soul. Binks is absolutely magical.

During that duration of time in life, my attachment to Star Wars began to form. At first, maybe Binks from Hocus Pocus would fit him sufficiently, but it needed to fit me. As a child I dreamt living part of my life as a Jedi. I enjoyed Jar Jar Binks in Episodes I-III, and Binks just fit him like a shoe. In the prequels Jar Jar Binks appears to the crowd as clumsy and annoying. If you are like me, God forbid, and study Star Wars further in depth you will notice pieces of truth leading to Jar Jar Binks being the ultimate Sith Lord. George Lucas even states that, "Jar Jar is the key to all of this". I would love to go in depth on the factual portion, but no rabbit trails today. My Binks shares the same attributes as the controversial Jar Jar of the Star Wars universe.

On the big screen Jar Jar is clumsy, unwanted, faulty, and annoying in general. My Binks also shares these same traits. Like the Jar Jar that belongs to the Star Wars universe, my Binks is also kind, fiercely loyal, helpful, and courageous. Both of these beings live to keep who they love safe and uphold thier loyalty. No matter what they do they keep their promise to serve and stand by your side for the rest of their lives; despite being disliked by others sometimes. My Binks sees me as his home and safe space after taking him in. Both were abandoned and their lives were saved. My Binks chooses to serve and love me until his last breath. Even though Jar Jar was supposed to be the Sith Lord in the prequels--rather than Count Dooku--he still chose to keep his promise to Qui-Gon Ginn despite Ginn's death. Jar Jar pledged and served Padme just like my Binks serves me.

I named him Jar Jar Binks because they share the same honor. Both of these characters in my life make things magical. My Binks reminds me of Star Wars, and Star Wars reminds me of easier days and lighter breaths. Even as Binks lies here in my lap he creates a nostalgic air, and there is an intense love he creates inside of me. Binks has never had a dull day nor does he



For one very lucky girl – true love, and pure affection comes by the name of Jar Jar Binks.

know what it is like to give nothing but his best. He always gives everything to me even when I know things are hard on him. He is smooth and silky. As he grows older his belly grows rounder. When he runs his belly drags on the ground and the fur around his ears grows patchy. Sometimes he drools when he rubs on you, and his left canine is chipped. But despite his dents and big belly, his soul is full of life and love.

Every night Binks crawls into my lap to greet me from either a good or bad day. Either way he greets, it is with perfect affection. He kneads and purrs in my lap when my day is relentless with stress and agony. When he is fast asleep, he lies next to me and holds my face and shoulder. He purrs and lies in my lap when my day is full of joy and satisfaction. He lies in my lap seeping every emotion like it is his own whether I want him to or not. He does not know what it is like to not have affection. He is selfless and hopeful; something humanity has forgotten about.

Every day he rubs up against me and meows asking for things he knows I can give. He asks for them so perfectly and so gracefully. If I sit down for even a second, he makes his way into my lap where he knows he belongs. He is always by my side and never leaves. When he is sad, hungry,

or mad he purrs. He is my definition of perfect. He knows nothing of evil, nor good. He exists for the sentimental reason to lie in my lap. Humans have a definition of good and bad. Binks knows nothing but long suffering and faithfulness. A perfection humans have suppressed.

Lastly, every second he is in my lap he makes me feel wanted. He sits up on my lap and hugs my neck and kisses my face. He shows me that no matter the waves or earthquake he is mine. He makes everything feel so simple and nostalgic. He is true love. No matter me pushing him aside when I am carried away in frustration he continues to come back. In my presence, every second is about me. He is loyal and he is healing. Humans have abandoned these things in the spectrum of true love.

There is nothing better than Binks sitting in my lap every night teaching me what perfect affection is. Every day he reminds me I am loved perfectly and purely. Every second, including now while I write this, he lies in my lap so I do not feel invisible. All I feel is true love. The feeling he gives me is pure magic. It is so simple yet so deep. Also, small but intense. He makes me feel like a child again. I promise you there is nothing more magical or most pure in this world than the acquaintance of a cat.

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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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COMMUNITY NOTES

Taney Corporation celebrates 60 yrs.

On November 8, the city of Taneytown presented The Taney Corporation with an award marking its 60th year of business in Taneytown. The city also made a proclamation that marked November 8, 2018 as The Taney Corporation Day.

The family owned and operated business has been a staple company in the city of Taneytown, now employing people from all across Carroll, Frederick and Adams Counties. What started as a small business in 1958 with only four employees has grown immensely over the past 60 years. Eric Glass, owner of The Taney Corporation, began working there right out of high school, and four years later, at the age of 22, purchased business from its previous owners. Since that

time, the company has grown to now employ 70 people.

The Taney Corporation covers business all throughout the Mid Atlantic region, covering Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, just to name a few, selling wooden stairs and handrails for any residential or commercial application. Apart from the growth in overall size of the company, Jeff Glass mentioned that the company's customer base and how they market their product has changed. A major portion of their business has turned into selling to larger lumber chains, which has created an increase in business. However, one thing will never change – The Taney Corporation's desire to make the production of high quality product their number one priority.

Additionally, The Taney Corporation has remained, and will continue to remain, a family business. Eric Glass's boys, Jeff and Brian Glass, both grew up in the business and began working there in the mid 80's. Both brothers still proudly work at the company, and have now become partial business owners of The Taney Corporation. The family has no intentions of selling the company anytime soon, and they hope to keep the business in the family for many generations to come.

In the future, Jeff Glass noted that The Taney Corporation's main goal is to continue growing while continuing to build their reputation for quality craftsmanship. They hope to continue producing the best quality stairs in the Mid Atlantic region.



James McCarron, Jr., Mayor of Taneytown presenting the Taney Corporation with an award marking its 60th year of business in Taneytown. Front row: Diane Foster, Councilwoman, Jeff Glass, President of The Taney Corporation, Brian Glass, Vice-President of The Taney Corporation, and Donald Frazier, Councilman. Back row: James McCarron, Judith Fuller, Taneytown Town Council, Audrey Glass, Vice-President, The Taney Corporation, Eric Glass, Chairman of the Board, The Taney Corporation.



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## HEALTH NOTES

# Beating the winter blues

**Kelsey Shupe**  
Frederick Memorial Hospital

As the days get shorter and the evenings grow darker, you may find yourself feeling more tired, cranky, or more unhappy or depressed than usual. If you're feeling down in the dumps this time of year and can't quite explain why, there's a reason—you may be experiencing 'SAD' or Seasonal Affective Disorder.

According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, about 1 to 4 percent of people in the U.S. experience Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD—and another 10 to 20 percent may have mild cases of SAD. Sometimes referred to as the winter blues or winter depression, SAD is a real condition that can affect anyone, including those who have not previously experienced symptoms of depression.

Here's everything you need to know to cope with Seasonal Affective Disorder.

### What is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)?

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIH) defines SAD as a "type of depression that comes and goes with the seasons, typically starting in the late fall and early winter, and going away during the spring and summer months. Depressive episodes linked to the summer can occur, but are much less common than winter episodes of SAD."

The signs and symptoms of SAD include: Feeling anxious, grumpy, moody, or sad; Loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed; low energy; overeating and/or weight gain; craving carbs, like bread and pasta; sleeping more but still feeling tired; social anxiety and/or withdrawal; and, trouble concentrating

Anyone can get SAD, but it's more common in: women, diagnosed four times more often than men, according to the NIH; people who live far from the equator, where daylight hours are

shorter in the winter; people between 15 and 55 years old; people with a family history of Seasonal Affective Disorder; and, people with depression or bipolar disorder

The causes of SAD are relatively unknown, but medical researchers have found some key biological factors. For example, people with SAD may have trouble regulating one of the key neurotransmitters involved in stabilizing mood—serotonin. People with SAD may produce less vitamin D, which plays a role in serotonin activity, or overproduce the hormone melatonin, which regulates sleep, leaving them feeling sleepier and more lethargic in winter.

### When Should I See a Doctor?

While it's sometimes hard to tell the difference between SAD and other types of depression, your doctor may diagnose you with SAD if: you have been depressed during the same season and have improved when the sea-

sons changed for at least two years in a row; your symptoms align with those that often occur with SAD; or a close relative—a brother, sister, or parent—has had SAD.

If you have any of the symptoms or risk factors listed above, consider scheduling an appointment with your primary care physician immediately.

### How Can I Combat SAD?

After you've been diagnosed with SAD, your doctor may prescribe one of four major types of treatment (or a combination of these):

**Light Therapy:** One of the main treatments for SAD since the '80s, light therapy is believed to work by resetting your biological clock. The idea is that light therapy replaces the diminished sunshine during fall and winter using daily exposure to bright, artificial lights.

Light boxes use fluorescent lights that are brighter than indoor lights but not as bright as sunlight. SAD sufferers

may feel relief of symptoms by sitting in front of the light box for 30 minutes to one hour in the morning, on a daily basis until spring. You can also sit in front of the light box while you read, eat, work, or watch TV.

**Medication - Antidepressants** are often prescribed to people with SAD. The most common ones are selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), like paroxetine (Paxil) and sertraline (Zoloft). Other antidepressants include bupropion (Wellbutrin) and venlafaxine (Effexor).

Like all medications, there are side effects when taking antidepressants. Be sure to talk to your doctor about the risks associated with any medication you are prescribed, and be open to trying several different medications before your doctor finds the one that best improves your symptoms.

Talk to a Professional - Counseling may also be helpful or recommended by your doctor. During therapy sessions, you will learn more about SAD and its effects, how to manage your own symptoms, and how to prevent it from reoccurring next year. You'll identify negative thoughts and replace them with more positive ones, and identify activities that are engaging and enjoyable to help you cope with winter.

**Vitamin D - Evidence** for vitamin D supplementation is mixed—some studies suggest it may be as effective as light therapy, while others suggest there is zero effect on SAD symptoms. Your primary care physician can help you decide if vitamin D supplements are an appropriate form of treatment for you. You should not take these supplements without consulting a doctor first.

Consider these tips for boosting your mood and motivation in winter: stay active; spent time outside or near windows on sunny days; eat a healthy diet; keep warm; start a new hobby; visit friends and family, and/or talk to a professional if you need help.

### What Options are Available?

No matter your health needs—or the season—your primary care provider (PCP) is available to help you maintain a healthy lifestyle. With Monocacy Health Partners Primary Care, your healthcare team:

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Kick your SAD to the curb this winter—call 240-215-6310 or visit [monocacyhealthpartners.org](http://monocacyhealthpartners.org) today.



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## Wantz Chevrolet's "Christmas for Community Kids"

This holiday season, it's all about giving at the Wantz Chevrolet dealership in Taneytown. Wantz Chevrolet is once again collecting toys for its annual toy drive to be locally distributed as a part of the "Christmas for Community Kids" drive that is being held to help make a difference in the lives of local families in need.

The goal is to fill the labeled truck located in the dealership's showroom with toys and other items that are being accepted. The dealership is collecting new, unwrapped children's toys of any type, as well as other donation items such as nonperishable foods, blankets, gloves, hats, and scarves. Collections will be ending on December 17.

The collected items will be brought to the Trinity Lutheran Church by the dealership and will then be distributed to the recipients.

### History of Drive

In total, this is the seventh year Wantz Chevrolet has collected toys for children in need. They began collecting after they were approached several years ago and asked to sponsor food and toys for the holidays. In the past few years, the multitude of generous donations have filled the truck and found their way into the homes of many families in time for Christmas.

### Change of Direction

Originally, the dealership collected its

donations for the Toys for Tots program. Toys for Tots was founded in 1947 and is organized by the US Marine Corps Reserve, which collects and distributes toys to families who are unable or struggling to afford to purchase their children gifts for Christmas. These toys were distributed in the Baltimore area to children of underprivileged families to help them through the holidays. Two years ago, however, the mission changed after Scott Wantz, the dealership's vice president, was approached by some local organizations in the community who addressed the need for assistance here in the local area.

After speaking with and acquiring the permission of the US Marine Corps, soliciting a bit of help from the Trinity Lutheran Church in Taneytown, and through local organization "Mission of Mercy," Wantz Chevrolet was able to distribute the toys to the local community and changed the name of their drive to "Christmas for Community Kids."

"Mission of Mercy" is an organization based in Frederick that serves the needs of several regions of the country. "Mission of Mercy" helps provide free healthcare, free dental care, and free medications to those who are underinsured, or uninsured completely. They bring their mobile health clinics to cities in both Maryland and Pennsylvania including Taneytown, Reisterstown, Brunswick, Frederick, Gettysburg, and Harrisburg.

### Church's Role

The "Mission of Mercy" medical van visits Trinity Lutheran Church located on Baltimore Street twice a month. In December, the Church will receive the toys and other items from the dealership, and the toys will then be distributed to the clients of "Mission of Mercy" who lack basic health insurance, and some who may even be experiencing homelessness. The toy drive ensures that the children of these local people in need of assistance receive gifts in their stockings and under their trees from Santa Clause on Christmas morning.

The drive serves an important role in the community. "The people that we distribute them to are very appreciative of getting these things because some of them, if it had not been for these toys and us distributing them, their children wouldn't have a Christmas," said Margie Pyles, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and the person in charge of the campaign this year.

The community's gratitude shows through the large collection of thank-you letters the church has received from people who were previous recipients of toys that were donated to the drive.

### History of Dealership

Over 50 years ago, in the small, rural farming town of Taneytown, Mr. Leonard Wantz became the dealer principle at the age of 23 on March 5, 1964. The business originally relied on



Wantz Chevrolet is well on their way to reaching their goal of completely filling the bed of the truck parked in the dealership's showroom for "Christmas for Community Kids." You can help them by donating before December 17!

selling trucks to farmers in the area but evolved into what it is today.

Chevrolet has recognized the dealership's longevity and commitment to serving the community. A few years ago, the dealership was awarded the Chevrolet dealer 50-year dealer award.

The business today is built on three generations and have generations of returning customers. Numerous Wantz Chevrolet staff members have been working at the dealership for several decades and the dealership has an 80 percent customer retention rate, which is nearly unheard of in this industry.

Wantz Chevrolet accomplishes such high customer approval ratings by supporting its local community and meeting its needs wherever it can. It does not operate like their larger, chain dealership counterparts. Throughout the

years, Wantz Chevrolet has supported many local civic and non-profit organizations including youth sports and local fire departments.

"Good business and good community service" seems to be Wantz Chevrolet's motto. Their long history of community support makes it no surprise that Wantz Chevrolet is continuing their tradition of serving the community this holiday season.

Please consider reaching into your heart and making a toy, food, or winter clothing donation to the "Christmas for Community Kids" drive before December 17. It is a great way to give to your community, and to those most in need of a little Christmas cheer. We thank Wantz Chevrolet for its efforts in supporting the Taneytown community, and giving us all a chance to give back this holiday season.

# HOLIDAY SALES EVENT GOING ON NOW!

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Wantz Chevrolet is proud to announce that we will once again be a collection point for TOYS FOR TOTS in our community. "CHRISTMAS FOR COMMUNITY KIDS" is going on now! Come on in with your donations! Please stop by and drop off a new, unused and unwrapped toy. Brighten Christmas for those in our community who can use a little help!

We will also be a collection site for Non-Perishable foods for our local food pantry throughout the holiday season!

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## WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

# Wilson takes center stage



With the war won, President Wilson set sail to Europe to propose a League of Nations, which he hoped would put an end to wars once and for all.

### December 5

#### President Sails To Europe

On Wednesday President Woodrow Wilson sailed for Europe to participate in the peace conference to be held in France.

As the George Washington swung out into the North River on a voyage unprecedented in American history, President and Mrs. Wilson stood on the flying bridge, the highest point to which passengers could climb. An Army band on the shores played 'Over There.'

With the President waving his hat to cheering throngs aboard river craft, which crowded nearby waters, the George Washington turned her head towards the sea shortly after 10:30. As the big liner straightened her course, a presidential salute of 21 guns thundered from the liner's guns, which during more than a year of war had served to defend thousands of American soldiers from German submarine attacks.

With two destroyers in escort for the trip down the bay, the departure of the big liner was witnessed by a multitude of persons crowding in windows of homes, skyscrapers, and peers on both sides of the Hudson.

As the George Washington started down the bay a squadron of airplanes dropped from the clouds and executed a series of daring loops over the President's ship. As the liner and its convoy steamed towards the sea, George Washington's band played martial music and Allied merchant ships dipped flags and tooted whistles in salute of the departing executive.

As the squadron passed through the gate in the submarine net, which stretches across the Narrows and within five hundred feet of Staten Island, a group of several hundred school children were transformed into a sea of waving flags while gunboats in the lower bay fired salvos in salute.

#### German Elections Set For February 16

The German Council of the People's Commissioners has fixed February 16 for elections to a constitutional assembly, conditional on the approval of the Soldiers' and Workmen's Congress which meets December 16.

The empire will be divided into 38 electoral districts; from 6 to 16 seats will be allotted to each district, according to the population. The empire's territory as it existed before the war will be taken as a basis of division.

The Soldiers' Council of Greater Berlin, at a stormy plenary session, expressed dissatisfaction with the appointment of an Executive Council of 28, by adopting a resolution appointing a committee, with representation from each of the seven regiments stationed in Berlin, to weigh charges against the Executive Council and if necessary, to reform the organization.

The Soldiers Council of the Red Army Corps had formulated the charges, which declared, with other things that the Executive Council talked instead of acted. It was also declared that the executive had shamefully debased all high gains of the Councils; failed to effectively cooperate with the soldiers and other parts of Germany; failed to protect the western border; and, hindered every orderly and political work.

Meanwhile, the Bavarian Premier explained that the breaking off of relations between Bavaria and the Berlin government was due to the fact that the German Foreign Office was a base of counter revolutionary movement, and that they would take no part in

that. It is reported that Bavaria will open negotiations for separate peace with the Allies.

#### Yanks Resume March To Rhine

American troops continue to advance into Germany towards the armistice line. After their first nights sleep in Germany, the American troops of the Army of Occupation were ready at dawn to resume their march towards the Rhine. Advancing towards Coblenz the American forces are moving ahead astride the Moselle River, traveling in a northeasterly direction.

Once across the Rhine, the American Army will take up a line a little over 60 miles in length. It will describe an arc of a circle, having Coblenz as a center with a radius eighteen miles in length. This circle pivoting upon Coblenz is the bridgehead that the Germans conceded in the armistice. The front will extend a few miles beyond either end of the semicircle described above, overlapping at places the lines of the British on the left and the French on the right.

The Americans expect to travel from seven to nine miles each marching day, with a day or two of rest at intervals. The commanders will decide upon the rest days as the advance continues. Much will depend on how the men and animals withstand the trip and the way the supply services keep up with the troops.

Three or four days will be required, it is estimated, for the four first-line divisions to complete their crossing into German territory. American divisions marched in full war gear: steel helmets, gas masks, rifles and belts filled with cartridges. The heavy artillery also rumbled along the German roads, while ammunition wagons kept step with the troops. The main roads encountered during the first days marched into Germany were in good condition.

There were no flags or other decorations in any of the German towns through which the Americans marched, and no music except that furnished by the Americans. Wherever the Americans asked questions regarding roads they received courteous replies. In the restaurants and stores, Germans sold to the American soldiers any goods on hand at war-time prices.

#### Plot To Restore Kaiser Revealed

A plot to restore Emperor William has been discovered in Berlin. The chief men behind the plot are Field Marshal von Mackensen, Gen. Von Born, and Gen. Count Arnim. It is said that they instructed the Prussian Officers' Corps to carry on pro-Emperor agitation; beginning immediately after the demobilization of the troops was completed. Munitions makers have placed large sums of money at the disposal of the leaders.

The plot collapsed when a Secret Service agent overheard a telephone conversation. Many arrests have been made in Berlin and other cities. No direct evidence of Kaiser Williams' connection with the plot has been found, but it is believed that the out-

line of the plan was brought to Berlin by two of his aides, who recently went to the German capital for the purposes of taking the wife of the former Emperor to Holland.

Field Marshal von Mackensen is reported to have attempted to induce Field Marshal von Hindenburg to join, but the latter refused, saying that he intended to retire after the demobilization of the Army. The whole Prussian court, it is reported, was in sympathy with the plotters, and it is said that the former Imperial Chancellor had promised to help.

The plan was to organize a provisional government under Field Marshal von Mackensen and then urge the Kaiser to return. Field Marshal von Hindenburg, who placed the Army at its disposal, and refused to resign until a new government was elected, supports the current German government.

### December 12

#### England Demands Trial Of Kaiser

Premier Lloyd George called for the trial and punishment of the men responsible for the war, however high their place. He pledged the entire influence of the British government at the peace conference to see that justice was done.

In his statement, the premier said: "the Kaiser must be prosecuted. The war was a crime. Who doubts that? It was a frightful, terrible crime! It was a crime in the way in which it was planned and in the deliberate wantonness with which it was provoked. It was a crime in the invasion of a helpless little state, and in the wicked and most brutal treatment of that little state."

"Surely the war was a crime. The fact that all these horrible things were done in the name of war, under the imperial edict of an autocrat, does not change their nature. The war was a hideous, abominable crime - a crime which sent millions of the best young men of Europe to death and mutilation and has plunged myriads of homes into desolation."

"Is no one to be responsible? Is no one to be called to account? Is there to be no punishment? Surely that is neither God's justice nor man's. The men responsible for this outrage on the human race must not be let off because their heads were crowned when they perpetrated the deed."

All the European allies have accepted the principle that the Central Powers must pay the cost of the war up to the limits of their capacity. The Allies propose to appoint a committee of experts to examine the best methods of exacting the indemnity.

#### France And England Discuss Division Of Asia Minor

Reports from American sources indicate that there has been a recent exchange of notes between France and England concerning the partition of Asia Minor, both powers claiming Damascus and Aleppo.

According to the text published in Russia of a secret agreement made in the spring of 1914 between Russia, France, and England for the partition of Asia Minor, it accorded to

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## DECEMBER 1918



All Americans were riveted to the news as for the first time in history, a sitting American President visited Europe.

England Mesopotamia and also the Syrian ports of Akka and Haifa, while it accorded to France a deep strip of the coast from Haifa to Adana, and extended inland clear to the Armenian frontier.

The cities of Aleppo and Damascus fell in the French zone. The reason why England is now claiming these towns is unknown. Although rumors are ripe in London that Muslims are backwards people which can easily be controlled by a few soldiers.

#### Italy Readies For War With Yugoslavia

Friction between Italy and the newly organized Yugoslav state have reached such an acute stage within the last few days that it is causing concern among Allied officials. So long as the differences merely related to territorial adjustments the dispute was limited to propaganda output and awaited adjustment at the peace conferences.

But the Yugoslav state is now protesting alleged oppressive measures of the Italian army of occupation in the territory along the eastern coast, and charged that the Italians are pushing their military control beyond the bounds set forth in the armistice.

Feelings are run high, and the fear is expressed that war will occur before the peace conferences reach the discussion of the disposal of territory along the East Adriatic coast, the question about which the differences revolve.

The presence of small detachments of American troops and American warships in the Adriatic is said to have a stabilizing effect upon the situation as all sides have declared respect for the American flag.

It is reported that Italian troops have torn down Serbian, Croatian, Slovenian flags and replaced them with the Italian flags. Italian troops are also charged with seizing food for their own use and various other oppressive measures.

### December 19

#### Wilson Warmly Received In Europe

President Wilson reached the harbor of Brest on Friday afternoon on board the steamer George Washington. This is the first time an American President has stepped foot on European soil.

The arrival of the President in the harbor was the culmination of

an imposing naval spectacle, which began as the Presidential fleet rounded the outer capes. It then moved majestically into the harbor, where the George Washington anchored at the head of a long double column of American battleships and destroyers.

This Presidential fleet was sighted at 11:30 in the morning, fifteen miles offshore. The sea was calm and the stately fleet moved landward under skies that steadily brightened after a dark and gloomy morning.

At the lead of the convoy was a single destroyer, showing the way to the fleet, close behind loomed the huge bulk of the battleships Pennsylvania and Wyoming, flying respectively the flags of the Commander of the Atlantic Fleet and the Commander of the American Naval Forces in European waters.

Behind them moved the George Washington bearing the President, flanked on either side by the battleships Arkansas, Florida, Utah, Nevada, Oklahoma, New York, Texas, and Arizona.

The entrance to the harbor is a narrow strait, a mile wide, with forts crowning the towering cliffs on each side. Through this avenue the imposing pageant moved, each of the ten forts contributing a cannonade which the American battleships returned gun for gun.

As the fleet neared the inner Harbor the local batteries and the assembled war craft took up the thunderous salute, while the piers, hills and the terraces of the old city rang with

cheers from enthusiastic multitudes. At the same time all the war craft, merchantmen, and transports dressed ship and manned yards. The strains of the American anthem floated over the waters, mingling with a roar of the guns and the shouts of the vast crowds.

The George Washington came to anchor a mile offshore, while the battleships arranged themselves in double columns on either side. President Wilson witnessed the spectacle from the deck of his ship, waving greetings and acknowledging the old world's first tribute to an American President.

There was another thundering cannonade as the President's launch left the George Washington and President Wilson came ashore, with Mrs. Wilson, who carried an American flag and a bouquet. He was escorted to the Tribune amid cheers and salvos and the notes of the Star-Spanned Banner.

#### Navy Ships To Return To Home Ports

Every capital ship of the American Navy now in European waters, including the battleship squadrons, which have been operating with the British Main Fleet during the war, will return to home waters this month. They are expected to reach New York about December 23rd where a naval review will take place to celebrate the homecoming.

Instructions have been cabled to the Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, now at Brest, to bring back every vessel that can be spared.

The battleship division acted as the Sixth Battle Squadron in the British Grand Fleet. It won high praise from the British Admiralty for its efficiency and shared with the grand fleet the acceptance of the surrender of the German High Sea's Fleet.

Another battleship division under Adm. Rogers was stationed on the west coast of the British Isles to act as convoys against any surface craft. On more than one occasion this division was called upon to cover the approach of important troop convoys, supplementing the destroyer force protecting against submarine attack.

Both divisions were mobilized on the French coast to meet the George Washington with President Wilson

on board. The George Washington, which brought President Wilson to Europe, will join the battleships on their return voyage, taking 4,000 soldiers home.

It is assumed that much of the Atlantic Fleet, which has remained on this side, will be mobilized at New York to meet the ships that have shared in the crushing of German sea power.

Meanwhile, the demobilization of the Army is now proceeding at a rate of 15,000 men every day. It is anticipated, that this rate will increase within the next few weeks to 30,000 a day until all men no longer deemed necessary, will be returned to civilian status. The War Department has now discharged over 824,000 men.

#### President To Visit Troops

President Wilson is going to visit the American troops on December 24. General Pershing has arranged for the trip. Undoubtedly it will be the occasion for an important speech that will emphasize and delineate in the public mind the achievement of American forces.

While this is appreciated by the great mass of the French and British people, certain interest, which wants to make a different kind of peace from that which America understood when she announced her battle cry of making the world safe for democracy, has been trying to depreciate what has been done by the United States in the war.

President Wilson will travel Christmas Eve to the American General headquarters. From headquarters he will proceed to the American front, where he will have dinner with the American troops - not with General Pershing or other officers. Following Christmas Eve dinner, he will stay and visit with American troops. The President will be back in Paris in the early days in January, for the opening of the peace Congress.

### December 26

#### Wilson Calls For League Of Nations

President Wilson has called for the formation of the League of Nations

with the goal of preventing future wars. The formation of the League will be in three stages.

First, the Allied governments will decide the principles of such an organization, which will include compulsory arbitration and limitations of armaments. As a fundamental rule the League will call for the right of peoples to decide their own destinies. As a practical consequence it follows that there will be limitation of armaments and compulsory arbitration among the nations.

The second act will consist of notifying the enemy powers of the fundamental principles laid down and require them to adhere to these principles. As to other conditions of peace, as in the case of stipulations of a territorial, financial and economic character, no discussion will be admitted.

Once the plenary areas are signed, details of the peace treaty will be discussed among the belligerence and only after the signing of this treaty will the third stage be reached. This will be a universal conference to settle the new relationships to be created between the peoples.

#### World Celebrates War Free Christmas

People around the world celebrated a historic Christmas like that of nearly 2,000 years ago, which marked peace on earth and good will towards men.

Once more the wise men of great nations are assembled to honor, not the person, but the principles of the Nazarene, whose spirits reign above Kings, Kaisers, and Czars and topple them from their thrones.

Families paid tribute to the homecoming of young men who fought that militarism might be crushed and freedom be reestablished among peace loving people. Many paid tribute to the latter-day martyrs who died so that those ideals may live.

Midnight masses in the Catholic churches, and every early morning services in the Protestant churches were heavily attended. Sermons struck the keynote of peace and expressed the hope that out of the peace conference might come a lasting peace to make this Christmas an epic one.



Likewise, all of Europe was riveted on the arrival of President Wilson - who carried with him plans for a 'League of Nations' he hoped would prevent future World Wars.



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## HISTORY

## Zurgable Brothers

Michael Hillman

*Editor's Note: With the closing of Zurgable Brothers hardware store this month, I thought it fitting to run one of my first stories ever written for the Old Emmitsburg Dispatch back in 1996. I've long ago equated Zurgable Brothers with Emmitsburg — and had Zurgable Brothers not existed, I'm not sure how many years would have passed before I first stepped foot in the town. With its closing, Emmitsburg loses not only an icon, but also a huge chunk of its history. I, for one, will miss it.*

Over the ensuing years, my career took me far from my roots, and just to save a buck, I found myself falling into the trap of shopping at 'big named' hardware monoliths. You know, the ones where the store per-

sonnel give you a nasty look if you ask for help, and God forbid you ask for advice or request a special order. Thoroughly callused by years of bad service, I had forgotten just how enjoyable a visit to a hardware store could be, until I walked into Zurgable Brothers for the first time.

I believe it was Mark Zurgable who greeted me back in 1989 with a "Hi, haven't seen you before. You new around here?" Upon hearing what farm we had bought, Mark started to rattle off the history of the farm, focusing of course on the hardware the store had supplied. Being devoid of any tools and supplies, as well as common farm sense, I quickly became a frequent weekend visitor to Zurgable's. After the first few times, I was no longer embarrassed to grab one of the store's staff and solicit advice on

the best approach to a project I was about to undertake or how to resolve a predicament I was in (like peeling fence paint!).

Zurgable Brothers was founded in 1946 by three brothers: Henry, Maurice, and Roger. Born to Thomas and Virginia Ling Zurgable, the brothers and their two sisters, Margaret Zurgable Shard and Sister Amila Zurgable, were early pillars of the Emmitsburg community.

During World War II, Henry served on the home front, Maurice was a front line airplane mechanic in the Pacific theater, and Roger, upon graduating from Mount Saint Mary's, was commissioned and served also in the Pacific, aboard the destroyer USS Stack.

Following the war, the brothers decided to go into business together. While today the name Zurgable Brothers is synonymous with hardware, to most Emmitsburg residents, this was not the case fifty years ago when the three brothers set up operation. Back then, Zurgable's was known for its furniture, toys, farm machinery, gas, feed, and seed. Hardware didn't enter the scene until 1953 and then it was just a side business.

Henry, the oldest brother, ran the 'Zurgable Brothers Home Furnishings' at the brothers' 'in town' shop. Mark Zurgable, the current flag bearer of the family trust, has lots of fond memories of his tutelage at his Uncle Henry's shop, "especially during Christmas time." Mark remembers spending months assembling toys for Christmas, "everything from doll houses to model airplanes, and when we were ready, the store would be filled from floor to ceiling with toys of every shape and size."

Unlike today's furniture shops, if the store didn't have what you wanted, the brothers could arrange to have it made. Even with a long tradition of

supplying superior quality furniture, the brothers found it increasingly difficult to compete with the large furniture specialty shops and, in 1968, closed its doors for the last time.

While the brothers were general parents in both stores, Maurice and Roger were responsible for running the 'out of town' store, which housed the farm machinery, gas, feed and seed business. The brothers were the local distributors for 'Oliver' farm equipment well into the 50's and sold Shell, and later Texaco, gas at pumps in front of the store until 1982. Customers entering the store in the early 50's would be greeted with sights of all sorts of farm equipment, stacks of feed and seed, bags of cement, and by 'Tiger,' the store's feline mascot.

"Back in those days, you had to have a cat to keep the mice away from the feed." According to Mark, "Tiger took it on as his personal responsibility to greet each and every customer, and God help you if you happened to sit down on the 'Liars' Bench'...an extensive scratch was then expected." Up until the late eighty's, Zurgable's cats greeted their customers and, according to tradition, or according to Paul, lack of originality, all were called 'Tiger.'

In addition to selling farm equipment, Maurice and Roger also sold ice cream, soda, farm clothes, and candy. The original store didn't even have a cash register: "Roger used to make change from his pocket."

Like most general stores of its time, Zurgable Brothers provided a bench for regulars to sit and converse. Soon, because of the nature of the conversations, it took on the name of the 'Liars Bench.' Unfortunately for you readers, when Mark began to tell some of the stories about the members of the Liars Bench, he stopped himself short with "well...you better not print that, his sister is still alive and she'll get pretty upset," or "nope, can't write that either, his son is a pretty good customer, and I don't want to get his dander up," or "Na, he's family, and my Aunt Margaret will give me what for if she reads that."

Pat Knowels and Paul Kretz, however, were not as circumspect about their memories of the Liars Bench. According to both, the vote for



Roger Zurgable

most colorful customer was Bernard Shields. Being well advanced in years, Bernie moved rather slowly. "He lived across the street from the store, and you could see him leave his house; half an hour later he would still be on his way. Every time he came in, he would clear a spot on the shelves in front of the cash register, light his pipe, and start telling stories. One day, he got so engrossed in a story that he forgot that he had lit a match, until it started to burn his thumb, and because he was so slow, he was unable to flick it out. Apparently the staff went home early that day to change wet pants. When not burning his thumb, Bernie used to listen to the advice the store staff would provide customers. "More often than not," Paul said, "when we were done, Mr. Shields would blurt out that we were full of 'hog wash,' and then go into a diatribe over how they did it back in the days...before they invented nails!"

In the late 70's, Roger bought out his brothers, and became the sole proprietor of the hardware store. In 1977 Henry passed away, and in 1979, Mark and Jeff, who worked for their uncles ever since they can remember, succeeded their uncles and became the new Zurgable Brothers. Mark and Jeff's father, Roger, passed away shortly after relinquishing the helm to his sons.

Jeff and Mark both graduated from Mother Seaton School and St. Joseph's High School. Jeff, like his father, also attended Mount Saint Mary's. Mark, unlike Jeff, opted for the world of adventure and joined the 'hippies.' According to Paul and Pat, in his younger days, Mark had

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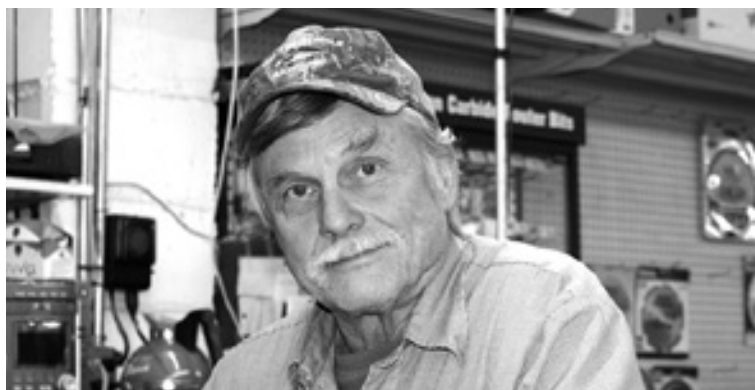
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# HISTORY



The closing of Zurgable Brothers on December 31 will mark an end of an era. For the first time in 72 years, a storefront in Emmitsburg will not bear that family name.

the longest hair in Emmitsburg. Since that time, Mark has been trying to cover his tracks by joining the Lions' Club and the Sons of the American Legion. Occasionally, however, Mark has relapses. According to Paul and Pat, when the store is empty (which is rare), Mark plays the air guitar to Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven."

Up until 1981, Zurgable Brothers was an independent hardware store. In 1981, in order to bring the "finest quality at the best prices to Emmitsburg," Mark and Jeff joined their store to the Trustworthy hardware store chain. In 1990, Jeff headed off to 'God's country,' which I always thought meant Emmitsburg, but Jeff, in a delusional state, felt was West Virginia. However, before heading off, Jeff helped Mark commission a study by the Mount Saint Mary's psychology staff to determine the optimum height at which to display candy to attract the attention of children between the ages of 3 and 6. The results of that study have been quite profitable to Mark and the school, and if you listen closely

as Mark rings candy sales, you'll here him say "that's 40 cents for me, 5 for the governor, and 5 for the Mount."

While I've always dreamed of working in a hardware store, that can't be said about Paul, Pat, or Tony, who all admitted that they started to work at Zurgable's because "they needed a job, and no one else would hire them." But over the years, all admitted that they would not trade the memories for anything. Other community members who took their turn helping customers include Stevie Kelly, Richard Worther, Chuck Copenhaver, and Steve Orndorff.

According to Paul, what he likes most about working at the store is helping people. "When guys come in with a list of what their wives need, I tell them what their wives want. When wives come in with lists of what their husbands want, I tell them what they really need." For Paul, the most enjoyable customers are those who haven't a clue about how to hold a hammer, but who have the desire to learn.

Today, I'm probably as close to a

'regular' customer as it comes, and a natural candidate for the Liars' Bench. What I find most appealing about shopping there is my ability to walk out of the store with lots of things and never have to take my wallet out.

A holdover from days gone by, Mark allows his customers to purchase items on store credit. If not in a rush, I'll wait and jawbone while my purchases are written up. When in a hurry, I'll simply wave the product to Paul or Mark, who'll give me a nod, and I'm off. No waiting in lines, no hassle, no bill! When I'm really in a crunch for time, I can send a Mount Saint Mary's rent-a-student, and because the Zurgable staff knows my purchasing history, can rest assured they'll get him what I need, no matter how poor my directions to him may be.

At our house, the phrase 'Home Depot quality' is meant as an insult. The physical quality of our farm is a testimony to the correctness of advice I've received from Mark's staff over the last few years, and the 'trustworthiness' of the hardware Mark sells. I always knew that Zurgable's would have what I want, and would be open when I want it.

As proclaimed first in the old Emmitsburg Chronicle Sixty-Six years ago, "The success of the Zurgable Brothers proves that conscientious service pays dividends and that there are no barriers to success when good fellowship and the Golden Rule is applied."

This statement is just as accurate today as it was when it was first printed.

## Cemetery silent this Christmas

From the *Catoctin Clarion*, Dec 22, 1918

Some thirty-three years ago in the little mountain hamlet of St. Mary's near Emmitsburg, Prof. Harry Casper Dielman, professor of Music at Mt. St. Marys and musician of consider merit died. The body was interred in the mountain cemetery near St. Mary's. Among the survivors of the professor was a son, Larry Dielman, who has, since the death of his father, gained fame throughout the East.

It was on the first Christmas Eve after the death of his father that Larry, alone and lonesome in his mountain home, had a burning desire to pay tribute to his father. He too was a musician, and at dawn the next morning he went up to the cemetery and played his father's favorite hymn, "Adeste Fideles".

A year passed and Christmas drew nearer and nearer again. The same thought occurred to him on the second Christmas eve and again he went to the grave of his father, and as the church bells rang, the dawn of another Christmas, Larry played 'Adeste Fideles'."

Some thirty-two or three years have passed and gone since Larry Dielman first sat by the grave of his sire on the mountain cemetery and played that favorite anthem.

With two exceptions Larry has followed out this custom yearly. It matters little to him whether the ground was covered with snow feet deep or whether the thermome-

ter registered below the zero point, when Christmas eve came he could see flute in hand, making his way to the mountain cemetery.

A little over two years ago, Larry was stricken with paralysis and for the first time in thirty some years he was unable to sit by his father's grave and play softly, but sweetly, that hymn which his father loved so well. Larry felt very much down-hearted that year because he was unable to carry out his old custom.

When the festive season drew near last year it found Larry was still unable to pay reverence to his father. He grew restless. He couldn't feel satisfied. Larry had a friend - Roy Sharrer, of Motter's Station. Larry asked his friend to carry out the custom for him. Sharrer consented and last year the ceremonies were performed by proxy.

This year Larry is at the home of his niece, Mrs. Frank Roddy, near Thurmont, and is an invalid. The stroke which he suffered some two years ago has affected his entire left side.

Larry hates to see this Christmas morning dawn. "I feel very bad over the fact that I won't be able to go to the grave of my father this year," said Larry.

*Editor's Note: The Emmitsburg News-Journal is working with a local Mount Student to restart the 100 year old tradition of playing "Adeste Fideles" on Christmas eve at the graveside Prof. Harry Casper Dielman. Details on the resumption on this tradition will be posted on www.emmitsburg.net*

*Life can change directions*

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# MOM'S TIME OUT

## Traditions

Mary Angel

I absolutely love this time of year, actually, most of it. I can't stand to be cold and obviously I am always cold this holiday season. The rest of it I love; all of the family time, decorations, carols, friends, and food. Every year I talk about traditions and how much I love traditions. I have explained some of our traditions and how they came about. I have neglected to mention that if you only focus on current traditions you may miss the start of new ones.

A few years ago my aunt gave me a family ornament with 5 Christmas frogs on it. She had each of the frogs labeled with one of our names (there were only five of us at the time, as I believe my youngest was only a dream at the time). Since then someone has always given me one of the personalized ornaments, each year with the appropriate number of characters. Had she not given me that ornament I would have the joy of seeing them all on the tree every year and the excitement of unwrapping the new one on Christmas morning. I absolutely adore this tradition. Sometimes traditions can be started by someone outside the house. Sometimes they are started by a need outside the house.

My Christmas craft day started when some friends were commiserating that they couldn't find time to Christmas shop without the kids. Suddenly I found myself planning a kid's craft day at my house about 3 to 4 weeks before Christmas. We would have craft stations where the kids could make a different gift for their friends and family at each station. There were anywhere from 8 – 12 kids each year and up to 15 craft stations. In addition to the crafts, we would have a Christmas movie playing in case someone wanted a break and some sort of Christmas snacks. As the years went on I also learned to have boxes labelled with each child's name so the gifts didn't get mixed up while they were drying. Through the years the kids have changed but the sentiment and joy has remained the same. This tradition in particular holds very fond memories for me, since this was something I did with my mother-in-law before she passed away.

Another tradition that holds a special place in my heart is our "Girl's Weekend". This all started because my parents lived in Delaware and my mother-in-law and I decided to scoop up my preschool boys and go visit her for some Black Friday shopping (all weekend long). It didn't become a girl's weekend until my girls came along and the boys were old enough to boy-

assorted teas and you would be off to a great start. I am looking forward to our elf on the shelf, wrapping the night before Christmas (all of the last minute gifts), making a bunch of Christmas casseroles (this use to be my mother-in-law's tradition that I have inherited) and hopefully living up to hers, a bloody mary for present opening, making Christmas calendars for everyone, having my parents watch the kids open gifts and opening gifts with my parents, and giving my brother a witty t-shirt to add to his collection. In addition to all of this, I am most definitely excited for my kids to all be home for break. I not only enjoy their company, I am hoping for a new family game for Christmas (wink, wink) and that means family game night which is a family favorite in the area of traditions!

This year I am starting a new tradition for myself. I am going with a bunch of friends to the ladies tea at my church (ironically something my mother-in-law enjoyed for years). Being an introvert this is a little out of my comfort zone, but I don't want to miss out on an amazing opportunity because I can't step out of my box. This, I am hoping will be the start of a new tradition that will last for years and maybe even grow. I love the idea of a group of friends filling a whole table at the tea. I know there are a lot of churches that do a ladies tea around Christmas. I would imagine this would be an easy tradition to start, with family, friends, or coworkers. If you can't find one then (Uniontown Bible Church is where I go) maybe you could host your own. Let's face facts, a few cookies and some hot water and boxes of

family, friends, and fun filled Merry Christmas!!!

Christmas season and I hope that some new traditions sneak up and surprise you for many years to come! God bless and

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

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# Christmas favorites

The month of December seems to just fly by. As I write this article, it is a day before Thanksgiving. I know, with certainty, that I'm going to blink my eyes and it will be Christmas Eve!

For me, the month of December is very busy at work and at home. I imagine it is for you as well. Here at our market, we have a very talented woman working on making wreaths to adorn our customers' doors for the holidays. She is decorating them with red balls, with dried flowers (and yes – some beautiful weeds found in our woods), with lovely balls and with dried fruits – grown on our farm and dried in our bakery.

But what is the significance of a wreath? The wreath has significant meaning. Its circular shape represents eternity. It has no beginning and no end. From a Christian religious perspective, it represents an unending circle of life. The evergreen, most frequently used in making wreaths, symbolizes growth and everlasting life. Some liken the circular wreath to the crown of thorns worn by Christ when he was crucified. Likely you don't think a lot about those things when you choose a wreath for your door, but you do have specific things in mind when you shop!

I also feel that a wreath is teeming with tradition. In our family, it's just something you do. We hang a wreath on our doors as a harbinger of the season and a sign of welcome. The holiday season is just brimming with tradition – it's what we do to welcome and enjoy the holiday – and is part of our desire to remember things past – and pass on to the next generation things that are near and dear!

I'm always asked to share recipes in this column, so I decided this is month to share some of my tried and true Christmas favorites – traditional recipes that are near and dear to me. I'll warn you in advance – our Christmas dinner is not conventional! My mom began the tradition of serving Pig Stomach – or Hog Maw if you prefer – and the tradition continues in spite of the fact that Mom is now gone. My children and grandchildren request it every year. And before you just throw up your hands and say "I am not eating a pig stomach" – that's OK! About 50% of my family will not touch the stomach, but my oh my – the insides? Are delicious. Here's my mom's recipe – for one stomach. (My husband and I currently stuff 4 for our family.)

### Mom's Pig Stomach

1 Hog Maw (ask at the Butcher Counter if you can't find one)  
 Diced Potatoes, Raw  
 1 Lb. Ground Sausage  
 About 1 Quart Filling or Stuffing (I make mine from scratch – recipe to follow)  
 Soak the stomach in cold water overnight. If there are holes in the stomach, you will need to sew them shut. Then I begin layering in the ingredients – a heaping handful of

each ingredient – until the stomach is VERY full. You will need to sew shut the end. If you don't have these – look for "turkey lacers" or "turkey pins". I place these pins around the opening and then using doubled thread – "lace" the end closed. I do not add salt or pepper to anything, as typically the stomach has already been soaking in a brine to kill bacteria and is salty. Also the sausage is usually rather salty. Place stomach in a roast pan, covered and bake for about 2 hours – OR until a fork poked through the skin finds soft potatoes! You can uncover for an additional 30 minutes so that the stomach get a golden hue. Slice and enjoy!

**Bread Filling/Stuffing:** Cube old bread – stale truly is best for filling! Melt one stick of butter and saute celery and onions until soft. Pour butter mixture over bread cubes. If TOO wet, add more bread crumbs. If TOO dry, add more butter.

### Fried Apples

This recipe is a perfect compliment to the pig stomach and can be varied depending upon how many people you are serving. This recipe accompanies the one stomach – to feed 3 to 5 people.

8 Apples (I prefer Goldrush or Nittany but any tart apple will work)

- ½ Cup Brown Sugar
- 4 T. Butter, Melted
- Cinnamon to taste

Melt the butter and add the brown sugar and cinnamon. Toss

in sliced, peeled apples and saute until soft.

### Jewish Brown Bread

This "bread" is truly more of a dessert, but is a "must have" with our Christmas dinner.

- ¾ C. Raisins
- 1 ½ cup Water
- 1 ½ Tsp. Baking Soda
- 3 C. Flour
- 2 C. Sugar
- 1 ½ Tsp. Baking Powder
- 1 Tsp. Salt
- 3 Eggs, Beaten
- 1 C. Vegetable Oil
- 1 Tsp. Vanilla
- 1 C. Chopped Walnuts or Pecans

Put the raisins, water and baking soda in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Let cool and drain off the liquid. Set raisins aside and toss the liquid. Mix the rest of the ingredients in a bowl by hand. The mixture is super thick. Add raisins and spoon into two small, greased and floured loaf pans (roughly 3" x 5" pans). Bake at 325 for one hour or until a toothpick in the center comes out clean. Depending upon the weather, sometimes I have to bake for up to an hour and a quarter. Mixture is very dense so be sure center is baked through. If top becomes too brown, cover with foil during the last portion of the baking. This bread freezes very well so I often make weeks in advance and freeze until I need it!



Fried apples make a delicious side dish, condiment, or dessert.

### Candy Cane Cookies

Soft buttery cookies coated in crushed candy canes & drizzled in white chocolate. Candy Cane Cookies are the perfect complement to hot chocolate, by a warm fire. Also, a colorful addition to Santa's plate!

#### Ingredients:

- 1½ cups sugar
- ½ cup butter softened
- ½ cup shortening
- 2 eggs
- 2¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt

#### Topping

- ¼ cup crushed candy cane crumbs
- 1/4 cup melted white chocolate

#### Instructions:

Heat oven to 400°F. Line baking trays with parchment paper, set aside.

Place crushed candy canes in a small bowl & set aside.

Cream together 1½ cups sugar, the butter, shortening and eggs in large bowl.

Mix together dry ingredients. Stir into wet ingredients.

Shape dough into 1¼-inch balls. Dip 1/2 of each ball in the crushed candy canes.

Place 2 inches apart on baking sheets.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Cool 2-3 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack.

Drizzle each cooled cookie with the melted white chocolate & then sprinkle with additional candy cane crumbs



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# LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

## Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

Monday - Story Tour starts at 4:30 p.m., immediately followed by Legos and Wee Build Imagineering until 5:30 p.m.,

Wednesday - Coffee club in the community room from 4 -5:30 p.m., mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, etc. Food donations appreciated.

Wednesday - V.I.T.T. (very important teens and tweens) night. Just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturday - Join us at 11 a.m. for Story and Craft Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

### Upcoming Special Events

Monday Movie Madness - Dec. 3rd, at 6 p.m. features the family pleasing movie "Rise of the Guardians,, rated PG.

Scherenschnitte class with Bill Hammann - Dec. 4th from 6 - 7 p.m. All ages are welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. If you have participated before, please bring your knife and board.

Monday Movie Madness - Dec 10 is an "oldie but a goody" classic holiday film, "Holiday Affair", starring Robert

Mitchum and Janet Leigh. "A young widow is romanced by a sales clerk whom she inadvertently got fired." The movie starts at 6 p.m.

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library for our annual Holiday Open House - Dec 15, from 4 - 7 p.m.. Caroling, crafts, cookies, Santa, horse and carriage rides, movies, fire truck rides, a beautiful quilt to raffle, and a tree lighting ceremony there is a little something for everyone!

Monday Movie Madness - Dec 17 at 6 p.m. will feature a modern classic for an Adults Only movie night on Dec 17th. "Love, Actually", rated R. Follows the lives of eight very different couples in dealing with their love lives in various loosely interrelated tales all set during a frantic month before Christmas in London, England."

Zero, our wonder therapy dog, will be at the library filling us with holiday cheer and goodwill from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Dec 18th for the ever popular "dog-house sessions". He loves a good book and great company so stop on by!

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club is also meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 18th. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start!

Celebrate the Winter Solstice on Dec. 20th with the Blue Ridge Festival of

lights. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with stories and crafts about this first day of winter and the shortest day of the year! The party will continue with the Dining Car Food Club at 6 p.m. so please bring a holiday dish to share that is special to you and your family.

V.I.T.T. night will be postponed on Dec 26th in order for us to have a special movie showing at the library of "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" rated PG-13. The movie will start at 6 p.m.. "Three years after the destruction of the Jurassic World theme park, Owen Grady and Claire Dearing return to the island of Isla Nublar to save the remaining dinosaurs from a volcano that's about to erupt. They soon encounter terrifying new breeds of gigantic dinosaurs, while uncovering a conspiracy."

The Train of Thought Book Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Dec 27th. This month's topic is "The Many Faces of Santa". We will have book suggestions here on our book club shelf or you can read or listen to your own on topic selection.

## Frederick County Public Libraries

### Emmitsburg Programs

Hello Holidays: Mount St. Mary's Flute Concert, Saturday, Dec. 1, 1 - 2 p.m., enjoy the sounds of the season presented by the flute ensemble of Mount St. Mary's University!

## Congratulations to Zero the library therapy dog!



It's official! Zero is no longer a therapy dog in training, he is now the real deal!!! He passed his final certification! Join the patrons of the Blue Ridge Free Library on Dec. 18th as we gather to congratulate Zero on his accomplishment!

Hello Holidays: Gift-Wrapping Drop-In, Saturday, Dec. 1, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Hour of Code: STEM Exploration, Monday, Dec. 3, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., STEM activities led by Mount St. Mary's University Women in STEM.

Afternoon Learning Group - Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2 - 3 p.m., hands-on learning! 12/4: Marble Runs, 12/18: Science of Sound, 1/15: Color Mixing, 2/5: Hurricane Construction, 2/19: Woven-Walled Skyscrapers Family Tunes and Tales:

Hello Holidays: Tea Cup Arrangements - Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 - 11 a.m.

Small Steps to Health and Wealth - Wednesday, Dec. 12, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Stitch and Chat (Adults), Thursdays, Dec. 13 & 27, 2 - 4 p.m., bring a project to stitch and enjoy the conversation with other stitchers.

Hello Holidays: Gift-Wrapping Drop-In - Saturday, Dec. 15, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Afternoon Learning Group - Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2 - 3 p.m., hands-on learning! 12/4: Marble Runs, 12/18: Science of Sound, 1/15: Color Mixing, 2/5: Hurricane Construction, 2/19: Woven-Walled Skyscrapers

R.E.A.D.® with Wags for Hope - Thursday, Dec. 20, 5 - 6 p.m., children read to Reading Assistance dogs.

Hello Holidays: Snowflake Ornaments - Saturday, Dec. 22, 11-12 p.m.

Hello Holidays: Hot Cocoa & Crafts (Grades 6-12), Saturday, Dec. 22, 1 - 3 p.m., Enjoy hot cocoa while making holiday crafts and watching a holiday movie.

### Thurmont Programs

Hello Holidays: Annual Holly Jolly Event - Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., a fun annual holiday event! Frederick Handbell Choir at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus read 'The Night Before Christmas' at 1 p.m.

Genealogy: New Year's Revelations - Monday, Dec. 3, 7 - 8:30 p.m., learn about the ins and outs of genealogy research with expert Mary Mannix.

Math Skills for Preschoolers - Tuesdays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18, 2 - 2:30 p.m.

Harry Potter Party - Wednesday, Dec. 5, 6 - 7:30 p.m., celebrate the new movie and your love of things from the Wizarding World.

Hour of Code: STEM Exploration - Friday, Dec. 7, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., STEM activities led by Mount St. Mary's University Women in STEM.

Sunday Funday - Sunday, Dec. 9, 2 - 4 p.m., a variety of activities, crafts, and more.

Hello Holidays: Gingerbread House Workshop - Thursday, Dec. 13, 6-7 p.m.

STEM Night: Drop-In STEM Lab - Thursday, Dec. 13, 6 - 8 p.m., Explore STEM concepts through a variety of educational toys and games.

Crafternoon - Friday, Dec. 14, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Enjoy an afternoon of crafting. All supplies provided.

Chess Club - Saturday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., stop in to learn, play, or sharpen your skills. All ages and skill levels welcome.

DIY Painting on Tiles with a Pro - Sunday, Dec. 16, 1 - 2:30 p.m., design a painted tile to use as a wall hanging, trivet, or other decoration. Presented by Seven Dragons Studio, Thurmont.

STEM Night: Space - Thursday, Dec. 20, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., enjoy an evening learning the science of outer space, and learn to use a telescope!

Dramatic Play Group - Saturday, Dec. 22, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., let your child's imagination run wild as they explore the world around them through stories and pretend play!

R.E.A.D. with Wags for Hope - Saturday, Dec. 22, 11 a.m. -12 p.m., Children read to Reading Education Assistance Dogs.

Hello Holidays: Craft Fun! - Dec. 26, 27 & 31, 10:15 a.m. - 2 p.m., drop in for an easy and colorful craft.

Books for Breakfast - Saturday, Dec. 29, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., enjoy new book recommendations over donuts.

Hello Holidays: Craft Fun! - Monday, Dec. 31, 10:15 am - 2 p.m., drop in for an easy and colorful craft.

Hello Holidays: New Year's at Noon - Monday, Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



## Annual Holly Jolly Celebration Saturday, December 1

### Thurmont Regional Library

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Gifts given and received

**Ken Kerr**  
**Frederick County School Board**

After two years of writing this quarterly column, this will be

my last. As you may have heard, I was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates to represent District 3B in Southern Frederick County. My soon-to-be-vacant

seat on the Board of Education will necessitate an appointment by County Executive Jan Gardner with approval by a majority of the County Council. While I have no influence or participation in this process, I do have an opinion.

Some have argued that the “simple” and “most obvious” thing to do is to give the seat to the next highest vote getter in the recent election. To me, that is neither simple nor obvious. The election is over. Four candidates were elected to four open seats—two incumbents will return to their seats (one will not) and two newcomers will join the seven-member Board on December 4<sup>th</sup>. When these four are sworn in, I will still be serving my term as a member of the Board. Once sworn and seated, their term begins, and the November 2018 election is history and has no more relevance in filling a future vacancy than any other past election. If the situation were different and I were to resign twelve months from now, I doubt anyone would look back to a year-old election for an automatic and obvious choice.

A second consideration is respecting the will of the voters in the 2016 election. Two years ago, I was the second highest vote getter receiving 61,172 votes. I ran on a platform of competitive pay for teachers and staff, expanding Pre-K, increasing Career and Technical Education, implementing apprenticeships for hard-to-fill teaching and plant positions, closer attention to high schools and cooperation with FCC, with a school system that was environmentally aware, accepting and welcoming of diversity and difference, and a responsible steward of funding provided by county, state, and national taxpayers. That message resonated with over 60,000 Frederick County voters then, and—judging by the results of the most recent election—still does today.

The person selected to complete my term should express an interest in continuing my work and championing my priorities of apprenticeships, school yard gardens, Farm2School food sourcing, recycling, composting of food waste, and environmental sustainability.

Finally, I am a supporter of our superintendent, Dr. Terry Alban, and I sincerely hope my successor will be as well. There are over 16,000 school districts in the USA, and we are about the 150<sup>th</sup> largest. With an annual budget of \$578,515,531, 43,000 students, 67 schools, and 5,800 employees, finding a chief executive capable of handling that complexity

is a needle-in-a-haystack proposition. And we have one, a good one. I hope my replacement will recognize her skills and support her as I do.

Once my successor has been named and confirmed, I will resign my Board of Education seat and assume my new office as State Delegate on January 9<sup>th</sup>. From Annapolis, I will continue my work supporting public education—not just for Frederick County—but for all of Maryland.

### MSS Students Take Top Honors in VFW Essay Contest

Three middle-school students from Mother Seton School received the top awards in the 2018-2019 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6658. Writing on the theme of “What America's Flag Means to Me”, Cassidy Sill (Grade 7) earned first place and advanced to the VFW District Level. Joining her will be second-place winner Helen Hochschild (Grade 8). Emerson Racheff (Grade 7) received third-place honors.



(L-R) Sharon Williams, Vice-President VFW Post 6658 Auxiliary; Annette Wivell, VFW Post 6658 Essay Chairperson; Martin Williams, Commander, VFW Post 6658; Cassidy Sill, 1st-place winner; Helen Hochschild, 2nd-place winner; and Emerson Racheff, 3rd-place winner.

The Patriot's Pen is an annual nationwide essay contest sponsored by the national VFW. Middle School students are invited to submit an essay based on that year's theme to their

local VFW post. Last year, three other Mother Seton School students placed in the top three at the local level.

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*In the spirit of Christmas, we asked our writers to reflect on the best gift they have ever given and the best they have ever received.*

### Freshman Year

In giving that we receive

Harry Scherer  
MSMU Class of 2022

When I was given the prompt for this month's student perspective, I felt both limited and liberated. Limited, in the sense that I must write about the "best" gift that I have ever received and the "best" gift that I have ever given. Liberated, in the sense that we were being called to write about topics that transcend the material. We were liberated from the humdrum bore of holiday gift-giving and were invited to elevate the conversation of the "best" gifts in our lives and to consider the spiritual.

My instantaneous, knee-jerk reaction is that my parents are the best gift that I have ever received. To ensure that this is more than merely an autonomic response, I consider the gift that they have participated with God to give me: my life. Yes, it is certainly an intellectual conviction that my parents fit this role.

My parents have given and continue to give to me everything that they have, and then some, to become

the best man that I can be. Despite the stereotype that many only children live the life of Richy Rich or Veruca Salt from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, my childhood was not one of constant material satisfaction or appeasement. My mom and dad gave, and continue to give, everything that they have of their very beings, their souls. It would be pitifully reductionist of me to suggest that my parents gave me all of themselves through material goods or that the quality of their love is merely the summation of all their actions. It is not the quantity of their loving actions that epitomizes the nature of their love, but the quality of their loving way that makes that love clearer by the day. They have truly subscribed to the precept of St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta: "Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do...but how much love we put in that action."

Through their constant example, my parents have taught me that God is the reason for our lives and that love supersedes all other considerations: a love that is patient and kind, as the apostle wrote.

They have also taught me that our time on this earth is precious and should never be wasted. This has been made evident throughout my life, with both of my parents constantly encouraging me to reach my fullest potential academically and spiritually.

As I reflect on how all parents are teachers, and in fact, our primary educators, I am reminded that the education that I currently receive in the academic center at the Mount is vastly different to the education that I receive at home around the dinner table. The teaching that I received in the kitchen laid the essential groundwork for what I am learning now.

For example, my dad always asks, "could you be wrong?" when I self-assuredly say something with too much certainty. An extension of this prodding question has been confirmed with the study of humility and pride in university. Without his provocative questioning, it would be difficult to understand why one would desire humility over pride and why this humility leads to holiness, which in turn leads to happiness. These facts of living growth are all so simple to reflect on at this point, but it is unlikely that I would have been able to accept these palpable truths without the ardent passion of my parents. The immense wisdom that

my dad has obtained throughout his life, as evidenced by the single example of inquiry, is overwhelmingly obvious to anyone who meets him. Some of the greatest gifts that he has given to me is his voice of reason, constancy and love, and is one of the most level-headed leaders that I have ever known.

The gift that my mom has given to me is the ability to use my voice. While going through thyroid cancer treatments, one of her surgeries went awry and, as she says, "I lost my voice and I thought I might never get it back." Today, she uses her voice to lead groups in our parish, her friends and others to Christ.

As an extension of this parental love, a love that has given everything so that I may receive everything, I continue to consider the transcendent and suggest that the best gift that I have ever given is that of myself to others. I believe this to be true because of the relentless dedication of my parents to instill in me that a life lived for others if a life worth living.

Commitment to living a life for others has been a mission of people around the world since the birth of Christ, and arguably, even before then. The famous Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, proclaimed in homes and churches around the

world and across denominations, reminds us that "it is in giving that we receive." How beautiful and puzzling this radically contradictory and seemingly oxymoronic statement is for our culture.

Along with genuinely believing that the best gift I have ever given, and continue to give, is myself, it is convenient that I have been historically juvenile with physical gift-giving. These material gifts tend to be uncreative and yearning for personality. I hope, but am not certain, that I make up for these dismal gifts with a calm voice which, I hope, everyone can lean on in times of trouble.

These times of trouble come to everyone, and when one lives his or her life for others, they learn to trust in God and others with ever-greater freedom. The practical positive consequences of living life for others, for embracing the words of St. Francis of Assisi, that in giving do we receive, should be incentive enough for everyone during this Christmas season to live a life for Christ and for others. In this light, it is clear that we were not brought into this world by ourselves or for ourselves, but by another and for another.

To read other articles by Harry, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

### Sophomore Year

Family

Angela Guiao  
MSMU Class of 2021

What is the greatest gift I have ever received?

That is a very hard question for me to come up with an answer to. Yes, I'm sure we all have a number of gifts that we prize far more than the others. Whether it be because of who gave it to us, or the reasoning behind why it was given. But, I think the greatest gift I have ever received was not for a birthday or special occasion; it is not a material thing. I think the greatest gift I had ever received was one given to me from God himself: my family.

Family. I know a number of you might be chuckling right now. Some may dread the holiday season because they have to see the aunt who gives too many kisses or the uncle who hogs the television remote the whole time. I know for others, the least exciting part about the holidays may be seeing family because, let's face it, families can be crazy.

But for me, despite how crazy or draining it may be to have to see family, I know just how lucky I am to have one. That is why the greatest gift I have ever received is my family.

Amid the Christmas season, I reflect on Thanksgiving, and thank God for the celebration that brought us all together. Growing

up, my Thanksgivings were rather lonely. My parents were divorced, and I spent my Thanksgivings with my mother. I love her more than anything, but she always worked on Thanksgiving. She grew up in the Philippines and didn't really celebrate the holiday when she came here more than 20 years ago. I guess she never realized how important the holiday was to me, but I suppose it was partially my fault for never telling her. While I would see pictures of my friends gathering around a table and a turkey with their family, I couldn't help but feel a little jealous.

A few years later, my mother married my stepfather. Like her, he didn't really understand the importance of celebrating Thanksgiving. Maybe it was because I was smack center of my adolescent years, but I couldn't help but to feel angry. Then it happened, on Thanksgiving of 2011, I fought with my parents about why they didn't want to spend Thanksgiving with me.

Amazingly, while I threw my tantrum, they didn't say a single word. They watched me as I stomped around the room. They didn't say anything; they didn't get angry. They simply waited for me to settle down and to say everything that I wanted to say.

When I finally finished, they did the most surprising thing.

They gave me a hug, and then they told me that they were sorry. They explained to me how they didn't realize that Thanksgiving had been so important to me, and that they never found the point of having a day dedicated to appreciation. They said that they appreciated having me around them every single day and that appreciation wouldn't disappear when Thanksgiving Day was over.

It was all very sweet, right? But do you want to know what really made my adolescent-self cry? They told me that they worked on Thanksgiving because they got paid double for working on holidays. And they did that so I could buy everything I wanted on Black Friday. I cried really hard that night.

On that day, I realized how important my family was. While I was moping and thinking the worst thoughts, they weren't doing anything but thinking about me and what would make me happy.

Every year since then, we celebrated Thanksgiving. Then a few years ago, we started to celebrate with my then-boyfriend. And just last year, we celebrated with my then-boyfriend-now-husband and his family. We have grown from a family of two to a family of eleven, and it is probably one of the happiest things to happen in my life. I no longer get jealous of my friends who sit around a table and share a turkey together because now, I sit around a table of my own.

Thanksgiving is a time where we are thankful for everything that we have and celebrate all the

blessings that are to come. All the feelings and appreciation that we feel on Thanksgiving, we must remember not to forget on all the other days of the year. We need to appreciate every day, understand every day, celebrate life every day, and love every day. Thanksgiving is the day when we remember to do these things, but that doesn't mean we should forget about them when the day is over. So even now, in the month of December, I am thankful for the blessing of family Thanksgiving has brought to me.

I am so grateful for my family because without them, I wouldn't have realized what I've been blessed with and understand how thankful I should be. In a world where we are separated by wars, ideals, opinions, and beliefs, we should all remember to love and to be thankful that we are alive. Let us never let disagreements lead to hatred, or our judgments reduce our ability to understand.

As Jesus has taught us, we should love one another as we love ourselves. If we love our families, we love ourselves. We, the human race, are one family.

This Christmas, let us try our hardest to remember that. Let us not let the political climate divide us, or our opinion separate us. As we gather around the table, let us only think positive thoughts. Let us remember the teachings of God and be thankful for the blessings he has given us. The holidays should bring us together with our families, not divide us. Let us talk, let us communicate, let us be understanding. We have so much to be thankful for. We are so blessed.

Thank you, God, for my family: Sofia, Carlo, Elizabeth, Rodolfo, Rence, Juanita, Ramoncito, Paulo, Kim, and Jan.

To read other articles by Angela, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

Thanks to all my loyal clients for making 2018 another successful year!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year!

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# THE SEASON FOR GIVING

## Junior Year

### A journey backwards

Morgan Rooney  
MSMU Class of 2020

While thinking back through the many thoughtful gifts I've received through my childhood, teenage, and young adult years, it is difficult to pinpoint one single gift I received. I appreciate my God-parents who never failed to send me a card in the mail with \$20 and a sweet message all the way from Oregon every time I had a birthday or Christmas rolled around again.

I appreciate the gifts my grandmother always sent to me and my sister, especially considering that we are just two of eighteen of her grandchildren. I appreciate the many gifts I received from my parents throughout the years, and those that appeared in the night from St. Nick as well.

The one gift that I remember the most, however, is not one of great value, or one that took the greatest amount of time to come up with, but it's a gift that brought me back into a time of pure innocence. The precious memories of childhood are some that can never be replaced.

When I was very young, before I began kindergarten, I had a very special toy; it felt like this toy

had been my friend during my early years. Nearly every person I know had a cherished toy or item that they played with as a child, and even slept with every night. Some had a blanket, some a teddy bear, or even a special baby bottle that was taken around with them everywhere. Mine, however, was a stuffed dog, whom I had named (at an age no greater than three) "Gundenga." A strange name? Certainly, but what toddler doesn't have their way with words and an infinite imagination? I spent a lot of time with this stuffed dog, who I've been told was originally given to me while in line at a Wells-Fargo bank when I was just two years old. I played with him during the day and I slept with him in my arms through the night, holding him tighter if I was frightened of the unknown noises I could hear in the darkness of my room and across my house.

Soon before I began kindergarten, Gundenga mysteriously disappeared and was nowhere to be found. Five-year-old Morgan searched up and down the house, even in places which had not been touched in quite a while before Gundenga had gone missing. Eventually, I gave up on the search and moved on with my life as a young child, missing my stuffed dog terribly, yet moving forward in the best

of ways by making friends with my classmates in elementary school and learning how to navigate the world around me. I never forgot about my old friend who used to keep me company at night, but I stopped looking.

Christmas morning, several years down the road, I woke up, thrilled, to see what gifts were left by my family and Santa Claus. The aroma of cinnamon potpourri and pinecones filled my house as I made my way down the stairs while my younger sister begged for my parents to get out of their bed and meet us by the Christmas tree.

Before anyone even made it to the living room to sit beside me and begin our Christmas morning tradition, my curiosity got the best of me. I didn't begin unwrapping presents or even shaking the larger ones around, but only began looking at the wrapped boxes and counting how many each of my family members received. As I was looking around the boxes that were left by Santa for both me and my sister, I noticed something behind one of them, not wrapped or bow-tied in any way, but just sitting there with enveloped beside it. It was Gundenga.

Tears began to fill my eyes. I couldn't figure out how Santa had managed to bring me my most cherished item. I opened the envelope and pulled out a short letter, typed out.

Dear Morgan,

I have found Gundenga in the land of lost toys and brought him back home.

Merry Christmas,  
Santa Claus

As you can imagine, any questions I had about the existence of Santa were gone. This inexpensive little plush toy was very sentimental to me, even at the age of seven.

When it comes to the best gift I've ever given, I don't think about how much money I spent. It's the care that's put into a gift that really matters.

I have personally made a variety of things before, even though I'm not as crafty as I'd like to be. I have made cakes for my family on their birthdays and I have handmade cards for friends on other occasions, but I admit I wish I was craftier than I am.

When I was in the eighth grade, I took a home economics class where we learned how to cook certain dishes and to use a sewing machine. We had made small pillows and pajama pants in the past, but eventually we made it to the final class project where we made blankets. They didn't use a sewing machine, but still took a lot of time and effort because of all the cutting and tying that was required.

I made my own the first time around, making just a few small mis-

takes before the holiday season was beginning to roll around, I decided that these blankets would make great gifts considering that they were hand made with just a little bit of care and time.

At this point, I had already bought a gift for my mom, so I decided that these blankets should be made for my dad and my sister. It would be much easier to have the help of my mom to drive me to the fabric store (considering that I was thirteen and couldn't drive myself quite yet).

I remember spreading all the fabric out on our pool table and working on it when my dad was still at work and my sister was at her gymnastics classes. I did this every day for a whole week or two, considering my short time window to work on it, until they were finally done.

I remember getting a positive response from both of them and they are both still used today around the house. These blankets were by no means the most expensive or spectacular gifts in the world, but because of the effort and time I put into them, I would consider them the best gifts I have given. I definitely strive in the future to put more thought and time into the gifts I give, as gifts are not about the expenses, but the thought and love that was put into them.

To read other articles by Morgan, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

## Senior Year

### The gift of music and love

Shea Rowell  
MSMU Class of 2019

It was beautiful. Although I was roughly seven years ago, I remember it like it was yesterday. I unzipped the brown case and pulled aside the covering cloth to reveal the most beautiful instrument I had ever seen. A soft, rosy brass lacquered the outside, the valves topped with milky white pearls, the tone smooth and mellow – not too harsh, not too thin. Although it was owned before it came to me, there was something about this instrument that seemed to fit me. This trumpet, in a way even I can't explain, was immediately mine.

The trumpet was a gift to me from my mother just before my sixteenth birthday. A teacher at my high school was selling his, as the trumpet had gone unused for too long to justify keeping. My music teacher encouraged me to look at it; it was time, he said, that I move past my beat-up Jupiter student model. I had outgrown it, and it was time to remove the musical training wheels at last. I don't know what inspired my mother to purchase the horn. What person in her right mind would buy something as expensive as a professional model trumpet for what was, as far as she could have known, a teenage hobby, as likely to change as a haircut? She must have known, before even I did, that music, to me, was more than a passing phase.

I will be forever grateful for the gift she gave me that day. It is a rare sort of gift—one that I have used nearly every day (sometimes multiple times each day) for seven years and counting. It is a gift that, each day, challenges me to be better, to work harder, to understand it a little more, one step at a time. Although I quickly outgrew my first trumpet, the student model, I fear I will never grow into the one I have now. As soon as I master one skill, another stares me down, untamed. *Yes you can play it, but can you play it faster? Can you give it a twist the audience won't expect? Can you make it sound beautiful?* Music, I have learned, is about much more than playing the right notes at the right time. It is about giving life to the notes on the page that without you will never be heard. It is an art that requires a lifetime of dedication and constant work.

The trumpet, my daily companion and greatest adversary, is now a fixture that I cannot imagine my life without. It has introduced me to all of my closest friends, and is at the heart of all of my dearest memories. It has taken me to Orlando to perform in parades at theme parks, to Buffalo with the Mount Basketball team as they took on Villanova in the NCAA tournament, and the University of South Carolina for a three-day clinic. It has been by my side during weddings and funerals, along with fundraisers and formal concerts. It has introduced me to different cultures, inviting me

to perform a Chinese oratorio with a bible church in Rockville, and a winter concert with the American Balaika Symphony in Alexandria. I have built communities with my fellow musicians, and their friendship and inspiration have been a constant gift to me through every adventure.

If you told me those seven years ago, when I first played a note on my beautiful new trumpet, that I would be playing on it for seven more years, not to mention that I would earn a bachelor's degree in music, I would have heartily laughed. That is part of what makes it such a great gift. It was not the type of gift that would give me a few days or even a few months of pleasure before being used up or forgotten. I didn't even fully understand at the time how much such a gift could give. It is the type of gift that has allowed me to become a better person, a more disciplined, well-rounded, creative person. It has made me accustomed to my own many, many mistakes without losing the drive to get better, to practice more, to push harder all the time. It has forced me to become the type of person who shows up time and time again ready to fail until it is finally time to succeed (I am still waiting for that success by the way!).

My trumpet is the greatest gift I've ever been given because it has given me seven years and counting of joy. It has been the cause of countless hours of anxious practice, the sweat, blood and tears that led each time to the satisfaction that can only come from hard work and a lot of love. It has given me the gift of relationships, as I

have been introduced to nearly all of my deepest friends through music in some way. It has stretched my brain, forcing me to speak in a new language, a new set of rules and codes, a new history to learn and theory to uncover.

I hope some day I will give a gift as special to someone else as the trumpet has been to me. I hope the gifts I give to others will encourage them to follow their passions, not only in the material things I may give them, but in the relationship we have. I hope I will be supportive to my friends and family in the future as mine have been to me.

Perhaps even more beautiful than the trumpet she gave me seven years ago, are the countless concerts and performances my mom has traveled far to attend for the past ten years. I will never be able to repay her for a gift so incredible; all I can hope to do is play my heart out for her, and pass along the love she has always given so freely.

Merry Christmas to all! May the gifts you give and receive be filled with love this year!

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

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## FASHION

# A guide to gift giving

Valerie McPhail  
MSMU Class of 2015

'Tis the season for giving'. From personal experience, Black Friday is not so gloomy, and the busy city shopping districts are very manageable. Despite the reality of Soho's crowded streets and the monstrous Broadway/Lafayette intersection - which can prove to be undoubtedly testing - I venture into the huddle of shoppers. Each stop brings excitement and frustration, as I comb through the knots with a heart steadfast on presenting a gift package for each person on my list. The accomplishment and anticipation for when each person receives their gift carries an overbearing excitement, secured in my chest like a locket on a chained necklace. However, I understand that for some, perhaps many, such is not the case. The enthusiasm is lost somewhere in the hustle of finding the perfect gift.

Find adventure in discovering the perfect gift. Embrace the early morning on Black Friday with your favorite Frappuccino from Starbucks, notice the thrill to check-out on Cyber Monday and receive

the irritable waits and lines at the local mall lingering the week leading to gift exchanges. Excuse the attitudes, aggression and taunts of strangers surrounding your agenda for they only add stress and disservice an inherent stressful plan: securing a gift. Seize these opportunities because they foster passion within the arduous quest of gift giving. Understand that in making the most of these moments you have also championed a modern day obligation. Different types of gifts — accessories, home goods, beauty supplies and articles of fashion — build the puzzle.

Many types of brands, styles, colors and products offered and readily accessed in our culture create a vexed experience. However, after all is said and done, navigating the feelings, effort and attention around the prize fuels an intention to matching the last puzzle piece for the perfect gift.

#### Accessories: jewelry, texting gloves, cashmere scarfs

Whether a classic pair of pearl drop earrings, a trending gold hoop or bangle bracelets, a piece of jewelry shares a commitment

to someone. It communicates an investment into their personal style, a statement of expression and suggests a promise or moment in one's relationship. Other accessories including warm winter texting gloves and cashmere scarfs always come practical.

#### Home goods: candles, framed art, dried flowers

While candles and sage happen to be the trendiest gifts in the home goods department, art frames prove as a nice house-warming gift to a friend or family member moving into a new apartment or home. Estee Lauder, parent company to Fragrance label Le Labo, offers New York's favored candle shops alongside Malin and Goetz. Le Labo's Santal 33 and M&G's Cannabis and Dark Rum scents are popular.

Among the candle community is an alternative to the wax scent, a plant-based ritual called sagging. Sage is a plant in the evergreen family and can be purchased in bundles of wood or thin rods to burn. The downside to sagging is a short-lived experience of the scent, but the ritual of lighting the sage or passing the bundle around your home becomes ritualistic, and a different comfort to lighting a candle.

Dried flowers and plants, including rosemary, eucalyptus and lavender, have become a popular gift for their shelf life remains longer than fresh plants and flowers. A bouquet of dried flowers is a thoughtful gift for a home or workplace.

#### Beauty: mud masks, tea sets and makeup kits

A purchase from a beauty or wellness department is the perfect gift to pamper someone. Shopping beauty products such as lip scrubs, exfoliators or mud masks will inspire comfort and care in this winter season. Beauty label Fresh carries the ultimate lip polish scrub and celebrity brand Glam Glow offers an acne treatment and clarifying mud mask, both available at

Sephora and your luxury department stores.

As the beauty industry continues to spread its wings, so does the knowledge, understanding and community of tea drinkers. For the habitual tea drinker in your life, consider gifting a glass teapot to accompany a set of loose-leaf flavors. The tea set will offer more moments to enjoy teatime.

Branded kits are a form of purchasing fragrances and makeup during the holiday season. Beauty brands will create nail polish kits, lip gloss bundles and travel-sized sample rollers to excite the beauty experts. The advantage to shopping the kits finds a discounted price while purchasing a sample of multiple products at one time.

#### Fashion: sweaters, plaid and cowboy boots

As we approach the winter season, sweaters progressively become a part of the wardrobe. A practical piece of fashion would be to gift a sweater, while giving a classic red and black plaid button down can be considered a trendy fashion item this Fall/Winter 2018 fashion season as plaid was fashioned on the runway. Other plaid styles to shop are blazes and pleated skirts. Cowboy boots were another fashionable style this year. Matched to full-length skirts, dressed and fashioned in knee-high design, the cowboy boot has become a competitor of a classic winter boot. Its transi-



A Cashmere Scarf is both an investment and a functional fashion accessory

tional style and diverse designs has offered fashionistas a new approach to trendy boots.

#### One last piece of advice

For that one special person on your list who happens to be the most difficult to shop for consider planning an evening out to dinner or the movies. In recent years a family tradition has developed among my parents, aunts and uncles, who either purchase restaurant gift cards or promise an evening out for a meal together. It is a gift to reserve time with those you love.

#### Gift-wrapping

Presentation is everything. It elevates the experience and ritual of gift giving. When deciding between wrapping paper, a gift bag, or a box and ribbons, consider the relation between prints and colors. There is chemistry in their combination. Experiment with different forms and approaches at the final touches.

Indeed: while under pressure, the task of gift giving comes with difficulty. And often I think the quintessence of giving is lost in the wake of commercial suasion and digital connection. Both present a compulsive tug to our minds by appetizing us to believe the Facebook picture-perfect moment of a very merry Christmas is achieved through the material.

Let's simmer the heat with perspective. The heart of the matter: the beauty of gift giving comes from intention. Simply said, no diamond so bright or cashmere sweater soft enough could dress to impress without care. All else falls void. To the husband, consider what makes her heart sing? And brings a grin to her cheeks? To the colleague, what will tenderize the stressors of a workday? Inspire relaxation at the day's end? The power of suggestion weighs upon the interest of the advisor, for everything trendy and current is hardly sustainable. It lacks legacy and remains insufficient to building a lasting impression. Rather, the talent of a gift comes from the spirit of generosity. We aren't just giving gifts, but also giving of ourselves.

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

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## CREATIVE WRITING

# The South Pole elf

Morgan Rooney  
MSMU Class of 2020

Morton was the oldest of his twelve siblings which left him with the most chores around his family's cottage. The cottage was as south as south can go. Most children around the world hear about the North Pole: a joyful community of happy elves building toys for all the well-behaved children each Christmas. The south pole was much different.

The little elf stood up out of bed, stretched, then rummaged under his bed for his mittens so his fingers wouldn't freeze. Finally, peeking out from underneath a pile of little boxes were his worn, brown mittens. As Morton tried to grab his mittens, the boxes tipped over, spilling a pile of letters to the floor beneath his bed. He pushed them around trying to get to his mittens when he saw a letter from his father.

Morton didn't see him too much. He was often gone to the North Pole to work. The economy in the south was unsatisfactory. Morton would have loved to go with him. He didn't like it here.

"Morton! Come here!" His mother called. Morton's thoughts left his father. He grabbed his gloves and he went downstairs.

He sat down at the table, too small to fit the fourteen chairs that sat around it.

"I need you to bring me back seven fish for dinner." His mother demanded.

"When is father coming home?" Morton asked.

"When he is able." His mother replied.

"Why not now?"

"Because Christmas is approaching. That's when there is the highest demand for jobs in the North Pole. Besides, it takes weeks for him to sail all the way back home."

"What's Christmas?" Asked Morton.

"It's a day when northern elves spend money on things they don't need." She replied. "It's much too expensive."

Morton sighed and headed outside to catch the fish.

For weeks Morton thought about this "Christmas." How could Christmas be so important to the elves in the north? Receiving gifts made Morton happy, especially because he didn't receive them frequently. Why was that so bad?

The little elf began asking around. He asked his friends and some of his neighbors. None of them had an answer for him other than the one his mother had given him. Some had never even heard of Christmas at all. It wasn't until Morton came across an older elf whom he often saw ice fishing.

This older elf had a long white beard, a pointy green hat, and was smoking out of a long pipe. Believing that he looked wise, Morton approached him.

"Hello. My name is Morton. Cool hat!"

The old elf gave him a strange look.

"My hat is old and brown." Morton continued. "Where did you get yours?"

"The North Pole." He replied, barely making eye contact.

"Oh wow!" Morton was flabbergasted.

The old elf stayed silent and continued fishing.

"Do all of the elves in the North Pole wear hats like that?" Morton continued asking questions.

"No." Replied the old elf. Morton was astonished. Everyone in the South Pole dressed the same. There were no bright colors.

"Could you tell me more about the North Pole?" Morton asked, smiling.

The old elf sighed, but saw the hopeful look on Morton's face, and agreed.

"So - What kind of hats do they wear in the North Pole?" Morton asked.

All afternoon, Morton asked the old elf questions about the North Pole and Christmas. He learned that Christmas took place every year on December 25. It wasn't just northern elves that celebrated Christmas. It was humans too! He learned about Santa Claus and the community of elves in the north. They make the world a better place by bringing toys to all the good children around the world. Mothers, fathers, and friends give each other gifts. He learned about different types of pine trees and about decorating. He learned about ham and Christmas carols. The old elf even sang one for him.

"The North Pole sounds like a wonderful place! Why did you ever come back here?" Morton asked.

"My family is here. Family is worth more than all those things put together." The old elf replied.

Morton realized that he didn't

need to be in the North Pole to celebrate Christmas. He could bring Christmas to his family. Morton thanked the old man and was on his way.

December 25 was only seven days away! He didn't have a lot of time. He needed to do this quietly; it needed to be a surprise. When everyone would go to sleep, that's when Morton would work.

On the first night, the little elf sewed new hats for all of his siblings using an extra blanket he had for the coldest days of the year. He even made one for his mother and father.

On the second night, Morton wrote Christmas cards to his mother, father, siblings, and the old elf whom he met ice fishing. He didn't have any paper or ink, so he used wood and charcoal.

On the third night, Morton made a wreath from moss and twine.

On the fourth night, he sat outside and to recite the Christmas carol he had learned so he wouldn't forget it.

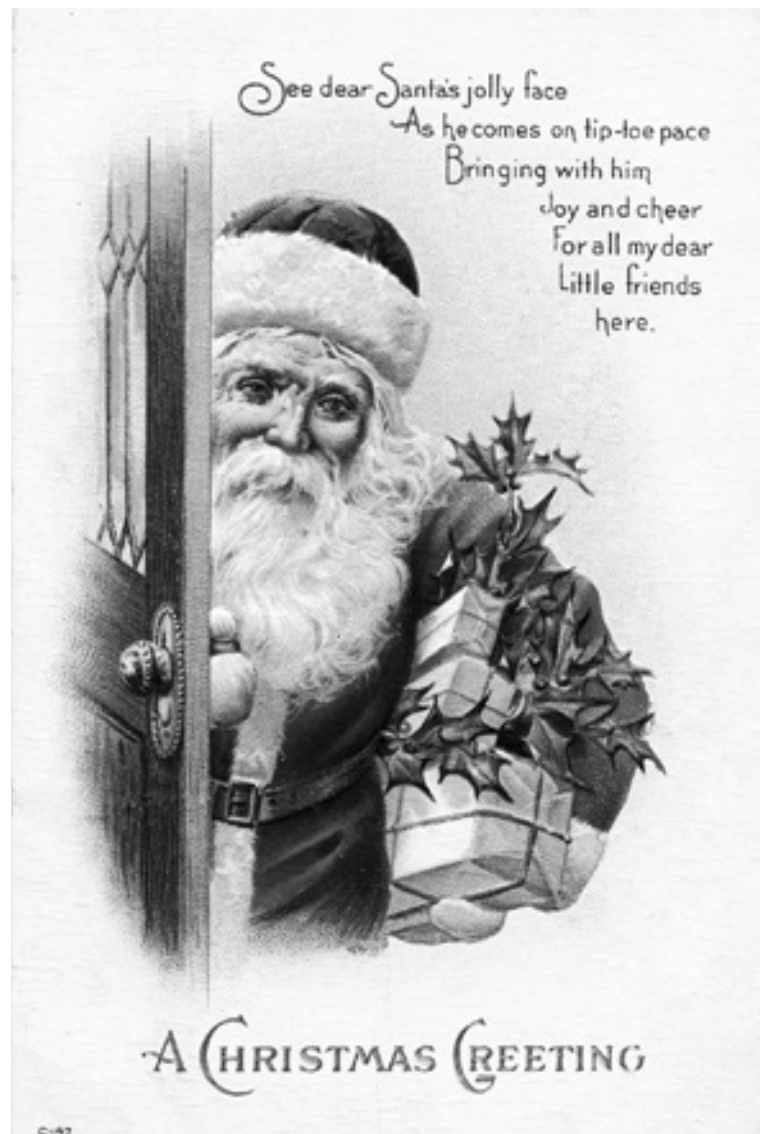
On the fifth night, he snuck out to find ham. When he couldn't find ham, he spent all night fishing and caught thirteen whole fish and kept them frozen outside so there would be plenty to eat on Christmas.

On the sixth night, he went to find a tree. When he could not find a tree, he brought a shrub back home and kept it under his bed.

On the seventh night, which was Christmas Eve, Morton set everything up. He pulled out the wreath and hung it up on the door. He placed the shrub and all the hats around it. He cooked up the fish and put the cards on the table.

When morning came, his siblings came out and then Morton's mother followed behind. They all look surprised and sat around the table. They saw the cards he made, and the shrub in the corner surrounded by hats. They saw the mossy wreath on the door and the fish on the table. Morton sang his carol, stumbling through the words.

When Morton looked around the room, he felt disappointed. He couldn't write fancy cards or get colorful fabric. His moss wreath hung



limp and his shrub tree scarcely reached his height.

"Why do you look so gloomy?" Asked one of his sisters.

Morton explained how he wished he could've given his family a real North Pole Christmas.

"This isn't disappointing." His mother replied. "This is the Christmas I wish I always had - not the one I've heard about." Morton then saw his mother smile for the first time in a while, which filled his heart with joy.

Just then, the front door opened. It was Morton's father. The whole

family was giddy with excitement. They all sat around the table and ate fish while he told of his adventures in the North Pole and Morton felt happy that he had made his family smile.

That afternoon, Morton brought his card to the old elf as he was fishing and thanked him for bringing Christmas to the South Pole. He was right. Family was worth more than anything.

To read other articles by Morgan, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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## ARTS

## Totem Pole Playhouse's 'A Christmas Carol'

Totem Pole Playhouse's critically-acclaimed annual production of A Christmas Carol has received a "Best of the Best" Award from the American Bus Association (ABA) as one of the top 100 events in North America.

"Totem Pole Playhouse is excited to have received this highly coveted award and the national recognition which goes along with it," said the Playhouse's Producing Artistic Director, Rowan Joseph, "We are grateful to Destination Gettysburg for bringing the production to the attention of the committee and we share this honor with our producing partners, Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater and the Gettysburg Community Theatre."

Joseph, who directs the annual production, adapted the script from the original 1843 novel. Totem Pole's production is noted for restoring the many Christian references in Dickens' writ-

ing which are often omitted from other more secular versions.

Totem Pole will once again bring its original adaptation to the stage of the Majestic Theater this December 14th through 23rd in association with the Gettysburg Community Theatre. The production boasts a cast of over 60 professional union, non-union, and local community theater actors making it one of the largest holiday productions of its kind in Central Pennsylvania.

Once again this year the show will be a family affair with siblings, parents and children joining each other on stage. Gettysburg residents, Eleanor Hogan will appear as a Fezziwig party guest with her daughter Reia playing Turkey Boy. Heather Miller will dance together with her daughter Ilana in the Fezziwig Party scene. Fayetteville resident Melissa Mohler will be playing Mrs. Fezziwig with her young son, Liam, as Belle's son. New Oxford's Mark

Kleinman will return again as the Lamplighter with his son, Jacob, playing the role of Matthew Cratchit and his stepdaughter, Grace Panzino, appearing as a Fezziwig party dancer. Jasper Wakefield will be taking over the role of Peter Cratchit from his older brother Elliott who will be a Fezziwig party dancer this year. Phoebe Kauffman will portray Scrooge's sister Fan, Ruby Kauffman will play Belinda Cratchit while their youngest sister, Mia will be a child dancer in the show. Gettysburg's Justin and Hope Beach will play the Bread Seller and the Ribbon Seller; Shippensburg natives, Denzel Surcica returns as Boy Scrooge and his younger sister, Dahlia, joins this year's cast in the role of Want. Sisters Liliana and Kalia Hoedemaker will play the Fezziwig's daughters with sisters Lily and Olivia Snowberger dancing together in the children's solo section of the Fezziwig Party dance.



This year's performances are scheduled for December 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 8:00 pm, with 2:00 pm matinees on December 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, and 23. Ticket prices range from \$38 to \$32 for adults, and \$20 for students (age 18 or younger). Totem Pole Play-

house subscribers receive a \$10.00 discount on all ticket purchases.

To purchase tickets call the Majestic Theater Box Office at 717-337-8200 or online at the Majestic Theater website [www.gettysburg-majestic.org](http://www.gettysburg-majestic.org).

## Jingle Ball rings in holidays and celebrates the arts

The Adams County Arts Council invites you to celebrate its 25th anniversary and the holiday season at the Jingle Ball on Saturday, December 15, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., at the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center, 1195 Baltimore Pike. Guests will enjoy valet parking, festive cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, delicious dinner, live and silent auctions, open bar and dancing to Philadelphia's Renais-

sance Orchestra. Masters of ceremonies for the black tie evening will be Janet Morgan Riggs, Gettysburg College President, and Majestic Theater Founding Executive Director Jeffrey Gabel. The Arts Council will recognize Sharon Magraw for her exceptional generosity. Jingle Ball co-chairs are Darlene Brown, David and Pauline LeVan, and Danny E. Sebright.

Reservations are \$150 per per-

son or \$1,500 for a table of eight and available November 15 online at [adamsarts.org](http://adamsarts.org), by calling 717-334-5006, or at the Arts Education Center, 125 S. Washington St., Gettysburg. Platinum sponsors include Aramark, Battlefield Harley-Davidson, Gettysburg Foundation, Sharon Magraw, and Scott & Co Fine Jewelers. Diamond sponsors are Giant, L & H Mechanical & Electrical Services, Inc., OPEN

MINDS, Danny E. Sebright, and Wellspan Gettysburg Hospital. Event proceeds will help support arts education classes and programs for the community.

Put some sparkle under the tree! The winning ticket for a 2018 pear shape diamond pendant and diamond station chain, donated by Scott & Co Fine Jewelers and valued at \$10,000, will be drawn at the event but you need not be present

to win. Raffle tickets cost \$100 and only 200 will be sold. Raffle tickets are available at the Arts Education Center, Scott & Co Fine Jewelers, New Oxford, and through Jingle Ball committee members.

The mission of the Adams County Arts Council is to cultivate an arts-rich community. For more information about the event, classes, or membership, visit [adamsarts.org](http://adamsarts.org) or contact [aa@adamsarts.org](mailto:aa@adamsarts.org).

## Way off Broadway's Great Elf Adventure

In 2015, The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre added a new holiday production to its Children's Theatre collection with the world premiere of its original musical comedy The Great Elf Adventure. Over the years, many adaptations of holiday stories have appeared on the WOB

stage including Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree, Frosty the Snowman, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and Clara and the Nutcracker Prince. The Great Elf Adventure is based on one of the most popular characters to appear at the theatre, Jingles the Elf.

Since 2002, the most pop-

ular annual event at Way Off Broadway has been Breakfast with Santa (and Mrs. Claus). For sixteen years, Jingles the Elf has always made an appearance, becoming an audience favorite. For the 2015 Christmas season, the theatre's producers decided it was finally time for Jingles to have a show all of his own. With that, The Great Elf Adventure was created.

In The Great Elf Adventure, when the mischievous Jingles the Elf misses his sleigh ride back to the North Pole on Christmas Eve, he finds himself stranded and looking for a way home. Along the way, he meets characters that neither he, nor the audience, will

ever forget in this hilarious holiday MIS-adventure.

Reprising their roles from the original production this year will be Bill Kiska as Mr. Blunderby and Jordan B. Stocksdale as Jangles the Elf. They will be joined in this fast-paced, holiday romp by Joseph Waeyaert playing the parts of Herbie the Elf and Cornelius Cobblebottom, Jessica Biliones as Prancer, and Megan E. West as Vixen. Rounding out the cast are Chloe Anderson, Keira Anderson, and Patrick Ford as Twinkle, Gum Drop, and Stitch, respectively.

Playing the role of Jingles is the original and only person to ever play the part, Trey T. Kiska. The

Great Elf Adventure has music by Tina M. Bruley, lyrics by Bruley and Stocksdale, and a book by Justin M. Kiska. Orchestrations and arrangements are by Joseph Baker. The production is under the direction of the show's lyricist Jordan Stocksdale.

About writing the original musical three years ago, Justin M. Kiska, the show's creator, said, "Year after year, people call and ask if Jingles will be at Breakfast with Santa. He has become a holiday staple here at Way Off Broadway. Because of his popularity, and all the mischief we knew he could get into, we decided to write an entire show based on Jingles."

Way Off Broadway's revival of The Great Elf Adventure runs from December 1st - 29th, with performances ever Saturday afternoon and the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Doors open each day at 11:30 a.m. for lunch with the show beginning at 12:30 p.m. All tickets are \$18.00 per person and include lunch and the show.

The Great Elf Adventure is part of Way Off Broadway's 25th Anniversary Season.

To learn more about The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre or any of its productions, visit [www.way-offbroadway.com](http://www.way-offbroadway.com) or [www.Facebook.com/wayoffbroadway](http://www.Facebook.com/wayoffbroadway).

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## MOUNT CHRISTMAS MUSIC OFFERINGS

## Mount Christmas concerts

Chloe Corwin  
MSMU Class of 2020

Mount St. Mary's Visual and Performing Arts prepared all of last month to arrange several events to put you in the holiday spirit! If the holidays are not your cup of tea, have no fear! There are several events to enjoy for everyone.

The theatre subject area kicked off December events with the Directing Class's project performances. The Directing Projects led right into this month from November 29, 30 to December 1. These performances showcased the two directing students' hard work over the past two months. They have been working with student actors in the plays they chose back in September. These shows include Room 313 by Carey Crim, Asking for It by Rhea MacCallum, Carla by Bolicik, and Just Say it Three Times by Erin Moughon.

The directors, Quinlan Boyle and I, have been working with actors with a variety of skill levels. Luckily, Dr. Kurt Blaugher, the directing class professor, has guided us every step of the way and is willing to offer his experience and wisdom at any time for our first time directing.

In my personal experience, there were many challenges I did not expect along the way. I have a newfound respect for directors now that I understand the constant frustrations and time management that goes along with the job. In my case, I had an actress drop my show due to a serious family emergency three rehearsals before show week. Dr. Blaugher helped me keep a level head in this event and advised me to find someone as soon as I possibly could. I approached an actress from the Mount's mainstage production of Completely Hollywood. She was very excited and ready to take on the challenge and brought professionalism to her short but intense rehearsal period. The actors were very excited to present their work and I am so thankful for all of the performers and proud of all the work they put into these shows.

Also taking place on December 1 was the Mount St. Mary's University Flute Ensemble's Hello, Holidays concert! The five flute instrumentalists performed various holiday songs including pieces from the Nutcracker.

These talented performers have been working very hard, especially after their concert last month. These students are a delight to listen to, and their dedication to their work is obviously shown through their performances. Several of these students are able to switch to different size woodwind instruments mid-performance, allowing for a wide variety of sound and harmonization between the five performers. The Mount is grateful for such talented performers and excited to share their abilities with the community.

On Thursday December 6 the public is invited to the Student Instrumental and Vocal recital to be held at the Horning Theater at 7:30 p.m..

The students performing have been working all semester on these pieces and are ready to show what they have been hard at work at. The

musicians have been taking lessons with a variety of professionals that work with the Mount.

The student performers have spent several hours a week to improve their skills whether it is their voice or instrument. There will be a wide variety of pieces and instruments presenting, so it is guaranteed any audience member will have an enjoyable time.

The recital is free and open to the public. The students and faculty members invite you to come see the hard work of everyone performing!

Finally, on Saturday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Knott Auditorium the Mount St. Mary's University's chorale, wind ensemble, and string ensemble are all coming together for a final end-of-the-year Advent concert!

This exciting collaboration is a musical celebration of the holiday season with a variety of instruments and voices. This fun and relaxed event is bound to get anyone into the holiday spirit. Audience members are sure to be humming their favorite seasonal tunes walking out of the auditorium!

That concludes the upcoming events for this month, but there are a lot of great things to look forward to for the spring semester 2019.

First, the annual Musical Review will be held on Valentine's Day weekend, February 14, 15, & 16.

What makes this event so interesting is the music subject area has led it into a new direction. Senior Tahreem Fayiz has taken on the task of writing the script as part of her senior project. The script is based on events in her life, and is very raw and real. Fayiz has teamed

up with junior Kelley Northam in a creative team to choose songs to pair with the script.

Ten singers have been selected and are each given a Broadway song to perform that relates to the scene at hand. Dr. Andrew Rosenfeld, the music director, will be working with these students in fine-tuning their voices and bringing each of their performances to tip-top shape. In addition, four actors will be performing the show under guidance of two directors. The pair is recent graduate Tom Baker and his co-director, sophomore Christopher Heilos.

This collaboration will take a lot of time and independent work on behalf of the students, as most of the memorization and practice is expected of them over the month-long winter break. Students are impatiently waiting to start working on this emotional endeavor.

Not much can be revealed yet because the show is still in its early stages, but be sure to look out for the performance dates and times when February approaches.

Another big event to be aware of is the theatre subject area's spring semester mainstage production. Though the name of the pending production cannot be released, director Dr. Kurt Blaugher is excited to get the show going.

Auditions for the mainstage will be held in the early weeks of spring semester, and the projected performance date is early April.

Of course there will be several music and art events peppered throughout



The MSMU Wind Ensemble members who performed their Hello, Holidays! concert December 1 in the Emmitsburg Public Library.

the semester alongside those productions, so be sure to be on the lookout for those events as well. A large community attendance excites students and empowers them to strive to do better since they know their hard work is reaching a larger audience.

The Mount St. Mary's University's Visual and Performing Arts would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who came to an event this year, and encourages and challenges you to do so again, or for the first time, next year.

The Mount St. Mary's University Department of Visual and Performing Arts is located in The Delaplaine Fine Arts Center and can be contacted by phone at 301-447-5308. For more information about the department in general, updates, photos, and videos, search for Visual and Performing Arts on the Mount St. Mary's University official website [www.msmary.edu](http://www.msmary.edu).

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## LOCAL SPORTS

# Catoctin's athletes finish the season

Grace Kovalcik  
CHS Class of 2021

Last year, Catoctin's varsity volleyball team had fifteen players on the roster, five of whom were seniors. The girls went 3-13 in their regular season, which landed them playing against Clear Spring for their first playoff game. Despite Catoctin's strongest efforts, Clear Spring bested the Cougars 3-1 and continued in the playoffs to play Smithsburg in the next round. The Cougars' 2017 season concluded with a record of 3-14.

This year, Catoctin volleyball kicked off the year well aware of the fierce competition they would face. Knowing the challenges they would encounter in their near future gave them the motivation to work exceptionally hard in practice. Additionally, the fact that the girls had eight seniors on the team gave them a large advantage over some of the younger teams they would play. In their regular season, the Cougars won eight games and lost six. Their performance earned the girls a bye for the first round of playoffs. The Cougars' first playoff game, which took place in the second round, was against Clear Spring high school yet again. Like last year, the Blazers had managed to win their first playoff game, defeating Brunswick 3-0. Heading into the game, the Cougars felt mostly optimistic since they had defeated Clear Spring 3-0 in their regular season match. The girls and coaches hoped that winning the game would give them a shot at the State title.

The match took place at Catoctin High School, on Monday, November fifth. By the time the first set was about a third of the way through, the Blazers were leading 10-4. After a timeout called by Catoctin's coaches, the girls managed to score a few more points but were not able to overcome their opponents. The Blazers won the first set with a score of 25-15. The Cougars took this first loss as a chance to recollect themselves, and adjust to the opposing team. The girls came back onto the court to immediately

score the first two points of the second set. Giving them the boost that they needed, the Cougars were able to keep ahead of the Blazers and win the second set 25-21.

Scoring the first two points, and then an additional seven points in a row put Clear Spring in the lead during the third set of the match. Reaching a score of 9-1 in the first several minutes gave the Blazers a large advantage over Catoctin. The Blazers went on to win the set 25-22. The fourth and most intense set of the night ended when Clear Spring scored their twenty-fifth point, even though Catoctin had been expected to make a comeback. Although the Cougars held the lead for a portion of the set, the Blazers were able to overcome them, making the overall score of the match 3-1. Not only did Clear Spring defeat Catoctin, but they also went on to win the Maryland State Championship game for 1A schools for the first time since 1994.

Disappointed but proud, Catoctin volleyball players Chayne Barnhart and Paige Romeril revealed their thoughts about their match. "I feel like we had the potential to go further in playoffs, possibly even to states," expressed Barnhart, a sophomore playing for her second year with the team. "Even though we didn't, I'm still proud of our team and what we accomplished over the season." Despite not being able to reach their goal of continuing further into playoffs, the girls managed to attain another goal of theirs. "One of the team goals was to beat our record from last season, which we accomplished," stated Romeril, the only freshman on the team. "We wanted to prove to our fellow students and other teams that we could be competitive." Being two of the teams youngest members, the girls look forward to the future years they have to play for their team. Next year, the Cougars will be losing a large number of players. With eight seniors graduating, the team may have to spend a year rebuilding. Nonetheless, they still plan to put up a fight on the court.

In other news, Catoctin's girls' cross country season has also come to an end. On November first, the girls' team placed fourth at regionals, which meant they had qualified for States as a team. State Championships took place on November tenth, at Hereford High School. The school's strenuous three-mile course has been said to be one of the hardest in the country. Knowing this, Catoctin's runners took the week leading up to the competition to hone in and prepare. The women's 1A schools race consisted of one hundred sixteen runners from a total of twenty-eight different schools. Rachel Waldron, one of seven runners representing Catoctin, finished first out of the Cougars, placing nineteenth with a time of 22 minutes and 22.11 seconds. Next was Brenna Williams, who placed twenty-ninth with a time of 23 minutes and 12.67 seconds. Emma Strickland finished next of the Cougars in thirty-first, with a time of 23 minutes and 20.39 seconds. Then followed Quinn Law-Knotts in seventieth at 26 minutes and 31.68 seconds. Olivia Dart finished in seventy-sixth, at 26 minutes and 56.66 seconds. Then came Kalei Lawson in eighty-third with a time of 27 minutes and 29.58 seconds. Finishing last for the Catoctin girls was Tessa Croyle in eighty-eighth, with her time of 28 minutes and 4.86 seconds. Both Croyle and Lawson finished the course with new personal records. Overall, Catoctin placed sixth out of the fifteen schools that were able to score as a team and had five out of their seven runners improve their times from when they had run Hereford's course earlier in the season.

The previous year, Waldron and



The Lady Cougars' volleyball team gathers on the court to briefly celebrate a well-earned point. (photo credit: Mike Miller)

Strickland had been the only girls that qualified for States out of the entire team. While the two may have better results last year, the girls made it known that having the opportunity to run as a team this season was what had made the competition most enjoyable. "I'm so thankful that the team could come with me," Waldron exclaimed. "Last year, I went with just one teammate, so this year I'm really grateful the team could come along." Being a senior at Catoctin, Waldron wishes the team well in the future, as she prepares for indoor track and decides on whether or not she will run in college.

As of right now, the girls' head coach Lois Strickland plans for the team's focus for next year to be on Regionals and States once again. She also conveyed how having a team made up of mostly underclassmen provides more room for growth, and looks forward to building from the success they have had this year. In hopes to expand the program and prepare the runners for

next fall, there will be a summer training program for kids interested in cross country. Additionally, Strickland is looking forward to the opportunity to host the 2019 County meet. "Next year, Catoctin will be hosting the County cross country meet, which will showcase what a beautiful campus we have," Strickland noted. "I truly believe that we have one of the toughest and most challenging courses in the state." For this reason, she would like to offer a 5k early in the season so that "the teams can compete on the course prior to the County meet."

As the 2018 fall season concludes for all athletes, students all over the county begin to prepare for winter sports. These programs include basketball, indoor track, unified bocce, swimming, and wrestling. Varsity and junior varsity teams have been formed, practices have begun, and their seasons will begin this month.

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# MOUNT SPORTS

## A new era for Mount athletics

Collin Rivello  
MSMU Class of 2020

Two hundred and ten years after the university's founding, and the athletics scene is thriving.

In 2018, the Mount saw three new varsity sports make their NCAA & NEC debut: men's golf, women's golf and women's bowling. The men's soccer team also returned to action after going on hiatus for six years.

The men's track & field team upset four-time defending champion, Central Connecticut State University, for the Men's NEC Outdoor Track & Field Championship title—the first for the Mount since 1998—on home soil by just two points.

The men's cross country team also rose to the occasion, upsetting CCSU (again!), for the Mount's first Men's Northeast Conference Cross Country Championship title since 1998. To make things even juicier for the Mount, CCSU was the nine-time defending champion, which was the longest active division I conference championship win-streak in the NCAA.

Women's rugby also saw a drastic improvement from their inaugural season in 2017 by winning the National Intercollegiate Rugby Association Tier II title in November, beating Sacred Heart 22-15 at Echo Field. You want to know the kicker? The Mount went 0-6 just a year ago in the same season.

That's not all of the improvements Mount sports teams have made in 2018 though.

The No. 6 women's tennis team upset No. 3 Saint Francis (Pennsylvania) in April by a score of 4-3 in the NEC Women's Tennis Tournament quarterfinals. The team previously hadn't been to the semi-final round since 2008 and despite having an all-time head-to-head matchup record of 14-11, the Mount had previously lost six straight against SFU. The Mount lost to No. 2 Bryant in the next round.

Women's lacrosse also showed a vastly improved performance from a season ago, qualifying for the NEC Women's Lacrosse Tournament for the first time since 2015 with a 10-win record. The year prior, they had a 4-win record. They also lost to a Bryant team in the semi-finals, 9-8. But hey, at least they lost to the eventual champions.

The 2018 baseball season marked the first time since 2008 that the Mount had qualified for the NEC Baseball Championship Tournament. The team made just its fourth tournament appearance in the Mount's 29 baseball seasons in the NEC, as a four seed. Though they lost to (guess who!?) No. 1 Bryant 21-6 in the tournament opener and No. 2 Wagner College 3-1 in the elimination round, 2018 marked a remarkable turnaround from a year ago, with 22 wins (up from just eight the season prior).

Under a new head coach, the 2018

women's soccer team also made great strides since the 2017 season. They played to a 4-2-2 conference record, which put them in the NEC Women's Soccer Tournament for the first time since 1997.

To earn that playoff berth, the Mount had to do something that the 2018 baseball team, the 2018 women's lacrosse team and the 2018 women's tennis team weren't able to do: beat a Bryant sports team.

The Mount soccer team squeaked by Bryant 1-0 at home on a Friday evening, the same evening before the morning that the men's cross country team was to take to the starting line en-route to their big championship win, 15 days before women's rugby was to win a NIRA Tier II championship title in their second year in existence and 23 days before the young & hot women's bowling team was to stamp their mark in NEC Bowling by garnering an unheard of 32-12 fall season record and racking up five wins against four nationally-ranked opponents, for a team in their inaugural season.

That's just what the men's and women's teams at the Mount have done in 2018, incredible things.

As to the rest of the Mount's sports that went unmentioned thus far, let's start with the men's side.

For men's soccer, they ended their reinstatement year with a 2-10-4 overall record and a 1-5-2 NEC record. They've scored 13 goals in 16 games while posting 1.64 goals against average.

Men's tennis has kept busy with

tournaments while they await the start of conference play in the spring. In the Flight A Red Draw at the Navy Gold Invite on Nov. 11., the duo of Alonso Garcia and Gabriel Santos finished second in doubles action while their teammate pair of Evan Hine & Jean Armstrong also finished second in the Flight B Red Draw.

For swimming & diving, the season is midway through. The men currently sit at 1-8 with their lone win coming from a Nov. 3 home tri-meet against Howard 143-126. Monmouth beat the Mount 152.5-108.5, and Howard, to take the overall meet win.

Despite their overall record, the Mount had an impressive showing at the Franklin & Marshall College Invitational on Nov. 18, taking third place out of 11 other teams. This was the second year in a row that the Mount took second at this meet. Freshman Ryan Griffiths broke the school record twice in the 200m back, first in the preliminaries (1:58.69) and then again in the finals (1:55.82). Griffiths took fourth overall in the event.

For the men's basketball team, good luck has not been on their side, as they sat winless in November. They lost their first match of the season against North Carolina State University 105-55. They then dropped a 16-1 lead against Hofstra on Nov. 9, to go down 79-61. Their next two games were against teams who danced in 2018, and the Mount lost both, 98-75 at Marshall and 92-77



The men's cross country team huddling at the start line 10 minutes before the gun goes off. The muddy race was held in very rainy and cold conditions.

at Maryland. Their first home game of the season was against North Carolina A&T and the Mount dropped that one as well by a score of 74-60. Their sixth-straight loss came at the hands of Morgan State 68-78.

On the women's side, the team won their home and season opener match against Division III Washington College by a score of 74-50, but then lost the next three games: at Michigan 88-40, at Duquesne 73-64 and at Rider 85-67.

The women's swimming & diving team is faring much better than the men's team, as they sit with a 5-1 record. They put up a 3-1 record at the NJIT Invitational in their season opener back in October, defeating Saint Peter's 126-80, Manhattan College 129-102 and VMI 126-80. Their lone loss came against conference foe LIU Brooklyn 151-69.

At their home tri-meet, the Mount swept, winning against Howard 161-115 and Monmouth 146-131. They continued their good trend towards the top of the leaderboard by placing fourth out of 13 teams at the Franklin & Marshall College Invitational with 158 points. They narrowly missed out on a third-place showing by three just points.

The women's cross country team finished in fourth place at the NEC XC Championships hosted by Bryant from Oct. 26-27. They were led by fifth year senior Erin Jaskot who placed third (18:20.5) and junior Maddie Kole who placed fifth (18:41.1) to finish with 74 points. CCSU won the women's title with 46 points.

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

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## COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

# Staying healthy in winter

Renee Lehman

Winter officially begins on December 21 (the date of the winter solstice), but have you noticed that it is already colder? Winter is nature's "resting season." When you look outside, it is cold, days have less light (are shorter), and the countryside is "quiet." Some aspects of nature may look dead (at least you may think that); however, nature is storing its potential deep in the earth and the roots of vegetation.

Life does not stop during the winter months. Remember that the bulbs that are in the ground are not dead, and the seeds that fell to the ground from the trees/plants are still alive. They are storing up their energy and preparing to burst forth during the growth period of Spring. Also, think about how animals like bears hibernate during the winter.

The gifts that Winter gives us include the strength of reserves (storage) and endurance (just remember about the hibernating animals), wisdom, stillness, deep listening (the "quietness" of winter allows us to listen), reflection, and reassurance (Spring will come again!). Many people do not like Winter. Our "adrenaline running" culture tends not to value stillness, quietness, and taking time to rest and reflect. Can you see yourself needing any of the gifts of Winter? Can you see how the energy of Winter is needed in your life? Now is the time to take advantage of what this season has to offer!

You can stay healthy (body/mind/spirit) this Winter by: 1) seeking replenishment; 2) getting quality rest and sleep; 3) taking time for self reflection; 4) seeking inner warmth; 5) spending time at home with family and friends; 6)

eating well; 7) exercising; and 8) conserving your resources.

Seek Replenishment - What type of stress are you experiencing? Is it emotional or physical? Write down a few tips that may help you with your current stress level. Often the solutions can be very simple ideas! By reducing your stress, you will conserve energy and slow down unnecessary drains on your energy. To support your body's energy system, practice the Four Energy Gates daily (found at [www.taoofof-healing.com](http://www.taoofof-healing.com)). Wouldn't it be nice to feel energized in mid-January?

Get Quality Rest & Sleep - The important word here is quality. When you go to sleep at night keep the room dark. If there is even the slightest bit of light in the room it can disrupt your circadian rhythm and your pineal gland's production of melatonin and serotonin (both are involved in the regulation of your sleep). Turn the TV off before going to sleep (and don't sleep with the TV on). The TV is too stimulating to the brain and it will take longer to fall asleep (disrupts the pineal gland function). Also, don't read, eat, or work in your bedroom - keep it for sleeping only. Finally, try going to bed ½ hour earlier than usual and assess how you feel upon awakening. You might be surprised how much more "refreshed" you are.

Self Reflection - Take this "quieter" time of the year to go deep within yourself. Consider meditating. Take an honest look at where you are in your life. As the same time, be gentle with yourself. Ask yourself, "Are you depleted"? If so, you may also feel more vulnerable and more susceptible to illness. "What are your emotions like"? Are you more sensitive than

usual? See if you can accept yourself more fully in as many areas of your life (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, etc.) as possible.

Seek Inner Warmth - During this colder time of year, do things that stimulate your inner self. What brings you joy and excitement? Maybe it's time to go to a museum, an art gallery, a movie, a coffee shop, or just hang out with friends.

Spend Time with Family/Friends at Home - It's cold outside, so build a fire in the fireplace and invite friends or family over. Bring the "warmth of Summer" into the season of Winter. This is a great time of year to renew old friendships, spend time with trusted friends/family, and to deepen the intimacy with them. Appropriate touch and intimacy are good for your health.

Eat Well - How many of you tend to get cold easily in the Winter? Since the weather is colder, eat a diet that produces more internal heat/warmth. What sounds better to you right now: a cup of soup or a garden salad? Cooked foods will produce the heat that the body needs to stay warm. These foods would include: whole grains, beans, nuts/seeds, cooked vegetables (steamed/roasted/sautéed), vegetable soups, seaweed, root vegetables (carrots/turnips/onions/sweet potatoes), quality meats, and spices. Beans, such as kidney, black, and lentils along with grains, create complete proteins (try making soups with any of these beans - yummy!).

Vegetable soups are easy to digest. Seaweed is a high protein vegetable, is high in Vitamin E and A, rich in calcium, phosphorus, potas-



This is what all the cats at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter dream of doing every night when the lights go out. This Christmas, consider making this dream come true for a shelter pet.

sium, iron, iodine, and other trace minerals that stimulates skin, hair, and nails along with nourishing the endocrine system. Meats, especially saltwater fish (low in fat, high in protein, minerals, and vitamins), quality poultry and lean red meats are great sources in protein. Finally, spices, like garlic, ginger, and cayenne pepper are great to add to your food, especially when the weather is cold and damp. There are warming and healing recipes found at [www.tcmworld.org](http://www.tcmworld.org).

Exercise - Even in the cold weather, it is important to be active. If you don't like being physically active outside, try some indoor activities. Perform gentle exercises, such as, yoga and qigong instead of energy expending exercises such as jogging, cycling, and swimming. These gentle, more subtle forms of exercises strengthen your inner self and build your "internal" energy and tend not to run your "batteries" down like the energy expanding forms of exercise. They also help to "clear" excesses such as too much food, work, tension, etc. Hold the qigong posture, Dragon Stands Between Heaven and Earth to connect with the unlimited Universal energy (found at [\[www.tcmworld.org\]\(http://www.tcmworld.org\)\).  
Conserve your Resources - Winter is a great time to decrease the number of activities that you are involved with. Remember that this is the season of quiet and storage. Nighttime comes earlier, so spend your time resting and being peaceful. For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. \(Ecclesiastes 3:1\)](http://www.tcm-</a></p>
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*Warmth of the Spring gives rise to birth,  
the Fire of Summer fuels rapid growth and development,  
the coolness of Fall matures all and provides harvest, and  
the coldness of Winter forces inactivity and storing.  
This is the rhythmic change of nature.  
If the four seasons become disrupted, the weather becomes unpredictable  
and the energies of the universe will lose their normalcy.  
This principle also applies to the body."  
-(Su Wen, chapter 6)*

So, as we enter winter, give yourself permission to slow down. Go to bed early, sleep late, put away your electronics, and relax by a warm fire.  
Be still and peaceful!

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 30 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.



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FITNESS AND HEALTH

# Christmas dinners

Linda Stultz  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Turkey or ham is still the main part of the meal but you can add so many vegetables and fruits to spice things up for Christmas Dinner.

Dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, warm bread and dessert are also part of the traditional meal. I'm not saying don't have these favorites; just alter the way they are prepared. Try mashed sweet potatoes or mashed cauliflower this year. The cauliflower trend has really taken off this year. There are so many recipes out there for traditional dishes that use cauliflower instead of pasta or potatoes. Try whole grain bread for the dressing. Whole grains are much healthier than processed white bread and supply added fiber. You can also sprinkle flaxseed meal or wheat germ to add a bit of nutty flavor and nobody will be the wiser. Gravy is one of the most important parts of this meal. Let your broth set for a while till it forms a solid skim on top. Remove this and you will have broth with much less fat. The gravy still tastes the same, without the fat. Gravy can even be made a day or two early to save you time on the big day. The warm bread can be a variety of different whole grain buns. This way, everybody gets their favorite kind such as wheat, rye, pumpernickel and now even whole grain white. Add a veggie tray with low fat dip. Cooked seasoned veggies such as squash, carrots and cauliflower are also a great combination if you prefer hot vegetables. One half of your plate should be filled with veggies. Raw vegetables give you the most nutritional value. Have them on the table or the kitchen counter for your family and guests to nibble while the main meal is being prepared. They will fill up on these and maybe not eat as much later. Supply a variety of vegetables to pick from. Hopefully, you will have at least one kind that the kids like.

Over the past year I have learned that I am allergic to chicken and potatoes. I will be having ham and mashed cauliflower instead of potatoes this year. Gluten is also something that will give people a problem. There are many new gluten free

products on the market today. Check the frozen section of the grocery store and you may be pleasantly surprised at what you find. I now use vegetable pasta instead of the traditional pasta and I can't tell the difference. I also use zucchini noodles and spaghetti squash and my whole family likes it. We avoid some of the carbs and still have the great flavor.

DESSERT! Some people live for the dessert table. That's OK. Give yourself a treat. Just look over everything carefully, and decide what you really want. Maybe even sample a few different kinds. Try cutting the slices in half. That way you can try a bigger variety. Watch out for the pumpkin pie, you know who you are! Preparing a small plate of dessert for your guests to take home is also a thoughtful way to let them sample everything, just not all at one time. They can take a little piece of Christmas home to remember for the rest of the holiday. This way you do not have all of that dessert leftover and tempting you. Your waistline will thank you later. Check into some small changes in the recipe that will make a big difference in the fat and sugar content of the dessert. Pumpkin is a great way to add that creamy texture to your cakes and cookies and even a good thickener for other recipes, while lowering the fat and raising the protein. Flaxseed meal can also be added to pies and cakes to give your family that added health benefit without them even knowing it is there. Applesauce in place of oil is another helpful, healthy hint. SUGAR is a big ingredient that packs on the pounds. Add a little less sugar to your recipes and you may just discover you didn't need all that the recipe called for anyway. Check out your grocery store's healthy cooking aisle for alternatives to sugar. Coconut sugar is lower in glycemic index and still tastes great. Artificial sweeteners can leave an after taste. I wish someone could come up with a way to sweeten food without the calories, bad taste and harmful effects of sugar. Maybe someday someone will. Remember, fresh seasonal fruit also makes a great dessert. Fruit has

natural sugar but has much less calories than desserts made with sugar.

Start a new tradition this year that will continue for years and hopefully make you feel better because you are doing something healthy for yourself and your family. Taking a walk after your meal is a great idea. I know how everybody feels after eating a big meal, all the more reason to get moving. Take the whole family for a walk in the brisk air. Share this time and walk off some of those extra pounds you just consumed. If you can't get the whole family involved, pick a friend or family member that you would like to spend a little extra time with. Share conversation, ideas and just time with them. Maybe after all day together preparing the big Christmas feast you may want to escape by yourself for a nice, quiet, peaceful walk of your own. If you can't get outside for a walk use the

treadmill or an exercise tape. Don't have a machine or tape, turn on the music and just dance. You will have fun and bring the family together. These tips work for any holiday gatherings.

Think about giving the gift of health this year. Gift certificates to an exercise program may get a person into a lifetime of health. Get yourself and someone you love into exercising. That is the best thing you can do for yourself and your loved ones. Call me to explore the benefits of an exercise program designed just for you and start your Christmas shopping early by getting a gift certificate for someone on your holiday list. 717-334-6009

I write this annual article each year and while some of it is repeated year after year I like to add a few new ideas and things I have learned over the past year. The biggest thing for me was discovering that I can no longer eat chicken or potatoes. If you or someone you know is having a reac-

tion or chronic problem it may be helpful to keep a diary of the food you are eating and see how you feel. If you notice a headache or particular problem that keeps reoccurring you may want to stop eating certain foods and see if that stops the problem. I had no idea simple foods like chicken and potatoes were giving me headaches. This elimination system may take a little time but is well worth it to feel better again. You can also have blood test to determine what you may be allergic to. A homeopathic practitioner will be able to help you with these tests.

I will be having my annual open house in January so make sure to look for the next article that will give you the date and time.

The most important thing is to "KEEP MOVING", you'll be glad you did.

Merry Christmas to everyone!

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

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## ASTRONOMY

# The night sky of December

Professor Wayne Wooten

For December, the waning crescent moon passes just above bright Venus in the dawn sky on December 3rd. It lies just above Mercury an hour before sunrise on December 5th. It is new the next day. The waxing crescent lies below Saturn in twilight on December 8th, and above it on December 9th. Note we are losing Saturn into the Sun's glare quickly. The peak for the Geminid meteor shower is the evening of December 13th and the following morning.

About 9-10 p.m., as Gemini is rising in the NE, look for "earth-grazers", zapping through the top of our atmosphere from the NE to SW, some stretching almost all the way across the sky. As the moon sets by 11 p.m., you should see still more meteors, perhaps up to one a minute in the predawn hours. That same morning, the almost first quarter moon passes south of red but fading Mars. The winter solstice and the shortest day occur at 4:23 p.m. on December 21st. The full moon, the "Long Night Moon" occurs on December 22nd. The last quarter moon is on December 29th.

Mercury and Jupiter play tag in the predawn skies, with the pair only a degree apart on December 21st. Venus is the bright planet to the upper right of them, dominat-

ing the dawn skies as the year ends. Mars is the only evening planet by month's end, moving rapidly eastward in Aquarius, but fading fast. Saturn was briefly visible just after sunset early, but gone by mid-month behind the Sun. But our feature graphic for this month is the trajectory of Comet Wirtanen. Normally a faint periodic comet, coming back to perihelion every 5.4 years, but this time around, it will pass within seven millions miles of us on December 16th, and MAY become visible with the naked eyes as it passes between the Pleiades and Hyades star clusters then.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. South of it are the watery constellations of Pisces (the fish), Capricorn (Sea Goat), Aquarius (the Water Bearer), and Cetus (the Whale). Below Aquarius is Fomalhaut, the only first magnitude star of the southern fall sky. It is the mouth of Pisces Australis, the Southern Fish.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus" Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we

proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light-years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. Comet Wirtanen should be photobombing the clusters between December 15-20th! East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Their appearance in November in classical times was associated with the stormy season, when frail sailing ships stayed in port. Aldebaran is not a member of the Hyades, but about twice as close as the Hyades; distances in astronomy can be deceiving.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer. Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the

winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers. The Geminid shower's radiant is just north of Castor, with the peak on December 14th, so perhaps you can get lucky and capture a comet and a meteor in the same wide angle shot then!

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirth all over the place.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 p.m., and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting desert for New Year's sky feast.

### Prepare for a wonderful Christmas comet

Get ready for what astronomers are predicting to be a bright, possibly naked eye, Christmastime comet: 46P Wirtanen.

As this comet is slowly closing in on perihelion this December 16 (closest pass by the sun) it will also swing closely by Earth four days later in December and it perhaps might be as bright as 3rd magnitude, or even a bit brighter.

At 11 million miles from Earth, this will be the 10th closest pass of any comet ever known to Earth when it speeds rapidly by on December 19. But its speed of course is not so fast on any given night as you will see it with the naked eye or even telescopes. As you gaze at this comet among the distant stars telescopically, you will be able to watch its position change hour-to-hour as it moves rapidly north-north-eastward each night from far southern skies, into high northern skies by December. From December 15-18 Comet Wirtanen will be moving between the two magnificent star clusters the Hyades and Pleiades in Taurus, the bull and will be likely visible to naked eye at that time.

This comet was discovered in 1948 by astronomer Carl Wirtanen and has a very short orbit around the sun - some 5.4 Earth years to complete one orbit.

Since the comet will be visible to naked eye and quite high in northern skies throughout mid-to late-December, this is an excellent opportunity for all to witness a magnificent miracle in the world of cometary science as this glowing object will pass overhead about one hour before midnight for most of the last two weeks of December.

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## Farmers' Almanac

*"I heard the bells of Christmas Day; their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the word repeat of peace on earth, good will to men!"*

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1802-1882)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Snow, mainly in the northern part of the region (1); fair and cold (2, 3, 4) with Nor'easter, heavy snow (5,6,7). Fair and very cold (8, 9, 10, 11)with another Nor'easter, heavy snow (12, 13, 14, 15). Arctic cold wave (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24) with snow, stormy, mainly in the south (25, 26); fair and cold (27, 28, 29) with more snow in the south (30, 31).

**Full Moon:** The Full Moon for December occurs on Saturday, December 22nd. Many Native Americans referred to December's Full Moon as Cold Moon (for obvious reasons!). It also has been known as the BEAVER MOON and sometimes

Ice-Forming Moon because beavers are quite busy trying to complete their dams and lodges before winter sets in and because ice starts to appear on lakes and ponds at this time of year.

**Holidays:** In 2018, Hanukkah begins at sunset on Tuesday, December 2nd, the Winter Solstice occurs on Friday, December 21st, Christmas falls on Tuesday, December 25th, and Kwanzaa begins on Wednesday, December 26th. However you celebrate, enjoy time with family and friends and resolve to keep that joyful and giving spirit alive throughout the entire coming year! New Year's Eve falls on Monday, December 31st. Consider attending a First Night Celebration this year. If your town or municipality doesn't hold one, go to [www.firstnight.com/cities](http://www.firstnight.com/cities) to find a celebration nearest you. It is a safe way to enjoy a family-oriented evening of fun, food, and entertainment on the very last first night of the year.

**The Garden:** With most of the clean up behind you, now enjoy a rest! The days are becoming too short and getting colder to push to do any more things outdoors. Live Christmas trees are still a tradition in some homes. Check it's freshness by tapping the branches. Very few needles should fall. Stroke the branches to make sure the needles are resilient and not brittle, have an aromatic fragrance, and good green color for the species. Before bringing the tree indoors, cut 1-inch off the bottom before placing in the water receptacle, and fill it with ½ cup regular 7-up plus 1-quart water or tree preserver. It is never too soon to start planning for next year. Go to [www.smartgardener.com/](http://www.smartgardener.com/) for a free online vegetable garden layout tool that will help you to successfully grow healthy and tasty food.

### J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

*"It's not the size nor cost of the gift that makes it meaningful, but the thought that goes into its selection."*



COMPUTER Q&A

# The ABCs of a new computer system

**Aysë Stenabaugh**  
**Jester's Computer**  
**Fairfield, Pa.**

Whether you are purchasing a new computer, switching from one computer to another, or re-installing your operating system, there are a few things you should be aware of. You should consider what software you would like to be on your new device. You may or may not want to transfer data from an old device to a new one.

**Software**

Sometimes when you purchase a new computer it comes with additional software such as Microsoft Office or Antivirus. When you re-install your operating system or change devices, this software will need re-installed. Usually, if your computer came with software the only way to retrieve it is to restore your computer back to factory. If you did not make recovery discs or a recovery flash drive when you first got your device, you may be out of luck. You can try contacting the manufacturer or the place you purchased your product however, they have no obligations to help you retrieve your software.

If you are switching from one device to another, you also need to manually install your software. Sometimes you can download a retail copy of your software but, you will need your product key to activate it. Most paid software is licensed and includes a 25-digit product key that will need to be entered once the software is installed.

**Data**

If you decide that you would like to transfer your data from one computer to another, you can do so manually by copying the data to a flash drive or an external device. If you had software that was backing up your computer prior to the switch, you may be able to use the same software to restore the data into the same locations on your new device. Remember, data only takes up storage space, it does not slow the computer down unless your hard drive is close to being at full capacity.

If your old device is no longer in operation, that doesn't mean that your data is no longer accessible. While hard drive failure is one of the more common issues (especially after 4 or more years of use) there are many other reasons why a device can fail. In most cases your local computer repair shop can remove your devices hard drive and connect it to an external computer to determine if the data is accessible.

**Why is it a good idea to do a fresh install?**

Over time your computer becomes overwhelmed with software and data that is no longer being used. You will find that by re-installing the operating system you can drastically increase

your devices performance. You can choose to only install the software that you are going to use on your device, eliminating programs that may be running unnecessarily. You may be surprised at the amount of storage space that you gain following a re-install due to temporary files and update files that are not needed.

**Keeping your Computer running well**

Once you do a fresh installation you can keep your computer running well by following a few tips. Ensure that your computer is receiving updates by restarting the computer at least once a week. Even if you are not using your device you should turn it on to receive updates occasionally so that when you are ready to use the device it isn't busy. Ensure that you are using a good quality antivirus to protect your computer from viruses and malware.

We recommend AVAST which runs \$75 for a two year license when purchased through us, with that you receive free tech support for the AVAST software! We rec-

ommend yearly maintenance on your device which we offer in the form of a "clean-up" service. If you have children or multiple users on your device, you should create separate user accounts to help keep any software problems that may arise contained. Lastly, we highly recommend a backup solution for your computer, this not only ensures that your personal data is safe, it also provides you with a way to restore your device if you get a bad update or a virus that infects your computer.

*If you would like a recommendation on what to look for or what to avoid when shopping for a new computer visit [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com) and look for our recommendation sheet on the homepage. If you are looking for a desktop computer, we build custom desktops to meet your needs. Our website and Facebook page offer additional tips and tricks to help you make the most of your computer. For additional computer repair questions visit Jester's Computers at 5135 Fairfield Road Fairfield, PA or give us a call at 717-642-6611*



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## December 1

Annual Christmas in Thurmont! The Gateway Brass Ensemble will be playing Christmas songs and will greet Mr. & Mrs. Claus on their arrival to Mechanicstown Square Park at 9 a.m. Activities include pictures with Santa throughout the day, business map stamping activity for adults and prize entries for children for prize drawings at 5 p.m. at Hobbs Hardware. Carriage rides will be available from 2-5 p.m., and 6-8 p.m., and reservations can be made at the at the town office. The Lions Club will light their community ornament tree at 4:30 p.m., with music by Catocin High School's Jazz Band, before the prize drawings at 5 p.m.. A Holiday Train Display will be open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., at 5B East Main Street.

## December 1 & 2

Gettysburg Community Theatre's Home for the Holidays 2018.

Our Annual Christmas Concert! These holiday concerts may feature alumni and faculty, and various musicians and singers from the area showcasing the great talent in our community. Each weekend is different. Perfect for the whole family! For more information call 717-334-2692 or visit [www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org](http://www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org).

## December 1 - 6

Seton Shrine's Candlelight Tours. Your guide will take you on our historic homes tour, with the homes lit by candlelight, and our grounds illuminated with 1,000 luminaries. To reserve a tour time, please call 301-447-6606.

## December 2

Music, Gettysburg's! Schola Cantorum will begin the season of Advent and light up the winter darkness with a festive choral setting for vespers.

Featured in the choral vespers is the 25-voice Schola Cantorum of Gettysburg, under the direction of Stephen P. Folkemer. The Schola Cantorum will augment the evening prayer liturgy with a choral setting of the "Magnificat" by Heinrich Schütz. The vesper service, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the chapel of United Lutheran Seminary, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. For more information please call 717-339-1334 or [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org).

## December 6

Mother Seton School's St. Nicholas Day Preschool Program. Ages 2-5. Join us for fun seasonal activities, crafts, and story time centered on St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children and inspiration for Santa Claus. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Laurie at 301-447-3162 or [admissions@mothersetonschool.org](mailto:admissions@mothersetonschool.org).

## December 7 & 8

Seton Shrine's Door to Bethlehem. On this faith drama tour, you'll join Mary and Joseph as they search for shelter on their journey to Bethlehem. Based on the Las Posadas Christmas tradition. Tours begin every 15 minutes. For tickets, please email [office@setonshrine.org](mailto:office@setonshrine.org) or purchase online at [www.setonshrine.org](http://www.setonshrine.org) or call 301-447-6606.

## December 7, 8 & 9

5th Annual Christmas Festival in East Berlin. A fun morning and evening is planned for children and their families. On December 7th from 4-8 p.m., a light supper of hearty potato soup, sandwiches and apple crisp with ice cream will be available for purchase. This is a family fun hometown event to enjoy. Dress warm for the weather and bring a blanket to keep cozy! For more information visit [www.ebacc.org](http://www.ebacc.org) or call 717-259-8848.

## December 8

The Frederick County Pomona Grange's "Cookie Walk" at the Langanore Grange Hall, 13629 Unionville Road, (Unionville) Mt. Airy. Lots of homemade cookies, candies etc. will sold by the pound (containers provided). Come early for great selections and let us make your holiday cookies for you! For more information, contact Brenda Ripley at 410-775-2111.

Rose Hill Manor Park at Christmas. Discover holiday traditions and enjoy a hearth cooking demonstration based on recipes used during the 1920's when Rose Hill was a Tea Room & Inn. Rose Hill Manor Park, 1611 North Market Street, Frederick.

## December 8 & 20

Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church presents Frederick Classical Ensemble's

holiday production of The Second Shepherds' Play. This comedy with a Christmas message is sure to delight audiences of all ages with the hilarious antics of its quirky characters, as well as its Christmas songs. Be prepared to join a sing-along at the end of the play. Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg.

## December 14

Gettysburg's Annual Holiday Tuba Carol Fest. Tuba players from around the country will join together to play Christmas carols on historic Lincoln Square in Gettysburg. It's truly a magical performance as crowds gather to join in the merriment and come together to sing holiday tunes. Hot chocolate will be served to warm the soul. The rain site will be the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church. The public performance will take place at Lincoln Square in downtown Gettysburg, in front of the Gettysburg Hotel. For more information call 717-334-7719.

Gettysburg Choral Society's second annual holiday concert. The concert will explore the transformation of Christmas music from the early Greek and Latin liturgical roots through the popular 19th and 20th century English and German carols we all love to hear. Hosted by Trinity United Church of Christ, there will be a dessert reception following the concert in Fellowship Hall. This event is free admission and free parking. A love offering donation is appreciated. For more information visit [facebook.com/gburgchoralsociety](http://facebook.com/gburgchoralsociety) or call 717-476-1054.

## December 15

Adams County Arts Council's 25th anniversary. Enjoy festive cocktails,

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**Christmas Eve - December 24th**  
as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

**5 p.m. - St. John's Union Church Sanctuary**  
Following the service:  
6 p.m. - Fried Chicken Dinner with all the trimmings  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

hors d'oeuvres, full course dinner with wine, live and silent auctions, and dancing at the Jingle Ball at the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center, 1195 Baltimore Pike. Event proceeds benefit the Arts Council's education programs for students of all ages. For information about sponsorships, program ads, or reservations, contact 717-334-5006.

Gettysburg Choral Society Christmas in Song featuring beloved seasonal favorites from the 13th century to the present. The concert, featuring beloved Christmas favorites, will be hosted by Trinity United Church of Christ. Admission is free. For more information visit [facebook.com/gburgchoralsociety](https://www.facebook.com/gburgchoralsociety) or call 717-476-1054.

**December 16**  
Music Gettysburg's Christmas Offering. A sampler of holiday music from our favorite performers, including the Gettysburg Children's Choir. For more information visit [www.music-gettysburg.org](http://www.music-gettysburg.org)

gettysburg.org, call 717-339-1334.  
Music, Gettysburg! presents instrumental and vocal music of the Christmas season. This festive concert will feature the Gettysburg Children's Choir and the Gettysburg Chamber Chorale singing classic Christmas favorites. Come prepared to join in singing of Christmas carols during the delightful program. Narrating the concert is Dr. Richard Green, president of United Lutheran Seminary. The Lutheran Seminary Chapel is located at 147 Seminary Ridge on the west edge of Gettysburg. For more information call 717-339-1334 or visit [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org).

**December 17**  
Mother Seton School's Christmas Program. Come celebrate the joy of Christmas with us! The program will include choral performances from the School's chorus and from individual classes, our award-winning band, and a student-produced Christmas play. Call 301-447-3161

or visit [www.mothersetonschool.org](http://www.mothersetonschool.org) for more information.

**December 18**  
The Frederick Children's Choruses' Messiah Sing-Along. A Messiah Sing-Along is unique, as it encourages the audience to sing along. In the audience, faithful singers return to the Weinberg Center year after year, carrying their well-worn copy of the music, ready to sing the choruses. For more information call 301-600-2828 or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org).

**December 31**  
Gettysburg New Year's Eve Celebrations – visit the upcoming events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net) for more details.

Woodsboro Fire Company's Traditional Scottish Ceilidh. Gaelic folk music and dancing means family fun! Valerie Hill of the Frederick Scottish Country Dancers will lead the dancing for everyone. Bring a dish to share, fried chicken and soft drinks will be

provided. For more information call 301-695-2747.

Fredrick's New Year's Eve 'Key Drop'. Ring in the New Year with the Civitan Club of Frederick at the annual Key Drop on Carroll Creek! This handcrafted lighted key will slowly descend from the William O. Lee Memorial Bridge at the stroke of midnight. Hot Chocolate will be available for a suggested donation. For more information call 240-409-0173.



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Dr. Linda Franklin, Director  
Hosanna Voice Choir & Praise Team  
Morning Star Soloists  
Congregational Singing  
Mrs. Ginger Malone, Music Ministries  
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**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
Dec. 16 - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Services 8 & 10:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m.



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLELIGHT AND**  
**LOVEFEAST SERVICES**  
5, 7 & 9 p.m.

Special Message for Children - 5 p.m.  
Hosanna Choir - 7 p.m.  
Bells of Grace Handbell Choir - 7 & 9 p.m.



**ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION**  
Dec. 23 - 8 & 10:30 a.m.



**Happy Holidays!**

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