

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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## Emmitsburg officially going to the dogs!

The Town Board of Commissioners has finally approved a project that has been in the works for almost a year. The town has officially found a suitable location for the dog park, a project that has been contended by community members for several months.

Since the Board last discussed the project, Town Manager Cathy Willets and Town Planner Sue Cipperly continued to look at new locations that would correct the concerns of the public while satisfying the criteria for the park. During the August meeting, Commissioner Cliff Sweeney recommended town staff look at the wooded area behind the tennis courts in Community Park. This location already has an area for parking, a source for the water hook-up is available, and the location is right off of the existing walking path.

The proposed dog park would be approximately 150 feet by 50 feet wide, although these dimensions are still being evaluated, and will be divided into two areas to accommodate both large and small dogs. An entry chamber with a two-door security system would be included on each side to help prevent es-

capas while accessing the site. Each side would have amenities such as a drinking fountain, waste station, benches, and a sand area. The fence would be about five feet tall and the area would be surrounded by trees to allow for a noise barrier, shade and some privacy.

After visiting the location, Willets and Cipperly recommended the Board approve the location. People already use the walking paths to walk their dogs in this area, so placing the dog park in this area would allow additional "free space" for the dogs to run around and interact with other dogs.

Willets noted that the town has already received a \$13,500 Project Open Space Grant, and if they intend to build the park, they must move on the project soon, so they don't lose the money. This proposed location has been open to public comment for two months on the town website and the town's Facebook page. No comments were received during this period of time.

Cipperly discussed the funds for the dog park. The approximate cost of the dog park is \$20,000 - \$21,000. After subtracting the



Looking for a dog to play with in the new dog park? How about Aiden? As you can tell, he loves chasing balls, so he'll be a natural in the dog park! To adopt Aiden, contact the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791.

grant money, the total that remains is about \$7,000. In the Gettysburg and Biglerville dog parks, residents and local veterinary practices have donated almost everything within the parks. Cipperly mentioned that the town could consider reaching out to residents to volunteer their time to help raise funds for the additional cost or reach out to local businesses to donate funds. Commissioner Sweeney seemed confident that members of the community will actively donate remaining items including benches, water fountains for the dogs, pet waste stations etc.

Commissioner Elizabeth Buckman noted that she has heard many positive responses from the public. Many residents she spoke to said that they like this location. There won't be a noise issue, or safety issue, as the location will be located away from residential areas housing families. Commissioner Tim O'Donnell spoke to Mr. Burns, the President of the Southgate Homeowners Association, as well as members of the Parks and Recreation Committee, and all noted their approval of the location. Many residents are enthusiastic about the new location for the dog park.

## Liberty Township terminates treasurer

Liberty Township supervisors reported they had terminated the employment of former township secretary-treasurer after discovering that she had "accidentally" overpaid herself in excess of \$24,000.

During the December meeting, Supervisor Vice Chairman Robert Jackson said the situation may have been caught sooner but concerns about violating the Sunshine Act became an issue, saying

"Back in those days, the former supervisor (and now-deceased) Peter Foscatto worked day and night to support the township, but he was worried about the Sunshine Act, because if two of us get together and talk it could be a violation. Peter did most of the work on the budget himself, and the supervisors were only able to look at it hours before it was approved," Jackson said.

"Consequently, we didn't take the care that we should have, and the budget didn't get the scrutiny it deserved." Jackson further said Foscatto had been very ill at the time the overpayments began, and the treasurer seemingly took advantage of the fact that (Foscatto) put the budget together every year, and we, erroneously, as supervisors, did not scrutinize it as carefully as we should have, or we

would have picked it up.

Jackson attempted to reassure residents the township was addressing the situation and pointed out that not only were they working with Smith Elliott Kearns & Co. on the audits, but had also engaged Gettysburg College Forensic Accountant Karen Frey. Jackson said, "We will have as many audits as it takes to find out whatever problems there are."

Both Jackson and fellow supervisor Mickey Barlow said the overpayments to the treasurer, which dated as far back as 2012, totaled \$24,174, with Barlow noting the difficulty in proving exactly how much money was lost in all. Barlow also reported that the township had already spent \$5,500 on the payroll audit with Smith Elliott Kearns and Company, and estimated they could spend up to \$13,000 should they decide to pursue a full forensic audit. "If it's going to cost us \$34,000 to recoup the \$24,000 we lost, it's not really worth it," Barlow said.

Liberty Township resident Donna Powers countered "So why are we doing all these audits when we can just give this to the police and say 'Have at it?'" Adding, "We've got some serious issues here, and I



Liberty Township supervisors have terminated the employment of the township's treasurer, after discovering overpayments in excess of \$24,000.

think we should let the police take it." Barlow stated the township could not force the police to take action on the matter, noting the existence of an ongoing investigation. "What they do with that, we have no control over."

Powers then demanded to know what recourse the township has to recoup the funds that were overpaid. "We're already doing it," said John Phillips, the township's solicitor. "We have this audit in

hand, and it's been handed over to treasurer's attorney with a demand for repayment. It will be sent to the bond company who insured her fidelity bond for a claim. This will also be forwarded to the district attorney."

"Shaking her head, Powers said, "It sounds like a mess." "It is a mess," Phillips agreed. Weather permitting, the next board of supervisors meeting will be held the on January 2, 2017.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Voluntary water restriction in effect

During the December 6 Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board voted to implement Phase I curtailment of water use as permitted by Section 13.04.160 of the Town of Emmitsburg municipal code.

Due to the lack of rain for several months, many towns in the area are currently under a drought watch. Adams County and parts of Frederick County are both urging residents to conserve water when they can.

Just in Emmitsburg, on average, over the past six months, the town has seen a precipitation deficit of 2.44 inches. By the end of October, numbers showed that Rainbow Lake was 2.3 feet below the spillway level, and as of December 6, the water level was 2.4 feet below spillway level. The normal level of water is supposed to be 16.6 feet, but over the past several months the

water level has only been averaging about 14.2 feet.

The water quality has been terrible because the level has been continuously dropping. Dan Fissel, the Superintendent for the Water/Sewer plant, noted that it would be necessary for the Town to have continuous rain in order to filter out the algae accumulating in the wells. The roughing filters are being backwashed six times a day and the DE filters are being done three times per week, which exceeds the system's normal capacity. The necessity of cleaning these filters out so frequently is an immense waste of water, but until more rain arrives, the town will have to continue with the regimen.

On average the town's wells are 60.75 feet below their optimum level as recorded in May 2011. As a result, the town has had to increase their pull of water from

Mount St. Mary's University, far exceeding their normal pull of 10,000 gallons of water per day. On November 22, the town had to increase the pull of water to 40 gallons per minute, which totals approximately 58,000 gallons a day. 53.8% of this water came from wells; 3.3% of this water came from Mt. St. Mary's; 43.3% of this water came from Rainbow Lake.

As of December 6, the pull of water was reduced to 36,000 gallons per day.

Fissel recommended a Phase I water restriction. This curtailment is a voluntary conservation restraint by all users of water from the municipal water system of the Town. The town will need substantial rain or snow in order to alleviate the restriction. The curtailment will remain in place until the Board of Commissioners votes to remove the curtailment.

## Emmitsburg news-briefs

### Abandoned property ordinance

The Board of Commissioners reviewed an amendment to Title 8 of the Code of Emmitsburg, entitled Health and Safety, specifically related to abandoned property during the December 6 Town meeting. The desire to make the amendment arose due to increasing issues with enforcing the ordinance. Many complaints from residents and members of the community were sent to Town staff concerning "eye sores" on town properties, specifically "junk cars," old appliances and equipment. At least ten vehicles have been reported by residents, and Town Planner Susan Ciperly has been compiling a list of violations. Many of the vehicles are unregistered, unlicensed and appear "run-down."

According to the current Ordinance, if a vehicle is un-drivable and isn't registered, then it is considered abandoned. If a resident has a vehicle like this, the vehicle needs to be placed in an enclosed building such as a garage or shed so it cannot be seen by adjacent properties. The concern is not only one of unsightliness for neighbors, but also poses a potential health and safety

hazard as the vehicles could be housing wild animals such as rodents or stray cats.

The proposed amendment addressed the movement/placement of cars within a property or properties owned by the same resident. The resident responsible for the abandoned property may not move or relocate it to any other site for storage if it can still be seen, uncovered by the adjacent property, and the relocation will be considered a continuation of the original offense and will be subject to daily fines. The amendment also hopes to reiterate the definition of abandoned property as well as the definition of proper cover for the vehicle, meaning tarp, car cover, or enclosed building.

### Budget transfer approved

The Board of Commissioners approved a \$10,000 budget transfer within the Capital Fund on December 6. This transfer includes an increase by \$2,500 to department 30 (Public Works Streets) & activity 612 (Signs), which will account for the cost of replacing the welcome sign outside of town.

An increase by \$7,000 to department 30 (Public Works

Streets) & activity 999 (General) was also approved. This is simply a budget transfer. When the Town made the last payment for the doughboy statue, the money was allocated to the parks item when it should have gone to the streets item.

An increase by \$500 to department 15 (Buildings) & activity 333 (Solar Field Project) was approved. The Town had the usage/production of the solar field reviewed by the Solar Attorney, so this cost was considered an added expense to the solar account.

Finally, a decrease by \$10,000 to department 30 (Public Works Streets) & activity 374 (LED Upgrade) was approved. The Town pulled money from this fund in order to transfer to the aforementioned items. The LED account had sufficient funds in the approximate amount of \$61,000.

### Residents concerned over crosswalks

Residents voiced their concern over the timing at the crosswalks and intersections on the town square, as it poses dangerous crossing of pedestrians from one side of the street to the other. Town Manager Cathy Willets

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previously expressed the concern to the State Highway Administration, but the SHA had no intentions to change it. However, Willets recommended that both the Board and the public express their concern with the matter. The Board could then direct town staff to issue a letter to the SHA to modify crosswalks, cameras and timers.

Commissioners agreed that the intersection and crosswalks needed to be safer but also accommodate vehicles trying to cross traffic when making a left

hand turn (specifically on East Main Street). Commissioner Sweeney proposed the installation of a green arrow on East Main to help vehicles cross traffic. The idea of installing red light cameras, to monitor people running red lights, was also discussed.

Willets recommended the Board have photos, public comment and statistics of foot traffic and vehicle traffic ready to present to the SHA, as they will be attending a town meeting in March.



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# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Liberty Township residents question Police Department

Residents of Liberty Township voiced some concern with the availability of the Township's Police Department during the December 6th Board of Supervisor's meeting.

Residents who attended the meeting spoke to say they have noticed decreased police coverage within the Township, several citing multiple recurrent offenders of speeding, and question where the Township's Police force is. On Tract Road, several residents have made complaints concerning a local who drives too quickly and recklessly. Residents say the speeding and reckless drivers are out of hand and will inevitably end up hurting someone if something isn't done. Resident Donna Powers worries that no one is being held accountable for what is oc-

curing, including the Police Department, for their duties.

In his monthly report, Police Chief, Brand Briggs, mentioned one traffic citation for the month of November. Briggs also mentioned that 242 hours were logged, and 136.4 gallons of fuel were utilized over 1793 miles in November alone. Resident Jim Hauer questioned why only 1 citation was issued. Briggs simply noted that it is "up to the officers' discretion as to whether they write citations." As the Township Police Department had been covering Freedom Township at the time and logged 242 hours, residents don't understand how there were there only a few vehicle stops accounted for.

When the contract with Freedom Township came up for renewal this

year, Freedom chose to decline. Hauer spoke again to say, "for three years, Liberty didn't satisfy that contract, and this year the taxpayers of Liberty Township had to give their tax dollars to offer Freedom free services to get them through the year." Residents want to know if someone is being held liable for Liberty losing a \$50,000 contract because they didn't satisfy the hours. According to a survey issued to Freedom Township residents, the Freedom community desired to do away with the contract with Liberty. Briggs believes there may have been a financial concern as well, as the budget for Freedom is tight for the 2017 year.

Liberty Township may not be covering Freedom anymore, but they still hold a mutual-aid agreement with the

Carroll Valley Police Department. Carroll Valley officers are the responding officers when Liberty Township officers are off duty and vice versa. However, in 2016 alone the Carroll Valley Police Department was called to Liberty Township 236 times, and a majority of those calls were unassisted. Residents voiced concern with this number, and referred back to the question of where their own Police Force has been. "We are not getting the services we should be getting from our Police Department, so what are we going to do as a township?" stated Hauer.

Residents wondered if it would make sense to hire the Carroll Valley police department and do away with some of their part-time officers? Would it be more economical as a Township to hire Carroll Valley as the police force, instead of having its own police department? Since Carroll Valley is reportedly open to expanding into other Townships, residents see hiring them as a viable option. Supervisor Vice Chairman Robert Jackson noted that the Township would need to look into the cost of this option and weigh it against the hours they would be provided.

## Fairfield area news-briefs . . .

### Muddy Run Bridge open

The new Route 116 (Fairfield Road) Bridge, which spans Muddy Run in Highland Township, opened to traffic on December 2, after being closed for over two months. This new bridge replaced the former structure as part of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Rapid Bridge Replacement Project and allows PennDOT to remove it from the state's structurally deficient list.

With the bridge reopened to traffic, motorists may notice a slight bump as they drive across the bridge until a polyester polymer concrete (PPC) overlay is applied to the deck. This is often the final step in completing box beam bridge projects. The PPC overlay is designed to protect the deck from the wear and tear brought about by Pennsylvania's harsh winters and reduce the long-term maintenance costs.

The polyester material can only be applied when temperatures are consistently above 40 degrees, dry weather is forecasted and after the bridge concrete has cured for at least 30 days. Flaggers will assist in guiding alternating bi-directional traffic when the PPC overlay is applied in the spring of 2017.

This bridge is one of 558 bridges being replaced statewide under the Rapid Bridge Replacement Project. The Rapid Bridge Replacement Project is a public-private partnership (P3) between PennDOT and Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners (PWKP), under which PWKP will finance, design, replace and maintain the bridges for 25 years. The P3 approach allows PennDOT to replace the bridges more quickly while achieving significant financial savings and minimizing impact on motorists.

### Carroll Valley Borough Building

During the December 13 Carroll Valley Borough Council meeting, the Council discussed some change orders for the new Borough building. The sign that will be placed outside the building that will broadcast events, meetings, and

other important information to the public was originally estimated to cost \$65,680. The price of the sign has decreased since the original estimate to \$57,625.

The sign will be digital and Borough staff will be able to update the information on the sign from their phones, through an app. This will allow staff to update information even if they are not in the building; an important feature in case of emergency. Borough Manager David Hazlett hopes the price will decrease even more as they plan on decreasing the dimensions of the sign. The Council voted to allow the purchase of a sign as long as the price doesn't exceed the \$57,625 price.

The Council also approved the \$12,000 installation of a water meter and backflow preventer system. This cost was not initially anticipated, but due to the distance between the new building and the water main, a pit had to be constructed and a water meter needed to be placed near the street. York Water Company, Carroll Valley's contracted company, required this pit and water meter. The price was originally over \$17,000, but has since been talked down to \$12,000.

### Fairfield Boy Scouts host spaghetti dinner

Boy Scout Troop 76 in Fairfield is organizing an all you can eat spaghetti dinner and silent auction to raise funds for a sister (Savannah Bollinger) of one of their Eagle Scouts (Matthew). Savannah had a severe concussion a few years ago and that has led to some debilitating medical issues. She has need of and has gratefully been


accepted for a service dog to help her maintain a safe and normal life but the price tag of approximately \$10,000 is very high. Savannah's family has been very involved with scouts and the troop would like to give back to such a wonderful family by helping them raise some money towards it. The dinner will be held on Sunday, January 15, from 3 - 7 pm at the Fairfield Fire Hall. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children under the age of 12, and any child under the age of 6 is free. If need be, the snow date is Sunday, January 22, same time and place. For more information, contact Jane at 717-253-7950.

### Carroll Valley Council President resigns

Carroll Valley Council President, Janis Ashman unexpectedly resigned from her position as President as well as positions in other committees. Ashman had been a member on the Council for six years. Her letter of resignation did not indicate her reason for terminating her position. Vic President Sarah Skoczen will serve as interim President until a nominated candidate fills the position.

The Board elected to delay accepting the resignation as they only have 30 days to select another candidate. With the holidays taken into consideration, Council felt it was best to delay the acceptance of the resignation so they have plenty of time to find a candidate. The Council will vote on the acceptance of Ashman's resignation at the January meeting, and will then have 30 days to appoint a new member to the position.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Thurmont names new Economic Development Manager

Vickie Grinder has been named as the new Economic Development Manager for the Town of Thurmont. Ms. Grinder has recently served as Thurmont's Main Street Manager, a part-time position, since 2013. During her tenure as Thurmont's Main Street Manager, Ms. Grinder has overseen many popular events including Christmas in Thurmont, the Thurmont Business Showcase, the Main Street Farmers' Market, and the annual Art and Wine Strolls.



Thurmont Main Street program. "We're looking forward to increasing our economic development efforts in Thurmont. Vickie's professional contacts and her determination for the success of Thurmont's business community will prove to be invaluable as we move forward" stated Thurmont Commissioner and Main Street liaison Bill Buehrer. Ms. Grinder, who resides in Fairfield, is scheduled to begin working in her new position on January 17.

Grinder's new responsibilities will include the promotion and marketing of business and economic development interests within the town; providing guidance to existing businesses; attracting new business opportunities to Thurmont; and continuing to oversee the

## Think Pink raises \$13,675

This was the third year for Thurmont Think Pink. During the November 29 Thurmont Town meeting, members from local participating businesses, Catoctin High School and Town staff presented Patty Hurwitz with their donations.

The Patty Hurwitz Fund began in 2000; a year after Hurwitz was diagnosed with breast cancer. After that initial experience, Hurwitz and husband decided that they wanted to find a way to provide the best experience for men and women in Frederick County facing breast cancer, so they wouldn't have to travel far to receive treatment. To date almost \$1.5 million has been raised on behalf of the fund. With this money, Frederick Memorial Hospital has been able to purchase state of the art equipment for early diagnoses and treatment that wasn't previously available in the area. In the future, this



L-R: Thurmont Commissioner Bill Buehrer, Main Street Manager Vickie Grinder, Dr. Jon Moles of Gateway Orthodontics, CAO Jim Humerick, Commissioner Wayne Hooper, Patty Hurwitz, Commissioner Marty Burns, Commissioner Wes Hamrick, John & Maggie Doll of Gateway Candyland & Gateway Liquors, Niki Eyler, & Dr. John Bramson of Catoctin Veterinary Clinic.

fund will also be supporting the new James M. Stockman Cancer Center that's under construction at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

Thurmont Think Pink is a way for the community to join together to raise money for an incredible cause. Businesses such as Gateway Candy and Gateway Liquors, Gateway Orthodontics, Eyler Flea Market Stables spoke about their contributions ranging from donation jars, to pink items being sold. Many first time businesses loved the experience and can't wait to participate again next year.

Laurie Wilhelm presented \$750 to the Patty Hurwitz Fund on behalf of Catoctin High School. The school's football team, cheerleaders and student spirit group sold t-shirts and accepted cash donations during their October 14<sup>th</sup> game. Three young men from Catoctin, Chase Wilhelm, Shane Biser, Eli Free, Tristan Rice and Owen Brown presented Patty Hurwitz with the donation.

The first year Thurmont Think Pink raised \$4,760, and last year they raised \$10,000. This year the community raised \$13,675. Thurmont Think Pink has really grown in the past three years, and Town staff believe it will only keep

growing.

Robin Rose, the Vice President of Development for Frederick Memorial Hospital applauded the efforts of all the residents, businesses and the community. She spoke about the James Stockman Cancer Center and how some of the funds would be supporting that Center. Those at Frederick Memorial Hospital are excited that they can bring state of the art care to Frederick County. The protocol and treatment regimens that the patients will receive at Frederick Memorial will be the same as the treatment they would receive at the MD Anderson in Houston Texas, Frederick Memorial's affiliated Institute with this Center.

Patty Hurwitz concluded by saying, "I just want to personally thank all of you, you're just an amazing group of leaders and the fact that you've gotten your Town to come on board with this and you've been so involve. Of all the fundraising things that we do in October, this is one of the highlights for me and I really appreciate that you are honoring survivors in your community and honoring the memory of other people, it's just an amazing thing you do."

## Thurmont Main Street volunteers are AWESOME!

These volunteers will be bringing the following events to The Thurmont Main Street Center in 2017!

Movie & Popcorn Night ~ Photography Classes  
Painting Classes ~ Education Night: "The Titanic"  
Planets & Space Seminars ~ Wine Tasting & Food Pairings  
The Thurmont Business Showcase ~ Art & Wine Stroll  
Farmers Market ~ Christmas In Thurmont  
and many more to come! Something for every age!

Thank you!

If you want to volunteer for your Thurmont Main Street Community, please contact Michael Hobbs at 301-271-2233 or Vickie Grinder at [Vgrinder@thurmontstaff.com](mailto:Vgrinder@thurmontstaff.com)

<p><b>CROWN ROYAL CANADIAN WHISKEY</b> 750ML TAILGATE READY PACKAGE!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Happy New Year 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">We wish you all a Happy New Year!</p>	<p><b>ALL WINTER DRAFT BEERS NOW AVAILABLE!</b> 6 PAKS &amp; 12 PAKS</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RUSKOVA VODKA</b> <b>\$16<sup>99</sup></b> 1.75 Liter</p>		

# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## January 1917

### January 5

#### Tolls Bell For 44<sup>th</sup> Year

This was the 44<sup>th</sup> year that Mr. James Hospelhorn tolled the bell for the Lutheran Church's midnight service. The attendance at the midnight service was unusually large this year.

#### Boozers Drink In New Year

Boozers turned out in force to "drink in" the New Year at the Hotel Slagel's Bar. Between countless rounds, Boozers exchanged plans for building stills in the Mountains. At the tolling of the Lutheran Church bell, the Boozers spilled out into the Square where they proceeded to make sure everyone in the town knew their opinion of what they thought of prohibition. The Boozers then broke into their favorite drinking songs and made a general nuisance of themselves until the early morning hours in front of the homes of the women who had browbeaten their spineless husbands into voting to take away their god given and constitutional right to drink.

#### Dies From Fall On Ice

Concussion of the brain caused by a fall received while skating last Saturday afternoon resulted in the death of William Ziegler, age 14, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ziegler, of Fairfield. The boy was skating with a number of companions on the quarries outside of town when the accident occurred. He was thrown onto the ice when one of the skates struck a piece of frozen grass that was embedded in the ice.

#### Funerals In The Old Days

Mr. William Buschmann has presented the Chronicle Museum with a handmade wooden brace and bit over 100 years old. It belonged to Frederick Rowe who came to Emmitsburg in 1811. Mr. Rowe was a cabinetmaker and undertaker. Mr. Bush recalls that in the old days the coffin was placed on a two-wheeled sulky, the base of which was in the shape of the coffin. The driver sat on a three-legged stool and the vehicle was drawn by one horse.

#### Large Shipment Of Cattle

During the year 1916, Patterson Brothers shipped from Emmitsburg and nearby points \$218,322 worth of cattle, hogs and sheep. This sum represents the amount paid to farmers and dealers by this firm and it means an average of \$4,198 a week or \$700 a day. The shipments required 156 cattle cars, 92 from Emmitsburg and 60 from nearby towns.

#### Discovers Pot Of Gold

Samuel Klein of Harney, uprooted last week an old stump in a field on his farm, and found beneath an earthen jar filled with money. The jar contained gold, silver and greenbacks to the value of \$1,344. The money was principally of the date of 1882. It is thought it was put in the earthen pot about 30 years ago and hid beneath a large chestnut tree that then stood on the farm now owned by Mr. Klein. All the money is in a good state

of preservation, the gold and silver being untarnished and the bill showing no ware.

### January 12

#### Boozers Celebrate Pot Of Gold

The discovery by Former Former Boozers Samuel Kline last week of a pot of gold finally blew away the melancholy mood that had occupied the superior minds of the members of the Former Former Boozers Association following the victory of the Prohibitionists in the recent election. Boozers turned out in force to celebrate Klein's good luck. A Boozers was chosen at random to reach into the pot and withdraw a coin or bill without looking — the number of rounds bought was based upon what was pulled. Upon hearing of her husband's actions, Mrs. Kline, along with local nefarious members of the prohibitionist and Suffragette movement, stormed into the bar and retrieved the pot. Thoroughly inebriated Boozers were in no condition to battle the member of the weaker sex, nor did they really care, as at the time every Boozers had almost 9 drinks in front of them to consume.

#### Check Forgery

John Forney, who lives just across the line, was held in \$200 bill for the action of the February grand jury, charged with raising a check given to him by John Ohler of near Emmitsburg from \$18 to \$48.

#### Rotering — Mathews

At 11:45 Sunday morning, Ms. Euphemia Tyson Matthews, and Mr. Cyril Rotering were quietly married in St. Joseph Catholic Church by the pastor, Rev. Hayden. In the afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Rotering left for New York, and other cities where they will spend their honeymoon. (Editor's note: The story of Euphemia Tyson's love for her late first husband John Mathews formed the basis of 'The Contrato', a novel set in Emmitsburg and in which a number of well known characters about Emmitsburg are interwoven. The names are disguised in part, but not so much that they cannot be recognized by a person familiar with the names in that section. The book is by Roger M. Carew, who spent the summer of 1910 in Emmitsburg. The book can be read online at [www.emmitsburg.net](http://www.emmitsburg.net))

#### Suit Settled

In the suit for \$300 damages of Jesse Smith against M. S. Sheets, the plaintiff was given \$37. The case was the outcome of an automobile accident in 1915 in which there was a collision. On the witness stand, Smith testified that after driving his car as far as possible to the side of the road, he was run into by Sheets. Smith claimed that he was not at fault and that Smith caused the accident. His machine was badly damaged.

#### Notice

I take this means to make public the fact that the stories I myself circulated

about Mrs. Vira Ridinger are untrue. Signed Sally Reifsnider.

### January 19

#### Accidents Due To Weather

Lefevre Kerrigan met with a very painful accident while sledding one day this week. The sled on which he was riding ran into a telephone pole and badly crushed his right knee. A number of people received hard falls on the icy pavements the first part of the week as the temperature dipped to 16° on Monday night. Mr. William Myers had the misfortune to break his right arm this week. The accident occurred when he was cutting ice. Ice cutting resumes this week, the creeks being again frozen to a considerable depth.

#### Watch Your Lights And Tags.

Motor vehicle Commissioner Baughman and his deputies are rigidly enforcing the law applicable to lights and licenses on automobiles. The law requires the white light from the rear in such a manner and of sufficient illumination power to make readable the number on the rear license tag. License tags must be fastened so as not to swing; they must be kept clean and be entirely un-obscured. The fine is five dollars for disregarding each of these requirements. Both tags must at all times be carried on the auto, one in the front and the other in the rear. The registration certificate and operator's license must also be carried in the car. Failure to have them constitutes violation of the law.

### January 26

#### John Reindollar

John Reindollar, prominent citizen of Fairfield, died at his home Sunday afternoon after a lingering illness caused by the complications of diseases. He was aged 68 years. Mr. Reindollar had been in failing health for the last three years and had been confined to his bed about six weeks. He was born in Taneytown, but spent much of his life in Fairfield, where he conducted a general store. He moved to Fairfield 32 years ago. Mr. Reindollar was active in the affairs of the Lutheran Church, was a member of the Old Fellow's Order and belongs to the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Fairfield.

**Born! A Southern Gentleman!**

*It Was Midnight November 4<sup>th</sup> 1901 In Durham, N.C.*

It was midnight, cold and dark. The calendar told the date—Monday, November 4th, 1901. They tell me I opened my eyes and blinked in the glare of the big electric lights. Around me were men in spotless white talking in low tones.

"Jim," one said, "we have been watching for this little fellow for a long while and now he's here."

Jim picked me up, looked me over, struck a match and took a long, deep puff. Then he took another.

"Gentlemen," he said, "He is perfect. Quality does tell. You can't fail to recognize good blood. His mother was a Virginian, his father an aristocrat of the Carolinas. He comes from the very best stock—the very sweetest, ripest, mellowest Virginia and Carolina tobacco, and we will raise him right in one of the whitest, cleanest, healthiest homes on earth."

Even then I was glad all over to hear his words. It is a great thing to have real breeding behind you, to know who your folks are. It starts a fellow right.

*We Folks of the South KNOW good blood. We Folks of the South KNOW good tobacco.*

That is why I just had to have heaps of friends down South here. I want you, Mr. Reader, for one of my friends, and it means a whole lot when I say—

I am guaranteed by *The American Tobacco Co.* —Buy me. If you don't like me return me to your dealer and get your money back. I have said it. A Southern gentleman is known the world over for keeping his word, and I have given you mine.

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*"King of Them All"*

#### Trespass Warning

All persons are warned against trespassing on my property, "Valley View Farm", a reward of \$10 will be paid for evidence that will lead to the conviction of trespassers. Signed Mrs. Ledlie Gloninger.

#### House For Sale

3 acres of land on Green Street extended, improved by seven room house, all conveniences, mountain border, all necessary outbuildings, including a shop formerly used for the manufacture of cigars. Fields planted in clover, timothy and alfalfa. Asking \$225. Apply to M. Shuff, Emmitsburg.

#### Safe Blown

Thieves using dynamite early Monday morning blew open the safe in the office of the Wyand Baking Company on Waynesboro pike and secured \$100. A cash register in the office was also broken open and about \$10 was secured.

#### Annual Report From St. Mary's

The annual report of St. Mary's

Catholic Church, Fairfield, for the year 1916, was read at both masses in the church Sunday morning by the rector, Father Gies. The report showed total receipts of \$2,991 or approximately 100% over any former year in the history of that parish, the total and steer being \$1,500. During the pastorate of Father Gies, the little congregation has been put on a self-sustaining basis. Both the interior and exterior of the church and rectory have undergone extensive improvements of a permanent character, and the parish premises generally put in first class repair.

#### Hotel Martin

The "Hotel Martin" for birds only, will be formally opened here on March 15 by uncle John, scale works, owner and manager. There are 36 front suits, all overlooking wide balconies. Reservations are now being booked. No chickens need apply.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month, visit the History section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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*Best Wishes for the New Year!*

If you are looking to buy, sell or rent in 2017 remember  
**Don't settle for less get a Little-Moore!**

## FROM THE DESK OF . . .

## County Councilman Kirby Delauter

Just some observations on a recent Editorial by the Frederick News-Post titled "A County Council Divided". It starts off describing me speaking at a council meeting and goes through (with their best liberal effort) to describe the Council reactions.

They paint Billy Shreve as seeing the comment as comical, they try to show Tony Chmelik as embarrassed, and the remainder as studious and basically, annoyed. They describe the scene as tensions. They state that Jerry Donald rattled of items of success by the Democratic 4-3 majority such as the property tax remaining unchanged. Well, nice try but that's not exactly true. Now for two years in a row, the constant yield was held which means the county collected more of your tax money in the process. The State of Maryland Comptroller calls that "a tax increase", and yes, I voted against it.

Jerry Donald States the Bond rating has gone up. Again, this is

true but bond rating swings are like a cruise ship at sea, you do not turn them on a dime. In the case of bond rating swings (or in this case an increase) it started with the fiscal responsibility of the prior board of County Commissioners when we achieved the highest bond rating in County history. Nice try Jerry Donald, but you simply can't take credit for what was done prior to you being elected.

These, just of few of the items on his list of half-truths. Jerry Donald touts the 4-3 majority of 12 Bills passed, but fails to mention 73% of these came through the Council at the request of the County Executive, and yes, they came through with a rubber stamp etched with 4-3. Council member Donald likes to chide me for never introducing a Bill in two years. Well, yes, if I have to introduce legislation for civility and water buffers we don't need, then yes, you will see no Bills from me. I also want to reduce the size of government, not legislate

your land rights and everything else under the sun to restrict your freedoms all in the name of "good government".

They talk about personalities and how the elections may have had something to do with how Council members act, but I can safely tell you it is simple common courtesy. When a 4-3 majority (Otis, Keegan Ayre, Fitzwater and Donald) come out day one in lock-step with the County Executive it's hard to garner much cohesiveness in this group.

When the County Executive targets business people she disagrees with and issue executive orders (backed by the council by 4-3), it's hard to gain cohesiveness as a group. When a Republican elected official, does a complete 180 degree turn from his election platform and throws his Republican counterparts under the bus at every turn, it's hard to gain cohesiveness in this group. When that same person (Unaffiliated) Bud Otis

states in this FNP article that "We are not a constituency service" that speaks volumes as to his disdain for the voters who put him there.

There is no leadership on this council and it's been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. A prime example, by a 4-3 Bud Otis was again put in as Council President. It's apparent nothing will change, the council we be an extension of the County Executive and she will run the county through fear and intimidation, just as she has for the 20 plus years she's been involved in county government.

I'm in a minority on this Council, I get it, and I'm good with it. I will continue to bring out the nonsense and serve you as your elected representative in District 5.

On another note, I recently requested that the Frederick County State Delegation sponsor and support legislation to authorize tax credits for Frederick County res-

idents who paid for Best Available Technology (BAT) septic systems. Under Governor Martin O'Malley's Administration, the BAT system was implemented to work for the reduction of nitrogen on-site sewage disposal systems. Under that policy, new septic systems required homeowners to pay thousands of additional dollars to install. Many residents had to abide by the State requirement that has now been altered. Recently, Governor Larry Hogan announced the repeal of the regulations requiring the use of best available nitrogen removal technology for septic systems.

I believe that those residents who were forced to pay for that system to be installed should be entitled to off-setting tax credits to recoup their costs. I praise this common sense gesture by the Governor, this is exactly the type of tax payer responsible government that is needed in Maryland and Frederick County. For additional information please contact Council Member Kirby Delauter at 301-600-1034 or via e-mail at KDelauter@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

## County Councilman Bud Otis

Service. A way of thinking on how to approach matters brought before you. An attitude of servitude to others. Helping solve simple and complex issues. Working together for the sake of all people, the common good. Coming to the aid of those in need. Serving the poor. Assisting FCPS with funds to pay our teachers a decent starting wage. Providing county services - fixing the little things and the big things. The tremendous Frederick County DPW staff working 24/7 to clear the roads of dangerous ice and snow this past winter. Our brave

DFRS, 911 call-takers, sheriff's office and many city police who help us and keep us safe 365 days a year. The FC Health Department staying on top of the potential Zika virus threat, and their daily efforts to assist others in so many ways. 2,000 employees work for the county and their daily responsibility is... service. I want to thank each of them for their consistent, often unseen efforts to serve all our residents. These are some thoughts that come to mind when I think of "service." It is what is done for others, not what others can do for you.

Over my years in the private sector, I was very fortunate to work with many people who not only had a head for business, but also a heart for service. They showed their passion in their daily efforts for their respective company responsibilities and what struck me was their genuine desire to help others.

During my service in Congress for 12 years it was easy to see which elected public officials on the Hill took the "public servant" aspect of their job as a primary responsibility or just looked at their current position as either a career

or hopeful stepping stone to higher office. Those with passion for causes almost always had tremendous energy and followed through on their promises to constituents. Some have brought forth significant change. If the boss showed commitment to individuals, his/her office developed stellar constituent services. If not, then, well - you guessed it - the constituents did not have good representation.

Today's political world seems at times to have forgotten the very tenant of the precious role - to serve the public is an honor and privilege. We are here as elected public officials. We are here to serve all of you. It is not about

"us" it is about "you"! We are your representatives.

The FC Charter form of government has only been in operation since 12.1.14. It certainly works! As part of a seven member County Council, this is accomplished through majority vote. We have had stumbling blocks, a learning curve, and yet have been able to accomplish a number of things moving this county forward and continue to pursue issues in the best interest of all residents.

Over the past two years we are proud to have approved two budgets, passed 25 Bills through an 80% super majority vote (5 or more council members in favor) including legislation to support business development in our county. We've strengthened the Ethics Bill, implemented an independent Ethics Commission member selection process, and in October of 2016 stood up a Frederick County Veterans Treatment Court. And, this past election, our voters passed two Charter Amendments giving us more time to work on the county's budget.

These accomplishments are not done in a vacuum. We rely on our internal council staff and administrative staff to draft bills and pass the legal sufficiency test. I'd like to publicly acknowledge that we have a superior group of people who support our efforts and continue to do so on a daily basis. We truly appreciate them.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. My wonderful wife is determinedly supportive of my service, so I'd like to take this moment to thank her. For all the times away from home, the late nights and weekends, you have been so gracious. Thank you Rose, you are a first class lady and the reason I am able to continue to serve.

In closing, Rose and I wish everyone a wonderful New Year!

**MELISSA M. WETZEL**  
CPA, PC  
Certified Public Accountant



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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

## County Executive Jan Gardner

As we usher in 2017, we welcome a new year and a new beginning. It is a time of renewed energy, resolutions, and fresh ideas. So, what's on tap for 2017?

In Frederick County, we jump right into the annual budget process. It may sound boring, but the budget is actually the most important function of county government because the budget defines how we spend our collective money and reflects our community values and priorities.

When people read the list of accomplishment from 2016, they often ask, "How much did this cost?" That's a good question with a great answer.

Every resident deserves frugal and fiscally responsible management of their tax dollars. And, my administration has delivered a big bang for the county tax dollar, earned three AAA bond ratings for the first time in the county's history reflecting strong fiscally conservative management, and started re-building reserves for the next rainy day.

### \$35 Million

In the first two years of my administration, the county budget grew modestly, by about \$35 million over two years with no tax rate increases. This is almost exactly the same increase in spending as the first two years of the prior board of county commissioners. The differences rest in choices and priorities.

While the prior administration actively cut county employees and privatized service, invested the bare minimum required by law in education, resulting in starting teacher salaries falling to the lowest in the state, and sold county assets at a loss, I have focused budget priorities on investing in core services like education and public safety.

The county budget now reflects a renewed commitment to public education including improving starting teacher salaries; a new salary scale for Sheriff Deputies and Corrections so we can retain highly qualified employees in public safety; restoration of community partnerships with our non-profit human

service agencies to better serve people in need while effectively saving taxpayers money; and, valuing county employees. How was this accomplished? We ended privatization that was costing taxpayers more, the fire sale of county assets, and taxpayer giveaways to special interests.

In the upcoming budget, expect a continued commitment to education, public safety, roads, parks, libraries, and people with no tax rate increases. I am committed to making sure county government lives within its means just as all of you do with your household budgets. My job is to always protect taxpayers.

### New Initiatives

New legislation expected in 2017 includes addressing large solar utility projects in agricultural areas, agri-tourism focused on wineries and breweries, a new small business tax credit, and possible legislation to better address blight.

Current initiatives that will move forward in 2017 include:

Livable Frederick, a new county comprehensive plan, which will move through public hearings in the Spring;

Solid Waste What's Next?, that will deliver cost and operational options for enhance recycling and composting;

Seniors First, which will focus on rethinking and restructuring county services and collaborative partnerships to better serve active seniors and older adults as this demographic grows; and,

Citizens and Montevue will continue the transition to accepting more subsidized patients for assisted living. I am pleased to report that the first few months of operation have been financially positive as nursing home revenue covers subsidized assisted living.

New initiatives on the horizon include a second business incubator to help support and grow jobs in Frederick County, re-establishing and elevating the work of the Office of Sustainability, and housing initiatives to make sure that more people can afford to live and work in Frederick County.

### Monocacy Scenic River Advisory Board

For at least 30 years, Frederick and Carroll County have had a joint citizens advisory board focused on protecting resources and enhancing the Monocacy River corridor. This citizen based board recently proposed a new Monocacy River plan which includes a proposed resource protection area or river buffer. While 77% of the proposed protection area is the 100-year flood plain, in some areas the proposed resource protection area extends beyond the flood plain causing some affected property owners to be concerned about how this plan

would impact the use of their property.

In November, the Board held two public meetings, one in each county, and notified all affected property owners by mail. At their regular monthly meeting in December, they also heard citizen concerns. The advisory board is meeting on January 4 and is expected to discuss and modify the plan based on public input.

Once the Monocacy Scenic River Advisory Board finalizes its draft plan, the plan will go through a public hearing process before the Frederick County Planning Commission and the County Council. These public hearings are likely to be scheduled for February, March, and April.

It is important to recognize that this proposed plan is citizen based, will go through a lengthy public process, and will likely change to incorporate public input. The public process will work to balance legitimate competing needs and interests. So, stay tuned and stay involved. Public participation will make a difference.

### Charter Government

Congratulations to Council President Bud Otis and Council Vice-President M.C. Keegan-Ayer on their election to continue in their leadership positions on the county council. Together, we work hard to deliver open government, honest government, and deliver results for the hard-working citizens of Frederick County.

We always want to hear from you. You can contact me by email at [jgardner@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:jgardner@frederickcountymd.gov) or by phone at 301-600-3190. Happy New Year!

## "Charter Government – Love It or List It?"

Justin M. Kiska

The first half of the first term of office under Frederick County's new Charter Government is now behind us. Two years down, two more to go. After the first two years, people are still divided on how things are going. There was never a doubt in my mind that the first four years were going to be filled with a lot of trial and error. You can't transition from one form of government to the next, County Commissioner to Charter, without there being some major adjustments and a great deal of growing pains.

I supported the move to Charter government and still do because I recognize that Frederick County is not simply a small rural county any longer. It has grown and is growing and a government structure like we have now is what is needed moving forward.

With that in mind, I do see many of the issues that have come along with the transition being the result of clashes of personality in Winchester Hall, not necessarily the Charter itself. Our County Council is not only sorely divided, but in many sense dysfunctional. The first members elected to the County Council were always going to be the guinea pigs. There's really no other way to put it. It was going to be up to them to begin setting precedents for the future. What we've gotten is a lot of infighting. And while the Council has

been distracted by the differences its members have with one another, our first County Executive has used her time to turn the position into a very powerful one.

The Charter made the new County Executive very strong, but County Executive Gardner has gone well beyond what is written in black and white. One example that still aggressively divides people is over the money she returned to the City of Baltimore which had been sent to Frederick as a reimbursement for police services provided during the 2015 riots. Some, including Ms. Gardner, say she had the executive authority to return the money without consulting with anyone. Others, including myself, feel this should have been an issue discussed with the Council at the very least, or even the sheriff whose department provided the services. Had the Council not been busy sniping at one another, could they have all gotten on one page and spoken for the residents of the county and questioned why our County Executive was giving away our money to a city that already receives well over its fair share from the state?

The Council also passed up the opportunity to move forward on a Charter amendment that would allow them to increase spending in the budget, not simply decrease proposed spending amounts. As it stands, the County Executive gets to make the decision on spending levels. In a system that is supposed to have checks and balances, why wouldn't those who voted against sending the amendment to referendum want the County Council

to have this ability? As I've said before, on principle, I don't like increasing the number of people who have the ability to spend the taxpayers' money, but leaving it in the hands of only one person isn't a good idea either. And a strong Council to balance a strong Executive is what we should be striving for.

We saw a great deal of pettiness during the first half of the first four years under the Charter. Those "in power" refused to allow those "out of power" to have a say in the agenda. Council members not being able to do their jobs and represent their constituents because they cannot talk directly to county staff. On that point, I'm not saying that there is anything wrong with having a system or procedures in place so the Council can communicate with staff, but it should not be one so onerous that it prevents the Council from serving the people of Frederick County.

The transition to a new form of government was, and still is, going to take work. But at some point, if the current Council can't start working together and doing what it is the residents of Frederick want them to do, if they don't start taking their orders from the bottom up instead of the top down, then it may be time to start looking around to see who will be running in 2018. Not that I want to jump start the next election after the one we just finished, but at some point, we might have to say, "Alright, it's time to let the adults take over now."



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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

At the December 2016 Borough Council meeting, the Council passed the Tax Levy Ordinance which fixed the Tax Rate at 2.45 mills or 24.5 cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for 2017. There is no tax increase for the residents of Carroll Valley Borough. Also, without increase, council passed the fixed tax in the amount of .25 mills appropriated for the operation of fire and emergency service for the year 2017.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has declared a drought watch for 30 Pennsylvania counties including Adams County. DEP encourages all citizens to take steps to reduce their water use: (1) Run water only when necessary. Avoid running the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving, or letting the shower run for several min-

utes before use; (2) Run dishwashers and washing machines only with full load and (3) Run dishwashers and washing machines only with full load. For more information and water saving tips go to [www.ahs.dep.pa.gov](http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov) or google PA DEP Drought Watch.

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA) Holiday Gala was an overwhelming success with 80 in attendance dining in the Liberty Mountain Resort Highland Lodge Banquet Room. Special thanks to Mary Walter, Marie Schwartz, and all those who helped sell tickets. The "Breakfast with Santa" was also an overwhelming success. Every child who attended were delighted and dazzled when Santa arrived. Approximately 525 breakfasts were served. The money and donated gifts collected benefited the Toy for Tots fund drive and local families with

special needs. This event was a cooperative effort of the Carroll Valley July 4th Group, CVCA, Fairfield Fire and EMS and local citizens. Special thanks go to Gayle Marthers, Annie & John Springer, all the volunteers, and especially, Santa Koz. Pictures of both events can be seen at [www.ronspictures.net](http://www.ronspictures.net).

With January comes snow and ice which means you need to make sure that you winterized your car. If you haven't, you need to get it done. Check the car's tires and tire pressure, the heat/defroster and wipers. Please slow down. If you drive too fast, those antilock brakes will not help you to come to a smooth stop. When driving behind another car, remember to leave more space between your car and the car in front of you. Some experts tell us that this distance is four car lengths for every

10 mph you are traveling. Remember you have less control over your car during bad road conditions. If the Borough declares a Snow Emergency, the roads on the snow emergency route will be cleared first for obvious reasons. Please keep the snow emergency route clear (no park cars, etc.) to make it safe for our road crew to do their job.

A fundraising dinner is being held by the Fairfield Boy Scouts for a sister of one their Eagle Scouts who has some very serious and debilitating health issues. She is signed up to receive a service dog to help her lead a life as normal as possible. The dog will cost \$10,000 to obtain, train, and have all the veterinary checks and vaccinations done. A Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction will be held on January 15th (Sunday) from 3 to 7 pm at the Fairfield Fire Hall with a snow date of January 22nd – same place and time. Fathers, Uncles, Grandfathers, you are invited to spend a semi-formal

evening full of music, dancing, food, and fun with the special girl in your lives. Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Daddy Daughter Fairy Picnic scheduled for Saturday February 11th 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Fire & EMS Banquet Hall. Seating is limited. Pre-resignation is required. For more information or to register go to [cvj4events@gmail.com](mailto:cvj4events@gmail.com) or call 717-642-8269.

Borough meetings in January are: Planning Commission (Jan 3rd), Borough Council (Jan 10th), and Parks/Recreation Committee (Jan 25th). Borough office will be closed on January 2nd. If you want to check on the visual status of the new building construction go to [www.carroll-valley.org](http://www.carroll-valley.org) and click on the appropriate link. 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](mailto:MayorRonHarris@comcast.net).

# State Senator Richard Alloway

A legislative cycle has concluded and it is time to start planning ahead for 2017-2018. As I reflect over the past 24 months, tough decisions were made and difficult votes were cast. At the end of the day in Harrisburg, 26 votes are needed in the Senate, 102 are necessary in the House, and the bill must receive the governor's signature. Any bill that was not taken up for vote by either chamber, or failed to advance out of committee, must start from scratch in 2017-2018.

Over the preceding two-year legislative cycle, there was significant legislation that reached the governor's desk and obtained his signature. Highlights included the legalization of medical cannabis, liquor reform, and a fair education funding formula.

The medical cannabis legislation was an emotional issue for many families and children, and their message struck a chord with me.

Those children are now receiving the help they need. With the passage of Act 16 in 2016, Pennsylvania doctors are now able to use medical cannabis to treat chronic pain and children suffering from seizures, amongst other conditions.

Our state's liquor laws are archaic and we've slowly been making changes to bring Pennsylvania into the 21st century. For example, Act 39 and Act 166 of 2016 take the first steps in getting the Commonwealth out of the liquor business, by providing for the private sale of wine at restaurants and grocery stores, as well as other changes that will hopefully result in increased customer convenience.

The new education fair funding formula was a result of a bipartisan commission that studied inequities in the school distribution formula. While the new formula isn't perfect, it is more fair than the previous system in its allocation of the state's fi-

nancial resources.

All local school districts in Adams County received an increase in funding as a result of the formula. Additionally, the state's spending plan for 2015-2016 provided a \$200 million increase for basic education funding, and the 2016-2017 budget boosted the state's share of K-12 funding by \$665 million to a historic high of \$11.7 billion.

We also passed legislation to allocate \$15 million to combat heroin and opioid addiction, including funds for emergency addiction treatment and behavioral health services.

I'm honored to announce that I recently received support from colleagues in retaining my role as Senate Majority Caucus Secretary. It is an important leadership position, as I'll continue to oversee all executive nominations submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

I'll coordinate background checks on all nominees, and review their background and experience. This research will help ensure that proper documentation is submitted for each candidate and that our nominations process is conducted in a way that is both

efficient and transparent.

Moving forward, my number one priority is addressing the state's pension system. Senate Republicans led passage of a plan to reform Pennsylvania's costly state pension system, and we cast tough votes to make it more viable in the long-term, while also reducing liabilities and preserving benefits for current employees. As I've stated countless times on this editorial page, the state's current pension plan is not sustainable. Passing a comprehensive reform package is an absolute necessity.

Our two state pension systems, the Public School Employee Retirement System (PSERS) and the State Employee Retirement System (SERS), are in trouble as the debt has exceeded \$60 billion. By continuing to ignore the problem, we rack up millions of dollars of debt every day. This problem will not go away on its own. We have to fix our pension system, period, or it's going to continue to escalate. There have been numerous proposals presented by various legislators, but so far, no solution has been agreed upon.

For example, legislation (SB1) passed the Senate and House but was vetoed by the governor. In the spirit of compromise, we passed SB1082 that also contained aggres-

sive reforms aiming for a more sustainable course to long-term fiscal solvency, by addressing the system's uncontrolled, unmanaged risk, but the House failed to adopt this bill. This problem is complex as the legislature in Harrisburg is tasked with finding both short and long-term solutions.

We will also continue to address the electronic recycling issue. I know this has been a difficult matter for local municipalities, but there is no easy long-term answer. Forty-eight other states have found ways to address their e-waste problems by implementing their own unique solutions. Although Pennsylvania's issues are complex, we hope to soon have a solution of our own that works for everyone. I hope to put forth a comprehensive proposal in the upcoming legislative session.

Finally, ever since taking office in 2009, I've made it a priority to streamline expenses and make difficult cuts wherever applicable. Pennsylvanians are making difficult decisions during unstable economic times, and many citizens throughout the Commonwealth live paycheck to paycheck.

I feel legislators should lead by example.

During my eight years in office, I've reduced expenses in my district and Capitol offices, and in the Senate Republican Caucus. I also refuse to take per diems, something that I think all legislators should do.

As you can see, there are a number of priorities the legislature must address as we head into the new two-year legislative cycle. They won't be easy, but we're elected to make tough choices and move our Commonwealth forward.

As always, I encourage you to visit my website ([www.senatoralloway.com](http://www.senatoralloway.com)) for legislative updates, news and state programming information. My office also has interactive Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram social media sites.

PA Senator Richard Alloway represents the 33rd District in the Pennsylvania Senate. The District includes Adams, Franklin, Cumberland and York counties.

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**Bill Eiker**



# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

## County Commissioner Randy Phiel

Normally November and December is a time of holiday cheer, but in most governmental entities such as Adams County, it is also budget time which is not always so joyful. On November 30 the Adams County Board of Commissioners presented the 2017 tentative budget with no tax increase. As usual we asked departments to engage with us in the budget process and meet their targets. Although Adams County is in an overall healthy financial position with an excellent bond rating, as revenues consistently remain flat this will be a tight budget. Revenues have been flat since we have taken office nearly five years ago due to little commercial development. Revenues and a significant increase in development are not predicated to change significantly anytime in the near future. The operating side of the budget is holding its own; while the capital (equipment) requests are proving somewhat challenging. Some items like replacing an old patched together \$200,000 chiller to make sure the courthouse is air conditioned in the summer are obvious. Other items are not so obvious like vehicles and equipment at the prison.

We are fortunate to have healthy restricted and unrestricted reserves. By combining some department budget adjustments - while using some unrestricted reserves and limited borrowing for capital projects we were able to defer a tax increase again this year. The majority of the Board did not feel it appropriate to raise taxes when appropriate reserves are available. This will be the third year with flat revenues and no tax increase. If the lack of new development persists, the Board will be faced in the future with the difficult decision of cutting human services, increasing taxes or both. Adams County government largely provides human services. It is never easy to cut services to some of our most needy residents. It is also many times foolish to not provide fundamental services. If these fundamental services like counseling

and drug/alcohol treatment are not provided, they may end up costing the county many times over what the cost of the basic service would have been. Let's hope we find some economic development projects in our stockings!

The 1st Phase of the new Human Services Building project is nearing completion for Probation, Children & Youth Services, IT and Security. The first department to move in will be the portion of Probation that is already located in the building. As soon as IT can move in they will begin to install the telephone system and other technology. Furniture arrival dates will be another determining factor. Painting is being done, cabinets and counters being installed and bathrooms being tiled. Some Phase 2 work has already begun in the Domestic Relations/Court area. It is anticipated Probation will be moved by mid-February and CYS by mid-March. We are currently working with Cumberland Township on some additional parking issues and a sally port at the rear of the building. Phase 3 and the entire project are scheduled to be completed summer of 2017.

When the Human Service Building renovation is totally completed it will house Children & Youth Services, Probation, IT, Court Operations, Security, Domestic Relations, two District Justice offices, Maintenance and Mental Health. Adams County residents have been required to go to York County for mental health services and this facility will have a mental health component with approximately ten counselors. This is an extremely significant addition for Adams County residents. The facility is surrounded by approximately 26 acres of beautiful fields and woods on which a portion could later provide some complimentary development opportunities. There will be free convenient parking and public transportation will serve the facility.

Thanks to all the county employees and community members that came out to Giant Foods

and the Soldiers National Cemetery earlier this month to support the SGT Mac National Wreath Project. It was a great cause, and a beautiful day marked by a tremendous community effort. There was a large turnout and we put 11,500 wreaths and bows together and stacked them in four tractor trailers and a smaller trailer in two hours. Approximately 1600 wreaths were placed by volunteers in the Soldiers National Cemetery in Gettysburg the same day. The next day the remainder were placed by volunteers at the Marine Cemetery in Quantico. If you have not participated in this project or viewed the results, I highly recommend that you do.

Southern Cumberland Township is in the readership distribution area of the Emmitsburg News Journal and I offer all township

readers the following suggestion for an educational and informative evening with the Cumberland Township Historical Society. On Monday, December 5, my wife Kathy & I went to the society meeting for an interesting presentation of Mysteries of the Gettysburg Cyclorama. One fact mentioned is that the Cyclorama program in the winter is 30 minutes long instead of 15 minutes during the summer - so read Chris Brenneman's The Turning Point of the Civil War On Canvas book - and then go see the program in the winter. Having been involved in security of the cyclorama and building for 30 years, I found the presentation particularly interesting. The CTHS presentations are held quarterly at 7PM at the United Brethren Church on Biglerville Road. The next program

is Monday, March 6 with McAllister Mill as the topic. That presentation is followed the next evening Tuesday, March 7 by John Horner's presentation of the historic Horner Farm in the southern part of Cumberland Township on the Mason Dixon Line. Occasionally, I also catch an excellent Adams County Historical Society presentation at Valentine Hall at The Seminary. These presentations are an interesting and educational way to spend an evening and you can't beat the price - Free!

There are lots of things to do in Adams County this time of year. No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer. On behalf of The Adams County Board of Commissioners I wish you a Blessed, Safe & Healthy New Year!



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 <b>60 Broad Wing Dr., Hanover, PA</b> 3 BR, 2 BA, split level design, vaulted ceilings, gas fireplace, covered deck, all appliances, most furniture & decor for sale. <b>\$62,500</b>	 <b>106 E. Main St., Fairfield, PA</b> 4 BR, 2 BA, possible 4th bedroom, could be a rental or place for in-laws. Natural gas FHA, partly fenced back yard, patio. <b>\$129,900</b>	 <b>2 Eagles Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> 3 BR, 3 BA home, open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, gas fireplace, large loft overlooks the livingroom. A must see! <b>\$214,900</b>					
 <b>13168 Shawnee Cir., Waynesboro, PA</b> 0.31 acres, 2 story colonial, 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 HBA, public water & sewer, 2 car garage. <b>\$242,000</b>	 <b>15 Ski Run Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> 5 BR, 2FBA, 1HBA, home on level corner lot. 2,999 sq. ft., gas fireplace in family room, spacious rooms, 2 car garage. <b>\$265,000</b>	 <b>1075 Carlisle Rd., Carroll Valley, PA</b> Built in 1850, 5,000 sq. ft., currently a 4 unit multi-family dwelling, beautiful woodwork, porch deck, horse barn & dog kennel. <b>\$295,000</b>					
<b>34 Veronica Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> - 0.63 acres, well required, perc approved, beautiful wooded lot. <b>\$20,000</b>	<b>11 Bunny Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> - 0.63 acres, beautiful lot located on a nice cul-de-sac, well on site, public sewer. <b>\$29,900</b>	<b>17 &amp; 19 Spring Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> - 1.37 acres, public water or well can be drilled on site, perc approved. 2 lots being sold together. Close to ski & golf resort. <b>\$29,900</b>					
<b>4 Fernwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> - 3.86 acre lot, well required, perc approved for drill septic system. Close to Liberty Ski & Golf Resort, 12 miles from Gettysburg. <b>\$29,900</b>	<b>WA 26, 25, 24, 23 Jacks Mountain Road, Carroll Valley, PA</b> - 3 acres, well required, beautiful views, perc approved, near skiing & golf. <b>\$59,900</b>	<b>795 Jacks Road, Orrtanna, PA</b> - 6.46 acres, well at site, perc approved, beautiful, septic design & permit done, close to skiing & golf. <b>\$79,500</b>					
<b>1875 Cold Springs Road, Fairfield, PA</b> - 9.59 Acres, well required, perc approved, close to ski & golf resort. Motivated sellers! Make offer! <b>\$89,900</b>	<b>Parcel 29B Tract Road, Fairfield, PA</b> - 29.76 acres, well required, perc approved, great for your home or hunting. Very motivated sellers! <b>\$199,900</b>						



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## THE PASTOR'S DESK

# Jesus, the true leader of mankind

Pastor Gary Buchman  
Emmitsburg Community  
Bible Church

Wow, another New Year is upon us. The Holidays are now over and the decorations are coming down and before the month is over we will have a new President of the United States – Mr. Donald Trump. As I write this Mr. Trump is selecting his potential cabinet members. It is possible that America will see changes that it never imagined would or could happen. But, neither Mr. Trump nor any other leader will impact the world as much as Jesus of Nazareth.

### One Solitary Life

- He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.
- He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop
- Until he was thirty when public opinion turned against Him.
- He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never went to college.
- He never visited a big city. He never travelled more than two hundred miles
- From the place where He was born. He did none of the things usually associated with greatness. He had no credentials but himself
- He was only thirty-three. His friends ran away. One of them denied him.
- He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.
- He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While dying, His executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth
- When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today Jesus is the central figure of the human race. And the leader of mankind's progress, All the armies that have ever marched, All the navies that have

ever sailed, All the parliaments that have ever sat, All the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that one solitary life. (This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis in "The Real Jesus and Other Sermons" by the Judson Press of Philadelphia (pp 123-124 titled "Arise Sir Knight!").

The life of Jesus is used to mark all of history. Everything is either BC or AD. Before Christ or in the Year of our Lord. Even our Jewish friends, who don't want to speak of Jesus, use C.E. for the Common Era, or B.C.E. for Before the Common Era. But the common Era is still about Jesus.

Napoleon Bonaparte was reportedly having a discussion with one of his generals. The General believed that while Jesus was unique and perhaps a genius, he was still just a man; a very powerful, influential, and wise man – but just a man. Napoleon is reported to have replied, "I know men, and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires, and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and whatever other religion the distance of infinity."

So, here is a question, "What was it about Jesus of Nazareth, called the Christ, that is so compelling and attractive. It wasn't His looks. The prophet Isaiah tells us that He was an ordinary looking guy (Isaiah 53:2). The New Testament gives us a few clues and these clues are compelling reasons why we should consider being a follower of Jesus the Christ.

First, what He said was extraordinary (John 7:46; Matthew 7:29). Jesus had the ability to explain and make plain the Word of God.

Second, what He did was extraordinary. He calmed storms, healed the sick, opened blind eyes, cast out demons, raised the dead, and gave forgiveness to adulteresses, tax-collectors, and prostitutes. These actions proved that he was

the promised Messiah (Isaiah 35).

But perhaps, it was His leadership style that has attracted and changed the lives of so many. There was no uniform with a rank displayed, no leadership crown, no ring to be kissed, no white horse to ride. No identifying robe or collar.

Jesus led His followers by loving and serving them with humility and grace. Consider the only place in the Bible where Jesus describes His own character. In Matthew 11:28-30, He invites the tired to come to Him because He is humble and gentle in heart.

At least four times His disciples argued over who should have the greatest positions in the kingdom of God (Mark 9:33-37; 10:35-45; Matt. 20:20-28; Luke 22:24-27). Once Jesus took a child and said that no one would be great unless they repented and became as a child. Other times, He simply reminded them that to be great with God, one had to be a servant to all. He said that His mission was not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

But the fourth time, (Cp. Luke 22, with John 13), Jesus took a towel and a basin of water and proceeded to wash the disciple's feet. It was during what we call the last supper and contrary to Da Vinci's painting, they did not sit on chairs but reclined around a table. It was customary for a servant or for someone to wash the feet of the guests before reclining around a table. Apparently, no one did. So, Jesus, proceeded to wash the feet of 12 men. Feet that would all run away from Him in His greatest need. Feet that would betray Him, Feet that would deny Him. Feet of men who did not deserve such service, but feet that needed to be washed. It was an act of great humility. And then he said this: "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assur-



edly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. (John 13:12-17)

Over 70 times in the New Testament, Jesus said, "Follow me," meaning to come walk this road with me, beside me, as my disciple, and my friend. Learn from me, do what I do, think what I think, say what I would say. This is what Jesus is saying to you and me today. "Follow me."

Unlike Islam that believes in conquering the world with violence, Jesus taught us to win the world with acts of grace.

Today, the world owes much of its educational efforts, hospitals, charities, arts, and humanitarian efforts to men and women who have made the decision to follow the leadership of Jesus of Nazareth. Men and women who

without trying to draw attention to themselves or to achieve greatness, saw the needs of humanity and have said, "Someone needs to do something. Someone needs to share grace." The world is a better place and man has a hope beyond this life because of this One Solitary Life, who became the greatest leader of mankind ever, by humbly loving and serving people like us.

If this article has spoken to your heart, would you write to me at [pastorgarybuchman@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgarybuchman@gmail.com) and let me know or if you have any questions about following Jesus, I would be glad to try to answer them for you. May God bless you as you seek to do His will.

To learn more about the Emmitsburg Community Bible Church visit them online at [www.emmitsburgcbc.com](http://www.emmitsburgcbc.com), or better yet, join them for Sunday service at 10 A.M. at the Emmitsburg Elementary School.



# Emmitsburg

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John Talcott Senior Pastor  
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(Dccemmitsburg@gmail.com)

# Life-Boats and their boatmen



January 4

The northern coast of Wales was thrown into excitement on the 4th of January 1847, by the loss of one gallant life-boat, and the success of another. A schooner, the *Temperance of Belfast*, got into distress in a raging sea. The Rhyl life-boat pushed off in a wild surf to aid the sufferers; whether the boat was injured or mismanaged, none survived to tell; for all the crew, thirteen in number, were overwhelmed by the sea, and found a watery grave. The *Temperance*, however, was not neglected; another life-boat set out from Point-of-Air, and braving all dangers, brought the crew of the schooner safe to land.

This event is a type of two important things in relation to the shipping of England—the enormous amount of wreck on our coasts, and the heroic and unselfish exertions made to save human life imperiled by those catastrophes. The wreck is indeed terrible. There is a ‘Wreck Chart’ of the British Islands now published annually, spotted with death all over; little black marks are engraved for every wreck, opposite the part of the coast where they occurred. More than one of these charts has had a thousand such spots, each denoting either a total wreck or a serious disaster, and involving the loss of a still larger number of lives.

Little need is there to tell the story of shipwreck: it is known full well. How the returning emigrant, with his belt full of gold, sinks to a briny grave when within sight of his native shore; how the outgoing emigrant meets with a similar death before his voyage has well commenced; how the soldier is overwhelmed when departing to fight on foreign shores; how friends are severed, valuable goods lost, merchants ruined—all this is known to every one who takes up a newspaper. Some may say, looking at the prodigious activity of our shipping, that wreck is an inevitable accompaniment of such a system. When we consider that seven hundred over-sea voyages per day either begin or end at a port in the United Kingdom, we ought to expect disasters as one of the attendant consequences. True, some disasters: the question is, whether

prudential arrangements might not lessen the number.

It was under this state of things that the ‘institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck’ was founded in 1824, to establish life-boats and mortar-rockets at all the dangerous parts of our coasts; to induce the formation of local committees at the chief ports for a similar purpose; to maintain a correspondence with those committees; and to encourage the invention of new or improved boats, buoys, belts, rocket apparatus, and other appliances for saving life. Right nobly has this work been done. Without fee or reward, without guarantee or ‘subsidy,’ the Institution, now called the ‘Life-Boat Institution,’ has been employed for nearly forty years in saving human life.

The life-boat system is remarkable in all its points. In 1850 the Duke of Northumberland offered a prize for the best form of life-boat. The boat-builders set to work, and sent in nearly 300 plans; the winner was Mr. Beeching, boat-builder at Yarmouth. Oddly enough, however, the examiners did not practically adopt any one of them, not even Mr. Beeching’s; they got a member of their own to construct a life-boat that would comprise all the best points of all the best plans. This boat, slightly improved by later alterations, is the one now adopted and coming into use in other countries besides our own. It is about thirty feet long, seven wide, and four deep; nearly alike at both ends, and ingeniously contrived with air chambers, passages, and valves. It possesses in a high degree these qualities—great lateral stability; speed against a heavy sea; facility for landing and for taking the shore; immediate self-discharge of sea-water; facility of self-righting if upset; great strength of construction; and stowage room for a number of passengers. Gallantly the boatmen manage these life-boats.

The Institution maintains life-boat stations all round the coast, each of which is a little imperium in itself—a life-boat, generally a boat-house to keep it in, a carriage on which to drag it out to the sea, and a complete service of all the articles necessary for the use of the men. There is a captain or coxswain to each boat, and he can command the

services of a hardy crew, obtained partly by salaries and partly by reward when actually engaged in saving life. The Institution can point to nearly 12,000 lives saved between 1824 and 1861, either directly by the boats and boatmen, or by exertions encouraged and rewarded by the Institution.

Nor should the gallant life-boatmen be grudged their bit of honest pride at what they have done. They can tell of the affair of October 7th, 1854, when, in an easterly gale on the Suffolk coast, the life-boat boldly struck out, and finding a Norwegian brig in distress, was baffled by the drunken state of the eight sea-men on board, but succeeded, on a second attempt next morning, in bringing all safely off; the men being by that time sobered and manageable. They can tell of the affair of the 2nd of May, 1855, when the beachmen saw signal rockets at the light-vessels denoting that a ship was in danger. The *Queen of the Teign*, was high and dry with a foaming sea on the edge of the sand. How to get near it? The boatmen waited till the morning tide supplied a

sufficiency of water; they went in, ran on the sand among the breakers, and aided the poor exhausted crew of the ship to clamber on board the life-boat. All were saved; and by dexterous management the ship was saved also.






There was the Whitby case of January the 4th, 1857, when one of the boatmen was clearly washed out of the life-boat, over the heads of all his companions, by a raging sea; and yet all were saved, ship’s crew and boatmen alike. But most of all do the life-boatmen pleasurably reflect on the story of the *Northern Belle*, and what they achieved for the crew of that ship. It was a fine vessel, an American trader of 1,100 tons. On the 5th of January 1857, she was struck by a terrible sea, and placed in imminent peril. The boatmen harnessed themselves to their life-boat carriage, and dragged the boat a distance of no less than two miles over a heavy and hilly country. In the dead of a winter’s night, amid hail, sleet, and rain, the men could not see where to launch their boat. They waited through the darkness.

At day-break on the next morning, a distressing sight presented itself: twenty-three poor fellows were clinging to the rigging of the only remaining mast of the *Northern Belle*, to which they had held on during this appalling night. Off went the life-boat manned by seven daring boatmen, who braved the raging sea which washed over them repeatedly. They went to the wreck, brought off seven men, and were obliged to leave the rest for fear of involving all in destruction. Meanwhile another life-boat, the *was* wheeled overland then launched, and succeeded in bringing away fourteen of the sufferers. There remained only two others, the captain and the pilot, who refused to leave the wreck so long as a spar was standing. A lifeboat dashed out a second time, rescued these two mariners, and left the hapless ship to its watery grave. The quiet heroism of the life-boatmen was the admiration of all—the newspapers of the period fully told.

To read other selections for Robert Chambers’ *Book of Days* visit [www.thebookofdays.com](http://www.thebookofdays.com).

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## COMMENTARY

## Words from Winterbilt

## The New Year

Shannon Bohrer

Making my predictions for the New Year will not be as simple as they have been in the past. A lot has happened since the election that makes it difficult for me to make my yearly predictions. Normally I predict, with some success I might add, what will occur during the New Year. Economics, weather, politics, foreign affairs and international disasters are just a few of my areas of my expertise. I should add my disclaimer about the weather. During May and June, when the hay season is in, my weather predictions have experienced a few issues. I also make predictions for terrorism and the constant wars in the Middle East, which I predicted last year. In those areas I predict that terrorism and wars in the Middle East will continue this year. Although I don't think you need to be an expert to predict that.

A significant problem with making my prediction this year is the President Elects changing positions. During the campaign he said many things that he appears to be walking back. By the way, walking back is the polite way of saying he did not mean what he said, or he changed his mind, or he has a new position. I hope that's clear? One change that surprised many people was that he would be taking a second look at global warming,

He recently said that he now believes that man has influenced the earth's environment. He also said he is not dismissing the Paris Accords on combating global warming, although he is not embracing them either. Just what his views will be after being sworn in is, well, — we can't be sure.

In this country we have already taken steps to combat global warming and I believe some of these steps will continue. I think that as a country we like doing things that we think will make life better, it makes us feel good. How many programs will continue could be determined when the President elect takes office and what his positions are then. That — would be a very good prediction, but that is above my grade level.

There is one program to combat global warming, the forestation of urban environments (planting trees) that I think will continue. Planting trees in our cities is something I would think most people like. Planting trees is supposed to be good for the environment, but also just looks good. Who doesn't like trees?

The idea of planning trees was started several years ago when the United States was geo mapped using satellites. The mapping showed us the warmest areas in the country. Surprise, the warmest areas often occurred in major cities.

In an exhaustive study of the "heat maps," what was found was that in major urban areas, without trees, it was warmer than surrounding areas. No trees and a lot of concrete and asphalt — who could have predicted that.....

I am sure someone was paid a lot of money to conduct the research that demonstrated that in the urban areas with no trees, it was warmer than the surrounding areas. If they would have just come to me I could have told them what they would find before the research was conducted. If the research was conducted with government funds and they wish to repeat it, I will produce the same results for half the cost. That is my offer to help with reducing government expenses.

Planting trees in urban areas is supposed help keep homes cooler in the summer, so you use less air conditioning, providing you have air conditioning. Trees also help in winter as wind breaks, so people would use less heat. Planting trees seems like a win-win and is a good investment, right. Well, maybe not for everyone.

I was listening to a radio program that was talking about an urban tree project. The discussion was about east coast urban areas where trees have been planted and how the program has worked. What I found strange is that no one on the program talked about any government sponsorship, funding or oversight. So, while listening I was

wondering who runs the program. At one point someone connected to the program mentioned that the program was run by a non-profit organization. Is the program funded by the government?

The program was open to callers and many people that called generally liked the program. It was often repeated that the program has been good for them and their neighbors. However, there were several complaints. One caller complained that every time he parked his car under a tree, it was violated by bird droppings. Who could have predicted that? Another caller who seemed very agitated talked about his neighborhood, the trees that have been planted and the increases in asthma and allergies to the neighborhood, especially the children. My first thought was that some people just like to complain. And then the caller specifically asked if the pharmaceutical industry was paying for the trees, which I thought an odd question. Apparently in his neighborhood everyone thinks the pharmaceutical companies that produce and sell allergy medicines, are funding the tree plantings to create future customers.

As far stretched as that sounded, the caller then accused the politicians and the rich people, of having investments in the pharmaceutical companies, knowing that their products will be in greater demand with more and more trees. I had to think for a moment, while I did not believe it, there have been numerous stories about fake news. Plant some trees and then sell the

produce needed for the allergy relief — for years. It sounded like a bad cartoon plot, could it be true?

Did you know that three million illegal aliens voted in the last election? During the election it was reported that Hillary was very sick and would not live for another year. The government is building large camps in case it has to declare martial law. And the United Nations has plans to run the world, including the United States. The Russians also helped in the election by reporting on Clinton's child sex ring. And then we have the pharmaceutical companies planting trees to encourage allergies. I do question the possibility of air or water pollution, how else can we explain what some people believe?

As to my New Year predictions, I predict the rich will become richer in the coming year and I predict I will not be rich. I predict the middle class will shrink and I predict our deficit will grow. I predict we will be talking about this past election for the next year and we will continue to be a divided country. And that's the good stuff. I started predicting the bad stuff, but it was too depressing so I had to stop.

Oh, and one more thing, someone once said, "If you wake up one day and find that the government is everything you want it to be, then you no longer live in a democracy." So with that I predict our democracy will continue.

Happy New Year

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

## Common Cents

## Counter coup

Ralph Murphy

The results from the 8 November Presidential election show the Republicans will retain a majority in both the House of Representatives and Senate. The White House will also be in GOP control for the first time since 2008. President elect Donald Trump is expected to take the oath of office in January having won the needed "electors" in the Electoral College by 306 to Hillary Clinton's 232. Clinton was reported to have won more of the actual counted or popular votes by a margin of 65,459,266 to Trump's 62,815,410. All the same, Trump remains the winner in accordance with the U.S. Constitution. This despite most of the major candidates, including Trump, bemoaning the process as having been rigged.

Very briefly- the Electoral College is unique to the American Presidency and is described in Article 2 of the Constitution. It is further clarified in the 12th Amendment of 1804 that advanced the election process. It may have been implemented as a means to transmit informa-

tion for the early colonists rather than a voting system objective. The "college" reflected Congressional districts of varied populations. But it could not include any office holders of the Executive branch or Congress to cast the votes of their constituencies. In that electoral system, the voters vote for the electors not the President. Also, the electors are not obliged to vote as the voters specified. In practice they almost always have done so. There have been 157 cases of elector non-compliance in the nation's history. None have altered the outcome of any election.

With modern technology- the votes can be quickly tallied and popular ones counted even faster than by the elector vote process. Despite that, it is very difficult to change a political process that dates to the founding of the nation itself. Efforts to reform it haven't addressed that issue. It should be reviewed as in five instances including this year's poll- the electoral vote beat he popular one. The 538 elector's votes will be formally announced in the Senate this January. There is a real issue of propriety as to the process as it doesn't serve voter interest in electing the optimal candidate.

The Electoral College admittedly hasn't always reflected the popular will, but seems to benefit the vote organizers better than the citizenry. The selection of Trump himself must have taken place in a power vacuum as he does have a lengthy history of legal charges both in state and federal courts. He was linked to about 3,500 court issues - mostly civil, but some criminal- both as a defendant and a plaintiff. Tax issues are a key concern to New York lower courts where he still faces several dozen charges having also settled a \$25 million class action lawsuit there last November just after the election. He even has a rape claim filed by a then minor in the mid 1990's which the courts haven't dropped since its April filing. If President he would have to appear in court for many of the legal issues if subpoenaed.

The election issue, while obviously important - does appear to be a consensus of deal makers reflecting private sector interests- especially relevant to the economy. US money entrusted to the Federal Reserve, for instance, is accessible to most all central bankers for self regulated use that can and does skew regional politics. Lending is unchecked and far left pro-

grams especially for the Far East have benefitted. Host control of a nation's own assets must be reestablished so benefit can be afforded actual producers in sectors that assess and meet demand. Clout and manipulation needed to artificial program redirects, as vote rigging, presume a vary potent and supportive power structure. That would probably confirm assertions of electoral irregularity and fraud.

The political assent appears under scrutinized given the importance of the objective in majority rule and systemic coherence. Economic control that affects most all the populace of the world in central bank mergers implies a world, systemic coup d'etat or extra legal political change. The centralized powers that merged often antagonistic, economic systems could only be afforded with political assent. Common markets abroad such as the European Union, Latin America's UNASUR or Africa's SADC to name a few of the same general design - merge politics and economics and can dictate cultural standards as well. That of a small control group which has limited affiliation to public accountability. Debt, unemployment and mass migrations are among the results.

Access to political or other social systems is important and

should be linked to accords and democratic voting one method. Predictable following of systemic requirements remains vitally important to their longevity. As to politics- ideally there would be a subtle "steering" to afford the varied underlying interests their opportunities to produce. Right now they integrate the varied concerns with really suspect motives and again it appears dangerously self-serving to the benefit of the controlling interests.

There has to be a return to autonomy of action within a framework of regulated competition where host participants stratify to the ability and interest of all sectors to include politics and economics. A counter coup to scrutiny of accords which does afford that standard is overdue. Whoever has been able to personally benefit from merging the systems for their own personal gain, are now facing increased scrutiny and probable sanction. The de facto lifestyle doesn't approximate the de jure legal guidelines. Degradation and unrest tied to an otherwise voiceless citizenry the result. Purge the politics of the presumed and admitted manipulators and here at least the social discipline should allow stability and growth.

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

COMMENTARY

# The American Mind

## An omnipotent executive

William Hillman

Once again, Trump won. How many times do you have to win to be president? First, he won the election on November 8th. Then he had to win again when Jill Stein fought for recounts in four states. Trump ended up getting more votes out of the recount than Hillary. Next, Trump had to fight off allegations that the Russians rigged the election. Lastly, he had to win the Electoral College votes in what should have been nothing more than a formality.

The behavior of Hillary Clinton, her surrogates, and the Democratic Party, leading up to the Electoral College votes was nothing less than disgraceful. They threatened electors with bodily harm, threatening to put a bullet in one's head. They flooded their homes with hundreds of thousands of form letters. The result of all the nagging and threats was two electors refused to vote for Trump, but five Clinton electors refused to vote for Hillary. Once again, the Clintons received more collateral damage from their own attacks than damage done to their target.

What was the point of all these hopeless temper tantrums after the election? Did they really think they could change the outcome? Were they truly willing to destroy the foundation of our electoral system to do it?

I found it amusing that a group

of people who profess to love the environment more than life itself, had no problem sending thousands of pointless form letters to electors. What about the thousands of trees killed for those letters? How about all the carbon emissions and pollution created from producing and shipping these letters, not to mention the toxic printer cartridges, flooding our landfills. All this wasted energy just so a few lefties can feel like they did something.

There is more. Seven million dollars were wasted on Jill Stein's fool's errand to interrupt and overthrow our democratic system, or at a minimum, disenfranchise voters. All that money could have gone a long way to save the Condor or help the poor.

I truly hope we are done with all the whining and crying. Remember President Obama's comments about not accepting the election. Obama said, "That is not a joking matter. No, no, no. I want everyone to pay attention here."

Obama added: "That is dangerous. When you try to sow the seeds of doubt in people's minds about the legitimacy of our elections, that undermines our democracy."

"Then you are doing the work of our adversaries for them," Obama argued. "Because our democracy depends on people knowing their vote matters."

I wonder if he repeated these words to Hillary and Stein?

Fear the Executive.

No single branch of government should be omnipotent. The executive branch has been well on its way to being "The Government."

Eight years ago, candidate Barack Obama criticized President George Bush, for circumventing the legislative system and using executive orders to enact laws. Obama's tune quickly changed once he was in the Oval Office. The eight years of Obama's administration has seen the Executive Branch continue to grow and overpower the other two branches of government at an alarming rate.

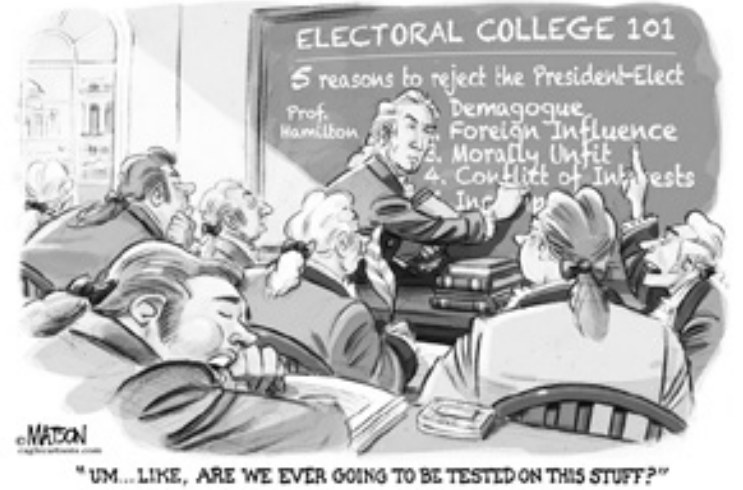
The executive branch has continued to grow through the use of regulatory power and executive order. It continues to extend and grow departments that have more and more control over individuals' lives

The President today has the upper hand with the budget. The executive branch's departments are in control of funding that is critical to day-to-day operation of the country. The President can hold the entire country hostage to get his way.

When the budget fight looms between Congress and the President, how often do we hear that if congress does not give the President a budget he wants, schools will shut down and medical care for the elderly and poor will stop? They were even able to shut down private fishing off the coast of Alaska.

A "bad president" can have horrible and devastating effects on the country. But it was never meant to be this way.

Executive power grabs go back to President Adams. Almost ev-



ery president has taken liberties with the limits of his power. In the last 20 years, that power grab has been exponential. President Bush and President Obama both justified their actions by blaming the inefficiency of Congress. Whatever the cause, the result is still the same. There should be no branch of government controlled by a single person with vastly more power than the other two branches. Each branch should be a check on the other branch's powers.

The framers of the Constitution wanted the balance of power to reside in Congress, not the President. The founding fathers may have given the President the power of a veto, but they gave the legislature the power to override the veto.

The brilliance of placing ultimate power in Congress is that the framers understood the power of averaging. The "group" tends to drown out and marginalize the few "bad." Between the House and Senate, there are 535 people with equal voting power. The power of a "bad" politician in this branch is very limited and will quickly be outvoted.

What about a bad president? As the framers of the Constitution intended, a bad president would be checked by Congress who can override his vetoes, denying him legislation, control his tendencies by controlling the purse, and when needed, remove him from office.

No single person should have that much control over the government and our lives. It is all well and good when it's your politician sitting in the Oval Office. But we forget, every four years the person in that office can change and all that power which was seized by the "good" politician is now at the disposal of the "bad" politician.

If Republicans, Democrats, and Independents truly love this country the way they claim, all should be in favor of restoring the Executive branch to its intended limited powers.

Trump has promised to roll back the power and control of the Executive branch by slashing regulations and funding. Let us hope he does it.

To read past editions of *The American Mind*, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# Down Under

## Chain link fence

Lindsay Coker  
Melbourne, Australia

*Diplomacy, n. The patriotic art of lying for one's country* (Ambrose Bierce, the Devil's Dictionary)

Whatever you may think, the Trans Pacific Partnership is not about trade. It is about two far more important issues: status and world power. Reading the enormous number of publications on this topic, the thing stands that out is that those two things are never mentioned. But nevertheless it's a clever proposal, typically American in its methods and innovation, with a most brilliant humanitarian carrot as its centrepiece: the betterment of workers in the poorest of the participants.

This is designed to appeal to left leaning concerns while confusing the right, and the fact that all twelve countries involved, (Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, United States, Vietnam, Chile, Brunei, Singapore, New Zealand) have worked on its implementation for quite a few years is a measure of the importance they have given it. Rave press releas-

es about its benefits have studded the media while actual details have been scrupulously withheld from scrutiny on the grounds of endangering the resultant benefits.

Simply put, what is proposed is that any country entering into the agreement will be forced to raise the wages paid to workers, if less than an agreed minimum, and improve their conditions toward the standard of those in the USA. What they get in return is greater access to the American market, and to 'free' trade among the rest. That is, tariffs in those countries would be reduced to zero on most goods produced in partnership countries. In practice, (and from bitter experience), that does not include America. Free trade deals with America have so far proved to be one sided affairs, the bulk of the rewards going there because reciprocal reductions did not occur. Remember the 'level playing field'? We quickly levelled by removing our tariffs on pretty well everything; you did as well - except for the 90% of our exports to you.

This same three pea trick is also part of the TPP, for one of its primary aims is to reboot and protect American manufacturing and agriculture. It does NOT aim to see increases in American wages, but to

make the workforce more competitive by driving up costs for the opposition. Unlike many other deals, this one also has major reforms in other areas attached: land clearing, CO2 emissions, labour laws, unionism, food origin labelling etc, all designed to benefit America first, both directly and by showing that it also is a leader responsible toward the welfare of the world.

If the other nations refuse to abide by those conditions, it is a quick knife to the throat, though there seems to be no reason - except the complexity - that they could not then trade with the other members, but once one nation did comply and sees their manufactures entering American market it would be hard for the others not to follow. Note that five of the group have very suspect human right and exploitative reputations, and reductions in those things is quite an attractive carrot to humanitarians.

Now this is all good and well; trade, reforms and removal of barriers are three golden balls in the air like the pawn shop, (analogy intentional), but there is a far more serious intention underlying the TPP. It is of world significance, spelling the difference between potentially continued détente and peace on one side, and loss of power, influence and peacekeeping in the Pacific area on the other. This is the most important political tectonic strategy

ever undertaken. At stake is nothing less than America's place in the free world and her reputation as the greatest power on earth.

If America does not ratify the partnership it ipso facto hands control of Pacific trade to China, at least in the eyes of that country. It also sends the signal that China can be in charge of policy in the region, allows it to ramp up its power throughout the world. It says to everyone that America is no longer interested in world affairs. The whole purpose of the TPP is to ensure America's leadership continues. To not sign it is to say 'we don't care about the world any more, we just want to go and play with our own toys.' To become isolationist, inward looking, even paranoid and xenophobic is to admit defeat, and that is something America has never ever done.

It also says, 'you have to look to yourselves for protection', something Australia is now realising, a sobering message for our marshmallow leaders. It also sends that message to Japan, long a de facto protectorate of yours, thus inviting them to rearm. The idea of having a ring of allies around the pacific is a vital part of maintaining world peace. Even more troublesome is that North Korea will be emboldened in its nuclear weapon program, the middle east will feel the restrictions loosening, Russia will ape the bear ready to pounce, and in the partial vacuum created, the rush

to fill it will make the present problems seem like child's play.

America has been policeman to the world for so long that stepping down from that role will assuredly allow anarchy to take hold. It matters not that the policing has been self serving - everything is, including this agreement.

Mr Trump is determined to restore American jobs. He may believe he has a magic wand with which to do it, but words are powerless. Plans and deeds are needed, and not the ones so far touted: His dictum that 'companies proposing to ship jobs overseas will be met by enormous bribes,' exactly equals communism, is exactly like China - who already owns a sizable chunk of your economy. He is part of the problem, and in true oligarch style will never see that. He can only make it worse, destroy everything positive and worthwhile you have built over the centuries, making conditions and living standards worse for 90% of the population. And he is well into the other 10%.

The TPP does not just benefit trade and conditions. It reinforces the maintenance of a peaceful world with a chain link fence.

Lindsay, admiring the New Year circus from Melbourne, Australia

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

## THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

## Looking through the eyes of Janus

Bill Meredith

*"What we call the beginning is often the end  
And to make an end is to make a beginning.  
The end is where we start from."  
—T. S. Eliot, 1942: "Little Gidding."*

*"In the long run, we're all dead."  
—John Maynard Keynes, 1923.*

In Roman times, the first month of the year was named after Janus, who was the god of beginnings, transitions and endings. Janus had two faces, one looking forward and the other looking back, so his name was assigned to the first month of the year, when we are most tempted to do just that. It was a good choice; there is something to be said for it at every stage of life. When we're young, we have little or no past to remember, and we haven't yet learned the value of knowing history; so we look forward. At middle age, we're absorbed in keeping up as our careers advance and the future threatens us with new changes; so we begin to look back at simpler times. After we retire, there are still some transitions to be made; but when we get up each morning there is one day less in the future before us, so we tend to spend more time looking back.

What we see when we look forward or back is determined first of all by the mindset we were born with, and second by the experiences, successes and failures that have happened to us since birth. We start as a point on a scale that runs from optimism to pessimism; at one extreme is Pollyan-

na, and at the other is either Arthur Schopenhauer or W. C. Fields. The points on the scale form a bell curve, so most of us start from somewhere in the middle. From there, each New Year finds us being nudged in one direction or the other by our environment: a loving or dysfunctional family... early training in an ethical system of right and wrong, or its lack... formal education done well or not... good or bad experiences in interpersonal relations... health or disease... intelligent choices or stupid mistakes in careers... and so on through the years, until we find ourselves looking at a calendar labeled 2017 and wondering what to do next.

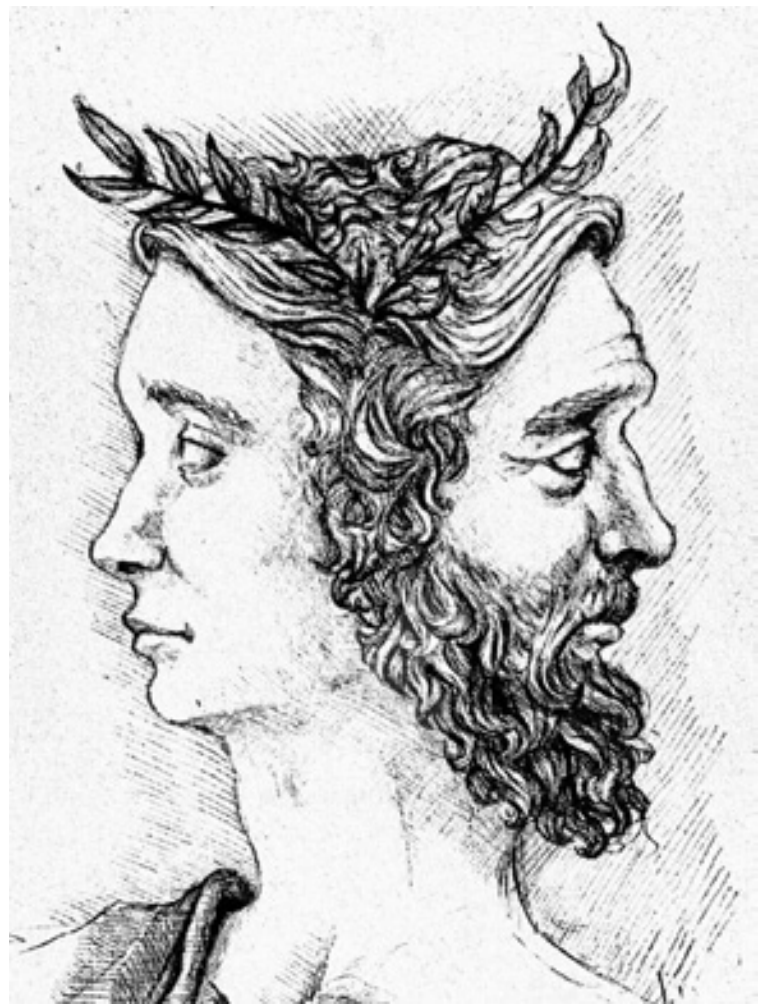
If you look through a pair of binoculars or a microscope, you see what is there at the moment. You may recognize it or not, depending on whether you've seen it before, but you know it is real. But if you look backward through the eyes of Janus, you see what you remember. You may think it is real, but in fact it is colored by how long ago it was, what your emotional state was at that time, and how much you've learned since then. Children, teenagers and adults who all experience a specific event will remember it differently... think, for example, of how people of different ages who survive the war in Syria will remember it 20 years from now.

Looking forward is different. Ecclesiastes tells us there is nothing new under the sun, and perhaps that was true 2,500 years ago. But in 2017, the future hasn't happened yet, and the farther ahead you try to look, the more uncertain it becomes because new things that no one has even thought of today will be invented. And stan-

dards are changing faster all the time. In 1960, Jack Paar wanted to tell a joke that involved a bathroom on his late-night TV show. The joke was about an English woman who was planning a vacation in Switzerland and wrote to the landlord to ask if the hotel had a "W. C." (water closet, i.e. bathroom facility) in each room. The NBC censors decided "W.C." was a dirty word, unfit for television audiences to hear, even after 10 p.m. By comparison, in the political campaign just finished we heard language on prime-time television that only a few years ago would have been limited to R-rated movies. No one would have predicted that a year ago.

Janus presents ecologists with a difficult problem because our job requires us to look into both the past and the future. We study the past in order to understand how the environment came to be as it is, and what problems may result from it. As we learn these things, it becomes our social responsibility to inform the public when we see problems on the future's horizon, and to suggest our best recommendations for avoiding the problems or minimizing their impact on us. In order to do this, we use a pattern of thinking based on the Scientific Method, which is explained in every elementary textbook I can recall. It typically is presented as five steps: Make an observation; ask a question; make a hypothesis (i.e., guess what the answer is); do experiments to test the hypothesis; and draw a conclusion, either that the hypothesis is the correct answer or it is not. Good science teachers guide students through these steps in Science Fair projects, and sometimes the students are stimulated to further studies. But there is a sixth step that many students do not learn until graduate school, and even then, some of them forget it. It is this: Always remember that your conclusion could turn out to be wrong.

This sixth step is not an expression of false humility. Rather, it is a description of reality, and of intellectual honesty. If you study the history of science, you will find that even the greatest discoveries had flaws or errors in the way they were originally stated. Copernicus was correct about the sun being in the center of the solar system, but he thought planetary orbits



were circular. Newton corrected the orbits and devised laws of gravity, but he didn't dream of gravity waves. Darwin explained evolutionary change, but his explanation of how traits are inherited was wrong. Part of Einstein's theory of relativity was not consistent with later discoveries in quantum mechanics. And so it goes.

Seen in this perspective, the "sixth step" is a self-correcting process, which allows us to weed out errors or misunderstandings as we continually build a more accurate and precise body of scientific knowledge. Unfortunately, though, many in the non-scientific public don't seem to understand this. Too often, science is not taught well in many schools; it is complicated, and new information is coming so fast that even experts find it hard to keep up. But the real problem is that vested interests and unscrupulous politicians use the "sixth step" to their advantage by saying scientific findings are unreliable because the scientists "admit that they are fallible." In the past this kind of misunderstanding mainly affected the members of individual interest groups, but the explosive in-

crease in the use of fake news in the last election seems to have convinced a significant fraction of the public that the entire body of scientific evidence for climate change is wrong.

It seems that most of the opponents of climate change policies are motivated by economic self-interest. I wonder if they misinterpret Keynes' famous quotation. I think Keynes simply meant that long-range predictions in economics were not very accurate in 1923, so economists should be more concerned with the short term. That is very different from the problem of climate change. Ecologists have been predicting climate change for over a century, and their predictions are accurate descriptions of the changes of world temperature and sea level rise that are being measured now. We cannot afford to stop our efforts to combat climate change for four years; we must continue to increase those efforts now if there is to be any hope for saving a livable world for our grandchildren.

*To read past editions of The Retired Ecologist, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).*

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# IN THE COUNTRY

## GMythOs

Tim Iverson  
Naturalist

GMOs and Organic foods are hot button issues. A survey reported on by The Washington Post from June 2016 shows that 91% of respondents believe that consumers have a right to know if they're buying products containing GMOs. Another 88% believe GMO foods ought to be labeled, while only 40% of people surveyed claimed to have a good or excellent understanding of what a GMO is. Only 22% of respondents agreed that scientists have not found any risks to human health by consuming GMOs. What's really interesting in these results is that while less than half of respondents claim to have a good understanding of what a GMO is more than three quarters of those surveyed think food scientists are okay with either knowingly or passively feeding poisonous food to the population (which would include themselves, their friends, and their own family).

Let's start by tackling the basic concept of what a genetically modified organism (GMO) actually is. The World Health Organization defines a GMO, "as organisms (i.e. plants, animals or microorganisms) in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination." This can be accomplished through genetic engineering done synthetically in a lab or by successively mating pairs until a desired set of traits become dominant. We've been performing the latter type of genetic modifications on plants and animals for millennia - essentially since agriculture began. Those orange carrots commonly found in grocery stores and farmers markets are a GMO originating from the Dutch in the 16th or 17th century by selectively breeding yellow and white carrots. During the summer nothing tastes quite as a good or refreshing as a seedless watermelon, which is also a GMO. Natural apples found in the wild are small and bitter, but by grafting them we were able to make them bigger and sweeter. The same is true for citrus, which are largely hybrids today due to thousands of years of cultivation through grafting and intentional cross-pollination. The list could go on ad infinitum for things humanity has been artificially cultivating, but that's not really the issue at stake when it comes to GMOs. When comparing non-GMO organics to GMO's people essentially want to know is it safe for us and the environment, and which is healthier?

GMO's, whether genetically engineered in a lab or methodically bred, are safe. There is over 30 years of data to demonstrate they are. It takes, on average, 13 years before a GMO reaches a consumer, 5 to 7 years of which is regulation and testing alone. Americans have the three agencies monitoring, regulating, and reviewing the research, production, and industry as a whole (the Food and Drug Administration, the De-

partment of Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency). There are also consumer watchdog groups like the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the Center for Food Safety, and more.

The Soil Association, an organic association in the UK, surveyed consumers and found that 95% buy organic food to avoid pesticides. Unfortunately, pesticides are commonly used in organic farming. In fact, because the use of synthetic pesticides is banned from organic cultivation farmers need to apply anywhere from 4 to 30 times as much non-synthetic pesticides to be as effective as synthetics.

Many organic farms will spray their crops all season long, while non-organics may need to only apply synthetic pesticides or herbicides once or twice in a growing season. Organic farmers liberally apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) toxin onto their crops. There are genetically engineered crops that have this Bt toxin encoded into the gene. It keeps the plant safe from pests, the ecosystem from being inundated with unnecessary chemical treatment, and most importantly is safe for human consumption. Ecologically it's a win-win.

Non-organic farming requires between 20% - 50% less land to produce the same crop yield as an organic farm. Another ecological win for non-organic GMO agriculture. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that there are currently 800 million people suffering from hunger globally, and 16 million will likely die as a result. We currently farm about 35% of globe's available land.

If we switched exclusively to organic farming practices those 16 million deaths would skyrocket to 1.3 billion, unless we cleared an additional 20% more land for agriculture, at a minimum.

In 2011, Scientific American reported, "an independent research project in the UK systematically reviewed the 162 articles on organic versus non-organic crops published in peer-reviewed journals between 1958 and 2008. These contained a total of 3,558 comparisons of content of nutrients and other substances in organically and conventionally produced foods. They found absolutely no evidence for any differences in content of over 15 different nutrients including vitamin C, carotene, and calcium. There were some differences, though; conventional crops had higher nitrogen levels, while organic ones had higher phosphorus and acidity - none of which factor in much to nutritional quality."

Buying organic is more akin to buying a brand, but organic farming does have advantages. Modern agriculture uses a monoculture system, planting the same crop in the same space year after year. Organic farming utilizes a rotating polyculture system. This system plants different crops in different areas, or adjacent to one another, and rotates them so they don't use the same plots year after year. This system has been shown to yield better results in weed prevention and revitalizing soil nutrients, which is paramount to soil health. Polycultures can also lead to better moisture retention requiring less irrigation and water usage. It's also important to note that by using stronger synthetic (glyphosate based) pesticides weeds and other pests have begun developing an immunity, much like to overuse



of antibiotics has led to a rise in "superbugs." Organic farming does not allow for the use of these types of pesticides. Links are still hazy and more research is underway, but the over application of these pesticides may also be contributing to population declines in honey bees, Monarch butterflies, and other pollinators.

Ultimately, it's up to you as an individual to decide what is best for you and your family. There are about 12 commercially available GMO products in circulation either directly or as by-products used in other things (corn, soy, canola, tomatoes, rice, alfalfa, papaya, peas, potatoes, squash, zucchini, and cottonseed). These have all been rigorously tested by US government agencies, international governments, and world health bodies. They have always been deemed safe for use and consumption. The WHO summarizes, "GM foods currently available on the international market have passed safety assessments and are not likely to present risks for human health. In addition, no effects on human health have been shown as a result of the consumption of such foods by the

general population in the countries where they have been approved." If, despite all this, your concerns are still unassuaged try purchasing your produce locally and directly at a farmer's market and see how your produce is made from the person directly responsible for it.

Words like GMO's, chemicals, and synthetics are marred as evil or inherently bad, but they are simply misinformed opinions and they stand in the way of meaningful progress. Science denialism has led to the rise of the anti-vaccine movement, which has reintroduced deadly pathogens to our society and has cost lives as a result. Science denialism also protracts meaningful impacts against climate change. There isn't a viable reason why this should be considered a zero-sum game. It is possible to recognize that rotating polycultures and reducing the use of pesticides while simultaneously increasing output through GMO use is a mutually beneficial way forward.

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

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## REAL SCIENCE

# Plastic food packaging

Michael Rosenthal

Slowly but surely plastic packaging has taken over the supermarket. Almost every food product there now comes enclosed in plastic; though this is convenient to both the shopper and to the seller, it has a growing negative environmental impact. Many food items that we can remember packaged in other ways now come routinely enclosed in plastic. Resealable plastic pouches are found on many supermarket products, even in refrigerators; they are made from multilayer films. Plastic has even replaced the tuna fish can we all remember well. Meat departments are offering steak, ribs, and chicken packed in plastic. The convenience of the plastic materials is offset by the difficulty of recycling, compared to the simpler metal, paper, and glass containers

they replace. So, these newer materials end up in landfills or are found in the oceans. They do, however, prevent food waste, since they are more effective in long-term preservation. So, like many other products, one must measure the positive impact versus the negative impact, and try to find ways to minimize the negative impact.

Polyethylene is the primary chemical that is utilized in plastic packaging, and there are other polymer plastics that suits particular products. Food products need a polymer that prevents oxygen from entering the package and damaging the food through oxidation.

One might wonder why plastic packaging is needed for a vegetable, such as cucumbers. Polyethylene shrink wrap protects the surface of the cucumber, helping it retain moisture and extending its shelf life from three days to

fourteen days. Plastic packaging can extend the shelf life of meats, using polystyrene foam trays and a plastic film, from four days to a month.

Since multilayer plastic containers cannot have their layers separated after use, they are sometimes shredded and made into plastic pellets to use in different ways. This process is called “cascaded recycling,” and is not a technique favored by the environmentally conscious.

A report was recently issued by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation that attempts to bridge the gap between industry and environmental activists on this issue, drawing upon information from environmental groups and the chemical companies that manufacture plastics. Data from this report indicate that the scale is striking. In 2013 industry produced 78 million metric tons of plastic packaging. Forty percent of that was landfilled, and 32% was let loose on the environment, polluting land and sea. Only 28% was collected for further use, half recycled and half incinerated for energy. The report states that only 2% of the 78 million metric tons was recycled into high-value applications.

One of the most serious problems stemming from this plastic use is contamination of the oceans. Coastal clean-up operations indicate that packaging accounts for more than 60 percent of the plastic waste recovered. Abandoning the use of plastic in food packaging is not the answer, since so much food waste will occur. Not only does this food waste impact the feeding of the population, but it results in a very high impact on freshwater use and oil consumption.

Thus like so many issues, more efforts are required to balance the pluses and minuses of increasing use of plastic in food packaging.

Another aspect of the plastic use issue involves use of plastic bags. The widespread use of plastic bags has contributed to a great deal of negative envi-



**The numbers are staggering: There are 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic debris in the ocean. Of that mass, 269,000 tons float on the surface, while some four billion plastic microfibers per square kilometer litter the deep sea with deadly consequences for seabirds, fish, and marine animals. The tallies, published last year in three separate scientific papers, are useful in red-flagging the scope of the problem for the public.**

ronmental impact. Such bags are recyclable, but many people think recycling is too much trouble, and they just throw them in the trash. Placing a financial charge on the bag is another technique. California has enacted a law through a statewide ballot supporting a 2014 legislative act passed by their lawmakers to become the only state to ban the use of single-use plastic bags. Some \$6 million was spent by the plastic bag industry to defeat the issue, but to no avail. California is the world's sixth largest economy and home to nearly 39 million people, so the ban will have significant financial and environmental impact.

As America moves to a new presidency under a different political party, it is well to review the scientific initiatives during the last eight years under President Obama. Early in his presidency, President Obama overturned his predecessor's ban on using federal money to support stem cell research. His fiscal stimulus package signed into law in his first month included much science funding. Climate change and energy production were major concerns of the Obama administration. A very important accomplishment was the successful bipartisan effort to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act, enhancing regulatory certainty and consumer safety. In spite of the frequent differences of opinion between President Obama

and the Congress, the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation and The Brain Initiative won congressional funding. Other medical initiatives got started. What will the new administration under President Trump do with these and other proposed science initiatives? Time will tell.

Now it's time for some humor! We are all familiar with the Nobel Prizes, and this year's prizes include the Nobel award in Literature to Bob Dylan (I have been a fanatic Bob Dylan fan since the 1960s), who in his typical Dylanesque fashion, did not attend the award ceremony, and accepted the award with a submitted message and a performance of a Dylan song by Patti Smith. This is a good opening to a report on the IgNobel Prizes for 2016. The 26th Annual IgNobel Prizes were awarded at Harvard University in September. Actual Nobel Laureates hand out the awards, designed to make people laugh and then make them think. The IgNobel Prize for Reproduction went (sadly, posthumously) to Ahmed Shafik, who dressed 75 male rats in either 100% polyester, a 50%-50% polyester-cotton mix, 100% cotton, 100% wool, or “naked,” to see which group was more or less interested in rat “affection. It turned out that the presence of polyester discouraged affection between rats, possibly due to the creation of electrostatic fields. Gabor Horvath won the Physics Prize by finding that white-haired horses are the most horsefly-proof equines. Charles Foster, author of *Being A Beast*, and Thomas Thwaites, author of *Goatman*, shared the Biology Prize for their living in the wild as various species and reflecting upon their experiences. The IgNobel Peace Prize was awarded for a book whose title cannot be published here, but is available upon request from me or at the internet address below. In addition IgNobel Prizes were awarded in Medicine, Psychology, and Economics, and a “Perception Prize,” details of which can also be found online. Most important to me, the Chemistry Prize went to Volkswagen “for solving the problem of excessive automobile pollution emissions by automatically, electromechanically producing fewer emissions whenever the cars are being tested.” The full list of IgNobel winners for 2016 and for previous years can be found at [www.improbable.com/ig/winners/](http://www.improbable.com/ig/winners/).

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



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# Lookit here

Jack Deatherage

*"But don't let 'em check you,  
they're sucking the wrong brew  
The cowards should not steer  
your life by their own fear care  
what you are dreaming; the fu-  
ture is teeming  
With stories that want to start"  
—(Abney Park: The Story  
That Never Starts)*

I'm sitting among the educated, listening to them yammer on in government speak, trying not to laugh (or scream) as they toss idea upon idea across the table, swatting each good intention down with some ordinance or law. I wonder why I am in the room. Most of what they say rolls 'round me as if waves of monkey chatter. I don't get it. I want to go home and build a bread, read a book about building bread, take a nap while a bread is building itself.

Out of the chatter someone comments on this place once being a self-sustaining community. The chatter suddenly becomes a language I almost understand. I remember Emmitsburg before US 15 bypassed the town, and brought everywhere else closer. I look 'round the room. There may be one other who remembers this place before the highway changed the way its residents live. I suspect only that person is from Emmitsburg. Everyone else, including me, is from somewhere not this place.

I ask, "Is Emmitsburg officially a bedroom community?" I know the answer. The committee has been talking about solutions to such a community's problems for hours. I dread the answer because it takes away what I recall as being Emmitsburg and I'll have to think (which hurts) about what this place is becoming, or could become.

"Yes." I am told, and everything flips, yet again.

Of course I'm behind the curve. They've been trying to solve such problems as illegal drug usage (hero-in deaths), how to attract new businesses, lighting a fire of community spirit though their words were government speak and only filled my head with a dunning drone.

I go home with ideas tumbling in my thought hopper. Mixed with them are the objections that I know will follow. "There are state laws, there are county laws, there are town ordinances. You can't break the law, not even to fix a problem caused by the law. You can't, we can't..."

Why do we bother? Governments have brought us to this place. Why would we look to governments to fix this place?

"care what you are dreaming; the future is teeming

With stories that want to start"

I spend a coupla hours searching the local history website and typing up some ventures the town, or some self-starter, might seize and run with. If Emmitsburg is now nothing more than a residential area where a large number of commuters own houses solely as a place to sleep, it still has a

history worth exploring and exploiting, both for its monetary value and as a spark of community pride in place.

First up, the muzzle loading world encompasses Colonial America right through the Civil War and into today's woods and fields as hunters still harvest deer with "cap and ball" rifles. When and where is the annual Armstrong event; complete with collections of his firearms, vendors selling muzzle loading rifle kits and accessories, "living historians", lecturers, reenactors, local gunsmiths crafting muzzle loading firearms held? Where is the Armstrong museum? Hell, where is the tiny, obscure plaque noting that the man once lived and worked in Emmitsburg?

Next up. With the Gettysburg Battlefield north of us, Frederick's National Museum of Civil War Medicine to our south and the Daughters of Charity maintaining a museum of their founder in the midst of us, combining these histories and organizations to create some annual event seems a no-brainer to me. I suspect the Civil War reenactors I know would love to turn out as wounded warriors tended to by the Ds of C under the supervision of George Wunderlich. (George, who once ran the museum in Frederick and may still for all I know, could probably pull Civil War era minstrel banjo players to the event as well.)

Jumping away from the history of this place I refer to the Izaak Walton League of America, Frederick Chapter #1's youth program. I've watched kids from all over Frederick County, even WV and PA, come into Coach Ben Kelkye's youth hunter education program as shy preteens and leave it as self-confident young adults. What I have rarely seen are Emmitsburg kids on the firing lines or in the classroom.

If there is a reluctance to promote firearms, or hunting, the Gettys-

burg Archery Club is to our north. (Some of that club's founding members were Old Emmitsburg's residents. Bob Eiker comes immediately to mind.) While the club had declined over the years it currently has new members interested in expanding the sport beyond those only in it for hunting. Archery events do not generate any more noise than a ball game would, nor present the serious safety issues firearm events do. Some of the IWLA kids tell me their public schools now offer archery classes. I'm sure some of the local arrow slingers would leap out of the woodwork should the town take an interest in promoting this sport with or without coordination with the public schools.

And last, a youth market garden run primarily by children not involved in the area's school Ag programs.

I send emails to all the committee members I have addresses for. I can already hear the refrain: "You can't, we can't..."

I am not Socrates. I do not love this place more than I love life itself. I sleep here, but I don't live here, though I'll likely die here. I've no money, no political clout, no entrepreneurial drive. I'm no great thinker, or much of a small one. I'm closer to Till Eulenspiegel in spirit than I am to Socrates, though completely lacking Till's wit and skill at mocking those anointed who rule us with their "state laws, county laws, town ordinances." The temptation to just sit back and laugh as this place continues to rot seems easiest. Let the next generation build something new on it's moldering corpse, if the next generation not of this place can come up with a reason bother.

Government people not of this place did much to destroy Emmitsburg's culture. They deemed our schools unnecessary. They determined we could work and shop elsewhere. They gave us a welfare class when it was discovered we weren't sufficiently burdened with our own. Eventually they gifted us with drug addicts and dealers from elsewhere, as if we hadn't produced enough of



them ourselves. And we look to such people for solutions? Why? Perhaps this is a better idea?

*"Hey Mr. Brown,  
That can't be what life is like!  
I've watched some movies,  
And I've, I've read some books  
Life should be exciting  
And sometimes scary but  
What you're describing doesn't  
Seem worth the time  
Hey little boy,  
I think you were always right*

*I've dropped that worthless life and  
I'm moving on  
Life should be adventure  
I'm stealing back my soul  
I've lost too many years now  
I'm awake"*

(Abney Park: Letters Between A Little Boy And Himself As An Adult)

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



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# THE BEST NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION EVER ...

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](http://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 News-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](http://www.cvas-pets.org). The Adams County Animals Shelter is always looking for humans seeking canine or feline companionship. You can contact them at 717-334-8876 or visit them on-line at [www.adamscountypca.org](http://www.adamscountypca.org). And you can never go wrong dropping by the Frederick County Animal Shelter. Visit them on-line at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/FCAC](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/FCAC) or call them at 301-600-1546.

All the pets listed in our December issue got adopted with the exception of Smokey Mechu, Buzz Bee and Savannah. Let's see if we can get their New Years off on the right paws - please consider adopting one of them.



Smokey Mechu was surrendered to the shelter by his owners in March 2015 and he was already neutered when he came to us. He's a four-year-old, all gray guy who is looking to get out of a shelter and into a home.



Buzz Bee is a six-month-old young tabby-and-white boy. Look at that face! He's got that ornery little kitten look about him. Come meet this little stinker and we know you'll fall hard.

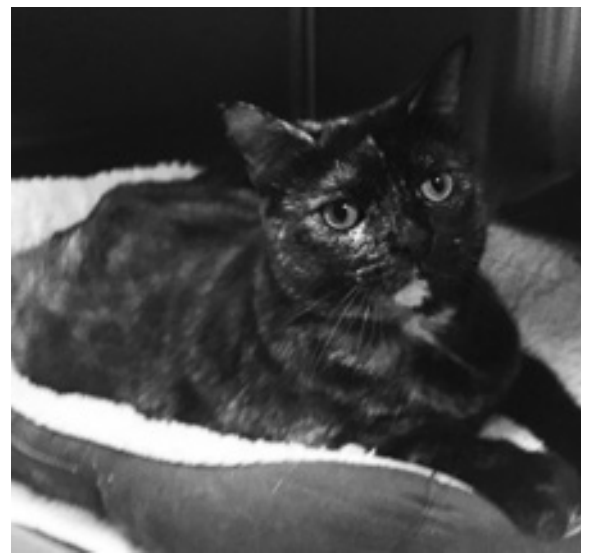


Savannah is a sweet girl who has grown up at the shelter. She's one of our long-term residents. She can be quite ornery when she wants to be and will provide a whole lot of entertainment for one lucky person.

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Dingo is a five-year-old orange-and-white boy who came into the shelter in a trap. We don't have any information on his background, but because of his long hair, he'll need pretty consistent brushing to keep the mats at bay.



Amber is a four-year-old tortie girl who came into the shelter in April of this year. She's still with us and looking for her forever home. Can't you just imagine this pretty girl lying beside your fireplace on these cold winter days?

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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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Ranger is a Gordon Setter mix who returned to the shelter because he's too much for small children. He's a very loving boy, but will need an active family - possibly one that hikes or jogs or something of the like. If you think you've got the right place for Ranger, stop out and meet him.



Hedwig is one of the most unique-looking cats we've ever seen at CVAS. It's like someone took a paintbrush and just dotted her with color. It's amazing. Hedwig can be a bit shy at first, but once she feels comfortable, she becomes quite loving and vocal. If you have the patience and love to give Hedwig, stop out and meet her.



Hank is a two-year-old beagle/Jack Russell terrier mix, near as we can tell. He's a happy fellow (look at that smile!) who's looking for his forever home.



Star is a seven-month-old pitbull mix who loves to give kisses. Seriously, she won't stop. Look at that face! You know she wants out of a kennel and into your heart. Come meet her!



Bonnie is a three-year-old terrier mix who was found running around. How hilarious are those ears? Bonnie has a ton of energy and loves nothing more than to play. Because of her size, we're looking for a home for her with children older than 8. If you've got the right spot for Bonnie, she'd love a home.



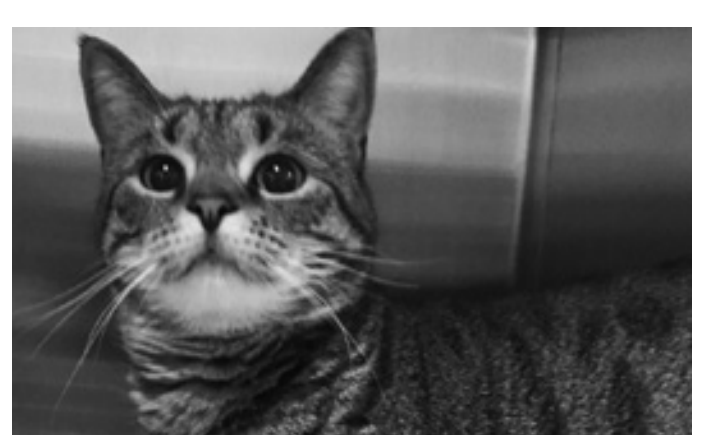
Let me tell you about Griffin. This five-year-old tabby boy came into the shelter throwing quite a fit. It was only after we got him away from other animals that he turned into the sweetest cat on the planet. As a result, he lives in an office (as you can see) and thinks he owns the joint. Griffin will need to be the only four-legged friend in the home. If you have the right spot for him, stop out.



LJ is a 2-year-old boxer mix who is a real sweet boy. He'll need an owner to keep him on point and make him listen, otherwise we think he'll run roughshod over everyone. He can be reactive to other dogs and because of his puppy behavior, a home with children older than 8 would probably be best. He's got the sweetest face and would make someone a great four-legged friend!



Melanie is a four-year-old brown tabby with pretty green eyes and an expressive face. She has that "cat look." She's going to be a lot of fun for a very lucky person.



Turtle is a two-year-old brown tabby girl who has been at the shelter since May of this year. She needs someone to take a chance on her and give her a forever home.

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Feeding the birds in winter

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master  
Gardener Coordinator

Watching birds in the winter is enjoyable and fun to do. During dreary days, we can lift our spirits by watching the little creatures flitting around the feeders and seed heads of perennials, and in and out of evergreen trees and shrubs. Our feeders are located outside our living space and we can watch the activity for quite a long time as the birds visit different feeders. Having a field guide close by helps when wondering what those little birds are – identifying them is half the fun.

Many types of birds visit in any given period of time. Red-bellied and downy woodpeckers, chickadees, juncos, white-throated sparrows, house finches, cardinals and tufted titmice grace us with their presence. An assortment of feeders

and feed will attract a larger variety of our flying friends.

**Supplemental Food:** We can supplement the natural food source by providing seed through bird feeders. Many styles of feeders are available, from tubes and platforms to nets and hoppers. The more variety of feeders you provide, the more variety of visitors you will have. Tube feeders typically attract finches, while the platform feeders will attract larger birds like cardinals and blue jays and the netting can be filled with suet for the woodpeckers.

Probably the most versatile feeder is the hopper. At our hopper, we have finches, juncos, titmice and chickadees visiting daily. We keep it full of black oil sunflower seed. Another feeder that we use is a suet feeder. This feeder allows the birds to feed on the underside as the holes are below the suet cake. Mostly woodpeckers hang out at

this feeder, literally. It's really enjoyable to watch them!

We also have a net that we fill with suet or a peanut butter mixture that includes sunflower seeds. This attracts the woodpeckers, but we get flickers and jays flitting around as well. A piece of a wooden post with holes that we spread the peanut butter/sunflower mixture provides cardinals and blue jays as well as finches and titmice a feast to partake. Gold finches love the tube feeders. The gold finches will feed upside down, making this an interesting watch.

Just as there is a variety of feeders, so goes the types of feed. Millet, sunflowers, corn and peanut butter can all be a food source for birds. The most versatile seed is the black oil sunflower seed. This seed can be mixed with peanut butter and put into the suet feeders, and it can be used in hoppers as well as platform feeders for the cardinals, chickadees and titmice.

The least useful type of feed is millet. Typically when buying a bird feed mix, the millet is what the birds will scratch to the ground and discard. It's mostly just a filler to add weight for the bag. Niger (thistle seed) is used in the tube feeders for the gold, purple and house finches. These are tiny seeds and are typically on the pricier side, but the finches just love it! Peanuts, whether in the shell or shelled, broken or whole, will attract birds like blue jays, chickadees, titmice and woodpeckers.

A Christmas tradition in our



The blue jay is one of the most colorful birds to visit feeders and are often considered a when it comes to food. To prevent blue jays from dominating your bird feeder, place peanuts in a platform feeder just for them. It's a sure fire way of attracting this bird for close up viewing.

family is to smear peanut butter onto pinecones and hang them on the trees. We also use orange and apple slices, string them together and have an outdoor Christmas tree for the birds! Even at 21, our oldest daughter still enjoys this winter tradition.

**Feeder Location:** When locating the feeders, whatever type you choose, remember one important element: shelter. The birds need to feel protected and have a quick get-away from any potential hunters, like hawks and cats. Be sure to locate the feeders near evergreen trees or near brush or plants that they can quickly fly to when danger is in their midst. Our feeder on our deck has evergreen trees to one side and a dense, deciduous tree to the other. This allows them cover from potential predators.

**Water:** For best bird activity and bird health, not only should you provide a food source (whether with plants or store-bought bird feed) and shelter, but you should also provide water. A heated birdbath can provide that. There are many types of bird baths and heaters on the market.

Small fish ponds, or just a clean dish of shallow water set out each morning can provide this source of water as well.

**Plant Life:** Take advantage of the winter months to plan for a bird habitat. Research the sizes of shrubs and trees, study the best locations to plant bird attracting shrubs, trees and perennials. Understand and see the beauty of a less than tidy garden, as the dead stems and thick brush are the reason bird activity will happen in any given area. Keep in mind the visibility of the feeders from inside your house so you can properly locate the plants for your view of the bird activity.

When planning for winter visitors, plant things that have seed heads that can remain through the winter months. Common perennials such as black-eyed susans, coneflowers, and asters will provide seeds. Evergreen shrubs and trees, like inkberry holly, American holly and white pines will provide shelter for the birds. Deciduous shrubs like viburnums, winterberry holly and sumac provide berries. Allow old, dead trees to remain standing if safe-

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Small Town Gardener

### Deer: It's what's for dinner

Marianne Willburn

In Montgomery County, Maryland, it is now estimated that the deer population is hovering near 100 head per acre. It's enough to make decent gardeners tear up their landscaping in despair and put down gravel and plastic flowers.

Not that it will work. A friend of mine in Germantown moved his deciduous hollies to the fenced back garden and in their place 'planted' berry sprays of Made in China. The deer were not deterred and ate them right down to the wire. They spat out the berries however, preferring brown plastic stem wrapping to hardened pellets of Red Dye No. 3.

Another friend planted a front garden on a busy suburban crossroads with plants known to be toxic and deer-proof and ended up with a front garden filled with nubs, stalks and heavily pruned shrubs. They don't make anti-depressants strong enough to cure him at this point.

Obviously there's a problem with this picture. With less habitat available for predators, and less hunters out there, the deer population has reached epic proportions – bad for them and very bad for us.

A deer that eats a piece of plastic might be an amusing anecdote when sharing gardening war stories, but that is one desperate animal we're talking about – an animal in tight competition for resources. A heavy deer population means a heavier deer tick population, and that means that the next time you take a quiet walk in the footsteps

of Thoreau, you may come back sporting a life-changing illness – Lyme Disease. When Nature swings out of balance, she really swings.

A number of solutions to the problem have been suggested. The word "cull" comes quickly to this girl's mind; and indeed, controlled culling is still practiced where housing density permits it. Birth control pellets have also been used, but oddly, this can often result in more twin and triplet births. One step forward, two steps back.

But my favorite solution (insofar as it illustrates how far we have come from any type of commonsense connection to food, the Earth and our money) is one adopted a couple years ago by Fairfax County: the surgical sterilization of does. Cost: \$1000 a head. Privately funded or no, the snarkier part of me can't help but take this 'solution' back in time 400 years:

Settler: Captain Smith - the deer have decimated the spring crops this year and all the fall seedlings have been eaten! What are we to do!

Smith: "Quick! Let's knock them out and remove their ovaries - that'll stop 'em."

Settler: "I don't understand. Do you mean, kill the deer and eat them?"

Smith: No, I mean knock them out and remove their ovaries. Where's my scalpel?"

Settler: Geez...is this what happened to Roanoke?

If you can safely immobilize a deer for surgery, you can safely immobilize it for the hereafter. Just sayin'.

In our new home, age-old deer paths run through our

property like highways – complete with rest stops near the peach trees, asparagus and hosta beds. Thus, all planting so far is within spitting distance of the house and the dogs are nightly encouraged to access their inner wolf.

Putting in a garden when one knows that deer browsing will not only be an issue, but a huge issue, is quite a production. One cannot simply look at the landscape and think "such-and-such would look fantastic there" without immediately thinking, "Can I protect it?" When shrubs meant to beautify are covered in browse-proof concertina wire; and the vegetable garden can only be accessed through an eight-foot chain-link gate, gardening does tend to lose a bit of its romance.

Without money to build a massive yet tasteful fence, our first step in dealing with the potential problem has been to fill the freezer and encourage our friends to buy hunting licenses. So far it seems to have worked admirably. Two four-foot deer candies that I planted in the field last fall (that is to say, false cypress) show no signs of damage to their tender chartreuse-green foliage. That's pretty impressive when all else is either grey, brown or white.

Either the smell of death hangs heavy in the air 'round here, or all the does have migrated to Fairfax County where they know they can get free birth control.

*Marianne is a Master Gardener who writes from Lovettsville, VA. You can read more at [www.smalltowngardener.com](http://www.smalltowngardener.com) or follow The Small Town Gardener on Facebook.*

ty is not an issue. These will provide nesting holes in the summer, but also the woodpeckers and other birds like blue jays love to use the trees to break open seeds and nuts.

As we watch the birds on our deck, we observe the woodpecker taking a sunflower seed, flying to the deck railing and cracking it open. We watch the bluejays bully the chickadees and snatch up a lot of the food, and see the titmice grab a seed and fly to the nearby tree to eat it.

I remember, not long ago, thinking that bird watching was for old geezers. In the early days of dating my husband, I can remember visiting him in San Francisco. At the time, he was working with the US Dept. of Interior, researching waterfowl in the bay area. As an avid bird watcher at 26, not typical in my box of pictures of birdwatchers, but he was cute and awesome, so what the heck.

What I have come to find out is that birdwatching is for all ages, especially backyard birding. Classes are offered at local community colleges, and folks of all ages attend – a clear indication that my box of pic-

tures if far outdated. Many folks, including myself, find this hobby worth the time. Just check out the local supermarkets and box stores and see how much merchandise and space is given to this hobby we call "feeding the birds".

Look into acquiring field guides to help you identify the birds visiting your feeders in the winter. Some guides you may want to look at are Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America and Sibley Guide to Birds. A website to check out is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds ([www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)).

My guess is when spring comes, you'll be more aware of the bird activity around you and checking out that guide even more frequently than you have during the winter. Enjoy the quiet of the winter and the flurry of bird activity. When we get "snowed-in" again this winter season, remember to take the time to relax and watch the birds.

*To read other gardening articles, visit the Gardening section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).*



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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## State Farm agent comes to town

If you're looking for a reliable Insurance agent in the Emmitsburg area, look no further than Jim Hatcher, State Farm Insurance Agent. Emmitsburg welcomed Hatcher and family to the area in June 2016. The agency is located at 101 Silo Hill Road, Suite 2.

This State Farm Agency was originally located in Reisterstown, outside of Baltimore, until Hatcher made the move to Emmitsburg. His Baltimore clientele have all chosen to remain with him since the relocation, something Hatcher is very proud to say. Some clients have been with him for over 30 years and value the service he provides, so

when Hatcher decided to make the move, clients easily followed.

Hatcher originally started with State Farm in Frederick and also spent some time in corporate headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois, before starting his business in Reisterstown. He has been a State Farm Insurance agent since 1984, and within the past 20 years has brought both of his daughters into the business with him. Bringing his family on board has allowed him to successfully build his business on the values of reliability, trust, dependability and fairness.

Hatcher lives in the Waynesboro area and his daughters, Gretchen Eyer and Stephanie Hartssock live in

the Hagerstown area, and all were making the long commute to Reisterstown every day. Both Eyer and Hartssock and father, Hatcher, wanted to move business closer to home, and especially wanted to get back to an area they grew up spending a lot of time in: Frederick County. There were also no other State Farm Insurance Agents in the Emmitsburg area, so Hatcher saw the move as an opportunity to provide this service to residents in the area, as well as surrounding towns, while getting back to his Frederick County roots. Until June, residents living in Emmitsburg would have had to travel outside the town for a State Farm Insurance Agent, but

now, they no longer have to.

As a State Farm agent, Hatcher offers automotive insurance, home insurance, small business insurance, life insurance and property insurance. The State Farm Bank can also help people looking to finance the purchase of a car. One clear advantage of State Farm is that there is no need to purchase GAP insurance through a third party when purchasing a car, because being insured with State Farm auto insurance includes Payoff Protector®1, which is included with every vehicle loan from State Farm Bank. This service saves that additional cost of purchasing GAP insurance through another provider.

Those looking for an insurance agent know that they will find a kind

and trustworthy agent in Hatcher, and can count on the dependable service that he provides to his clients. The business is family-run which provides an atmosphere of reliability and trust. They believe firmly in treating people fairly, as if they were friends or members of their own family. Hatcher and his daughters have a shared attitude toward this service and that is the importance of helping people.

In the end, Hatcher is in this business to help people. He described himself as having a "servant's heart" meaning that his purpose in life is to help and serve people. The family working in this agency has a mission to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected and realize their dreams.

## New development proposed for Thurmont

At the December 8 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, Committee members discussed a proposal regarding cluster development in agricultural zoning districts. The new development would consist of cluster housing, which simply means homes built on smaller lots, with more open space.

David Lingg, of Mechanicstown LLC, brought the proposal to the

Committee in hopes of a potential amendment, as the Board of Commissioners had voted against rezoning the property in question three separate times in the past. The amendment to the town zoning ordinance would allow cluster development on agricultural zoned property. This would mean lots would be smaller, under 30,000 square feet, but there would be no increase in the number of houses

planned for a development. This square footage is smaller than most single family homes in Thurmont, but a cluster development would allow for more open area.

The property in question by Lingg is a 23.5 acre piece of land that can currently be divided into 30 lots. Neighbors of this property are opposed to how the development would affect the aesthetics of the area near Eyer Park. However,

as Lingg proposed, a cluster development would allow a buffer of open space to be worked into the design, hopefully eliminating the butting of homes immediately adjacent to the park.

Town Planner Chris Jakubiak mentioned that cluster developments would allow for more efficient developments and more open space. It doesn't change the use of the land; it merely alters how the land would be divided. It also allows for more creative design for environmentally sensitive areas, such as areas that tend to retain water. These areas could be avoided more easily with cluster develop-

ments and consequently that space could be utilized as open space.

Mayor Kinnaird spoke to recommend that residents near this location be notified of the potential change, so they have the time and ability to voice their concerns and opinions to the Board. Community response and feedback is necessary in a scenario like this, to ensure that the residents "affected" be treated fairly.

Jakubiak will draft an amendment for the Board of Commissioners to review at a future meeting. The amendment will be taken to public workshops for comment by the community and will need to be approved by the Board before it can go into effect.

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# FREE Community Dinner!

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

# Heart & Hands – customize your room today!

**H**Heart & Hands Decorators Workroom, located at 5B West Main Street, Thurmont, offers designers the opportunity to design the perfect window treatment or find the perfect fabric for any piece of furniture. Owned and operated by Thurmont resident Pamela Hamrick, customers can be assured that they will receive quality service and high-end custom-made designs, at a fair price. Window treatments, valences, bedding and pillows, and re-upholstering furniture are all services provided, all custom-made to fit a customer's needs and wants.

Hamrick initially struck an interest in sewing when she was eight years old after her father gifted her a sewing machine that she still has to this

day. She started off making her own clothes, and the love for sewing, and making custom creations, only grew from there.

Heart & Hands has been in operation for almost twelve years, but Hamrick originally delved into the creation of custom-made window treatments about 28 years ago in Middletown. After the owners of that shop retired, Hamrick took over and maintained the clientele and designers in Middletown. However, after awhile, she realized she wanted to bring that business closer to home, so she opened up Heart & Hands in downtown Thurmont. Many designers followed her to Thurmont because they were satisfied with and valued the work she provided. After moving, she noticed

many of her new customers learned about her through word of mouth, from past designers who used her service and loved the quality of her work.

Heart & Hands is a full-service business, including the design process, selection of fabrics, creating the designs and finally, installation. Hamrick will even make home visits, if the customer so chooses, to help the design process. Sometimes, customers don't know what will work in a given space, and what will allow for cohesiveness of already existing patterns, colors and furniture. In this case, a home visit may be appropriate.

There are many additional benefits to choosing Heart & Hands. Hamrick noted that she is always up for a challenge. Tricky pieces of furniture, fabrics and designs are always welcomed. She also offers step-by-step price quotes, and includes the customer every step of the way. Customers will initially be provided with a price quote according to the fabric chosen, dimensions, hours expected etc. If an issue should arise at any point, and the project may end up taking longer, or additional fabric need be ordered, she immediately picks up the phone to call the customer, notifying the changes in price and time, to ensure the customer knows what to expect.

Customers can additionally expect their custom-made window treatments to mirror each other, meaning that the patterns, designs, and lines will all match, making for a complete-

ly cohesive look. Hamrick wholeheartedly stands by her work and never sends something out her door if she isn't completely satisfied with it. "I lose sleep over projects that aren't done to my satisfaction," stated Hamrick.

Not only is her work custom-made, it's made to last. Many of her customers come in to the shop with a piece of furniture that has been passed down through the family, and holds a special place in the customer's heart. People want to keep these memorable pieces in their homes,

but the fabric becomes worn, faded or even out-dated. They know that if they bring their beloved pieces into Heart & Hands Hamrick will be sure to take the time to keep the piece around for many more years to come.

If you're looking for that perfect window treatment or need a family heirloom re-upholstered, stop in to Heart & Hands; open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Evening appointments are also available by appointment. For more information, or to get started on designing your new window treatments, call 301-271-1028 or email PamelaHamrick@heartandhandsworkroom.com.



Have a favorite couch or chair that's showing its years? Let Pamela Hamrick at Heart and Hands give it a new lease on life. You won't regret it!



## HEART AND HANDS

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## HEALTH NOTES

# The future of cancer care in Frederick

**Kelsey Shupe**  
Frederick Memorial Hospital

Frederick Regional Health System is expanding its award-winning oncology program into a fully integrated, comprehensive cancer care center that will be known as the James M. Stockman Cancer Institute. Conveniently located right off Route 15 at Oppsumtown Pike, the new institute will be adjacent to FRHS's imaging services and labs at Rose Hill and will represent the latest approaches to cancer care.

"We have designed a building around how we care for our patients. It is the embodiment of form following function," Dr. Mark S. Soberman, Medical Director, Oncology Service Line says. The building's first floor will feature an infusion center with floor to ceiling windows that will look out onto a healing garden. The intent, he says, is to "create a peaceful, healing environment that is designed to address the spiritual, emotional, and medical needs of the patients."

The second floor will be home to the

Cancer Institute's multidisciplinary clinic area where surgical, medical, and radiation oncologists will meet to confer on their patients' treatment plans. "That means our patients can see all of their providers in one visit. They will also have the benefit of meeting with support personnel such as nutritionists, social workers, finance reps, etc. And their entire care will be coordinated by one of our nurse navigators," Soberman says.

Shortly after deciding to build a state-of-the-art cancer institute, Frederick Regional Health System began exploring the possibility of affiliating with MD Anderson Cancer Network, a program of MD Anderson Cancer Center and a recognized national leader in cancer care. Such an affiliation would give our providers access to some of the most recent advancements in cancer care, including some of the most up-to-date guidelines and best practices. In 2014, the search began for a progressive cancer care program with a reputation for continuous innovation, quality improvement, collaboration and teamwork.

Earlier this year, that search ended

when Frederick Regional Health System was invited to become a certified member of MD Anderson Cancer Network®, a program of MD Anderson Cancer Center. MD Anderson is one of the most progressive cancer care programs in the world. Founded in 1941, MD Anderson is one of three original research and treatment centers designated by the National Cancer Act of 1971. Through this affiliation, we now have access to clinical resources of a leader in the fight to cure cancer.

"Frederick Regional Health System is the first and only certified member of MD Anderson Cancer Network in the state of Maryland, and only the 14th such affiliate in the nation. We are proud to align our cancer program with one of the world's leaders in cancer research, prevention and treatment," Thomas A. Kleinhanzl, President and CEO, Frederick Regional Health System.

As a certified member of the network, FRHS's cancer patients will not only enjoy this coordinated care in a state-of-the-art facility, but can take additional comfort knowing that MD An-



The James M. Stockman Cancer Institute

derson's renowned clinical standards and expertise in many sub-specialties is elevating their quality of care. Patients can benefit from the access FRHS has to select MD Anderson clinical trials in the future as well.

Frederick Regional Health System's exclusive local affiliation with the network allows our thirteen network-certified physicians to share in the treatment guidelines and best practices developed by the experts at MD Anderson. Certified physicians within the network have access to a wide range of multidisciplinary care resources, including disease-specific, evidence-based guidelines

for cancer diagnosis, staging, treatment and follow-up care. Our collaboration also includes routine network treatment planning video conferences, participation in tumor boards, peer-to-peer consultations with MD Anderson faculty, additional educational programs, conferences and symposia.

Being certified physicians of the network means that our medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, and surgeons met all of the rigorous standards set forth by MD Anderson. Their education and training, as well as the quality of how they evaluate, stage, and treat their patients, were carefully examined and found to meet the standards of one of the nation's leading cancer care hospitals.

"We know that cancer often reaches a stage where a patient may wish to seek another opinion," Kleinhanzl says. "We can now provide access to some of the most advanced treatment protocols for their particular cancer condition and, when possible, still allow them to remain close to home and their family."

The James M. Stockman Cancer Institute is fast becoming a reality. With a beautifully and carefully designed environment to promote healing and relaxation, this new facility will have ample space to accommodate our patient-centered, multidisciplinary approach to care.

Combine these advantages with our recent affiliation with MD Anderson Cancer Network®, and we are well on our way toward bringing a new level of experience and compassionate care to the Frederick Community.

Construction of the James M. Stockman Cancer Institute is expected to finish in summer 2017. With a projected cost of approximately \$21 million, the future of this project largely depends upon success in securing private financial support. Originally, the FMH Development Council set a campaign goal of \$15 million. Thanks to early support from individuals, businesses, and foundations, they have already raised more than \$16.5 million. On February 19, 2016, a \$3 million gift was received from Frederick businessman and lifelong resident, James M. Stockman. In appreciation of his generosity, the new cancer center will bear his name. The Development council is committed to raise \$21 million – the full cost of the cancer center. Thanks to these generous donations, the new James M Stockman Cancer Institute will be a facility built for the community, by the community.

To learn more about cancer care at Frederick Regional Health System, visit [FMH.org/cancercare](http://FMH.org/cancercare).

To learn more about the FRHS Regional Cancer Therapy Center, visit [fmh.org/cancercare](http://fmh.org/cancercare).

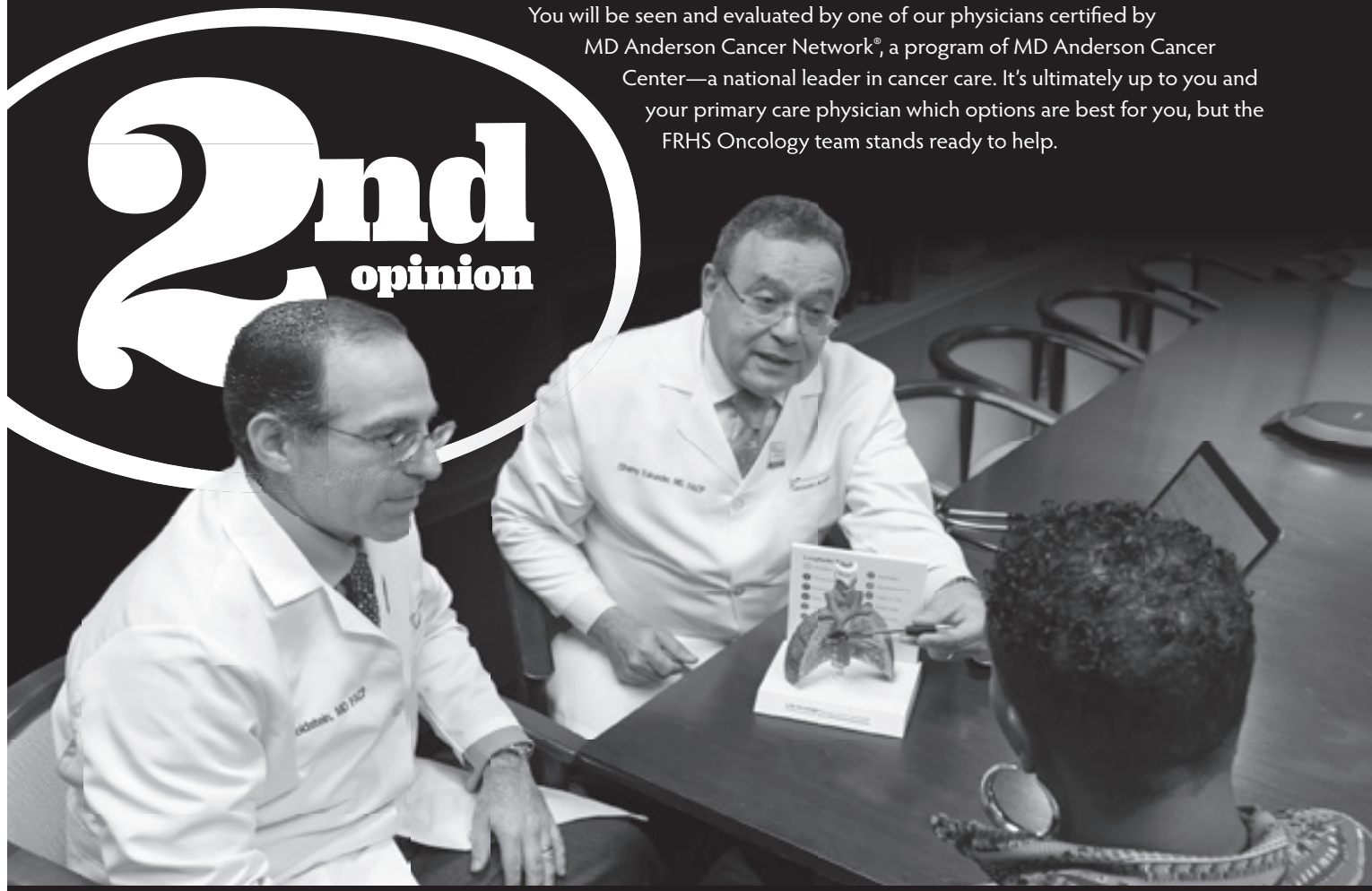
## Get a Second Opinion, Just Minutes from Home

There can be many uncertainties when it comes to a cancer diagnosis. *Is it the right diagnosis? Is this the right treatment plan?*

**You and your loved ones deserve a second opinion.**

FRHS Regional Cancer Therapy Center is ready to help answer those questions during a consultative service at our Second Opinion Clinic, where we offer treatment based on the latest guidelines developed by leading experts at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

You will be seen and evaluated by one of our physicians certified by MD Anderson Cancer Network®, a program of MD Anderson Cancer Center—a national leader in cancer care. It's ultimately up to you and your primary care physician which options are best for you, but the FRHS Oncology team stands ready to help.



**2** Leading Centers

**1** Mission

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Contact the Second Opinion Clinic today!

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## Why volunteer?

Ed Lowery  
Thurmont Little League

There is no disputing that volunteering at any level requires both commitment and engagement. The desire to support any cause through the volunteering of personal time and talents starts with having a passion. "Passion" is the key word. That passion to volunteer could not be more evident in our very own local Little League organization, Thurmont Little League (TLL). Little League Baseball is an organization designed to build good citizens. It is a program of leadership, preparing today's youth to be tomorrow's leaders. Here, at the local level, Little League relies on a devoted legion of adult volunteers to help ensure that the organization remains structured and runs smoothly. TLL is always looking for responsible and enthusiastic individuals to support Little League activities right here in our community. The 2017 Spring season will be a great opportunity for community members to become involved in our program.

TLL is all about community. From our opening day celebration, to the final game, parents, grandparents, siblings, friends and fans turn out to watch our kids having fun. These players get to know each other even though they may attend different schools, or live a few towns apart from each other. They learn to work together as a team, while building individual character.

Many people do not realize the commitment that goes into running a youth organization the size of TLL. TLL is truly a 12 month operation. January through March we are preparing for the season at hand, April through June we are in the heat of the regular season, and July through August is the All-Star season. September through October we operate a Fall baseball season, and we reserve the November-December timeframe for the next season's planning. The November-December months truly are the most important months of the year to ensure success of the upcoming Spring season.

The business and organizational side of running TLL can be very challenging, but rewarding. We are very fortunate to get support from the Town of Thurmont to use a handful of fields at East End Park. The remainder of the fields, buildings and complex are owned and operated by TLL. With nearly 400 kids in the program, field space is always at a premium. Over the past three years our program has exploded with players from Emmitsburg, Taneytown, Cascade, Rocky Ridge, and Keymar. We are always looking for ways to expand our ability to provide additional playing facilities within the local region to service our players and families. Our registrations continue to grow year after year. This is contrary to what you may read in many news articles that youth participation in baseball is declining. Locally here in our commu-

nity, Little League baseball continues to prosper.

Over the past three years, we have seen an outstanding improvement in our organization as the result of some key focus areas, and contributions from some vital volunteers. Our ability to gain sponsorships has quadrupled, and we have done a good job promoting the benefits of what Little League baseball can offer our community. Since 2014, our volunteers have worked very hard to build a stronger baseball community. Additionally, we have improved our facilities with some key capital projects. Most recently in 2015, we completed a \$30,000 renovation of our concession stand. Our board prides themselves on improving the player's experience year after year. However, the battle to keep improving is an uphill one that is certainly continuous.

Little League and community baseball is all about providing a positive experience. The positive experience begins with our talented volunteer coaches. TLL (like many other LL's across Frederick County) has some of the most highly trained and experienced coaches developing our young players. Additionally, we provide our coaches with multiple clinics, mentoring and supporting resources to truly be successful. Little League coaches are non-paid volunteers. TLL does not tout the accomplishments of our coaches from their playing days to impress our community. Our collective coaching accomplishments play out in form of the success of our Lit-



tle Leaguers. The quote, "work hard in silence and let success make the noise" summarizes our collective approach to the coaching craft. It's all about the showcasing of our player's talents. In 2016, we had a very successful season at all division levels, and all of our games were played right here at our complex. TLL won our second consecutive 9/10 State Championship (there are 80+ LL's in Maryland), our 11/12's won the Maryland District 2 Championship, and our minor league All-Star Team won the Frederick American LL invitational tournament. These accomplishments are a

testament to the many dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours coaching our youth, and the many volunteers who dedicate their time to making TLL a great baseball experience. If community baseball is of interest to you and your family, we can assure you here at TLL we will do everything we can to ensure that experience is a positive one. At the end of the day, you can count on some very passionate volunteers looking to build a stronger community built around enjoying America's favorite pastime. Come see what we are all about. Play Little League baseball.

REGISTER NOW go to  
[www.TLLbaseball.com](http://www.TLLbaseball.com)

Join us  
for another great year  
of TLL baseball

### THE Thurmont Little League ADVANTAGE:

- All Games Played at ONE Complex
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- Four Player Divisions for Various Age Groups



Thurmont Little League Spring 2017 Registration is Now Open until February 24th. Visit our website at [TLLbaseball.com](http://TLLbaseball.com) to register. Players registered before Tuesday, January 31st will receive a \$10.00 discount. Players from Thurmont, Sabillasville, Emmitsburg, Rocky Ridge, Woodsboro, Taneytown and Union Bridge are welcome to register. Come be a part of the Little League experience. Feel free to call Ed Lowry at 267-664-5059 with questions or email us at [thurmontbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:thurmontbaseball@hotmail.com).

## WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

# Peace eludes Europe, Romania collapses

### January 5

The British and French soldiers welcomed the arrival of 1917 on the Western front as the beginning of the end of the great world war. There may be varying views and theories as to how this is to be brought about, but there is no question that throughout the British Army there is a conviction that the next 12 months will bring a victorious peace to the allies.

Opinion among the British and French fighters as to how the war will end is divided into two schools. One believes that Germany will be willing to grant extreme concessions and the other believes only military pressure will bring them the fruits of victory. Both schools, however, agree that this is a decisive year.

On the British front, the New Year made its bow with little ceremony. However, there is one section where the British artillery followed a practice adopted last year of welcoming January 1 with salvos from guns of all calibers. Along this front everything from machine guns to the biggest of the heavies joined in firing first one round, then nine, and one, and finally seven. "We do not know whether the Germans recognized it or not, but we will try them again tonight," said an artillery captain.

In sending this fire to the Germans there was a further complication of differences of time, the Germans observing continental time, which is one hour ahead of the British and French clocks. To avoid all doubt, the British artillery fired salvos at both 11 o'clock and midnight.

Low black clouds scudded over the battle area the last night of the old year, and his successor was born on a howling wind, which caught up and carried away the thunder of the guns. The grim booming was swept far beyond the battle line until it mingled with the church bells summoning the people to prayer in the war bound villages of France.

Confidence in the effect of Germany's submarine campaign has been expressed openly in German naval circles. In a review of the naval war it is said: "we firmly believe that the commercial shipping of our enemies will become still less active in 1917. This will be accompanied by our daily growing submarine weapon. Our confidence for the New

Year is based on the expectation that our submarines will continue with growing success of the process of wearing away the economic life of our enemies."

Reflecting on Russia's four great mass attacks in 1916, one German military critic said they had no more success than did the great Anglo-French offensive on the Somme on the Western front.

"The March offensive of the Russians in the region north of the Prinet marshes was stifled after lasting a fortnight. Russian casualties numbered 100,000. The second offensive on the Carpathian front, begun early in June as part of the general Allied offensive, resulted in the forces of the Central Powers being pushed back only 18 miles before the offensive came to a standstill following the sacrifice of more than one million men.

The third offensive in September was launched by the Russians in conjunction with a Romanian attack against Transylvania. It was rapidly and gracefully terminated by counterattacks of the Germans. The last Russian offensive of 2016, an extraordinarily violent one in the wooded Carpathians and on the frontier Mountains of Moldavia, began November 28, could not prevent the annihilation of the Romanian army. As 1916 drew to a close, the Central Powers had once again taken the offensive against the Russians.

The long and stubborn retreat of the Russians to the Sereth line, 50 miles of fortifications, is virtually ended and the Russians are expected to make a stand behind it. While the Russians and Romanians still hold Braila, maintaining their grip on the bridgehead, which defends their last foothold in Central Romania, their bridgehead at Matchia, has been reduced by successful German attacks.

The Germans and Bulgarians are now in a position to push their guns within eight miles of Braila, and it is assumed that if the invaders capture the latter town the Russian line west of the Danube will be withdrawn. It is taken for granted that the prolonged resistance to the German advance has enabled the defenders to remove the stores of grain and other materials from Braila, an important Danube port which houses a storehouse for grain and oil supplies of considerable magnitude.

### January 12

With the capture of Braila on Monday, the battle for the possession of the Southern bank of the lower Sereth River, in central Romania, has been decided in favor of the Central Powers. German troops took just one month in forcing their way from Bucharest to Braila; a distance of 125 miles.

The Braila bridgehead, while not itself an integral part of the Sereth line, weakens the eastern flank of the Sereth position. It is not only here, however, that the Sereth line is threatened, for despite a tenacious defense by the Russians and Romanians, the line northwestward beyond the Buzeu River is not holding up well against German pressure, while the effort to keep the Germans in check in the Moldavian frontier valleys is apparently proving still less successful.

A break in the line on the southern front would imperil the Moldavian frontier position. Commentators in allied capitals are considering the possibility of the Russians being compelled to abandon the line of the Sereth and withdrawal to the Russian frontier, or beyond it.

One point favoring the Russians in their defense is the communication routes they now command. Behind the advancing Germans, the railway lines have thinned out, but in the rear of the Russian position the network of roads over which men and supplies may be brought to the front is vast.

The London Times pays tribute to the great efforts of Russia put forth on Romania's behalf. Saying: "Her attempts to hold the Sereth line has failed, as the attempts to say Bucharest failed: but she has delayed the Germans for weeks and made them pay a heavy price for their successes. The main brunt of the recent offensive has fallen on Russia, for the bulk of the Romanian army has been withdrawn behind Russian lines to be resupplied and reorganize. Russia could hardly have hoped to do more than delay the German advance. With both its extremities now in the enemy's hands, the Sereth defensive line is now useless. No doubt the Russians are on their way from this point to the next defensive position - the river Sereth itself. Behind that line again is the river line of the Pruth."

Meanwhile, Berlin dispatchers say that workers who are repairing the damage in the Romanian oil district have advanced so far that some work may resume production within a few weeks. About 2,000 carloads of petroleum and immense warehouses of goods are said to have been captured at Campina.

On the Western Front, through rains, mist, fog and deep mud, the British Army is continuing day-by-day to pound the German lines. Although there has been no distinctly spectacular action recently, daily and nightly trench raids and the drumming of the artillery has continued. According to the stories told by the prisoners, the British tactics have aroused the German troops almost beyond endurance.

Operations on Tuesday morning drove the Germans from a position that they had held for some time and from which they could observe part of the



As the New Year rolled in, the people of Europe held their breath that the three years of carnage would come to an end. Sadly, the terms proposed by the Allies ended all talk of peace and the war would drag on. As history would later record, the Allies would, in the end, get their terms, but in doing so, they laid the foundation for a much more bloody and devastating World War II.

British line. The attack was preceded by the usual artillery preparation. Just before dawn the British went over, ahead of them. In that darkest hour before the sunrise, was the fiery curtain of shells from the guns far in the rear. The sodden stretch of no man's land, over which they plotted, was lit by the glare of the exploding shells, as the barrage crept steadily forward the men followed it so closely that one expected them to be smashed by the fire of their own guns. Red rockets from the German trenches flashed signals for aid to the defending guns in the rear, but the counter barrage failed to check the advance. The German gunnery in this instance was described by the attacking officers as weak and erratic.

The British soldiers encountered little resistance when they entered the shell torn trenches. The Germans had taken refuge from the terrific shellfire in the dugouts in communication trenches. The prisoners taken in this raid had been on the front line for a long while and appeared very much dejected. As soon as the captured trenches had been cleared of the last hostile troops, squadrons of engineers were sent to consolidate and repair the new positions, and before night the regular booming of the big guns told that the battle had once more settled down into its customary routine.

### January 19

Yesterday, the Allied powers formally responded to the Presidents' request for peace terms, which included the restoration of Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro, and repartitions for the damage they sustained, as well as the evacuation of France, Russia and Romania and reparations as is considered just. The Allies also require the liberation of Italians, Slavs, Romanians and Czechs for foreign domination, as well as the retirement of the Turkish Empire from Europe.

It is generally agreed everywhere that the nature of the terms of the allies are unacceptable to the Central Powers, making an early peace unlikely.

The following proclamation by the Emperor to the German people has been officially published in Berlin in

response to the Allies' response to the President's peace note: "Our enemies have dropped the mask. After hypocritical words of love of peace and humility, they have now, in the reply to the United States, admitted their lust for conquest. Their aim is the crushing of Germany, the dismemberment of the powers allied with us, and the enslavement of the freedom of Europe and the seas."

"But for what they cannot achieve in 30 months of the bloodiest fighting and unscrupulous economic war they will also fail to accomplish in the future. Burning indignation and holy wrath will redouble the strength of every German man and woman, whether it is devoted to fighting or to working in the factories. We are ready for all sacrifices. The God who planted his glorious spirit of freedom in the hearts of our brave people will also give us and our loyal allies, the full victory over all the enemies' lust for power and rage for destruction."

The possible inauguration of a ruthless submarine warfare in consequence of the attitude of the allies, with a view of bringing England to terms, is much discussed in the various newspapers of Europe.

While it is true that submarines have not been the success expected, the feverish building of submarine parts in various manufacturing towns in Germany seems to indicate that the German government is of the general opinion that the submarine can snatch victory out of the present gloom. The point of view of the German government is that the war is settling down to a starvation match between Germany and her enemies and that the submarine may place Germany in a position to dictate terms.

Editorial comments on the Allied response to President Wilson's request for peace terms was overly negative in neutral overseas news agencies:

The Handeleblad of Amsterdam says: "The course of action of the Allies means that everything is turned upside down. The plan to make the Central Powers almost helpless and then to talk about fraternal feelings, international law and the principle of nationalities, is not conducive to lasting peace. Are the conditions regarding evacuation of occupied territories to be applied only against the Central Powers?"



A German heavy artillery gun in action on the Romanian front. By this stage of the war, the Germans had perfected the process of 'softening up' enemy positions before attacking them with infantry. Artillery was made more effective because of the rapidness of the Romanian collapse, limiting the time Romanian troops had to fortify new defense lines.

# JANUARY 1917



Little did he know, that less than two months after his demand for absolute obedience from his people, Nicholas II would be forced into abdication. Nicholas II would be the last Emperor of Russia, ruling from November 1st, 1894 until March 15th, 1917.

The Stockholm Gazette says: "The application of the principle of nationality as outlined by the Allies is rather one-sided, and adds, as to the plan to expel Turkey from Europe, we fail to see why this is more to the interest of civilization now than it was a few years ago, when Great Britain was guaranteeing the integrity of that country."

The Tagwacht, a socialist paper of Bern, Switzerland, says: "The demand for expulsion of the Turks from Europe proves that the Allies' desire to confuse public opinion, since it speaks of the principle of nationality, and at the same time of suppressing the entire nation nearly because that nation decided to side with the Central Powers. If Greece is an excellent illustration, other hypocrisy practiced by the Allies in regard to its true ideas of liberty of nations, then this

demand in regard to Turkey crowns all their plans."

Announcements that a British and two French vessels had been sunk in the Atlantic and two British steamships captured by a German raider confirm reports, which have been in circulation for some time, that a German raider had once more penetrated the screen of Allied warships, and escaped to the open seas.

For some time, it has been assumed that a German raider had sunk the British and French merchant ships, which had long been overdue. Most of these boats were last reported in the South Atlantic, indicating that the German raider has been at work off the South American coast.

A cordon of British cruisers, reported to number 15, is believed to be sweep-

ing the South Seas in search of the raider. Steamship circles were especially concerned today over wireless warnings that the German raider was working northward to more frequented lanes of steamship travel. The possibility that the raider may have armed and manned one or more of her captured prizes and dispatched them also on commerce prying missions, was another source of anxiety.

While nothing is definitively known as to the identity of the raider, two hypotheses have been constructed from the details supplied by the crews of the sunken ships. One of these is that the vessel is the German auxiliary cruiser Vineta, but the one most generally held is that the raider is the Moewe. However, every detail in regard to the ship's construction seems to fit the latter supposition.

According to reports from authoritative sources, the Moewe is understood to have sailed from Kiel under the Danish flag, carrying a cargo of hay on her bridge in order to conceal her armament. When last seen, the Moewe was painted black with white markings. Her armor includes four torpedo tubes in service and several tubes in reserve. She is believed to be carrying mine laying apparatus. The raider also carries a large number of auxiliary plates, which could permit her commander to change the appearance of the bridge at will. In addition she is reported to have a collapsible funnel.

The fall of Premier Trepoff of Russia, known for his liberal views, is said by the overseas news agency to have been the decision of Emperor Nicholas to take a decided stand against radical elements. Following the assassination of the monk, Gregory Rasputin.

The Premier's ministers hastened to the Emperor's headquarters and protested their sacking, but to no avail. The power behind the throne is now Protopopoff, who is best characterized by a saying of his which is known all over Russia: "The Duma will keep quiet as soon as it gets a beating, and the people will soon learn quite clearly that no one challenges the will of the Czar!"

## January 26

The Rio Janeiro papers assert that the German raider is accompanied by three small submarines. The submarines are said to be 6 meters in length and of an entirely new type. Members of the crews of the ships sunk by the raider are quoted as saying that the submarines constantly leave the mothership and reappear after short intervals, apparently doing scouting duty.

According to press dispatches, a strange steamship with four smokestacks painted black has been cited off Ceara, Brazil, running at high speed. The German raider is reported to be equipped with collapsible smoke stacks, the number of stacks visible being changed at intervals to disguise the identity of the vessel.

British authorities have issued a warning to shipping companies that the captured British steamer St. Theodore has been converted into a German commerce raider and is cruising along the leading steamship routes. Secret instructions have been given to the companies regarding routes to be followed.

Meanwhile, Allied war vessels, aside from hunting down an active raiding squadron, are keeping close watch on several merchant vessels suspected of supplying the Moewe and her allies with food and of assisting them in other ways. As a precaution against the illegal use of Brazilian territory as a base of operations for the German ships, a portion of the Brazilian Navy is maneuvering off the coast.

From Rio de Janeiro it is reported that the Caproca and another German vessel, interned at this port, have made preparations to put to sea. It is believed that these vessels are endeavoring to make their es-

cape for the purpose of reinforcing the raiders, which are suffering from a shortage of supplies and are depending on the flight of German ships from Brazil.

At Santa Clara, the Danish steamer Hammershus was fired while trying to put to sea secretly after receiving a quantity of provisions and according to a report, a large quantity of explosives from the German ships anchored in the harbor. The Hammershus entered the port at 10 o'clock on Wednesday night and dropped anchor close to the German ships. The movement of the ship was observed from the fort, which signaled her to stop. The signals were ignored until two cannon shots were fired, forcing the ship to halt where she was boarded by the port police, who forced the steamer to anchor in the neighborhood of Brazilian warships that were ordered to keep it under surveillance.

The crew of the British steamer Dramatist, which was destroyed by the German commerce raider, said that they sighted the raider when it was 7 miles distance. The Germans rapidly closed in and went alongside and hoisted the German naval ensign and signaled the British to stop. Immediately afterwards, trapdoors under the bulwarks of the raider's forecabin dropped, revealing guns of about 2 1/2 inches in caliber. A boatload of armed Germans boarded the British ship and the steamer was sunk by explosives.

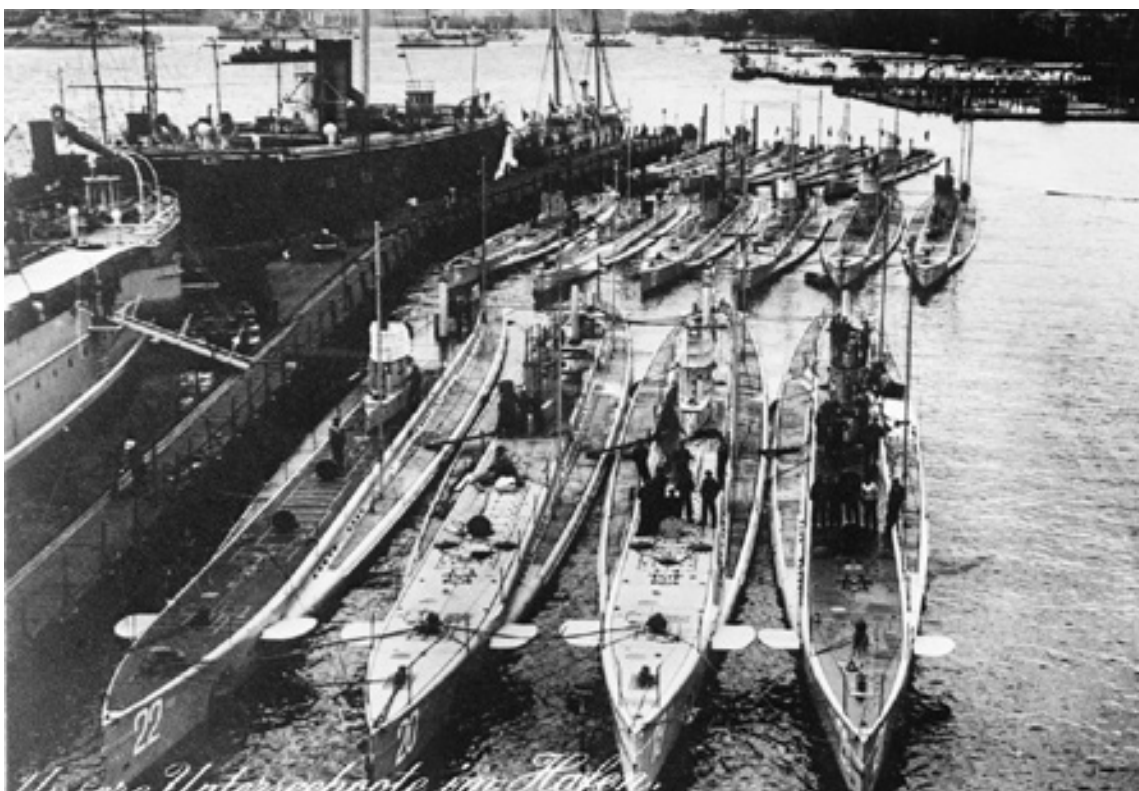
The men of the Dramatist say that the raider appears like an ordinary cargo steamer and when passing neutral ships hoist the British colors, but fly the German flag when it cites a British ship.

Meanwhile, a German submarine in the English Channel sighted a steamer and signaled her to stop. The steamer carried a Danish flag. The submarine commander, considering the steamer harmless, approached her on the surface. Suddenly, the steamer raised the British flag and let fall a section of the siding on her bow, revealing two guns of 10 to 15 cm, and commenced firing. The submarine succeeded in submerging and escaping.

To read past editions of WWI News Reports From The Front, visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.



SMS Möwe was a merchant raider of the Imperial German Navy which operated against Allied ships during World War I. Disguised as a neutral cargo ship to enable it to get close to targets, the Möwe was effective at commerce raiding, ending up as the most successful German raider in either the first or second World Wars, sinking 38 Allied ships. Unlike her victims, she survived the war.



With the Allied rejection of the Central Powers' peace terms, the Germans renewed their efforts to bring England to her knees through submarine warfare. A new generation of U-boats, far bigger and faster than the old U-boats, allowed Germany to attack Allied shipping everywhere in the Atlantic.

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# HISTORY - CONFEDERATE RETREAT FROM GETTYSBURG

## A Confederate retreat and Union pursuit

Part Six

John A. Miller  
Emmitsburg Historical Society

On July 11, 1863, the Army of the Potomac was closing in on the Confederate army near Williamsport. Battle lines are beginning to take shape, as the Confederate army, occupied the ground from just west of Hagerstown, all the way down to Downsville, east of Williamsport. Lt. General Richard Ewell's Corps held the left flank of the Confederate army, west of Hagerstown. Holding the center, east of Williamsport, was Lt. General A. P. Hill's Corps. Major General George Pickett, along with Brigadier General John Imboden occupied the Hagerstown and Boonsboro Roads, as they led

into Williamsport itself. Holding the Confederate right flank, east of Williamsport and Downsville, was Lt. General James Longstreet's Corps.

The Union army began taking up positions paralleling the Confederate army. The I Corps remained at Beaver Creek. The II Corps was positioned near Saint James College. The III Corps supported the V Corps near Funkstown. During the evening, the V Corps was ordered to move into the direction of Antietam, near Jones's Crossroads. The VI and XI Corps moved to Beaver Creek via Funkstown. The XII Corps then proceeded toward the II Corps position.

Early in the morning the next day, Colonel Pennock Huey's cavalry brigade moved along the Williamsport Road. They were

encamped at Jones's Crossroads and were ordered to re-con the Confederate lines. Near Saint James College, they engaged some of the Confederate pickets. With the sounds of a skirmish ahead, Union infantry were ordered out and several Confederate soldiers were captured.

Meanwhile to the north, near Hagerstown, Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry moved toward the city. He was supported by Brigadier General Adelbert Ames' infantry brigade of the XI Corps. As they approached the city, they were fired upon. Brigadier General Kilpatrick was able to capture some of the Confederate pickets. The Second Battle of Hagerstown had officially begun.

Supported by artillery, Brigadier General Kilpatrick moved to the outskirts of Hagerstown. There, deploying some cavalry behind a stonewall, Kilpatrick ordered Brigadier General George Custer to charge the city. Brigadier General Custer hesitated. Brigadier General Kilpatrick then ordered his headquarters guard, Company A of the 1st Ohio Cavalry to charge. Several Confederate soldiers were captured in charge.

While the headquarters guard charged, Brig. Gen. Ames ordered his infantry forward as support. At the same time, Brig. Gen. Custer finally charged into Hagerstown. He was quickly attacked by Confederate infantry. Fighting in the streets was vicious, as the fight took place from yard to yard. As Custer's men pushed forward, Brig. Gen. Ames and his infantry began flooding into Hagerstown until they reached the town center. By the end of the Second Battle of Hagerstown, the Union suffered a handful of



casualties, and 400-500 Confederates were taken prisoner.

While the Second Battle of Hagerstown was erupting, the Union army was again repositioning itself. The realignment was to get the entire Army of the Potomac west of the Antietam Creek. The I Corps was ordered to take the heights beyond Funkstown. The II Corps moved to Saint James. The III Corps moved toward Marsh Creek. The V Corps began to entrench its position, holding the center of the Union army. The VI Corps would eventually move to the south of Funkstown, and turn southward to occupy the ground connecting the V Corps and the I Corps. The XI Corps moved ahead of the I Corps, and would hold the right flank of the Union army, just south of Hagerstown. The XII Corps held the left flank of the Union army, south of Jones's Crossroads.

As darkness fell on the defenses of Williamsport, the Union army had a decision to make regarding the next day. Should they attack? Or should they re-

connoiter the Confederate defenses. Up until now, the Confederate army has had its back against a swollen Potomac River. They have built some massive entrenchments to protect their army. Now, both armies are looking at each other.

That night, Major General George Meade, whose headquarters was located at the Devil's Backbone along the Antietam Creek, called for a council of war. Major General Meade asked his council if they felt the Union army should attack the Confederate positions that guarded their avenue back into West Virginia and Virginia.

The council voted "No!" to the question of attacking the Confederate army. The only vote in favor of the attack came from Major General Oliver O. Howard. Meade's Staff was also in favor of the attack, but their votes could not be counted. Major General Meade would then reconnoiter the Confederates the next day and make plans for an all out attack on July 14. This decision infuriated President Abra-



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# OBITUARIES



ates lost more than 154 men killed or wounded, but upwards to 1,500 men captured. Falling Waters was the last major battle of the Pennsylvania Campaign in Maryland.

For the next several days, the Union army moved back into Pleasant Valley. By July 16, the Army of the Potomac was located in the three main areas of Harper's Ferry, Sandy Hook and Berlin. That same day, Union cavalry fought near Shepherdstown, where they engaged Confederate cavalry guarding the Poto-

mac River. After several hours of fighting, and both sides standing their ground, the Union cavalry was forced to withdraw after sunset.

On July 17, after being re-supplied and re-equipped, the Army of the Potomac began moving into Virginia. The crossing of the Potomac would take two days. By July 19, the Army of the Potomac was south of the Potomac River.

On July 23, at Manassas Gap, the III Corps was ordered to Front Royal to cut off the Confederate army's retreat. Howev-

er, poorly coordinated Union attacks allowed the Confederate army to continue moving without any further pursuit. The next day, the last battle of the Pennsylvania Campaign occurred near Amissville at Battle Mountain. Being outnumbered, Brig. Gen. Custer was forced to fall back, and the Pennsylvania Campaign of 1863 officially came to an end.

*To read past editions of WWI News Reports From The Front, visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.*

**On July 6, 1863, Confederate and Union cavalry clashed on the streets in Hagerstown. The stage for the seven hour battle, known as the Second Battle of Hagerstown, was set when Union Brig. Gen. Hugh Kilpatrick turned his men toward Hagerstown to intercept Confederate supply wagons which were heading toward the city.**

ham Lincoln.

On July 13, the Union army concentrated on improving their own defenses. Throughout the day, both armies continued to look over at each other. Meanwhile, the Confederate army determined that they would move into West Virginia that night. Longstreet's and Hill's Corps would cross over the Potomac River on a newly built pontoon bridge at Falling Waters. At Williamsport, the waters had receded enough and Ewell's Corps would ford the Potomac River there. Bunker Hill, West Virginia would be the concentration point of the Confederate army.

As night fell on the fields separating both armies, the Confederate army prepared to move out. Near midnight, the Confederate army began moving into West Virginia. By 7:00 a.m. on July 14, it was discovered that, for the most part, the Confederate army was on the south side of the Poto-

mac River. They had performed a great escape.

Early in the morning on July 14, at Falling Waters, MD, Brig. Gen. Kilpatrick with Brigadier General John Buford caught up with the rearguard of the Confederate army. Without consulting Brig. Gen. Buford, Kilpatrick ordered Brig. Gen. Custer to attack. Leading his brigade was the 6th Michigan Cavalry and they charged the Confederates. At first the Confederate soldiers thought that this cavalry was part of their own. The rearguard of Hill's Corps, commanded by Major General Henry Heth, realized that this was Union cavalry. They fired a devastating volley into the Union cavalry. As fighting continued into the early afternoon, Brigadier General James Pettigrew was mortally wounded.

By 1:00 p.m., Maj. Gen. Heth was ordered to fall back to the bridge. The Union cavalry had 111 casualties. The Confeder-

## Catholics and cremation

Colt Black, F.D.

As a funeral director I normally sit on the sidelines when commenting on religious issues surrounding funeral services as I usually must remain objective as funeral directors service families from all faiths and walks of life.

That being said on October 25, 2016 the Vatican released a statement giving followers of the Catholic Church guidance regarding cremation and the church's position.

In short, burial is still the preferred method of disposition as it shows the most respect for the remains. However since cremation has become accepted by the church, and is more frequently chosen by its followers today the following guidelines have been issued.

The practice of scattering is forbidden, as is the practice of keeping the cremated remains at home. Additionally the splitting up of cremated remains among several locations or persons is also forbidden that includes keep-

sake urns and jewelry.

The only accepted ways of disposition of cremated remains by the church is in either in ground burial or above ground entombment in a columbarium or mausoleum; and they must be in their entirety.

As for my opinion as a funeral director I offer the following thought; most folks would never ask to have mom's arm or dad's foot when the body is whole. So why is there such an acceptance of splitting up of cremated remains when it is the same thing, a person?

I feel the answer lies many times upon families who choose cremation devoid of viewing or funeral prior to or memorial service after cremation not working properly through the grief process, which by holding onto cremated remains at home; otherwise allows them to always have their loved one close as if they were never gone. While mental health has taken the limelight in this country, healthy grieving is still something we all struggle with.

Long-term storage of cremated remains at home also presents additional challenges when the ini-

tial custodian of the cremated remains dies, who takes the cremated remains now? Or worse yet no one remembers what was in the "box" and throws them out or donates them to a charity, don't think that happens just do a Google search it is a common occurrence

Additionally scattering cremated remains is both permanent and in many cases does not afford families a place to go in the future to reflect and remember who their loved one was. Which affects future generations who seek to connect with their heritage profoundly.

While I am personally not Catholic I as a funeral director and fellow human being applaud the Church's stance on cremation and its respect for basic human dignity after death and their foresight for survivor's mental health.

If you would like additional information on the Catholic Church's stance on cremation, and the options for Catholics contact our funeral home at 240-288-1300.

### Death Notices

**Roy Joseph Wivell, Jr., 66**, of Emmitsburg, died November 1. He was the son of the late Roy Joseph Wivell, Sr. and Helen Louise Wivell.

**Kathleen Dunn, 69**, of Emmitsburg, died November 9 at St. Joseph's Ministries.

**Raymond Ott, 71**, of Fairfield, died Saturday, November 12. He was the son of Thomas and Leatrice L. Ott of Emmitsburg.

**George Reuben Green, 78**, of Thurmont, died December 12. Mr. Green was employed with the Thurmont Shoe Factory for 40 years and later as a custodian at Thurmont Elementary.

**Clifton Earl Liller, 81**, of Thurmont, died December 14. He was a 1953 graduate of Emmitsburg High School and was a life-long farmer.

**Daniel Clayton Kemp**, of Thurmont, died December 14.

**Alex Martin Kennedy, 21**, of Thurmont died suddenly on December 13. Alex graduated from Catoctin High School in 2013. His passion was baseball and he pitched the Cou-

gars to their first state championship in 2013. Alex earned All-State and Player of the Year honors in his senior season.

**Charles J. Heims, 80**, of Rocky Ridge, died December 17. Born in Creagerstown, he was the son of the late Charles and Agnes Heims.

**Edna Elizabeth "Libby" Myers, 94**, of Rocky Ridge, died December 18. Born in Creagerstown, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Nettie Kolb. She was a member of Rocky Ridge Ladies Auxiliary.

**Infant Grayson Franklin Long**, of Thurmont, died Tuesday, December 20. Arrangements are by Blacks Mortuary & Cremation Services P.A., Thurmont.

**Dorothy Viola Baker, age 83**, of Rocky Ridge, died December 22. She was a member of the Monocacy Church of the Brethren, Rocky Ridge and was formerly employed at a Thurmont shoe factory.

**Lela Willhide Lillard, 96**, of Thurmont, died December 23. She graduated from Thurmont High School in 1938.

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## MOM'S TIME OUT

## Twelve months of resolutions

Mary Angel

Every January it is the same thing. January signifies the start of a New Year, a new beginning and New Year's resolutions. For me it starts mid-December and it involves me racking my brain trying to come up with something new and beating myself up over the old. This year is going to be different. I have decided to keep it simple and focused. Let's see how it goes.

As I have said most years I spend from mid-December to mid-January trying to figure out what my resolution is going to be. I spend the first week in self-doubt and self-pity over the resolution I didn't keep. My failures range from weight loss to giving up sodas to parenting improvements. Every year I start off strong and then... The "and then" is what always gets me. My motivations change or are forgotten about entirely. One thing or another and I am sabotaged or I sabotage myself. All of these thoughts run through

my head and of course hinder my planning for the next year.

In between the thoughts of self-doubt and self-pity I also try and decide whether I am going to come up with a new resolution or make a second (sometimes third or fourth) attempt at an old resolution. I run through the basics, lose weight, exercise more, eat less, eat more healthy, don't lose my temper with the kids, yell less, hug more (ok, I have never made that one), or the all-encompassing be healthier and parent better. I considered new resolutions that would involve cleaning the house or my bills or even yard work and none of them had any appeal. They were either of zero interest to me or I recognized failure in the mere thought of them. So now what?

Now it is getting down to the wire and I need to get serious, but not too serious. I mean really, what would happen if I just didn't make a resolution? This brings me to my last hurdle in resolution making. This is the time when I

decide it just isn't worth it and conclude I will just not make a resolution. This idea sits well with me, very well, for a while. For a very short couple of days I am comforted by the fact that my decision is made and comforted by the fact that I don't have anything to work on or worry about in the New Year. Then my brain starts thinking about all of the things I really do need to work on. This is when I start all over again and rack my brain to come up with the perfect New Year's resolution.

So this year I have decided to try something different. Instead of a New Year's resolution, I am going to make a New Month's resolution. So every month of the New Year I am going to come up with a different resolution to work on that month. Maybe January will be my weight, maybe February will be my eating habits, and March I can work on a specific short coming in my parenting. Whatever I decide for each month I can encourage myself with the knowledge that I only have to accomplish it for one month. I gave up soda for lent one year and survived (just barely), so one month of almost anything is doable to me. On the off chance that things are going well maybe I will overlap resolutions and start a new month's challenge while I continue one from the previous month. However there will be no pressure to continue past the one month



that any particular resolution has been assigned.

Of course, this opens up a whole new headache. The new dilemma is trying to come up with 12 challenging but doable resolutions. They will need to be things that I truly need to work on, shortcomings or health related needs that I am capable of doing with effort on my part. I think I would like to have a variety of resolutions. I think a variety would help to keep me interested, focused and therefore successful. A variety might

also help if I decide to overlap any resolutions. There are three decisions made. First, I will make a resolution, second, I will actually make 12 mini resolutions, and third, I will make a mixed up variety of resolutions. So, what in the world am I going to resolve to change?

Since I asked Santa for the 21 Day Fix and the Simply Fit Board, I guess I will start with a month of exercising more. Based on these gifts from Santa I believe it would be an easy transition to work on my eating habits in February. March might have to be a month focused on purging all of the clutter in my house (I am a closet hoarder, but that is a story for another month). April can be devoted to spending time with my kids, real quality time, maybe even individual quality time. May is going to be the organizing month. If all goes well in May, my summer will start off with a new Zen like house! Gardening and yard work month will have to be June when it is beautiful but not too hot. July will be NO soda month (those who know me, know this may be the month to avoid me). August will be a homeschool organizational month, something I always say I am going to do but, always fall short on. September seems like a good month to enhance my house cleaning skills, followed by October when I will train the children on how to more efficiently and properly do their chores and pitch in around the house. November can be the month when I focus on cooking more and working on the recipes I have wanted to get into a book for years.

That brings me back to December which I believe I will call New Year's resolution month and I will focus on not focusing too much on next year's resolution. Happy New Years!

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

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# Super Bowl Sunday fun feast!

Carol Cogliano  
Hollabaugh Bros., Inc.

Happy New Year, football foodie fans! I have to be honest -- Unless my favorite team has made it to the big game, I'm not one who fusses a great deal about the Super Bowl -- but one thing is for sure: It's a great excuse to whip up some fun appetizers and hang out with family and friends for a spirited evening together!

We all have our standard favorite party recipes and munchies; mine include Swedish Meatballs that my dad used to make every New Year's Eve... or the party platter of frozen munchies from Costco... and let's not forget Bagel Bites. (I have single handedly supported that company for years, thanks to my three children!) Many involve cheese or bacon as an ingredient, and most are not the healthiest choices around. I always smile when there is a crudité offered... suggesting a healthier option amongst a sea of chicken wings and chips! (Of course, it is typically offered with Ranch dressing, right?)

So let's overlook the fact that while we are all trying to stick to our New Year's resolutions that this mine field of a gastronomic celebration exists, and just have fun with it...within reason!

My articles usually have a challenge involved. "Try something new!" "Don't be intimidated -- try to make it!" "Make memories by spending time in the kitchen together!" Well, this month is going to incorporate all of these challenges. Aim to make Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, a day when you can spend time with family, neighbors and friends, enjoying some delicious snacks together, and rooting for whoever is lucky enough to make it to the big game. Enjoy!

## Creamy Spinach Roll Ups

Recipe courtesy of: [www.passionforsavings.com](http://www.passionforsavings.com)

### Ingredients:

- 8 oz. Cream Cheese
- 8 oz. Monterey Jack Cheese, shredded
- ¼ tsp. Garlic Powder
- ¼ Yellow Onion Diced Small
- 1 - 10 oz. Package of Frozen Spinach, Thawed and Drained Really Well
- 1 Box of Puff Pastry Sheets (2 Sheets)
- 1 Egg
- 1 Tbsp. Water

### Instructions:

1. Combine the egg and water and beat until well mixed.
2. Combine softened cream cheese, monterey jack cheese, garlic powder and onion in a bowl and mix well.
3. Add spinach into the cream cheese mixture and stir.
4. Unroll puff pastry sheets and brush both sides with egg and water mixture.
5. Spread cream cheese and spinach mixture over one side of the puff pastry.
6. Roll up the puff pastry and slice.
7. Place rolls on a baking sheet and bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until the puff pastry turns a golden color.

## Baked Potato Nachos

Recipe courtesy of: [www.asavoryfeast.com](http://www.asavoryfeast.com)

### Ingredients:

- 5-6 baby red potatoes, sliced into 1/2 inch thick rounds
- Olive Oil
- Sea Salt
- Garlic Powder
- 2 cups of cheddar cheese, shredded
- 8 strips of bacon, roughly chopped
- 3 tablespoons chopped chives

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400. Line a baking sheet with foil.
2. Place the potato rounds in a single layer on the pan.
3. Brush both sides of the potatoes with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and garlic powder.
4. Bake for 30 minutes, flipping once.
5. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with cheese, bacon and chives. Bake for 10 minutes or until cheese is melted.

## Philly Cheesesteak Sliders

Recipe courtesy of:

[www.hungryharp.com](http://www.hungryharp.com)  
(Makes 12 sliders)

### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1½ tablespoon garlic, chopped - divided
- 1/2lb deli sliced roast beef, chopped
- 12 Pack Original Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 6 slices provolone cheese, quartered
- ½ cup butter
- ½ tablespoon garlic, chopped

### Directions:

1. Heat olive oil in skillet over med-high heat. Add green bell peppers and cook for a couple minutes. Add onions and cook for another couple minutes. Add 1 tablespoon of garlic and roast beef, cooking until any liquid given off from the meat has evaporated. Remove from heat and set aside.
2. Preheat oven to 350.
3. Slice Hawaiian Sweet Rolls in half and place bottom halves in baking dish. Smear 2 teaspoons of mayonnaise on each roll and top with a quarter slice of cheese. Di-



vide the roast beef mixture over the rolls and then add another quarter slice of cheese. Top with top half of rolls.

4. Melt together butter and ½ tablespoon garlic. Brush over the top of rolls.
5. Wrap baking dish in foil and bake for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake for another 10 minutes or until tops of buns start to darken.
6. Devour. And try to share.

## Italian Stuffed Mushrooms with Sausage

Recipe courtesy of:

[www.galonaission.com](http://www.galonaission.com)

### Ingredients:

- ¼ pound Hot Italian Sausage\*
- ¼ cup finely diced onion
- ¼ cup diced mushroom stems
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- salt and pepper, to taste
- cup shredded parmesan cheese + extra for topping each mushroom cap
- 4 ounces cream cheese softened at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley diced + extra for garnish
- 16 ounces white button mushrooms, cleaned with stems removed

### Instructions:

1. Place the sausage in a medium skillet and brown until crumbly and done. Place

the crumbled sausage on a paper towel lined plate. Set aside.

2. Place the onions, mushrooms stems, and garlic in the same skillet and saute for 5 minutes or until the onions are translucent and the mushroom stems are tender. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Cream together the parmesan cheese and cream cheese together in a medium bowl. Add the cooled crumbled sausage, the cooled onion and mushroom stem mixture, and fresh parsley and mix until combined.
4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
5. Place the button caps into a large baking sheet. Fill each mushroom cap with the mixture using two spoons. Top each filled mushroom cap with extra parmesan cheese. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until the tops are lightly browned.
6. Garnish with fresh parsley.

\*You may use any kind of sausage. You can also use sausage links, but remember to remove the casing.

Carol Cogliano is the Director of Events at Hollabaugh Bros., Inc. Visit [www.hollabaughbros.com](http://www.hollabaughbros.com) for a full listing of their upcoming events and classes or call 717-677-8412 for more information.

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## LIBRARY NEWS / SCHOOL NEWS

## Local library events

Frederick County  
Public Libraries

Whatever your New Year's resolution, the library can help you keep it. Planning to save money in 2017? With a library card, you get movies, music, books, and more, all for free. Taking a big test this year? Head to fcpl.org to use Learning Express Library, which has free prep and practice for the SAT, GED, citizenship exams, and many more!

Tax season is here, and Glade Valley Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will offer FREE assistance at the Thurmont Regional Library on Fridays, January 27 - April 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Appointments are required. Call 301-845-0042 Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. to make an appointment. Maximum income to receive assistance is \$54,000 for working taxpayers and \$62,000 for seniors, persons with disabilities, and others receiving Social Security benefits. Call for information on what documents to bring, limitations on services provided, directions, and other information.

Music lovers, mark your calendars!

On February 26, the Thurmont Regional Library will host a Sound of Music sing-a-long. Join us at 1:15 to sing along with this classic favorite. Snow date is March 5. The annual Celtic Concert will be March 21 at Mount Saint Mary's.

We are always interested in hearing from you! If there are programs you'd like to see offered at the library, please let us know.

## Programs

*New Year, New You Healthy Lunchbox Makeover (Grades K-5):* Experiment with the 5 food groups while designing new lunchbox ideas using the MyPlate plan. Wednesday, January 4, 5 p.m.

*Happy "Mew" Year! (Ages 3-8):* Celebrate all things "cat" with stories and a craft. Feel free to bring your favorite plush kitty cat. Saturday, January 7, 11 a.m.

*Toddler Winter Celebration (Ages 1-3):* Toddlers will participate in storytelling, music, and art around a winter theme. Wednesday, January 11, 10:30 am.

*Winter Stories & Art (Grades K-5):* Enjoy listening to stories and creating

art around a winter theme. Saturday, January 14, 11 a.m.

*R.E.A.D. with Wags for Hope:* The Reading Education Assistance Dogs listen to children read. \*Allergy Alert! The dogs and cats are live animals. Tuesday, January 17, 5 p.m.

*LEGO Block Party (Grades K-5):* Join us for an afternoon of LEGO fun! Wednesday, January 18, 4 p.m.

*Steam Cafe: Stained Art Light Jars (Grade 6-12):* Come get creative with colors and light. All supplies provided. Saturday, January 28, 10 a.m.

Special Adult Programs at the  
Thurmont Regional Library

*Western Maryland Railroad History:* Paul Faulkner, Photo Archivist for the Western Maryland Railway Historical Society, shares the rich and colorful history of the legendary WMRR that operated for 125 years. Monday, January 23, 7 p.m. Snow date is February 6.

*Rubber Stamp Carving:* Design and carve your own rubber stamp. Custom stamps are a great way to add a personal touch to creative projects. Saturday, January 28. Snow date is February 4.

All FCPL branches will be closed for New Years, Sunday and Monday, January 1 & 2, and Monday, January 16 in honor of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Blue Ridge Summit  
Free Library Events

## Standing Events

Monday- Lego and Wee Build Creation night!!! Let your imagination show its genius! All ages welcome. From 3-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday- Coloring Club 3-5 p.m. Release your inner Monet! All ages welcome.

Wednesday - Coffee club in the community room from 3-5:30 p.m.! Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, etc. Food donations appreciated.

Thursday - VITT (very important teens and 'twens) night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 3:00-5:30 p.m. Just hang out or play Wii, board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.

Saturday - Join us at 11 a.m. for Story and Craft Hour and all of its festivities! What could be better than

a great book, a good snack, and a fun craft?

## Movies!

Jan 19<sup>th</sup> - Free family movie "The Secret Life of Pets", rated PG starts at 6:00 pm at Blue Ridge Summit Free Library. "The quiet life of a terrier named Max is upended when his owner takes in Duke, a stray whom Max instantly dislikes."

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> - Free adult's only movie at the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library. "Florence Foster Jenkins", rated PG-13 will be shown at 6 p.m. "The story of Florence Foster Jenkins, a New York heiress who dreamed of becoming an opera singer, despite having a terrible singing voice." Starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant.

## Special Events

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> join Bill Hammann for scherschneit class at 6 p.m. Learn the art and tradition of German papercutting, meditative as well as beautiful.

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. will be a meeting of the "Summit Stitches", the BRS quilt club. New members are welcome!

*The Blue Ridge Free Library is located at 13676 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit, Penna. 17214.*

## Home gardening essentials

New Educational Series Presented by the Adams County Master Gardeners

For those of you who have enjoyed our Gardening In Your Environment education classes in the past, Adams County Master Gardeners want you to know that we have changed up our name and format.

Our new name for these education classes is Home Gardening Essentials. Unlike previous years, this year our presentations will be divided into two sessions so you can

choose to attend one or both sessions. We hope you will choose to attend both!. By changing our basic format for spring 2017, we will be able to include specific topics dealing with gardening that we have not addressed in the past Dates and times for the 2017 classes are noted at the end of this article.

Our first session will include two classes covering basic gardening skills. Don't think that because you know a little about gardening you don't need these classes. You may be

surprised at what you can learn! Do you know your soil type? Do you know your soil's pH? Do you understand why knowing them is extremely important? Do you know the best way to improve poor soil conditions? What are the major reasons - not including cold - that plants die during the winter and what can you do to help? What is the difference between a true annual and a tender perennial? What is a biennial? Should you add fertilizer to the hole when you plant a new tree? What is the proper way to plant a shrub?

The second session will cover two topics: - Herb gardening (two classes) and Gardening in small spaces (two classes). In the first two classes of the second session, we will cover How to grow, keep and use herbs. Which herbs are annual, which are perennial? What herbs will grow well inside the house for the winter?

How do you dry or freeze herbs? What are some favorite herbs for teas?

How about a little herbal folklore?

Our last two classes of the second session will cover small -scale gardening. There's a lot to learn about gardening in containers. We will discuss recommended growing mediums, and proper watering and fertilizing techniques. What factors should you consider when choosing a container? What are some easy and successful container combinations? What vegetables will do well in a container? Is there such a thing as a permanently planted container?

The second class of Small - Scale gardening will be devoted to small space gardening. Do you have a small corner, a narrow, unused walkway, or a tiny patio that you would like to improve? This is the class for you! Learn design techniques to help a small area look larger, or more interesting or more useful. Learn to consider the mature size of plants before planting, and become familiar some dwarf varieties that are available.

As in previous years, our classes will be offered in two separate locations. The same material will be offered each week at both locations, so

pick the location or time that is most convenient for you. If you find you must miss a class one week, you can always make it up in the other location. Classes will begin on Wednesday February 15, 2017, and will run through Saturday March 25.

Wednesday evening classes (6:30 - 8) will be conducted at the Penn State Agricultural and Natural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Pike in Gettysburg, and Saturday morning classes (10 - 11:30) will be held at the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center, 195 Stock Street, Hanover.

Among the instructors, you will find some fresh, new faces, as well as some who are familiar to you from past years.

The cost for Session 1 - Basic Gardening (class 1 & 2) will be \$30, and for Session 2 - Growing Herbs, Using Herbs, Container Gardening and Small Space Gardening (4 classes) will be \$50

To register for these classes, go to <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/events> or call 717-334-6271 for more information.

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LIBRARY NEWS / SCHOOL NEWS

# State develops plan for education

Joy Shaeffer  
Frederick County School Board

Marylanders have an opportunity to shape the teaching and learning that happens in our local public schools. In order to comply with the new federal education law, the Maryland State Board of Education is developing a new state plan for education and will finalize that plan through the late spring, early summer.

All of this work is due to the reauthorization of the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act" in December 2015. Reauthorized under the name "Every Student Succeeds Act," or ESSA, the federal education law, in place since 1965, provides for federal funding of public education and estab-

lishes standards, accountability measures and affirms access for all students to public education. Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle were proud of the bipartisan effort to place accountability for students' education back in the hands of states, and to give local systems more flexibility regarding testing and how to help persistently low-performing schools.

Some welcome this opportunity, especially those who have lamented the previous version of the law, reauthorized in 2002 as "No Child Left Behind," or NCLB. That version placed a greater emphasis on standardized testing to measure student and local school performance. While the law does now allow greater local flexibility, it kept in place the federal requirement

to test students in math and language arts once each year in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school, as well as once in science, in grades 5 and 8.

However, the new law allows state systems to consider other aspects of a school's performance or students' experience and achievements. When rating schools and their effectiveness, Maryland can now include a variety of non-academic, non-test-based data including student attendance, graduation rates, school climate, teacher quality, staffing, and student access to education programs.

Many of our students demonstrate career and college readiness through other avenues. We have students attain industry certifications, successful complete a internships, or achieve a

high grades in dual enrollment courses. Maybe the time is right to give students academic credit for work experience that reflects real learning and the development of valuable skills and knowledge.

During the month of January, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will be hosting regional "Listening Sessions" to gather input on the new state plan. This is the opportunity that families and communities should take to let our State Board of Education know that there are a variety of ways to measure student learning and the quality of teaching at our schools.

MSDE has also posted a survey to their website as another avenue to give input. More information on the meet-

ings, the survey, as well as the full draft of the proposed state education plan is available at this link: <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/>

Assessments and tests are a part of every instructional program. They assure us that students have learned the material and are ready to move on to the next piece. And it is important, because our public schools function using public dollars, that we are given assurance that our students are learning and growing and that our schools are effectively preparing them for success in life.

Joy serves on the Board of Education of Frederick County and is President of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education. Her opinions do not reflect the positions of these organizations.

# Happy New Year!

Lynn Taylor  
Mother Seton School

This month, MSS will once again celebrate Catholic Schools Week with the rest of the nation. Each year, the last week of January is dedicated to what I look at as the Super Bowl for Catholic education. With school-wide and community events planned each day, our entire MSS family is able to express what Catholic education means to them. In that spirit, I'd like to offer up my Top Five reasons why I give thanks for the opportunity my children have to attend Catholic school:

1. The celebration of faith. I love that my children get to experience and celebrate their faith. Each day begins and ends with prayer. They are able to demon-

strate their faith in the classroom and with one another, through celebrations of holidays like Christmas and Easter, and through the various opportunities for worship throughout the school year. They sing traditional hymns right along with contemporary favorites, make crafts that incorporate the Cross or other religious iconography, and learn about their faith every day.

2. The academics. I'm always impressed with what my children learn. Not only are they more savvy in math and science than I ever was, they are encouraged in reading and writing. The study of literature and handwriting instruction are two areas that speak directly to this writer mom's

heart. Collaboration—between students and between teachers and students—is a big reason students are so successful. Everyone, from teachers to parents to the students themselves, have a vested interest in their success. They work hard together, every day. And while standardized tests shouldn't be the only measure of a school's success, I admit I'm proud Mother Seton School students regularly score well above the national average.

3. The importance of service and character. MSS lives by the credo, "A great education isn't only what our children learn. It's what becomes part of them." I love that fostering service to others and building great character

are a part of their education. It's important to me, and I suspect most other parents, for my children to grow into compassionate and honest people. MSS actively promotes that. There are many opportunities for service projects, beginning as early as Pre-K! Through initiatives like the Prayer Partner program, which pairs older students in mentoring roles with young students, children are encouraged to show leadership and to put their faith into practice. This is where the sacrifice we make to send our children to MSS is worth it. To have the values we embrace at home mirrored in their school experience is priceless.

4. The uniforms. Every now and then my children grumble about having to wear a uniform. But as a parent, I am very grateful to have uniforms. It makes getting dressed in the morning easy, cuts down on the amount of laundry I have to do, and saves me money.

5. A community that's like family. Small class sizes mean my children aren't lost in the shuffle and their teachers aren't overwhelmed with having to keep track of thirty kids. When my children need extra help, they receive it. Likewise, they are recognized and appreciated for their own individual gifts. Many of the families have multiple children in multiple grades and there are quite a few legacy families, where generations have attended Mother Seton.

I would love for you to come see what our school is about, because I'm proud we are a Mother Seton family. Bring your two- through five-year old to Preschool Storytime at our library, January 9 from 10:30-11:15 a.m., or stop by during our Take-A-Tour Tuesday, January 10 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. And don't forget to visit our website at [motherschool.org](http://motherschool.org) to see what Catholic Schools Week events we have planned. We hope to see you in 2017!

## New members of the Frederick County Board of Education

Experience, Leadership and Integrity: three attributes that make an excellent school board member. That is why Dr. Ken Kerr, Joy Schaefer, and Michael Bunitsky were elected to the Board of Education on November 8 by the citizens of Frederick County.

Dr. Kerr is Chair of the English Dept. at Frederick Community College. He brings to the table not only years of teaching experience on the college level, but also an understanding of the needs and concerns of young people who are transitioning from high school to the college setting. His knowledge and understanding of students in this process would be valuable to the Board. He has been active in planning curriculum and providing various transition activities that serve Frederick County high school seniors as they move on into college life. He carefully considers all information on an issue before making decisions or speaking out. Those who know him and work with him know his level of integrity and trust and appreciate his positive "can do" attitude. The father of two grown children, he and his wife Helen live in East-

view. He will be an excellent addition to the Board.

Joy Schaefer has distinguished herself in education leadership and advocacy, both locally and on the state level. With years of service to the PTA in Frederick County, she became a very effective parent voice. Parents have always known they can trust her. Her advocacy skills have strengthened as she has served as BOE legislative liaison to the legislative delegation for Frederick County and by serving as Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE). She frequently has testified before members of the Maryland General Assembly. Her leadership skills have placed her on the Executive Team for MABE, and she is currently the MABE President Elect. This is leadership that we need representing Frederick County, both here at home and in Annapolis, and we are grateful that Frederick County citizens have returned her to office for another four years.

Michael Bunitsky, recently retired Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Specialist for FCPS, has been a senior leader in our school system since 1995, and an educator in FCPS for 36 years.

He is responsible for having started many outstanding programs such as The Civics and Law Academy with judges from all over Maryland. He has also led the Model UN, History Day, The Federal Reserve Challenge, and he has been the primary mentor for the Frederick County Association of Student Councils. His wisdom and creative thinking are well-known among those who know him, and he is highly respected among his peers. He is a fine speaker and a great negotiator, and he will bring to the Board his years of experience working with young people and coaching them to academic successes even as he has included and encouraged all interested students in extracurricular activities, no matter which school they attend.

Jean A. Smith, 301-829-0056

Daryl A. Boffman, 301-639-7453

Angie Fish, 301-471-9962

Bonnie Borsa, 301-606-9383

Michael E. Schaden, 301-662-4068

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*Our Mount writers reflect on the ways they have seen, practiced and experienced leadership in unique ways as they prepare and anticipate the inauguration of our next President of the United States this month.*

### Freshman Year

#### Dr. Dorsey

Angela Tongohan  
MSMU Class of 2020

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

—John Quincy Adams

The first semester of my freshman year is over, and I have just started to get used to life in college. It has been quite the ride. Leaving home, meeting new people, getting used to unfamiliar responsibilities, and sticking to self-made routines piled on top of school work and studying have made these past five months feel like a mere few weeks.

Time went by so fast, yet so much has happened.

Freshmen at Mount St. Mary's University are required to take a symposium class. The class is English-based. We read stories and books, then analyze and synthesize the meanings that we have extracted from them. Sometimes, we may write a paper or two. Our

first assignment for symposium was a biographical narrative. I wasn't very excited for it.

I entered college as a biology major. Ever since I was a young girl, my mother wanted me to go to med school. It was never something forced upon me, but rather an ever-present subject she hoped for and encouraged. I wasn't against the idea, and I think, in some ways, I always knew that I would eventually end up in medicine somehow. But for the longest time, I wanted to be a writer. For however long I knew I would eventually be a doctor, was the same amount of time I knew I loved to write.

However, when I first entered symposium class, I hadn't written for a very long time.

My narrative was about a teacher I had in high school. An English teacher, to be specific. She was an intelligent woman whose mind held as much information about English as my textbook did. You could ask her about Dickens or Austen, Shakespeare or Poe, and

she would be able to spend hours praising them and their skills.

But if you asked her about your own writing... well, let's just say I never felt good about myself or the papers I wrote after meeting with her.

After high school, I had given up on writing. The multiple C's and D's from her class had convinced me that I was not meant to write. My aspirations of becoming a writer were thrown away, and I focused myself on a career in medicine.

And for some time, I believed that that would be the end of it. That is, until my professor became Dr. Peter Dorsey.

Dr. Dorsey is an easygoing man and is the Dean of Liberal Arts, so he always shows up to class in a suit, and he lugs around a satchel filled with papers.

Not once did Dr. Dorsey make me feel bad about my writing. He only showed me ways that I could improve it. When I made a mistake, he wouldn't make me feel like I was a terrible writer, but rather guide me so I wouldn't make that mistake again.

Dr. Dorsey helped rekindle my love for writing. He allowed me to

write with my own personal style instead of trying to make me write the way he writes. He supported and encouraged all my ideas, as well as the rest of the class', and simply made writing fun.

I found myself making a bigger effort to write well. I appreciated his criticisms because I knew that it was helping me become a better writer.

He recommended me to the Dean of English, and after a few meetings with her, I had decided to double major in English and Biology. He was also the one who presented the opportunity to write for this newspaper, it is also him that boosted my morale, and gave me the confidence to try and apply.

Dr. Dorsey has played such an integral part in my writing career within the span of a few months, which only proves how much our teachers can impact our lives.

Teachers are some of the biggest influences on our lives as students. They are the forefront leaders on our journeys towards our future careers. I believe very strongly that teachers can influence the direction a student decides to take in his life.

We look towards them for inspiration and support, for guidance and knowledge. We spend more time with them than we do our own parents. Our teachers play a vital role in how we shape out to be in the future.

It takes a certain type of leadership skill to be able to deal with so many students, but also continue to teach us. I think we often forget how much of a sacrifice teachers make. For every test we take, there is a teacher that has to grade it. For every class we have, there is a teacher that has to plan it. And for every question we ask, there is a teacher that has to be able to answer it.

Teachers have the ability to inspire, to guide, to support, and to teach future leaders of our world. It is the knowledge and skills that students learn from our teachers today that can help make a more prosperous tomorrow.

So, I'd like to thank all those unsung heroes, our teachers, for guiding us towards a better future and life. Thank you, Dr. Dorsey.

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

### Sophomore Year

#### Leadership: A self help guide

Michael Kenney Jr.  
MSMU Class of 2019

A couple of weeks ago, my dad and I went on a road trip from Pennsylvania to Detroit. Our most substantive conversations always arise on road trips, and on this particular drive, we discussed this month's article topic: Leadership. I consider my dad to be a great leader, both personally and professionally, so naturally, I gained a lot from our 500 mile conversation.

Our talk revolved around a couple of key questions: Who are the best leaders and what makes them so successful? Likewise, who are the worst leaders, and what makes them ineffective?

As we drove over mountains and through plains, we talked about the leaders we know. I considered people whom I know through school, athletics, and work. I also thought about individuals whom I have never met personally, but have observed in the media, professional athletics, and politics. I concluded that the best leaders are the most virtuous, hardworking, positive, charismatic and resilient people on the planet. In contrast, the worst leaders are manipulative, lethar-

gic, indecisive, temperamental and easily demoralized. But where do I fit into this equation?

By the end of our car ride, I had generated a blueprint – a type of “self help” guide – to help me grow into the best leadership I can be. It begins with the notion that everyone is a leader.

#### Everyone is a Leader

Among the many definitions of leadership, I am particularly drawn to one written by John C. Maxwell, author of *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* and *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*, which simply states that “leadership is influence.” Regardless of whether or not the influence is positive or negative, if you cause someone to think or act differently, you are leading them. From the jovial cashier who makes you smile every time you see her to the professor who works your finger to the bone every day, people who cause you to think or act a certain way are the leaders in your life. With that being said, there are a couple key notions to consider.

Carefully consider the people and things that lead you. From music, television, and literature to employers, friends, and family, think about the influence that they have in your life. Is there a way to root out the negative influences and instead invest in the positive influences? Certainly, this sounds cliché, but it's important because the people and things who lead you will inevitably influence how you lead others.

You are a leader because you have influence over people in your lives. Thus, you have the responsibility to act accordingly. Who do you have influence on in your life? Your children? Your co-workers? Your spouse?

Leadership will look differently in all of these contexts, but it's important to never underestimate the power you have as a leader in your day-to-day life.

#### Good leadership is not synonymous with effective leadership

Before you begin reflecting upon your leadership style, it is important to differentiate good leadership and effective leadership. Good leadership evokes virtuous action while effective leadership evokes impactful action. Leaders can be both “good” and “effective,” but good people are not always the most effective leaders and vice versa.

To highlight this point, think about two diametrically opposed leaders—Hitler and Mother Teresa, for example. Hitler, though nefarious, was an effective leader. He caused a number of people to adopt in anti-semitic ideas while also sparking global action; a massive number of people were influenced by Hitler, even if they did not have a strong stance for or against his policies. Mother Teresa, on the other hand, embodied the qualities of both a good and effective leader as she sparked virtue on a massive scale. Her legacy continues even after her death as the Sisters of Charity betters the world day in and day out.

The best leaders, like Mother Teresa, are both virtuous in their motives and effective in implementing them. What measures can you take to optimize your leadership? Don't worry; we'll get there.

#### Being both a good and effective leader

In order to optimize your leadership, first identify your level of effectiveness and virtue. I can bet that your

level will fall somewhere in the large gap between Mother Teresa and Hitler. But where?

Compile a list of ten qualities that you want to radiate. From this list, pick your top five strengths, and come up with ways to bolster them. Likewise, identify five weakest qualities and think about qualities that would foil them. Once the list is numbered, place it in a place you will encounter on a daily basis.

As you go through your morning routine, think about the opportunities that will arise in the day ahead of you, and consider ways exercise your strengths and build upon your weaknesses. Perhaps you generate ways to practice patience before your kids go to school, discipline on your car ride to the grocery store, and competency at your workplace. Then, as you go about your nightly routine later that day, reflect upon your day, specifically in regards the qualities that you wanted to accentuate. Overtime, your list may evolve as you begin to notice new strengths and weaknesses. Nevertheless, this simple, daily practice will inevitably help you become more intentional in your influence towards others.

#### Leadership is a lifelong process

Your leadership will evolve or devolve based on the people and things that you permit to influence you and based on the way you handle the opportunities in front of you. Optimizing your leadership certainly won't be a cakewalk. It will come without a fair amount of trial and error, but don't be intimidated. In my opinion, the best leaders are lifelong learners.

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



## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

# Junior Year

## Following the leader

Sarah Muir  
MSMU Class of 2018

So, the old year has been ushered out with the usual fanfare and as the New Year begins, we all look ahead to see what lies before us. With our resolutions set in mind, we follow in the footsteps of others to accomplish what the goals we have made for ourselves. We forget just how many leaders we have in our lives and just how they support us in every possible way. Whether they be lighting the way or cheering us on, we never take time to think about the impact they have on us.

There are multiple means of describing a "leader." In my own definition, a good leader is one who makes the path of others easier, even if the path they must take is dangerous and in unmarked territory. They are equal parts showman, servant, and bonding agent. They are a showman, for they must display to the world all that they have to offer and raise in the hearts of others the desire to accomplish any given task. Servant because they are duty

bound to those they lead. And lastly, a bonding agent, for they must be able to join together people and point them towards a common goal. Above all of these, however, they are a teacher for they certainly teach others how to become the best possible version of themselves that they can be; they strive to enhance the lives of others, no matter the cost. I have never seen myself as much as a leader, to be perfectly honest, but it is for these reasons I have always admired them.

As a writer, I have many literary heroes and the marks that they have made in history are seen throughout the world. There is one particular woman I wish to discuss, Jane Austen. She is inarguably one of the most famous female writers, not only in her time, but in ours as well. She was a leader and a phenomenal writer whose literary light shines centuries after her passing. In her works, she outlined the social class and the inner workings and effects it had on society, while at the same time developing plots and characters that would encompass the way and manner in which people should

behave. Her leading female characters radiate an inner sense of strength and independence that were ahead of their time.

Austen was ahead of her time as well, and while not famous by name in her own life, she would grow to become not only a recognizable name, but one that is highly revered. A lot has change from 1811, when her first novel *Sense and Sensibility*, was published not under her name, but instead "by a lady." However, her works are universally read and admired in today's modern, fast-paced world. The reason for this is Austen understood the ways and workings of the human heart and mind and this knowledge helped her to write such situations and circumstances that could be understood by all, even people who lived a centuries later.

What is more was that she revolutionized the possibilities of the novel. Since the 18th and 19th centuries looked down on novels as a lesser form of artistic medium than poetry, when Jane Austin wrote her novels, she developed a style, while at the same time discovering new and different ways of expressing her story. Her female heroines were not the damsels or ornaments that were common in writing of that era, but they were human be-

ings who saw their flaws and, if possible, corrected them. The realistic, human hearts that Austen gave to her characters made them nearly corporal to her readers. Even W.H. Auden, a well-known poet of the 20th century noted Austen's art in one of his poems *A Letter to Lord Byron*, "Then she's a novelist. I don't know whether/You will agree, but novel writing is/ A higher art than poetry altogether."

It is obvious why I admire Miss Austen as a leader in literature. However, it is easy to look back, see the leadership in others, and not notice it when it is staring you right in the face. There is another leader in my life that I look up to and strive to emulate; another woman who I have always seen as a pillar of strength, beauty, and intellect. She is, of course, my sister.

Older than myself by four years (give or take a few months), she has been a constant throughout my entire life. That is not to say that we always got along, as a matter of fact the opposite is true. When we were younger, we loathed each other; I was the annoying younger sister and she was the equally annoying, domineering, older sister. However, we grew up. She can still tend to be officious, but I have come to realize in these past few years

just what she is. She is more than just my sister, she is who I would want to be like when I grow up. To me, she is this confident, childish grown-up who is full of laughter and intellect and kindness. She has taught me to laugh at myself and every day she shows me what one can make in this world if they will it. After all, that has always been her way. She has always been this force of nature that has made it seem so effortless, as if the world had just been waiting for her to make a move.

She has been, for a while now, telling me to write an article about her and so here it is. I know it's not a full thousand words about her (sorry, Katie), but it was the best way I knew how to write about her. Not only as a leader that she has always been to me, but in the same breath of one of my literary heroes. Life is full of people and the great ones (and unfortunately there are a very few of them) are the ones that help lead others to their greatness. These leaders that I have written about in a shamelessly biased manner, are just two in a world and a history full of people like them.

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

# Senior Year

## The process

Leeanne Leary  
MSMU Class of 2017

The concept of leadership is universal in many ways. The difference from one leader to the next, and what distinguishes leaders, lies in a multitude of facets. Was this person a natural leader? Do they lead with confidence? With selflessness? What is the desired leadership style? Are we in America hoping for a new leader who fulfills and upholds our values, or are we in the midst of a foreign country's highly centralized government that seeks no tolerance? Surely, a "good" leader looks drastically different from situation to situation; however, no matter the situation, I've come to a few conclusions about leadership, especially how I have seen it recently.

For the past three and a half years I have been immersed in a leadership program with the single goal of developing competent, driven, and prepared Army leaders, Army ROTC. I have realized that to each person, ideal leadership looks a little different, but I believe I have found a commonality: the process of leader development and its importance.

This summer at camp, or Cadet Leaders Course (CLC), this idea hit me hard. That sounds dramatic, but that's exactly what happened. During CLC, we all participated in a multi-week and multi-faceted field problem, or leadership development exercise. Every day, our leadership position changed. We could be a team member one day and Platoon Leader the next day, the only thing we knew for certain was that every night at 2100 we would get a new assignment for the next day. So, on the fifth night my name was called to come to the middle of the patrol base as everybody was getting ready to settle in for the night, and told me I

was going to be Platoon Leader for the next 24 hours, gave me our situation, and let me go get started.

During camp, each person's leadership ability and potential is constantly evaluated, so a position like this is really make or break. I turned around, called for my friend Nick and walked to the center of the patrol base to begin. This is when it all began to hit me. Again, dramatic? Maybe, but check it out. The next 20 hours turned out to be an accumulation, and a test, of the previous three years. Every step I took, decision I made, order I gave, everything. Everything brought me back. I realized that I had been told for the last three years that I was doing the things I was doing for a reason. I was laying on the wet ground for two hours for a reason. I was waking up every hour on the hour for a reason. I was learning about hydration, learning simple and repetitive battle drills, spending endless hours on map reading all for a reason.

The first thing I did as I headed to begin the next 24 hours was call for another person to come to the center. I did this without thinking twice about it, but I named him my Radio Telephone Operator (RTO). Basically, he couldn't leave my side for the next 24

hours, he became my means of communication. This created a dependency that I hadn't before realized, meaning that in my first 90 seconds as a leader, I was already depending on another person for one of the single most important parts of any operation, communication. I realized immediately I would fail if I didn't depend on the people around me.

Next, as the rest of the Platoon slept in shifts for the next seven hours, we sat in the middle and planned. I planned the next day down to the minute – wake up, move to and establish a new patrol base, water and food resupply, a reconnaissance mission, a deliberate attack, and all other operations. When it was time to wake everyone in the morning, it was go time. The first half of my 24 hour leadership experience was complete. Now, it was time to put it all into play. That day, plans changed, we adapted almost every mission, and ended up combining two into one, but as the day moved forward and everybody was working like a different limb of the same body, it all hit me. Everything that we had trained for the last three years made this day possible.

Every long brief about a seemingly irrelevant mission that we sat through as freshmen, made it possible for us to communicate clearly and deliberately on this day. Every time I plot-

ted a point on a map to go find a point marked with a stake made it possible for us to maneuver to and from our objective on that day with only a map and a compass.

This sounds like some sort of divine and happy revelation, right? No. This was so utterly frustrating. Here is why: I've complained about this process so much, we all have. I have wondered in anger why am I laying on a frozen ground with no gloves for two hours. Well, it was so that when I became a leader I wouldn't forget to put gloves on the packing list. So it all makes sense now. What does this mean?

After years in this leadership development program and CLC, I learned that becoming a leader is a process. In order to be a good leader, you must first and always be a good follower. It is a progression. It takes practice. It takes commitment. It takes the willingness to first not be a leader.

I'm not sure if that goes against a leadership philosophy floating around out there in the world, I'm sure it does, but I'm telling you, it is so necessary. All leaders who earn the respect that they demand, know what it is like to follow. They empathize with their subordinates because they have been there. They have learned from mistakes, they contribute to a team, they know their role as leader, and they know when they aren't the best fit for leader, and take their role as follower. All of this comes from the learning process of becoming a leader. So that was my great takeaway, commit to the process and be a follower. However counterintuitive that may seem, the best leaders I've met have clearly followed and taught this idea, I just didn't trust it until I saw it work in the middle of the woods. So, learn to be a leader by following, first. Interesting, right?

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

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## FASHION

## Statement pieces for the New Year

Valerie McPhail  
MSMU Class of 2015

This holiday season, fashion is giving us a lot to be excited about. In this New Year, puffer coats, shearling jackets, strappy accented shoes and graphic pullover sweatshirts are the current topics of interest. As the new year offers the best that is yet to come, start the holiday season off with an investment piece. Such an action behaves like a resolution that brings the heat and steps this new season into the right direction.

Just as it is suggested with New Year's resolutions, small changes support big goals. Common resolutions proceed: reading for 20 minutes a day will help you finish novels, and going to the gym regularly will work your body into fit shape, as will plugging money into a savings account to incline your habits to spend less and save more. All of the above are similar of mind as they reveal a strategy towards achieving what we believe will enrich and provide improvement to our lifestyles.

Since making the move to New York, I have run into a cyclone of lifestyle changes as I initiate my career in the fashion industry. In this time, similar aspirations have become intermingled with ideas of dress. Simone Rocha floral appliqués and Equipment's silk button downs fill my mind with a garden of budding possibilities to how the following season could and will blossom. My wardrobe is an

expression of what I focus my attention and time towards. As resolutions that inspire more reading and exercise, so to encourage intellect and health, attention to fashion and clothes is a personal pronouncement alike. Styles of dress are a lens of life.

Take the concept of New Year's resolutions into where fashion finds you this season. From personal experience, fashion has always been synonymous to personal style. Clothing and design have become a way of personal expression, just as important as any other form of communication. As a natural result, the clothing that hangs in my closet must be evaluated every so often as it manifests into a form of expression. This is where we can find the beauty of fashion. Allow the accents of fashion to complement the anticipation for this new season ahead. Awareness of these details will bring fashion into your resolutions.

#### Puffer coat

Patagonia launched the passion for the down jacket in the fall of 2014. Just last winter, Montcler and Canada Goose took over the fashion scene by suiting up every New Yorker in preparation for the city's winter vortex. This year, the interest in this style is less concerned with a brand name basis. Rather, small changes to this style of coat via colors, size and shape will determine its statement. Metallic colors sparkled the shows at Chanel and Stella McCartney, military green and

midnight blue sport styles found in camping stores such as Fjallraven and Roots as the oversized "poncho" look currently trends.

These variations of the puffer jacket offer exciting fashion for the New Year for these accents have elevated the technicality that first launched interest in these styles. What was once an object designed with the intent of layering underneath peacoats and leather jackets, this new year there is no longer a need. For metallic colors and dramatic oversized styles elevate the functionality of the down jacket.

#### Strappy ankle

This is the shoe that transitions between outfits at the parties for Christmas celebration to New Year's Eve, here is your holiday party shoe. Notorious in women's fashion under the style name, "Mary Jane," this shoe design carries a sensibility of being innocent, girly and youthful. In women's fashion, the strapped ankle designs with an accent of class. This shoe style is a New Year's statement for it has won interest in a variety of designs. From the high heel, wedge to the pointed toe flat, the ankle strap is a detail that marks a statement across all essential styles of shoe.

The strapping detail converts into men's most popular shoe styles: the Chukka, Chelsea boot and Velcro sneakers. The straps on these loafers and small ankles boots provide an accent to the otherwise simple patterned boot; its purpose on these shoe models are strictly decoration. Adidas' Stan Smith's collaboration with Belgian designer Raf Simmons replaces the laces of tennis shoes with Velcro straps. Here the industry experiences the strap in a revolutionary way. The straps are a statement of unique characteristic that both decorates and functions for the shoe.

The reason for the strappy shoes serves different functions for men's and women's shoes. For women, the strap is an archived reference to child's fashion in the early 20th Century, a performance theatre shoe and in the punk rock and gothabilly movement. The modern style resurfaced in the London fashion scene at the early 2000's and has since grown into a fun feminine style appropriate for any



A shearling jacket

form of celebration. The straps added to men's shoes serves the purpose of innovation, reinvent the system of style that has served generations. For the guys, buckles and straps are for the fashion forward.

#### Shearling jacket

Wool collars gives a fresh wintery look to update the classic denim, corduroy or leather jacket. This admits shearling as a seasonal accent. This cozy statement is essentially universal: sported in New York youth culture by young adults who live in Urban Outfitters and by the European Belstaff audience, for those who hike the snowy hills and the beautiful terrain of Northern Ireland.

Best appropriated for this time of year, wool, warmest natural material, that lines some styles as well as adorn collared jackets of the season is turned into fashion for another function— aesthetic. In this form, shearling becomes of interest for its signal of warm as much as its practicality.

#### Graphic sweater

The interest in graphic pullover sweatshirts has overwhelmed the

fashion community. Street style brands have pushed boundaries and have made even the most leisurely items of clothing, fashionable. Female fashions have engaged with this interest by ways of brands such as Claire V and Wildfox, with phrase that state things such as "Ciao" and "I don't want feelings, I just want new clothes" that are fun, personable and are designed for cute conversational starters.

For men, brand names such as sport culture brands, surfer Saturdays, and skate Supreme and as well as Volcom initiated interest in branded clothing, and still today keep the interest alive. The reason, shopping is made simpler for men as they claim to shop and show their brand alliance.

As the access to street style brands developed societal interest in fashion, high fashion brands have taken heed. Parisian Couture house label, Kenzo is among the luxury fashion brands elevates this interest. Among the funky prints and vibrant colors that define the brand, Kenzo has designed a frenzy around their printed pullovers. A giant tiger face the pullover was among fashion's first to launch the interest. In this season, bring a fresh statement to your wardrobe with the charming illustrations and graphics of fashion.

Bring fashion into your new year in the form of a statement. The puffer jacket, strappy shoe, shearling jacket and pullover sweatshirt have been reconsidered so to enhance this season a little more bright. Adventure to test the waters and try on these statement trends with high hopes for that even in fashion, the best is yet to come.

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

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# How do I lead?

Jack Williams  
MSMU Class of 2017

Excerpts from the journal  
of a well-reasoned man.

November 20, 1860

Every presidential campaign, and every candidate, approaches the common man differently. I lost my bid for the Senate some two years ago to quite an ambitious man. He is a talented rhetorician, one who can speak with pragmatic precision on the most troubling issues of our times. I have mentioned it privately and said it publicly: Stephen Douglas is a strong logician, an excellent judge of human nature, and more persuasive than most other men I have met.

My presidential campaign approached the common man through simple language based in logical truth. I admitted the shortcomings of my party's platform. I believe it was David Locke from Ohio who wrote that I approached my debates with Douglas with honesty and conviction. The American people are intelligent. They perceive and object to the wordy moral rhetoric that many politicians openly and knowingly employ. I am uncertain about what will be required to heal this divided nation, but it must start with a leader who can be direct, erudite, honest, and principled.

My opponents in this presidential election embodied these traits, though we shared our disagreements. Stephen Douglas and I dissented on a great many things, just as John Breckinridge and I shared fundamental differences in belief. I cannot say, however, that either Douglas or Breckinridge would be an incapable leader. They may even be more capable than I.

So how did I succeed? How did I win? The details of my victory were made public in recent days. The South is furious; there are threats of revolt. They are asking how I, Abraham Lincoln, could be elected President with only 40% of the popular vote. I share their concern. How can I possibly lead, when 60% of the

American people voted for Douglas and Breckinridge? Our nation borders two oceans, yet our strongest barriers stand between the states.

How can I move forward? How will our country remain united? How can I enact the most effective legislation for the American people when a majority of the electorate is disappointed and angered by my nomination? The South believes that I will fight against the establishment of slavery in the new territories. This is their fear with my presidency, and on this subject, I cannot waver.

How should I proceed? Should I fight for the principles and positions I advocated in my campaign? If I do, the divisions between us will only grow deeper. Even if my proposals are in the long-term interest of our nation, and those who aspire for a greater future, it will be subject to immediate disagreement. Anything I propose will be rejected because it has my approval. How could anyone succeed in this political environment?

Divisions could be mended through bipartisanship. Perhaps I, and the Democrats, could establish resolutions that provide small benefits to both parties. The people would believe that Congress, and I, were working to protect the interests of every American. Perhaps that would foster solidarity. Our last four presidents had less than 51% of the popular vote, and each intended to keep their campaign promises.

I cannot help but believe that troubling times are ahead. If I lost this election, the North would have been outraged that slavery would spread into the new territories. My victory, however, has instilled fear about the survival of slavery in the South. Both sides would have faced adversity if their candidate lost. I will need to reflect deeply on how I can mend these scars of division, while ensuring the long-term success of our great nation.

March 3, 1861

Tomorrow afternoon, President Buchanan and I will ride from our



hotel to the White House, where I will be sworn in as the succeeding president. Division now defines the state of our Union; seven states have seceded already, and more are expected to defect in due time. I have spent the last several months preparing an administration that will address division, but never anticipated South Carolina's secession in December. We have never been more apart. How can we be a Union with so many dissenting states?

Through private reflection, and consultation with my advisors, I cannot recognize the sovereignty of these Confederate States of America. I understand their fear, their right to protest against unfavorable legislation. Their actions are unprecedented, however, and I cannot find any evidence that our Founders expected or intended the current state of our Union. The Union was founded on cooperative participation between all states. Men of these Confederate states, not the states themselves, are forming this rebellion. South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, and all the others are a part of our Union, even if members of those states do not wish to be.

I have drafted my inaugural address and my administration in the anticipation of outright war. There are methods to resolve our differences without armed insurrection. My speech will directly address the greatest fear resounding in the South; the eradication of slavery. I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.

The South will be suspicious of my words. I speak in truth. If slavery is to be eradicated, it must not originate solely from the executive branch. It must have Congressional approval, and must be considered legal by the Supreme Court. This will disappoint those in the North that expected me to issue an executive order to eradicate the institution of slavery.

I am being scrutinized by my supporters and enemies alike. As I will say tomorrow, I have no mental reservation in accepting the oath of office. I hope that the institution of slavery is removed from this great nation. However, I will not misconstrue the Constitution and all laws pertaining to this of-

fice. It is safer to accept the Congressional legislation that stands up to the judicial branch's scrutiny than to raise up arms against those who disagree.

I have concluded that the only way to heal division in this nation is to respect the concerns of all men and women. I cannot use my office to enact whatever I envision for this country. No matter how much I disagree with the institution of slavery, I cannot work around our governmental institutions. I have an obligation to work with those I disagree with. The public must believe in our Union; no man or woman should feel unrepresented in the proceedings of our government. I must, however, fight for the ideals that will prove most successful for the state of our country. One cannot escape the responsibilities of tomorrow by evading them today. My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth. As I take the oath of office tomorrow, I will fight to ensure that this hope will never be extinguished from this earth.

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



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## ARTS

## GCT presents Man Of La Mancha

Gettysburg Community Theatre will present the musical, Man Of La Mancha at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p. m. on Sundays, January 6 through the 22.

Wayne Hill stars in the play within a play Man Of La Mancha as Miguel de Cervantes who portrays Signore Alonso Quijana and Don Quixote. Local actors also in the cast include Ed Riggs as the Governor/Innkeeper, Steve Herr as The Padre, Ed Kenney as Pedro, D. Scott Hartwig as Duke/Dr. Carrasco, Buff Wills as the Housekeeper, Barbara Dempsey-West as Maria, Emily Smallwood as Antonia, Ed Gobrecht as The Barber, James O'Dell as the Captain of the Inquisition, Seth Zimman as Paco, and Nick Wallace as Juan; all from Gettysburg, Steve Huete of Orrtanna plays Tenorio and Kevin Foster of Mechanicsburg plays Anselmo. The production is under the direction of GCT's Founding Executive/Artistic Director, Chad-Alan Carr and is being music directed

by Nick Werner who will conduct 6 piece band.

Wayne Hill, one of the Gettysburg area's most talented and versatile voices, was born in Gettysburg and graduated from Susquehanna University with a B.A. in Economics in 1970. His lifetime avocation also started at Susquehanna with the study of vocal music. During the 1970's he had the lead in three musicals at York Little Theater, Man of La Mancha, South Pacific, and The Sound of Music. During the 1980's and 90's he had the baritone lead in ten different productions with the Harrisburg Opera Company. He has sung with the St. James Adult Choir since 1975.

He sings in many Civil War remembrance events and community services in Gettysburg, and regularly performs with small ensembles called Wayne Hill and Friends, The Troubadours, or Music, Gettysburg on Tour which travel throughout central Pennsylvania, northern Maryland,

and Florida. This group includes pianist Michael Matsinko, retired Gettysburg College professor, and emeritus Gettysburg Seminary professor Gerald Christianson offering sacred or Civil War era music.

For forty-three years he worked with Gettysburg Construction Co. serving the last twenty-five years as president. He presently serves as chair of the WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital Board, on the Steering Committee of both "Music, Gettysburg!" and the Gettysburg Brass Band Festival, and has been a member of the Gettysburg Optimist Club for over forty years.

Man of La Mancha, based on Cervantes' epic 17th-century novel, Don Quixote, is a remarkable, poignant, moving musical that was one of the first shows to musicalize a piece of historical literature. Set in the context of the Spanish Inquisition, Man of La Mancha is presented as a play-within-a-play. We encounter historical author Miguel de Cervantes in prison, await-

ing trial by the Inquisition. When his fellow prisoners try to take Cervantes' belongings from him, including his manuscript, Cervantes proposes a trial in which he proves the merit of the manuscript through a reenactment, enlisting his fellow prisoners as characters in his play. Together, they tell the story of the aged Alonso Quijana who believes himself to be a knight errant, names himself Don Quixote, and pursues an obsessive quest to attain an impossible dream. Against all odds, Quixote and his trusty squire Sancho Panza take to the road in a quest to chivalry, and seek out the good and innocent in a world filled with darkness and despair. Through the story, all the prisoners – at least for a moment – are transformed. The mad Don Quixote may think a windmill to be a giant and a tavern to be a castle, but along the way he also transforms a wretched woman into a beautiful lady – and proves that an old man's belief can truly make him a knight. Man of La Mancha features



such stirring songs as "Dulcinea" and the now-famous standard, "Quest" – more famously known as "The Impossible Dream."

Limited reserved seating \$18 plus tax/fees. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org](http://www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org) or by calling 717-334-2692 or by visiting the box office. Tickets are selling fast to all shows so order in advance as the intimate black box theatre only seats 80 and is reserved seating.

## WOB presents The Pirates of Penzance

Earlier this year, producers for The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, the area's only year-round producing dinner theatre, announced the lineup of shows for its 2017 Season. Kicking off 2017's blockbuster year, will be the hilarious pirate farce, The Pirates of Penzance, opening in January.

Beginning January 20th, audiences will set sail with Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular comic opera, The Pirates of Penzance, a hilarious farce

about sentimental pirates, bumbling policemen, dim-witted young lovers, and an eccentric Major-General. This updated version of The Pirates Of Penzance took New York by storm when it premiered in Central Park in 1980, leading to a subsequent smash-hit Broadway run.

The original The Pirates of Penzance premiered at the Fifth Avenue Theatre in New York City on December 31, 1879. It was the fifth

collaboration between Arthur Sullivan and William Gilbert, who had already come to some fame following the success of H.M.S. Pinafore the year before in London.

Following its premiere, Pirates went on to become a staple performed by opera companies around the world for the next century. In 1980, a revised version of the show was presented by Joseph Papp and the Public Theatre at the New York Shakespeare Festival. Fol-

lowing that initial run, the production transferred to Broadway the following January where it ran for two years.

The cast of both the Shakespeare Festival production and Broadway transfer included Linda Ronstadt as Mabel, George Rose as the Major General, Rex Smith as Frederic, Tony Azito as the Police Sergeant, and Kevin Kline as the Pirate King. The role of Ruth was first performed by British stage star Patricia Routledge, but when the show transferred, the part was taken over by Estella Parsons.

The Broadway production won a number of awards including three Tonys (Best Actor - Kline; Best Direction - Wilford Leach; and Best Revival), five Drama Desk Awards, and one Theatre World Award.

In 1983, a film adaptation of Papp's production of Pirates was released with all of the show's original stars reprising their roles. The role of Ruth however, was played by stage and screen star Angela Lansbury.

Way Off Broadway's production has a cast of theatre regulars that audiences will recognize, along with some making their WOB debut. The cast includes Matt Hirsh as Frederic, Lawren Hill as Mabel, Jordan B. Stocksdale as the Pirate King, Tamarin K. Ythier as Ruth, Brian Clarke as the Major General, and Joseph Weyaert as the Police

Sergeant. They will be joined on stage by Matt Bannister, Jessica Billones, Daniel Hafer, Melissa Ann Martin, Sarah Melinda, Pete Meyers, Amanda Schrider, Thomas Stratton, Jeremy Trammelle, Laura Walling, Tori Weaver, and Adam Yastrzemsky.

The Pirates of Penzance has music by Sir Arthur Sullivan and a book and lyrics by Sir William Gilbert. Way Off Broadway's production is choreographed by Dee Buchanan with music direction by Jordan B. Stocksdale and is under the direction of Bill Kiska and Ariel Messeca, who is making his directorial debut at the theatre.

Kicking off the 2017 Mainstage Season, The Pirates of Penzance will run from January 20th through March 11th, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening, and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. Tickets for Friday and Sunday performances are \$45; Saturday evening tickets are \$48 and may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

To learn more about The Pirates of Penzance, or any of Way Off Broadway's productions, visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

Following Pirates this spring will be the area premiere of the high flying family musical adventure Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

## Film club for Taneytown?

Lee Mckay

I am Looking to form a film club, one, that has gathered like-minded individuals who are interested in making movies. It is not a matter of experience or, not I will be working on a low or, no budget theme while still putting out quality work. If you have experience that's great if you don't and, want to try your hand at a developing talent you have, great.

If you have equipment you believe could enhance this program great. I am working with the most basic equipment myself. Film work is one of those industries that are all inclusive when it comes to job professions meaning if you have a talent, skill or profession most likely it is included in film making.

I want to make some movies and it is hard to do by yourself and, to have some collaboration in this would be fantastic. This has always been an interest and, passion of mine since I was a child when myself along with my brother would make movies with our friends and, a super eight camera.

I would have done this professionally but paying rent and, breaking into the business are not always on the same page. I am coming back from some injuries and have had time to practice my writing finishing some stories that I have had rolling around for decades.

My original thought was to have all students fresh out of high school work with me on this and, if they continued to have interest to pursue an aspect of the field get a fund me page or something similar to help them continue their education towards that. With any profit percentage from our work. That for some reason was met with a lot of resistance with all the fraud occurring from that source of income (the fund me pages) I could understand. So I come to this.

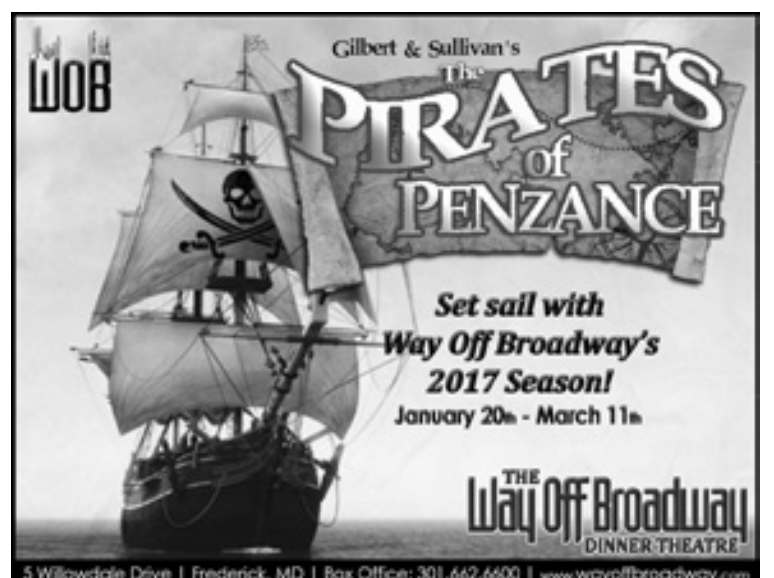
I want to have some fun put out some good work and entertain people. I will be taking on interviews after the holidays if you would like to schedule one contact me at [colonialcoastfilm@gmail.com](mailto:colonialcoastfilm@gmail.com) after that we will be putting a schedule together with hopes of beginning the shoots this spring.

At first we will be working on some shorts both animated and live. Then once we have estab-



lished a good work rapport we will move on to stronger full-length projects. All I am asking for is a combination of your time, talent, experience, some dedication and, willingness to learn or teach others while we have some fun and put together some entertaining stories then throw our efforts of good old story telling on screen in front of an audience.

If this sounds like something you would like and really think you could be a part of give me a shout. Again, my e-mail address is [colonialcoastfilm@gmail.com](mailto:colonialcoastfilm@gmail.com).



# The favorite art of the Presidents

Jack Williams  
MSMU Class of 2017

We are in the midst of great change in this country. The election of a new president alters the course of American history, sometimes positively and sometimes negatively. Eras of our history are often remembered for the presidents who governed during those times. Everyone has an opinion about a newly elected president, but I believe everyone agrees on this point: history feels alive. We are living in a moment that will be studied extensively by those who are yet to be born.

In our era, we are exposed to an abundance of information about our politicians. We seem to know everything a presidential candidate has spoken, written or believed before their election. But there is information that we do not readily encounter. What are our presidents' favorite books, films, music, artists? Let's consider this question in light of the times we're living in; perhaps we can better understand those who lead us differently.

The closest connection between the Office of the President and the world of art is, of course, presidential portraiture. There is a fascinating history behind these portraits. Theodore Roosevelt has perhaps the most interesting story before the first World War. His first portrait was commissioned to Théobald Chartan. Roosevelt looked at Chartan's finished product, picked it up, and hung it in the darkest part of the White House. His family eagerly looked at the portrait, teasing Roosevelt by calling the painting "Mewing Cat" because it made him look harmless. Furious, he had it destroyed and another portrait commissioned that made him look more masculine, and more intimidating.

While I find this interesting, I consider John F. Kennedy's portrait unique among all the others. Jackie Kennedy commissioned her husband's portrait in 1970. Now, John F. Kennedy's portrait is not the only one painted after his term in office. Herbert Hoover's portrait was commissioned 23 years after he left office. But Kennedy's is unique among other presidential portraits because the painter, Aaron Shikler, interpreted the portrait as a character study. At Jackie's request, Shikler produced a painting that reflects the pensive, solemn nature of her husband. The White House's website has a slideshow of each President's portrait, the difference between Kennedy's and every other one is striking. I highly recommend it!

Let's move on to the favorite works of art by former presidents. One of this country's favorite presidents, our very first, is famous for handwriting each of the 110 maxims of civility from the work *Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation*. His

favorite fictional work, as far as historians can tell, is Joseph Addison's *Cato, A Tragedy*.

*Cato, A Tragedy* is a play centered on the last days of Marcus Porcius Cato Uticensis, a Stoic who lived in the time of Julius Caesar. Marcus Porcius is also known as Cato the Younger, and was a famous Roman politician and orator who emphasized the principles of Stoicism. He is well known for being the man who asked the Roman Senate to remove Julius Caesar from his proconsular power, and order him to return to Rome as a civilian. The tragedy in this play was his untimely, self-inflicted death after Caesar crossed the Rubicon.

The influence of *Cato, A Tragedy* is evident in the early Founding Fathers' public and private correspondences, especially in Washington's. When he commended Benedict Arnold for Arnold's military service (prior to his treason), Washington wrote, "It is not in the power of any man to command success; but you have done more – and deserved it." Scholars argue that this sentiment was heavily influenced by the following quote from *Cato*, "Tis not in mortals to command success; but we'll do more, Sempronius, we'll deserve it."

Jefferson was also an avid reader. He was famous among his peers for the number of books he owned, scattered throughout his home in Monticello. He owned so many books, in fact, that he donated most of his private collection to the Library of Congress after the British attacked D.C. in the War of 1812. No evidence suggests which fictional work Jefferson enjoyed more than the others. However, he was an avid reader of classical tales. He owned numerous copies of *The Odyssey*, *The Iliad*, *The Canterbury Tales*, and *Don Quixote*.

Abraham Lincoln was also a fan

of classical literature, most especially the works of William Shakespeare. He carried the *Collected Works of William Shakespeare* with him at an early age. Visiting the theatre, especially, was a cherished activity for Lincoln. He began his law career defending his father's theatre in Illinois from being shut down, and attended plays regularly, when he had the time.

He also enjoyed photography, and was involved in the appreciation of photography as an art form. Some of you may be familiar with the work of Alexander Gardner, who is generally considered among the best photographers of the Civil War era. He is famous for his photographs of Robert E. Lee, the aftermath of the Battle of Antietam, and other collections as well. He shot the most memorable photograph of Abraham Lincoln, later referred to as the "The Gettysburg Portrait." He was Lincoln's favorite photographer, evidenced by Lincoln's private writings. I recommend looking up Gardner's photographs on the Internet, they have remarkable balance and exposure considering the limitations of his equipment.

Let's change the medium: what about music? What are some recent presidents' favorite types of music? Dwight Eisenhower preferred peaceful, classical pieces that could calm his mind. He was a big fan of Bach, especially his composition *Sheep May Safely Graze*. Classical music was the typical answer from each president up until Eisenhower, with the exception of Richard Nixon.

John F. Kennedy's favorite song was something we all have heard before, an English folk tune entitled *Greensleeves*. Jimmy Carter also enjoyed folk music, especially the work of Bob Dylan. Carter wrote, "The other source of my understanding about what's



Roosevelt and his portrait painter did not get along. The painter, Sargent, told Roosevelt he didn't know what was needed to pose for a portrait. Roosevelt, having reached a landing, planted his hand on the balustrade post, and turned to painter angrily demanding, "Don't I?!" And the perfect pose had been found.



After his death, Jackie Kennedy commissioned Aaron Shikler to paint the official portrait of John F. Kennedy. The inspiration for the painting was a photograph of JFK's brother, Ted, grieving after his brother's untimely death. Speaking of the portrait, Shikler said, "All I wanted to portray was a man who looked like he could think."

right and wrong in this society is from a friend of mine, a poet named Bob Dylan. After listening to his records about 'The Ballad of Hattie Carol' and 'Like a Rolling Stone' and 'The Times, They Are a-Changing,' I've learned to appreciate the dynamism of change in a modern society."

Ronald Reagan loved Frank Sinatra, and Bill Clinton loved jazz. Perhaps due to his home state of Texas, George W. Bush loved The Kink and their hit song *My Sharona*. President Obama, like President Bush, gave different answers to this question over the years. However, Obama consistently mentions The Fugees, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye as his favorite musical artists.

President George W. Bush loves to paint, and many of us have already seen some of his work in the media. Less well known, however, is President Obama's favorite painting *Hope* (1886) by George Frederic Watts. It depicts a lone, blindfolded woman sitting on a globe, playing a lyre with only one string remaining. President Obama was introduced to the painting through a sermon preached by Martin Luther King Jr., as well as a sermon by Jeremiah Wright in 1990. Wright provided an excellent encapsulation of the painting's message in that sermon, "The harpist is sitting there in rags. Her clothes are tattered as though she had been a victim of Hiroshima... yet the woman has the audacity to hope." Barack Obama later inserted the phrase "The audacity of hope" into his keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, and as the title of his 2006 book.

Now what about President Trump? What art does he enjoy? Based on interviews through various outlets, this is the best information I could find on President Trump's artistic preferences. His favorite film, which he has men-

tioned this on multiple occasions, is *Citizen Kane*. In an interview from the early 2000s, Trump spoke about the message of the film, "You learn in *Kane* that maybe wealth isn't everything; because he had the wealth but he didn't have the happiness. In real life, I believe that wealth does in fact isolate you from other people."

He spoke about his favorite novel with Megyn Kelly, *All Quiet on the Western Front*. His other favorite books are the Bible, and his own book *The Art of the Deal*. President Trump selected all of the music that was played at his campaign rallies; the bands he picked were Queen, The Rolling Stones, Twisted Sister, and Elton John. Saying who his favorite musical artist is, however, is a bit trickier. Rolling Stone magazine spoke to Donald Trump at a music festival in 2006, where he was attending a Neil Young concert. He told Rolling Stone, "[Neil Young's] got something very special. I've listened to his music for years... His voice is perfect and haunting." This is as much as we know about his favorite musical artists.

As far as other forms of art, and other artists, I could only find one confirmed interaction between President Trump and the art world, and it was his meetings with Andy Warhol in the early 1980s. While Trump did not initially admire the sketch Warhol made of Trump Tower, he later said of the artist, "Being good in business is the most fascinating kind of art. Making money is art and working is art and good business is the best art."

This is just a brief look into the favorite art of the presidents of the United States. Pictures of all the artwork mentioned here will be available on the website [emmitsburgartscene.wordpress.com/](http://emmitsburgartscene.wordpress.com/)

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

## SPORTS

# Winter sports startup

Sean Vietri

As temperatures drop outside, the Catocin Cougars move inside for the 2016-2017 winter sports season. The boys basketball team officially kicked off their season with a home game versus the Francis Scott Key Eagles on December 6. The game began with the Catocin forward Conner Orndorff winning the tipoff followed by a layup by junior, Gavin Palmer to put the first points on the scoreboard. After the Cougars committed a defensive foul on the Eagles' #23 A. Cole, Cole was awarded two free throws and missed both. The Eagles rebounded and a shot was delivered from outside the arc by #3 J. Brown, to give FSK their first points of the game.

Back on the offensive, Palmer delivered another layup for the Cougars. The game remained tight with back and forth scoring until the Eagles' Brown made another three pointer followed by consecutive errors on the Cougars' offense. It started with a drop of the ball to be picked up by Cole and laid up for a basket. The Cougars again blundered by, attempting a long pass only to be stolen by FSK. The ball was then sent to Eagles' #21, G. Horrocks who shot and drained a three pointer. The quarter ended with FSK in the lead 23-16. The second quarter started off with the Eagles

committing a defensive foul followed by a missed free throw shot by Orndorff. Junior Dylan Reid rebounded for two points. Back on the offensive, FSK got two points by Horrocks followed by four points (one three pointer and one free throw) from Brown after the ball slipped out of the hands of the Cougars. Heavy fouling on the Cougars' part resulted a streak of points for FSK, scored with offensive rebounds on free throws giving the Eagles twice as many points as the Cougars.

The Cougars crept back slowly with free throws, making 14 out of 19 shots in the second quarter. This pace could not keep up with the great ball movement on the Eagles' side, who would have their best scoring quarter of 28 points. At the half, the score was 51-37. The third quarter saw lots of back and forth action until FSK's Brown made back to back baskets with five points followed by a turnover of the ball from the Cougars to give Eagles' Horrocks three points. The main challenge for the Cougars came, however, from FSK's #24 R. Giles, who went off scoring 10 points during these eight minutes. At the end of the third, the score stood with FSK in the lead, 71-56. The last quarter began with the Cougars committing a defensive foul on Cole, who shot two free throws, making one. Another defensive foul was com-

mitted, this time on Catocin's Jared Pawlus, who missed his one shot. The gap remained as back and forth fouling and layups were awarded and made. Giles made five more points and Cole made six more points to bring the final score to 97-72, FSK.

After losing to Williamsport, Linganore, and Urbana, the girls basketball team looked to get their first win against the Governor Thomas Johnson Patriots on December 16. After an early double dribble by TJ's #5 N. Bah, the first points of the game came from Catocin forward Elizabeth Dougherty. After a series of turnovers on both sides, TJ's #15 R. Hastie made a shot from outside the arc to put their first points on the scoreboard. After a defensive foul was committed by FSK on Dougherty, Catocin's Jessica Bryant was awarded two free throws and made one. TJ's #21 J. Powe was then fouled while shooting, but she made both of her free throws. Back on the offensive, the Cougars had difficulty finding the net when Catocin's Olivia Crum went up for a hook shot that was met with no offensive rebound. TJ's R. Hastie came back with two points. Shortly later, the Cougars showed great offensive rebounding, but had trouble scoring with three consecutive missed shots. Sloppy form on TJ's side resulted in only one more basket off a free



Junior Brandon Morgan drives to the hoop.

throw before the end of the first quarter. The score was 8-4, TJ.

In the second quarter, TJ came back on the court strong making two three pointers and a layup before Catocin could even find the net. In a fantastic break away, Catocin freshman Madison Tobery made her first two points of the game. Elizabeth Dougherty kept the game tight with great rebounds on both sides, allowing the Cougars to regain some ground and trail by only four points at the half. The score was 20-16, TJ. In the third quarter, TJ saw the net first with a free throw followed by a layup from #45 T. Fitzgerald. After missing a shot from inside, the key, Tobery continued to push and made a layup. The impressive play was immediately reciprocated however, when TJ's #24 S. Robinson drained a three pointer. Dougherty continued to make rebounds and led in points scored with four points. The quarter ended with a combined eight more points for TJ ending with an and-one by TJ's K. Palm, giving them a 10 point lead going into the fourth.

The last quarter began with TJ committing a defensive foul on Jessica Bryant. Bryant made her first free throw, and missed the

second. Dougherty then played great defense, stealing the ball and getting fouled to give the Cougars another point. After TJ's E. Nelson made two points, Bryant went on to shoot two more free throws and made both of them. After the Patriots made two more points, the Cougars closed the gap with two points from Olivia Crum and two Free Throws made by Dougherty. Only six points separated the game. Charged up, Catocin rebounded on the offensive three times, but couldn't get the ball in the hoop. As the clock ran down the Cougars needed to score. Unfortunately though, an out of bounds and two travels kept the Patriots on top to win the game, 41-33. In their closet game so far, Dougherty led with 12 points and made a total of 19 rebounds and Tobery scored the second most with seven points.

"I'm really excited about the heart and hustle we showed out here tonight. We need to clean some stuff up, but we're young. Our freshman point guard (Tobery) played outstanding tonight. I'm excited for what this team will continue to do in the future... We didn't get the win but eventually that is going to come," Coach Amy Entwistle commented.



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# Mount Sports kick into high gear

Kelly Smith  
MSMU Class of 2017

During the month of January, athletes begin training for their spring season after a much-needed winter break. Sports such as tennis, baseball, lacrosse, and softball are ready to max out their training when they get back to campus. While the athletes train for their spring season, track and field, women's basketball and men's basketball are playing their highest competition and match-ups.

The men's and women's track and field teams have several meets in the month of January. The women run at the Father Diamond Invitational in Fairfax, VA on Saturday, January 7. The following weekend, the men participate in the Navy Invitational, January 13-14. On January 21, both teams showcase their talents at the Bucknell Gulden Invitational. During the last weekend of January, the meets are split into two days. The first day, January 27, both teams participate in the PSU National Invitational and the George Mason Patriot Games. The second day is an exact replica of the first day.

Head Coach Jay Phillips said about his expectations for the upcoming meets, "We have the opportunity to improve, and that's our goal. Every year we lose senior leadership, and the expectation is that the new upperclassmen step up - they're ready."

Phillips added Chris FitzSimons to the coaching staff. FitzSimons is a graduate of Villanova University and competed in cross country and track and field for the Villanova Wildcats. At Villanova, FitzSimons graduated with a degree in communication and sociology. He was a Big East Conference champion in the 800 meter run and also earned All-America honors twice. He earned these honors as a member of the distance medley relay team.

While in high school, FitzSimons broke six state record at Hamden High School in Connecticut. He was the anchor for three national champion relay teams for distance medley and 4x800m.

Fun fact: Chris' brother, Tom FitzSimons was an NCAA All-American in the Mount's decathlon. It was Chris' turn to be a part Mount history!

As the team wrapped up their fall competition, senior Julian Woods was selected as the Northeast Conference Athlete of the Week. Last season, Woods was the NEC champion in the 60m hurdles. At the beginning of this season, Woods finished second place (8.07) in the 60m hurdles at the Navy Invitational, just .01 seconds behind first place. His mark was a time that quali-

fied him for the IC4A Championships.

Woods said, "I'm most looking forward to the opportunity to keep getting better and improving. Each meet we have coming up gets more and more competitive, which is a lot of fun and great for improvement. But the only way to keep improving each meet is to train, so I'm looking forward to pushing myself to do things my body has never done, everyday." Woods continued, "Last season I was recovering from a serious hamstring injury, so my goal was to get back in shape and win NEC conference hurdles again. My freshman year, I won the 60 hurdles, 110 hurdles, and 400 hurdles. Last year I placed second in the 400 hurdles and won the 110 and 60 hurdles. This year, I want to improve upon those times and become an all-American for at least one of my events. That would mean finishing top 12 in the country. Last year I was top 50 for the 400 hurdles, I think 33rd."

In regards to the new coaching staff, Woods said, "I'm loving the coaching staff we have this year. Since I've been at the Mount we've had coaching changes each year, but they've always managed to meet the needs of the team. This year is no different."

Freshman Chelsea Wright was selected as the NEC Rookie of the Week honor. She made her debut as a Mountaineer at the Navy Lid Lifter. She posted the top mark of the first weekend in the NEC with a high jump of 1.60m. This gave her third place at the meet.

To contribute to the opening-season success of the Mount's track and field team, during the same meet that showcased the talents of Julian Wood and Chelsea Wright, the Mount had a quarter of IC4A qualifiers after the meet. Senior Chase Boyle placed second with a mark of 17.63m in the weight throwing event. This qualified him for the IC4A Championships. Freshman Justin Kimble posted a time of 6.96 seconds in the preliminaries of the 60m dash, also earning him a place at the IC4A Championships. Finishing third in the weight throwing event was freshman Brendan Chavis who also qualified for the IC4As (17.08m). Erin Sample also finished first place in the shot put event (12.83m).

The incoming freshmen will and have been making a tremendous impact as new Mountaineers. Phillips said, "As a coaching staff, one of the greatest parts of the fall comes from finally being able to start working with the young men and women we've been getting to know for the past year. This incoming freshmen class is large, and they are a great group. Some have the tal-



Photo by Mount Athletics

ent to be the best in the NEC and move on to the NCAA Championships. They are all tough, driven to be excellent, and ready to be a part of an amazing team."

The Women's basketball team begins their January play on the seventh at Bryant. Bryant is in the Mount's NEC Conference, so it will be quite the battle.

After Bryant, the women play St. Francis on January 14 at SFU. Then the team has match-ups against Fairleigh Dickinson (Jan. 16), St. Francis Brooklyn (Jan. 21), Sacred Heart (Jan. 23), and Robert Morris (Jan. 28).

The team's record as of now for the 2016-2017 season is 2-7, but once conference games come around the corner, the Mountaineers are sure to impress. Head Coach Bryan Whitten said, "We have a great team and great chemistry. They are really a fun group to be around. I think we all have high expectations this season and I think we are just ready to get out there and see what we can accomplish."

As far as the Men's Basketball team goes, the month of January contains all conference play.

Senior Khalid Nwando shared some comments in regard to the challenging conference play ahead, "I am looking forward to stepping out onto the court and competing with my teammates. Every game is a battle in conference play and I wouldn't want to go to war with anyone else. Our goals have not changed since last season. We are focused everyday on getting better individually and as a team. The ultimate goal of course is being conference champions."

When asked what the players want the town of Emmitsburg to know about Mount Mayhem, Nwando said, "I want them to know that we are a resilient group and that we do not back down from any challenge. We are a group of guys that are going to give it everything we have every time we step out onto the court. Our

goal is to win a championship and we are working everyday to help achieve that."

Men's and women's basketball, as well as track and field, are ready to earn their spot at the NEC Championships. For the inside scoop and scheduling information, head on over to mountathletics.com. Go Mountaineers!



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# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

# 2017 – The year of the Rooster

Renee Lehman

The Chinese New Year (also called the Lunar New Year or Chinese Spring Festival), one of the traditional Chinese festivals, is the grandest and the most important festival for Chinese people. It originated during the Shang Dynasty (about 17th - 11th century BCE), and it is an important time for families to get together, similar to Christmas Day for westerners. It is also a time to hope for the return of spring, to welcome prosperity, wealth, and longevity, and a time to remove any negative qi (pronounced “chee”) from the past. There is even a tradition prior to the New Year for every family to thoroughly clean the house to sweep away any ill-fortune in hopes of making way for good incoming luck.

### Chinese Calendar History

The Chinese calendar was originated by the Yellow Emperor Huang Ti, and has been in use for centuries. The Chinese calendar is called a lunar calendar, but is really a calendar based on the moon and the sun. The Gregorian calendar, which the world uses today (originated 430 years ago) is a solar calendar. (The Chinese Lunar New Year always begins on the second new moon after the winter solstice, in

case you were wondering why it's on a different date every year.)

### The Twelve Animals of the Chinese Calendar

The Chinese calendar is made of five, twelve-year cycles. Each of the twelve years of the Chinese calendar is appointed one of the following 12 animal's names (in this order): rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon (the only mythological animal), snake, horse, goat/sheep, monkey, fowl/rooster, dog, and pig. The animal that rules the year of your birth is said to exercise a major influence over your life, and that year in general. Much of the information used for this article is taken from The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes by Theodora and Laura Lau, 2007. The sign of the Rooster is the tenth sign of the Chinese zodiac, and the animal related to this coming New Year. It is the only bird species in the Chinese zodiac. It is known as the “Dawn Awaker,” and is credited with characteristics of punctuality and loyalty.

### I Am The Rooster (Lau & Lau, 2007)

The Rooster  
I am on hand  
to herald in the day,  
and to announce its exit.  
I thrive by clockwork and precision.

In my unending quest for perfection all things will be restored to their rightful place.

I am the exacting taskmaster, the ever-watchful administrator. I seek perfect order in my world. I represent unflinching dedication. January 28, 2017 through February 15, 2018 is the Year of the Rooster. I don't know about you, but I've been exhausted from the shenanigans of this past Monkey year! Surprise after surprise (both fabulous and panic-laden) swung most of our ways. Following 12 months of the wit and hyperactive Monkey, we are moving out of a pretty confusing time period and entering a rational and constructive time period. The New Year of the Rooster is going to bring fresh challenges requiring quick wit and practical solutions!

### Rooster Personality

If you were born in one of the following years, your sign is the Rooster (on or after February 8, 1921; January 26, 1933; February 13, 1945; January 31, 1957; February 17, 1969; February 5, 1981; January 23, 1993; and February 9, 2005). A person born in the year of the Rooster is outwardly, the epitome of self-assurance and aggression. However, at heart s/he can be conservative and old-fashioned. Overall, the Rooster person is a loyal, trustworthy individual who is blunt when it comes to offering his/her opinions. The bluntness stems not from being mean but from being honest; a trait which Roosters expect from others.

Roosters are extremely sociable and prefer being the center of attention. They have a great sense of humor and are quick witted. The male and female Rooster have a tendency to be attractive, and can be vain. They are very concerned about how they look, and spend lots of time and effort to dress well. Just think about how you never see roosters slouching; they strut about with dignity.

Roosters are extremely organized individuals, motivated, and highly independent. Even though Roosters are very independent, they make excellent team leaders because they have a keen eye for bringing people together. They are perfectionists and believe that they are unmatched in both their level of work and diligence. This can cause them to be restless, bossy, and can “hen-peck” you – because of their sharp eye for details.

### Famous People born in the Year of the Rooster

- John Glenn, American Astronaut
- Alex Haley, American Writer
- Eric Clapton, Singer and Songwriter
- Goldie Hawn, American Actress
- Steve Martin, American Actor and Comedian
- Katherine Hepburn, American Actress
- Edwin Land, American Scientist and Inventor
- Grover Cleveland, American President
- Daniel Day-Lewis, British Actor
- Pope Paul VI
- King Birendra of Nepal
- Joan Rivers, American Actress and Comedian
- Larry King, American Journalist
- And of course, Foghorn Leghorn!!!!

### General Predictions for the Year of the Rooster

The Year of the Rooster will be a powerful one, with no middle of the road when it comes to moving forward. This year, impressions count. You'll want to look your best and be clear on your intentions concerning love, money, and business. Stick to practical and well-proven paths to ensure success, rather than risky ventures.

During this year we will all have more passion in life, especially regarding work, where we will not hesitate to roll up our sleeves in order to reach our objectives. “Always higher, always going on,” is the motto of the Rooster.



er. This will inspire us all. We will be braver than usual, and will not feel defeated by difficulties and adversities.

We will have to maintain our spirit's flexibility, because under the influence of the very conservative Rooster, we may become inflexible and refuse changing ideas or life strategies, even though they might be inadequate for the future.

Remember: In a Rooster Year, we can reap great rewards by tapping into Rooster traits: loyalty, commitment, hard work, family values, and top-notch appearances!

Quotes to Live By in the Year of the Rooster

- “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” - Winston Churchill
- “Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence.” - Colin Powell
- “Loyalty to petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul.” - Mark Twain

“Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.” - Albert Einstein

And finally, something from Foghorn Leghorn: “Now looka, I say looka here.”

Here's to a bird's – eye view of the Year of Rooster 2017.

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

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# FITNESS AND HEALTH

## Energy for the New Year!

**Linda Stultz**  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Mark Your Calendars for The 18th Annual Open House!

Saturday, January 7, 2017 from 10am till 1pm.

Each year I like to hold this open house for people to come and see how they can start the year off right by committing to an exercise program that will improve their health while having fun. Most people don't think of exercising as fun but if you find something you enjoy while helping you feel better you are getting two for one. This is the time of year that we all think about making a New Year's Resolution, even if you say you are not making one because you never keep the resolution you make. We think of New Year's as a fresh start and this is the perfect time to do something good for you. Over the holidays we are so busy baking and buying gifts

for others that we usually don't think about ourselves. When we do think about how we feel, it is about how many cookies we ate at the office party or how tight our jeans fit all of sudden. Those extra pounds sneak up fast over the holidays and that's why we need to think about getting them off and improving our overall health for the year to come. Proper diet and exercise can get you back to your pre-holiday size and energy level in a short amount of time. You may be surprised at how much you look forward to your exercise sessions. Sometimes you feel like doing something else instead of going for a walk or doing your weightlifting program but if you remember how good you feel, both physically and mentally after a good hard workout, you will be putting your sneakers on and heading for those weights in a hurry. I'm not telling you anything you haven't heard many times before, but I like to remind

everyone that it is so important to take care of yourself. Good food and exercise are the best and safest ways to do that. I have said many times before that a person can develop a bad habit in a few weeks but it take about six to eight weeks to develop a good habit and stick to it. Give yourself the gift of developing a good habit of eating well and starting and staying with an exercise program that you enjoy for a few months. I am certain you will feel better, improve your blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose numbers and even improve your skin, nails and of course the way your clothes fit. All of these benefits will keep you exercising for the rest of your life.

Mark your calendar and set aside a few minutes to come to my open house and see what I have to offer. This may be the best time you take for yourself and may be the start of a whole new you. I am located at 285 Boyle Rd.

Fairfield. This is just minutes from Emmitsburg, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Thurmont and you. The date of the Open House is January 7, 2017 from 10 till 1 but if this is not convenient for you,

just give me a call at 717-334-6009 to set up a time to come check out my facility for yourself. Hope to see you soon and remember to Keep Moving!

*If you have any questions or suggestions you can contact me at 717-334-6009. Enjoy your holiday and remember to Keep Moving!*

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## Ask the trainer

Expert answers to your fitness questions

**Jason Blough**  
Anytime Fitness Personal Trainer

Question: How come I rarely see anyone doing a warm-up prior to working out?

Answer: That's a great question, and one that's relatively easy to answer. Most people simply don't make time for a warm-up. Lots of folks just want to "get in and get out," and don't really consider the benefits of properly preparing the body for exercise. Let's highlight a few of these benefits, so you have justification for incorporating it into your workout.

1. Increases the temperature of your muscles and joints, which makes movement more efficient and reduces the risk of injury
2. Causes blood vessels to dilate, which shuttles oxygen and nutrients to the muscles, allowing you to achieve peak performance

3. Prepares you for exercise mentally, heightening your senses and allowing you to focus and concentrate on the work at hand

There are lots of other benefits, but no matter why you do it, a simple fact remains. You will feel better and perform better if you include a warm-up in your exercise session. Take five minutes, and do some light cardiovascular exercise, along with a few basic bodyweight strength exercises. Try the elliptical or some fast walking, and throw in some lunges, push-ups, squats, or planks. And don't forget, it's best to try and mimic your actual workout if possible!

Question: How do I manage my food intake during the holidays, especially with all the cakes, cookies, and other goodies seemingly everywhere? Help!

Answer: Interestingly enough, the answer depends almost entirely on

you. Assuming you're susceptible to sweets and other treats, you really only have three options—go all-out and worry about the ramifications later, avoid them at all costs, or take a reasoned approach and indulge to a modest degree. I think most people would argue that the third idea is the best one. After all, why not treat yourself to a few holiday goodies, especially if you can limit yourself to one or two here and there. And don't forget to continue with your workouts during this time as well. Restricting foods that you truly enjoy will only increase your cravings for them, and make for an unhappy holiday season. Bottom line—it comes down to choice, and you can choose to make healthy decisions or not, but you have to be realistic. Keep variety, moderation, and balance in mind, and reward yourself for being active all year long!

*Jason Blough is the Club Manager/ Certified Personal Trainer at Anytime Fitness in Thurmont. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at thurmontmd@anytimefitness.com.*

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## ASTRONOMY

# The night sky of January

For January 2017, the celestial fireworks begin with the Quadrantid meteor shower, peaking on the morning of January 4th. The meteors will appear to come out of the NE sky. The waxing crescent moon appear just below brilliant Venus in the evening sky on New Year's evening, and move between Venus and Mars the next evening. The moon is first quarter on January 5th, and full on January 12th. The last quarter moon passes just north of Jupiter and Spica in the dawn sky on January 19th. The waning crescent moon passes just north of Saturn on January 24th, and just above Mercury in the dawn twilight on January 25th. It is back to new again on January 27th. The waxing crescent makes a fine triangle with bright Venus and much fainter Mars on the evening of January 31st, a great photo op!

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about December 30th visit the [www.skymaps.com](http://www.skymaps.com) website and download the map for January 2017; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the



**M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion is a stellar nursery that is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active star birth all over the place. You should be able to glimpse this stellar birthplace as a faint blur with just your naked eyes, and make it out even more clearly with binoculars or a larger telescope.**

map. There is wonderful video exploring the January sky, from the Hubble ST website at: [http://hubblesite.org/explore\\_astronomy/to-nights\\_sky/](http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/to-nights_sky/).

Venus reaches greatest eastern elongation, 47 degrees east of the Sun, on January 15th, and appears exactly half lit in telescopes. In the months to come, it overtakes the earth, growing bigger each day, but thinner, as we see mainly the dark shadowed side of a brilliant thin crescent. It will be bright enough to see on a clear afternoon in broad daylight for the next three months, if you know exactly where to look. Mars is much fainter, and fades still more in the SW evening sky this month. Ve-

nus will overtake it early in February. Jupiter dominates the dawn, just north of the bright star Spica in Virgo, with both rising about midnight. Saturn comes back into the morning sky, and will make a nice triangle with the waning crescent moon and Mercury to lower left of it on the morning of January 25th, another nice photo op with a clear SE horizon.

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. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

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. 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. 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 (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. 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.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergi-

ant 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 and our featured photo this month. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirth all over the place. You should be able to glimpse this stellar birthplace as a faint blur with just your naked eyes, and the larger your binoculars or telescope, the better the view becomes.

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 PM, 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 West Florida. You must be in south Florida to spot Alpha Centauri on June evenings. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting desert for New Year's sky feast.

For more information on the Escambia Amateur Astronomers visit our website at [www.eaaa.net](http://www.eaaa.net). Join us on Facebook at "Escambia Amateur Astronomers". If you link on FB to our photo albums, you will find over a thousand of the best local astrophoto images from our "Star Shooting" galleries over the last 40 years now posted to view and delight.

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## Farmers' Almanac

"Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed."

—Cavett Robert (1907-1997)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Light snow (1, 2, 3, 4); fair and cold (5, 6, 7, 8). Heavy snow (9, 10, 11, 12) turning fair and very cold (13, 14, 15.). Snow (16, 17) returning to fair and very cold temperatures (18, 19, 20, 21). Snow, heavy in the northern part of the region (22, 23, 24); fair and cool (25, 26, 27) with windy, much colder with lake-effect snow (28, 29, 30, 31).

**Full Moon:** Many Native Americans referred to January's full moon as Hunger Moon due to the scarcity of food. It has also been called Wolf Moon because hungry wolf packs inch closer and closer to camps for a chance at some food. It will occur on Thursday, January 12th.

**Special Notes:** The Town and Country Almanack is now 217 years old! Its founder, John Gruber, would certainly be proud that his humble publication, first published in 1797 and continuously ever since, would be hailed today as not only the second oldest almanac in the United States but be the only almanac in America still be published by his heirs.

**Holidays:** New Year's Day in 2017 falls on Sunday, January 1st but will be observed on Monday, January 2nd. Famed civil rights activist leader, Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15th in 1929. The third Monday of January (January 16th) has been designated as the day of remembrance for this great leader. Remember to take time to honor him on this day and reflect on the great social changes he brought about in this country and the ultimate sacrifice he made pursuing unity and racial harmony.

**The Garden:** And now is the time to spoil those indoor plants! Extra watering is required to keep them from drying out indoors. They also need to be rotated periodically to ensure they receive adequate sunlight all around during the winter months. Dust on the foliage can clog the leaf pores, so periodically wipe them with a damp cloth or a quick shower under the kitchen sprayer. Always use room temperature water when watering or misting your house plants! On cold nights, it is always a good idea to close the curtains or blinds between the window and your house plants. Never place your house plants between the curtain and the window! Make sure that your plants have sufficient humidity, by setting them on a tray filled with moistened, clean pebbles, or by simply setting a cup of water nearby.

### J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"The next twelve months offers us a world of promise; it all depends on each one of us and how much we are willing to give of ourselves to help make it a better world."

COMPUTER Q&A

# Facebook - how to keep your privacy

Ayse Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer

It can be difficult to use social media without putting all your business out there but it doesn't have to be! Facebook has lots of ways to limit the audience so only who you want to see your posts can see it. If you have a Facebook friend that you don't want to remove but don't want to see their posts, there's a way to do that also. Read below to find out more so you can get control of your social media audience.

Who appears in your feed

First, let's cover how you change what friends appear inside your Facebook news feed. You can tell Facebook to show certain friends' posts first in your newsfeed or not to show them at all. To make the change visit your friends Facebook page by using the search at the top of the Facebook page to enter their name. Once you select the friend you will be taken to their Facebook page. At the top of their page you will see "Friends" to indicate that you are friends with that user. To the right of the Friends option you will see "Following". Drop this box down to choose either "see posts first" to see their Facebook posts at the top of your newsfeed or to choose "unfollow". Don't worry if you change your mind you can follow the same steps and choose default to go back to the standard settings.

Excluding specific users

Next let's learn more about how Friend Lists can help you better manage your Facebook page. Friend Lists are NOT public therefore you can combine any group of friends and it will be private for you to see only. If you have a group of people that you never want to see your Facebook posts but you still want to remain friends, then you can use the Friends Lists function to create a group of people. Once you create that List you can post to all friends except that group of users. You will need to be on a computer and not a mobile device to create the lists however, once your lists are created you can select to exclude or post to any of those lists whether you are on a PC or mobile device.

To find "Friend lists" visit Facebook while logged in and look on the left side of your newsfeed. Look for the headline "Explorer", Friend Lists will be listed in that section. If you don't see it click on "See More..." to fully expand the list. Once you visit this page you will see that Facebook has already created some lists for you based on your profile information such as places you worked or where you went to school. At the top, you will click on "+ Create List" and then give your list a name. For example, I have one I labeled "privacy" where I keep all the people who I would rather not share my private posts with. It's important to note that anything you label as public on Facebook will be visible to these friends and anyone who you are not friends with on Facebook. After you give your list a name you will be able to begin entering names in the members box. Facebook will search through

your friends as your adding names so you will want to list your Friends as their names appear on Facebook. Once you have listed all the people you want in your list click "Create".

Changing your page's privacy

If you want to change who can see Facebook posts that you add you will want to change the privacy settings for the individual post. To do that when you go to post anything on Facebook beside the post button you want to drop down the box to the left of Post which usually says "Friends". There you can change your privacy to make your post Public, Friends only or for you only. If you click on the more options button at the bottom you will have the option to choose from the lists you created. If you want to individually select who can see your post or if you want to EXCLUDE certain people from you post you can choose to share with or exclude individual people or lists from this screen. For instance using the example above If I wanted to exclude my "privacy" list I would click more options, then in the box labeled "Don't share with" I would

enter privacy and my list would appear. Now when you go to make your post the button beside post will say "Custom". Facebook will retain these settings on your device and the next time you go to post you will see "Custom" in the box again. If you want to change your privacy settings just click on it once again to select a different option.

Limit past posts visibility

If you've been posting publicly and suddenly decide that you want to limit your previous posts to be "friends only" you can do that as well. On a PC, visit Facebook and click the drop down arrow towards the top right of your Facebook page and choose settings. On the left-hand side of your screen click on "Privacy". On a mobile device click the 3-vertical lined menu and scroll all the way to the bottom of the page until you see account settings. Choose account settings and then choose privacy. From this screen you can choose to "limit the audience for posts you've shared with friends or public" and then click on limit old posts to confirm.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 6**

The Pike Restaurant and Lounge, Gettysburg, will offer a special Trivia Contest emceed by Jeff Hemler and Larry Brogan from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., to benefit the Adams County Arts Council. Draft a team of up to eight players or join a team that evening and test your general knowledge of subjects like pop culture, sports, history, movies, geography, music and literature. Cost to play is a \$10 donation per person to the Arts Council. Each member of the winning team receives a \$20 gift card from The Pike. In case of inclement weather, the contest will be held on Friday, January 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more informa-

tion about the trivia contest or to reserve a table, call 717-334-9227. For more information about Arts Council classes, programs or membership, call 717-334-5006, aa@adamsarts.org, or visit adamsarts.org.

**January 9**

Mother Seton School Preschool Storytime. Join us for stories and activities at the school library. Meet our real-life Franklin the Turtle! Free. Ages 2-5. For more information, call 301-447-3165 or email amymyles@mothersetonschool.org.

**January 10**

Seton Center's free resource workshop - Let's Talk about Church:

Honest Conversations About Life's Tough Stuff and God in the Midst of Today's Christian Church presented by local Emmitsburg and Thurmont Pastors. The Getting Ahead program highlights eleven resources needed to be resilient and thrive: financial, emotional, mental, language, social capital, physical, spiritual, integrity & trust, motivation & persistence, relationships/role models and knowledge of hidden social rules. To increase awareness of and provide for these multi-faceted needs, Seton Center offers the Build Your Resources program that makes free workshops available to the entire community. For more information, call 301-447-6102, ext. 17.

**January 15**

Boy Scout Troop 76 in Fairfield hosts an all you can eat Spaghetti Dinner and silent auction held at the Fairfield Fire Hall. Cost is \$10 adults, \$6 under 12 years, under 6 years Free. There is a discount of \$1 per person for families. Proceeds to benefit the Savannah Bollinger, who had a severe concussion a few years

ago and that has lead to some debilitating medical issues. She has need of and has been accepted for a service dog to help her maintain a safe and normal life but the price tag of around \$10,000 is very high. Savannah's family has all been very involved with scouts and we would like to give back to such a wonderful family by helping them raise some money towards it.

**January 20**

Music, Gettysburg's Burns Night. Celebrating Robert Burns, Scotland's national bard, with his verse, and music from the Highlands by Cormorant's Fancy. \*(Saturday as snow date) Concerts are free and open to the public thanks to support for the series that comes from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, from businesses and from many individuals. All concerts (unless specially noted) take place in the chapel of the Gettysburg Seminary. For more information, call 717-338-3000 or visit www.music-gettysburg.org.

**Jan 22**

The Majestic Theater presents Peter Rabbit Tales. Celebrating Beatrix Potter's 150th birthday, the theatre brings to life the mischievous and disobedient young Peter Rabbit. Using fantastic masks, whimsical puppets, gorgeous scenery, this magical, marvelous world will delight children of all ages. For more information visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org

**January 23**

Mother Seton School HSA Spaghetti Dinner, at Rocky's NY Pizza, Thurmont, (in Food Lion plaza). \$10/ages 12+; \$6/ages 5-11; 4 and under FREE. Includes unlimited spaghetti, salad, and drinks. For more information, call 301-447-2171.

**January 29**

Music, Gettysburg! Present Felix Hell. Felix Hell, organist - The internationally renowned organist returns to his favorite instrument. Concerts are free and open to the public thanks to support for the series that comes from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, from businesses and from many individuals. All concerts (unless specially noted) take place in the chapel of the Gettysburg Seminary.

For more information, call 717-338-3000 or visit www.music-gettysburg.org.

**Events at Hollabaugh Bros.**

**January 7**

Introduction to Iyengar Yoga Series 1. Join Certified Iyengar Yoga Teacher, Alison Lintal, for a yoga class on Saturdays this winter. This introductory class is designed to meet the needs of those who have never before practiced yoga, those who have been away from regular study, and those who are new to Iyengar yoga. The cost for the class is \$15/drop-in, per class (no pre-registration required); \$50/4 classes (\$12.50/class) - registration required; \$96/8 classes (\$12/class) - registration required. For more information call 717-677-8412.

**January 14**

Adult Cooking Class - Super Bowl Snacks and Tail Gate Treats. Satisfy your hungry sports fans at home by learning how to prepare some new appetizers.

Kids' Cooking Class - for kids! Get ready for the big game by learning how to prepare several delicious appetizers for your hungry, game-watching family members! For ages 8-13. Registration is required - so call 717-677-8412 today! (Snow date: January 21st, same time)

**January 21**

"Winter's Hush Reindeer" - Paint-along event. This paint night is run by a professional artist, who will walk you through the entire painting process. The basic design is pre-drawn for you. Beginners are most definitely welcome! Bring a friend (or two) and enjoy an afternoon of creativity and fun, or meet some new friends at Hollabaugh's!

The cost for the activity is \$35, which includes all painting supplies needed to complete a 16 x 20" canvas panel, along with some light refreshments from Hollabaugh's bakery! Tickets must be purchased via <https://paint-along-with-deb.eventbrite.com>. Please purchase your tickets no later than one day before the event, so we can plan on seating and supplies.



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**December 27, 2016 through January 29, 2017**

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FREDERICK COUNTY PROVIDES A NUMBER OF TEMPORARY SITES TO TAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE FOR RECYCLING, INCLUDING THESE LOCATIONS:

- **Eyler Road Park** (fenced area on right) 30 Eyler Road, Thurmont
- **Heritage Farm Park** (yard waste drop-off site) 9224 Devilbiss Bridge Rd, Walkersville
- **Reichs Ford Road Yard Waste Recycling Site** 9031 Reichs Ford Rd, Frederick

Please remember to remove all ornaments, lights, tinsel, garland, tree stands and plastic bags before leaving the tree at a collection site.

For additional locations and more information, please call 301-600-2960 or visit our website: [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle)

Except for the Reichs Ford Road Yard Waste Recycling Site, all locations are for residential use only, no commercial drop-offs. Thank you!



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 28**

Hollabaugh Bros. hosts: "Meet the Grower" Q & A Open Discussion. Join us for a morning of questions and answers with 3rd generation family member, Bruce Hollabaugh. Have you ever wondered about organic vs. conventional produce? Do you know what a GMO is? If you answered "yes", then this discussion is for you! Bring your curious questions about the Hollabaugh Family Farm and their practices. Free, walk-in event - No registration required. For more information of these events visit [www.hollabaughbros.com](http://www.hollabaughbros.com).

Refighting the Civil War. Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center.

**Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28**

Gettysburg Battlefield Book Series: Featuring the Killer Angels by Michael Shaara and Sickles at Gettysburg by Jim Hessler. Read along over the course of the winter and discuss every Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center.

Winter Reading Adventures! For children ages 5 to 10 and their families. Join a Park Educator and read along with a collection of Civil War themed picture books. Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center.

**Jan. 19 & 20**

Gettysburg National Military Park Homeschool Days: Students from

ages 5 to 18 will have opportunities to investigate various artifacts, written documents, cartoons and posters, and photographs from the Civil War to piece together their full story, while developing

their analysis and critical thinking skills. In addition, students will explore the exhibit, "With Brush, Mold, Chisel, and Pen: Reflections on Civil War Art," and meet some mystery visitors from the

past during the Mystery History Guest presentations. At the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. For more information on these events got to [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett).

**Events at Gettysburg National Park**

**Jan. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29**  
Gettysburg National Military Park Winter Lecture Series: Controversies, Myths, and Misconceptions -

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**50/50 TIP JARS - LIVE MUSIC & TONS OF FUN!**

**Tickets: \$30.00 Per Ticket**

Tickets Purchased & Turned In By March 1st Will Be Entered In A **BONUS DRAWING FOR \$500!**



For tickets and more info contact us at [www.vigilanthose.org](http://www.vigilanthose.org) or call...

Chris Stahley 301-447-3081  
John Glass 301-447-3648  
Gabe Baker 301-447-2212 or Bill Boyd 717-642-9717

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# Pope Francis Recognizes Mount Seminary Graduate As A Martyr



The Vatican recently announced that Pope Francis has recognized Father Stanley Rother, S'63, as a martyr. The recognition makes Rother the first martyr born in the United States, and Mount St. Mary's Seminary the first seminary in the United States with a graduate who is a martyr.

Rother was assassinated in Guatemala on July 28, 1981 while on assignment as a missionary from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He had spent 13 years working with the poor in a rural town of the Central American country at the time of his death.

Reverend Monsignor Andrew R. Baker, rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary notes, "As a good shepherd, Fr. Rother knew that he could not abandon his flock when his life was in danger. We teach our men that their dedication to their people as a priest must take priority over their own needs and even their own life."

Additionally, Baker continued, "I think Fr. Rother's courage, simplicity and perseverance highlight for me the great qualities of a leader and a priest. He was a man of simple yet strong faith and he didn't let threats to his life deter him from proclaiming the Gospel and continuing to reach out to the peripheries; that is, the poor and marginalized. All of these things have inspired me."

The date of the beatification ceremony, which may take place in the United States, has not been determined.

This is not the first time the Mount, and the town of Emmitsburg, Maryland has had a resident associated with the beatification and canonization process. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint, moved to Emmitsburg in 1809, and founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's. This established the first community for religious women in the United States.

## Start the New Year with Mount Basketball!

Join us for #MountMayhem – the only NCAA Division I basketball you'll find in Frederick County



### Men's Team

January 12, Fairleigh Dickinson, 7:00 p.m.

January 14, St. Francis University, 4:00 p.m.

January 26, Robert Morris, 7:00 p.m.

January 28, Sacred Heart, 4:00 p.m.

### Women's Team

January 14, St. Francis University, 1:00 p.m.

January 16, Fairleigh Dickinson, 7:00 p.m.

January 28, Robert Morris, 1:00 p.m.

January 30, Sacred Heart, 7:00 p.m.

For more event details please visit [www.mountathletics.com](http://www.mountathletics.com).



## Events at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

### Worship Opportunities

All Masses Held at 12 p.m.

January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass

January 7 & 8 Weekend Mass

January 14 & 15 Weekend Mass

January 21 & 22 Weekend Mass

January 27 March for Life Mass

January 28 & 29 Weekend Mass

## Around the Mount 2017 Triathlon Registration Begins January 1

Register for the fourth annual Around the Mount Triathlon on April 29, 2017. The race supports Mount Athletics and is designed for all levels, from beginners to seasoned triathletes. This year in addition to the triathlon, youth and adult athletes may participate in a 5K race or a youth one-mile fun run. Details and registration available at [www.alumni.msmary.edu/triathlon](http://www.alumni.msmary.edu/triathlon).

### AROUND THE MOUNT



Triathlon 2017

