

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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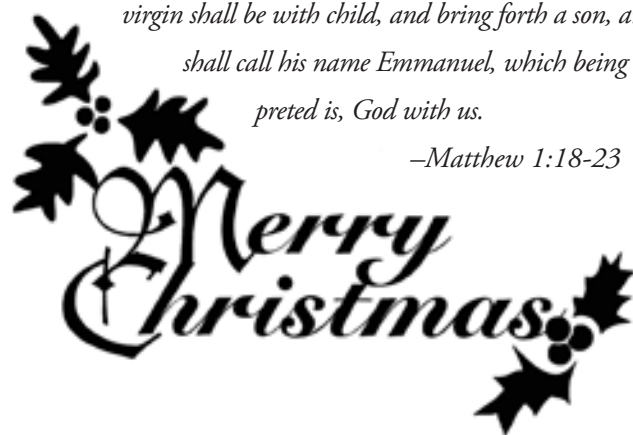
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Now the generation of Christ was in this wise. When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child, of the Holy Ghost. Whereupon Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing publicly to expose her, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold the angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep, saying: Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son: and thou shalt call his name Jesus. For he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which the Lord spoke by the prophet, saying: Behold a virgin shall be with child, and bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

—Matthew 1:18-23



Merry Christmas from the staff of the Emmitsburg News-Journal: Angela, Harry, McKenna, Emmy, Mia, Sam, Tristan, Sharon, Rick, Mary Ann, Renee, Jen, Shannon, Mark, Lindsay, Jack, Tim, Vicki, Dave, Kim, Jon, Jan, Ron, Jessica, Sarah, Emma, Wayne, Aysi, Audrey, Eric, Lizzy, Brian, and Mike.

Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival is on!

With all the bad news that seems to bombard us every day about the raising number of cases and deaths related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellations of just about every event, it is exciting to report that the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival is on!

Thoughts of hot cocoa, decorating Christmas trees and eating fresh baked Christmas cookies fill the minds of many already, including the staff and volunteers at Camp Eder. They are busy working hard to prepare for the 10th Annual Christmas Tree Festival, a community event that celebrates the birth of Christ.

Designed as a "Celebration of the Birth of Christ," the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival offers a place where families and individuals can experience an evening of refuge from the many things that pull our attention away from the true reason for the season. Camp Eder, located on Mt. Hope Road in Fairfield, invites neighbors, friends, and families to join in the festivities December 11 and 12, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. each evening.

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

get involved with Camp Eder and the surrounding community, and it's always a lot of fun!

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

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

Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival is a delightful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and is open to people of all ages. Grab a hot cup of Camp Eder cocoa, find a cozy spot by the fire, listen to Christmas carols and stories, take in the wonders and beauty, reminisce with friends, and recall the birth of Christ, the true meaning of Christmas. For more information, call the Camp Eder office at 717-642-8256 or visit www.campeder.org.

Camp Eder is not the only



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

organization bucking the trend of cancellations. Taneytown will be holding this annual Christmas tree lighting December 5 in memorial park. Festivities include a candy cane hunt, music, sleigh rides and Christmas movies.

Emmitsburg will be holding its Annual Evening of Christmas of Spirit, following the town tree lighting, Monday, December 7. Hot chocolate will keep the kids warm while they wait for Santa's arrival.

Thurmont will also host the town's 3rd Annual Holiday Train Display, sponsored by the Fred-

erick County Society of Model Train Engineers.

Other organizations holding Christmas related festivals and events include Music Gettysburg!, Way Off Broadway, the Seton Shrine, the Weinburg Center for the Arts, and the Adams County Arts Council. For information on their events, concerts and festivals, as well as other Christmas related events turn to the Arts section on page 38. Due to impact of the pandemic on events, always check an organization's website for their event's status.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Town Square traffic revisited

The Town Council discussed options of addressing traffic congestion at the Town Square at their November meeting, but took no action in pursuing a resolution of the problem.

Present at the meeting were Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) District-7 engineers Teri Soos and Sam DeLaurence.

Four options were reviewed by SHA staff and the commissioners included split-phase signaling, turning lanes, by-passing, and doing nothing until some future date in time.

Regarding split-phase operation, this system involves allowing certain lanes to proceed while others are held at a stop. In the case of the Town Square, it could entail allowing Main Street traffic to have a greenlight in both directions, while traffic would be stopped on North and South Seton avenues. Then, Main Street traffic would be stopped to allow North and South Seton to have a green light in both directions.

North and South Seton avenues are already on a split-phase as of 2006. The greenlight for North Seton is shorter than the greenlight for South Seton (based on the amount of traffic using each). Doing the same for East and West Main streets could very well double the delay (waiting time), creating even more congestion.

DeLaurence described split-phase operations as “a very inefficient way to operate a signal because you’re only moving part of the traffic at one time, as opposed to traffic moving in different directions. It inherently is then going to increase your delay through the intersection.”

As far as establishing turning lanes, under this option - East and West Main streets would have a left-turn lane in the center of each roadway on the approach to the light. The lanes would hold three vehicles on-average, and a brief, green turn-arrow would provide an opportunity for vehicles to turn ... while oncoming traffic would be stopped in both directions.

However, such a configuration could only be achieved with the loss of seven parking spaces within the Town Square.

Regarding a bypass, Commissioner Joseph Ritz said such would provide a means of diverting traffic around the Main Street and Seton Avenue approaches to the Town Square, and that “a bypass is something to be looked at in the future.”

“I know other people argue that a bypass will kill business in town,” Ritz stated, adding, “However, I disagree ... It’s (all traffic) not totally bypassing the town. We’re still going to have people who need to come into town - but the majority of the vehicles that go through our square ... are passing through (town).”

The commissioners took no formal action on the subject. Town Manager Cathy Willets stated, “I think we need to have some additional meetings and more discussions ... before we move forward anymore.”

Staff pay raises approved

The Town Council unanimously approved increasing phased salary changes for town staff amounting to \$126,263 and discussed changes that would make the town more competitive when seeking new employees, at their November meeting.

The raises will occur in two phases: 50-percent will become effective on January 1, and the second 50-percent will become effective on July 1 with the commencement of the 2021 budget year, as per the motion made by Commissioner Frank Davis, seconded by Commissioner Joseph Ritz.

Prior to the vote, Town Manager Cathy Willets told the board, “I can

tell you with working with the Mayor on this, that our recommendation was basically (adopting) the salaries as they related to the ERI market (Economic Research Institute).” The ERI “compiles the most robust salary survey data, cost of living, and executive compensation available with current market data,” according to their website.

Based on ERI data, town staff determined that there was a department-wide shortfall of \$126,263 in salaries, as far as where they should be by ERI standards. The shortfall was determined to be “spread out over the various departments,” and involved the positions of town manager, director of

public works, water and sewer superintendent, the town planner, town accountant, lead water and sewer operator, two water and sewer workers, town clerk, and the two public works employees.

In addition, the job titles for two positions are to be upgraded, Willets stated. The job titles of the public works employees will be changed to maintenance technicians, essentially because they actually “do more than just water and sewer, water line repairs, public works,” she said, adding, “They do such a great variety of things ... It (the job title change) encompassed what they did.”



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Covering the news, events, history; and culture of the Historic Toms Creek Hundred geographical area: Emmitsburg, Zora, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Greenmont, Harney, Rocky Ridge, Detour, St. Anthony's, Zentz Mill, Taneytown and Thurmont. The Emmitsburg News Journal is published the first day of every month by Toms Creek Hundred LLC.

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News-Briefs . . .

Annexation resolution approved
Emmitsburg is now officially on the path to becoming 86 acres larger as the result of action taken by the commissioners following a public hearing on a proposed annexation resolution at their November meeting. The annexation plan itself was previously approved at the commissioners' September meeting.

The town board voted unanimously to proceed to annex two parcels of land located east of Route 15. One of the parcels served as the former site of the old municipal waste-

water treatment plant, while the second parcel is the site of the current wastewater treatment facility and solar panels.

Town Planner Zach Gulden said that as a result of the approval of the annexation resolution, there would now be a 45-day, mandatory waiting-period ... before the resolution becomes effective (as of December 17), assuming there is no referendum that would prevent it.

Once the resolution becomes effective, the resolution and a map reflecting the new boundaries of

Emmitsburg will then be submitted to county Clerk of Courts and Maryland Department of Legislative Services, and “at that point the annexation is then completed,” Gulden said.

Aside from planting trees on approximately 11-acres of the site, Gulden previously stated, “Nothing is going to be changed,” meaning the land will remain as open space, and will not be subject to development.

Answers to police coverage sought
Emmitsburg town staff are attempting to resolve issues relating to the loss of a county deputy who is out

on-leave, thereby leaving the town by one officer short with regard to police protection.

At present, county Deputy Ben Whitehouse is the only officer providing police service to Emmitsburg, while Emmitsburg's second officer, Deputy Jason Ahalt, is on leave.

Town Manager Cathy Willets, said, “I reached out to Corporal Welsh, who's in charge of the community deputy program, and inquired whether or not they were going to send someone else to town (to help with coverage) ... I was told that we would not be receiving any temporary deputy (But) If this

changes,” and that this process was “where I believe we lost our competitiveness. As employees progressed through the salary chart, the percentage of raises they would receive ... decreased.

Willets also said funding the \$126,263 in salary increases would not greatly impact budgets. One budgeted position, she said, does not need to be filled at this time, and other revenue sources are anticipated, inclusive of logging revenues in the amount of more than \$30,000 and an anticipated 2020 budgetary surplus of \$150,000.

Commissioner Clifford Sweeney asked if the town would get a reimbursement for the lack of a second deputy, since the town pays for the police coverage. “We spend a lot of

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

‘Five-year’ road plans approved

Hamiltonban Township supervisors approved its “five-year” plan at their November meeting for infrastructure improvements, including bridgework, paving and patching. However, the plan as approved only addresses work proposed to take place over the next four years.

The township excluded scheduling projects into a fifth year due to anticipated shortfall in available monies. Supervisor Coleen Reemer said, “Because of the pandemic, it (the five-year plan) has really turned into a four-

year plan - because we expect dropped revenues in State Liquid Fuels (SLF) funding in 2022.”

The allocation of SLF funds is based on state-wide gas usage totals, which have been on the decline, since the state’s population overall has been declining due to potential threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reemer stated that gas usage has fallen to the degree that available funding for 2020 through 2021 was reduced, and that this is expected to continue into 2022.

Thus far, 2020 projects proposed by the township include: paving on Gum Springs Road to Mount Hope Bridge at an estimated cost of \$274,000; patching on Cold Springs Road from Fitz property to Deer Track Road at an estimated cost of \$26,000; patching on Newman Road beyond the Lee Baker at an estimated cost of \$27,000; sealing Mount Carmel Road at an estimated cost of \$25,932; and sealing Newman Road at a cost of \$19,945.

Projects proposed for 2021 include:

work on Mount Hope Road from the railroad crossing to Carroll Tract Road for an estimated cost of \$66,000; repairing and paving a culvert on Old Waynesboro Road (for an estimated cost of \$40,000; repair and relocate a portion of Mortiz Road for an estimated cost of \$12,000; sealcoat Lower Bullfrog Road for an estimated cost of \$15,000; and pave CS Main Farm to Whipporwill at an estimated cost of \$72,000.

Projects proposed for 2022 include: paving lower Mortiz Road at an estimated cost of \$27,000; base-repair of upper Moritz Road at an estimated

cost of \$18,000; seal coating Old Waynesboro Road at an estimated cost of \$38,000; and notifying landowners along Mount Hope Road with regard to proposed bridgework and surveying work on upper Mortiz Road.

Projects proposed for 2023 include: applying sealing on Hickory Bridge Road to work done in 2019 applying sealing on Carroll Tract Road to work done in 2019 paving upper Moritz Road (no cost estimate provided); and replacing Mount Hope Bridge. Cost estimates have not been determined applicable to the proposed 2023 projects.

CV residents: ‘Save the dam trees’

Lake Carroll property owners expressed their concerns at the November meeting of the Carroll Valley Borough Council regarding removal of trees that could be threatening the dam that was constructed in the past to create the man-made lake.

Town Manager David Hazlett said that property owners adjacent to Lake Carroll had been notified by borough staff that the borough’s dam engineer, Andrzej Kulik, was concerned that over time the roots of the trees growing in and around the dam embankment ... could ultimately weaken the dam itself.

In Pennsylvania, dams are regulated to the degree that only grass would be permitted to be grown on a dam’s embankments, but Lake Carroll is not (according to state guidelines) a state-regulated dam. “If it was regulated by DEP (state Department of Environmental Protection), they would have ordered us to cut the trees down,” Hazlett stated.

The engineer had suggested three options for dealing with embankment concerns: 1) do nothing; 2) cut down the existing trees; or 3) cut down the existing trees and remove the stumps and root systems. In addition, any cutting and removal

would necessitate backfilling with “suitable embankment material.”

Hazlett stated the engineer recommended the second option (removing the trees) over doing nothing, but then claimed option three (removing trees, stumps, root systems) was the “ideal solution.”

The town manager said that he had been trying to amass information regarding the costs of the removal options - but had thus far only been able to determine that the cost of just cutting the trees down and removing them was \$25,000, but that did not include removing the trunks, roots, and backfilling.

Regarding how much it would cost to adhere to the full recommendation (removing trees, stumps, root systems, and backfilling), Hazlett stated, “I can’t even begin to imagine how massively expensive that would be.”

However, several of the Lake Carroll property owners who attended the borough meeting, and communicated with the borough by mail, were not enthralled by the proposal to remove the trees.

Lakeside resident Robert Reid wrote, “There are hundreds and hundreds, perhaps more than one thousand, mature trees involved. These trees have been growing on the dam for more than fifty years ... The trees help stabilize the dam,” adding that

the trees should be removed only when they die from natural causes.

It was also suggested by a couple of attendees that if trees come down (through dying) ... that they be replaced with Yews, which tend to strengthen structures such as embankments by having stronger root systems, rather than engaging in any tree cuttings.

The town manager suggested another solution might be to meet with the borough’s engineering firm to get a better feel for what possible solutions they can provide. “I feel I need a lot more information and get a better feel for what the best answers are for it (and) continue to research the topic.”

News-Briefs . . .

A&D Professional Tax & Title Service relocates

Fairfield-based A&D Professional Tax Service and Tag/Title Notary Services, owned by Angela Keefer and Doreen Dixon, recently relocated from Main Street in Fairfield to 12 Water Street.

The service was established in December 2016, initially offering tax services and added tag and title service in 2018. Dixon was also licensed as a notary in late-2016. The company moved to their new Water Street location in September.

Today, A&D offers tax services, including tax preparation, and business and personal tax planning, and Keefer is certified as an enrolled agent with the IRS and can represent clients as a negotiator with the federal tax agency. Also offered is tax and title, and payroll services.

“We started with the tax service,” Dixon said, and expanded into offering other services over the course of the past several years, which has included advising clients regarding taxes throughout the year, aside from preparing tax-forms during the tax-filing season.

A&D’s routine hours are Mondays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday operations are by appointment only. During the tax-filing season, the business is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. They are the only tax, tag and title service open on Saturdays.

Dixon stated, “We just want to let people know we have moved. We go above and beyond when it comes to

helping clients with their taxes.” For additional information, visit A&D’s website at adtaxtag.com.

Embankment repair money acquired

Hamiltonban Township was recently approved for a grant to aid in the cost of rebuilding a problematic stream embankment.

The township will be constructing a retaining wall to prevent Marsh Creek from flooding and undermining Mount Carmel Road. The retaining wall would extend below the waterline of the stream for approximately 55 feet.

The municipality was approved for an Adams County Conservation Dirt and Low Volume Road

Grant to repair a stream embankment along Mount Carmel Road. The grant is a 50/50 match grant in which half of the funding is provided through the grant, which the township must match. The estimated cost of the project is just over \$12,544, of which \$6,837 would be reimbursed by the grant-funding. The county’s portion will be paid when the project is completed.

The embankment work is expected to be completed during the spring or summer of 2021, and the township is currently applying for a state Department of Environmental Protection permit. The estimated cost of the project is just over \$12,544.

Fairfield prepares for snow

The Fairfield Borough Council recently awarded the snow removal

contract for the coming snow season.

The contract was awarded to Harbaugh Hauling & Excavation, the lowest bidder of two submissions.

Harbough’s bid included a basic \$62 per-hour fee for snow removal, plus \$55 per-hour for a dump-truck with driver, \$64 per-hour for Bobcat with operator, \$70 per-hour for front-end loader with operator, and \$90 per-ton for skid treatment for roads.

Joint parks work to continue

Hamiltonban Township will be applying for a state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for their spring-round of grants in

2021 in order to commence with and complete a third, final round of improvements planned for the park.

Improvements proposed include: adding paving and lines to the parking areas; constructing a small pavilion area by the natural-play area; adding a pickleball court; establishing a second loop of approximately 1300 feet (1/4 mile) to the existing walking path; restoring the small front rain garden; erecting a permanent park sign; adding a bench and landscaping around the parking area; and adding a pergola extension to the pavilion. Staff is presently working on the cost estimates for the third phase.



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THURMONT NEWS

‘Gateway To The Cure’ raises \$15,300

The commissioners presented the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Health Hospital with a check for \$15,300, the money having been garnered as the result of Thurmont’s 7th Annual Gateway To The Cure Campaign. To date, the town of Thurmont has donated more than \$98,000 over the seven years of fund-raising to the cancer fund.

Town Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder, who manages the Gateway To The Cure campaigns as part of her many

responsibilities, said in her opening remarks during the presentation, “Wow. What a year it’s been. None of us have ever seen anything like this (COVID-19 pandemic), and quite frankly . . . we don’t know what tomorrow’s going to bring – what we can do, and what we can’t do.”

In spite of the pandemic, Grinder said it was decided to proceed with 2020’s fundraising events, while being mindful of the need to implement safeguards for participants and volunteers to protect all of those involved

from the coronavirus. “We decided to move forward, and do it as safely as we could,” the program manager stated.

Grinder said that, while the effects of the pandemic did not prevent town staff and volunteers from holding a number of fundraisers, it did prevent other events from occurring. One of the fund-raising events and activities that circumstances associated with the pandemic would not allow to be held included the popular 3rd Annual Zumbathon. Additionally, she pointed out, there

were 18 less businesses that were unable to participate.

The fundraising effort for 2020 was further hampered by the cancellation of Colorfest, during which a couple of major fundraising activities could have occurred, including parking of cars at Stauffer Funeral Homes for Colorfest – “that always brought us in a big chunk of change” – and the selling of merchandise by town staff at Colorfest to benefit the fund, Grinder said.

Fundraising events and activities that were successfully held included the

Gateway To The Cure Covered Bridge 5K, the Gateway To The Cure Golf Tournament, Garden of Love pin-wheel sales, the pink light bulbs sales, the Pink Pumpkin contest, and the sale of Gateway To The Cure merchandise - all of which were supplemented by businesses that donated a portion of their in-house sales, and private donations from residents.

Grinder recognized the many sponsors, donors, town staff, volunteers, event participants, and those who have made purchases of support merchandise. that had made the fundraiser the success that it was.

Parks & waterline bids approved

The Town Council awarded several bids at their November 10 meeting, two of which addressed aging park-equipment replacements, and another providing for a waterline replacement.

Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick stated that the first bid up for consideration involved replacing playground equipment at Woodland Park.

Humerick told the board, “This is Phase-One of the complete overall replacement of Woodland Park playground (equipment). As one of our oldest playgrounds, the equipment up there is close to 25 years old. Some is actually a little older than 25 years

because it was transferred from another park to that area.”

Playground Specialists, Inc., had submitted a bid in the amount of \$40,000 for the Phase-One work.

Funding for the work will be provided by Project Open Space (POS) and Thurmont. POS will provide 75-percent (\$30,000) . . . while the town will be contributing \$10,000, Humerick stated. Providing the town’s share of the funding will necessitate a budget amendment.

Town staff will remove the playground equipment to be replaced, while Playground Specialists will install the new equipment.

Humerick also briefed the board on the Ice Plant Park playground upgrades, noting that the bid is to replace equipment that was removed last year - after failing a certified playground-safety inspection.

He stated the bid to be considered is to replace that equipment which had been removed with some “newer and better equipment,” adding, “That equipment up there was old also. When that was installed, there wasn’t near as many varieties and diverse types of equipment to put in . . . as there are these days.”

Playground Specialists also submitted a bid on this project, in the amount of \$13,726 for the Phase-One work. Sev-

enty-five percent of the funding for the work will also be provided by POS - the town will be contributing the remaining 25-percent.

The work at both of the playgrounds should be completed by spring, or if weather permits - during the winter.

Finally, Humerick requested that the board to consider approving a bid for engineering work to be performed in conjunction with replacing the existing waterline along Old Pryor Road, which dead ends, is deteriorating “and becoming problematic.” He said the line is also undersized and has water-pressure and water-quality issues,

The proposal entails replacing the line with a new four-inch line, which

will then be tied into a line on Hillside Circle. “This is a project which has been on our wish list for many years,” he stated.

Arrow Consulting, Inc., has been retained as the engineering firm, and bid \$73,900 to complete the engineering work.

The administrative officer stated that the project is to be financed through an approved state Department of the Environment (MDE) water quality \$350,000 loan, but the loan does not cover the \$73,900 engineering expenses.

The commissioners voted to approve all three bids. Commissioner Marty Burns abstained from the playground votes due to his family-ties to Playground Specialists.

News-Briefs . . .

Bridge dedications considered

The Town Council declined to make a decision at their November 24 meeting to approve dedicating municipal bridges in memory of local soldiers killed in combat, pending the receipt of additional information.

American Legion Post 168 member Gary Spegal appeared before the commissioners, seeking their approval to dedicate town bridges to two Catoclin High School (CHS) graduates killed in Vietnam during the 1960s.

Specifically, Spegal is seeking to dedicate the bridges in memory of United States Marine Corps Sergeant Woodrow Franklin Carbaugh, killed in action on June 5, 1968, and Marine Private First-Class Charles Robert Pittinger, killed in action on November 17, 1969. Carbaugh was a 1965 graduate of CHS. Pittinger was a 1967 graduate of CHS.

The two bridges that were considered were the Frederick Road bridge, by Community Park, and the Moser Road bridge, in the vicinity of the library. Spegal said the memorial signage would be placed at each end of the bridges.

“Even though it was not a very popular conflict, that does not detract from the bravery, heroism and valor demonstrated by those who came back - and those that paid the ultimate sacrifice in service for their country,” he stated.

The commissioners stated they supported such an effort, but that they needed assurance that any individuals who were to be so recognized actually resided within the town boundaries, before committing town assets for such a role, unless it was determined to be more lenient.

Spegal was asked to return with a residency-specific proposal, at

which time the board would take the requests into further consideration at a future meeting.

Town internet presentation coming

The Town Council will soon learn what information has been amassed regarding the possibility of establishing a town-owned or town and partner-owned internet service.

Commissioner Martin Burns told the board at their November 10 meeting, “I will be coming to the town in the next month or so putting a presentation together to show you all the data that we gathered . . . relating to providing a community internet service.

Burns, who serves as the commissioners’ liaison to the Thurmont Internet Commission, said, “I am excited and look forward to coming with all the data and talking to you in detail about what the long-range vision is,

and that is the one where maybe we do a wireless option initially, and then over time . . . expand it.”

Burns further stated that the commission has amassed information which suggests “we are talking less than \$75,000 could do the test-pilot program and pay itself off in a year . . . It is a heck of a lot less than I thought it was going to be.”

He continued stating that once the information is presented to the commissioner, the board can make a determination if there is any interest in eventually initiating a test-pilot program.

Security cameras discussed

The commissioners were advised at their November 10 meeting that a new in-town security camera system could be forthcoming in the near future.

Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick stated that he and Police Chief Gregory Eyler participated

in a virtual demonstration several weeks prior to the meeting, and added, “We really were impressed with the system.”

Humerick stated, “We are going to have two or three free demos installed in town in the next couple of weeks, and I am not going to divulge where at this point,” but that the system proposed will “provide us some additional security in our parks, additional security in town, and also additional security at our Recycling Center.”

He said the system is expandable, and “it can be done inside the buildings or anywhere we want them to be,” and the feed from the cameras can be viewed via an application on staff cellphones.”

If it is decided to acquire the system, it would not be purchased until the next budget year work has begun. Humerick did not discuss any cost estimates that may be involved in acquiring the system.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Mandatory water restrictions near?

With persistent, abnormally dry conditions along the northern boundary of Carroll County, Taneytown staff-members are carefully monitoring the town's water supply, noting that well-levels have not been improving.

Councilman Joe Vigliotti asked at the city's November workshop if circumstances were such that mandatory water-use restrictions might be imposed.

"I noticed in Kevin's (Kevin

Smeak, director) report for the Department of Public Works ... He's talking about considering elevating the current restrictions on water consumption to mandatory-verses-voluntary," Vigliotti said, adding, "I was just wondering if that was something we were going to do, and when we would do that."

Mayor Bradley Wantz responded, "We've (town staff) been discussing it. I personally don't have any sense of urgency

on it at this moment, (but) looking at some of the wells, we have asked the county to look into one of the wells to particularly see why there's been such a drastic drop in its pumping level."

Wantz stated it was his understanding, "from people smarter than I," that the county actually has an observation-well nearby to that (problematic well), so they are "somewhat familiar" with the area that the well in - "but we're giving them some

information to look into and then they're going to report back."

Regarding the pumping-levels of the wells, he said, "Things have not improved with the pumping depths. They have not particularly gotten a whole-lot-worse ... but they are not improving."

Wantz noted that the area did get some rain the previous week, but that it was "probably not sufficient enough to put a dent in this, but it is being looked at, and staff

has mentioned that we may need to go into mandatory."

City Manager James Wieprecht stated that the wells' depths are checked daily, and that the mayor will be kept apprised ... should the status worsen that mayor could consider implementation of mandated water-use restrictions, in lieu of the current voluntary restriction currently in place.

Water use restrictions in Taneytown are implemented through mayoral declarations - and do not require action by the council to enact.

Town addresses time-management issues

The City Council approved at their November meeting reimbursing the city manager for leave-time that he was unable to use during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Being an essential employee by definition and in practice, City Manager James Wieprecht was required to be on-hand to perform his municipal duties, and thus he was unable to use his leave-time to that he had earned and accumulated

Wieprecht told the council, "Since I'm unable to use the leave-time that I have accrued, I'm respectfully asking to be paid-out

for it at the end of the year," noting that he has accrued 271.88 hours of annual leave, which amounts to \$11,620, based on his salary of \$42.74 per hour.

The city manager said, "When we talked at the workshop, we talked about my carrying over 80 hours of annual leave which in 2021, considering the amount of comp-time that I've also accrued, it's very unlikely that I'll be able to use the annual leave that I earn next year, or any significant amount of that comp-time."

He thus requested that he just be paid-out for all his unused

annual leave this year (\$11,620). Accrued unused comp-time is to also be carried over through all of next year, and any comp-time unused by the end of 2021 would be forfeited.

In October, the City Council approved payouts to police for the same reasons that necessitated the payout to the city manager - police having to work extended hours as essential employees during the coronavirus event and sacrificing leave-time in the process.

As the council worked its way through issues pertaining to payouts for essential employees during the

COVID-19 pandemic, one councilwoman said the use of crises-related leave-time should be addressed in the employee handbook.

Councilwoman Diane Foster questioned the way the process played-out overall, noting that no guidance regarding employee time-management during emergency situations was addressed in the employee handbook.

Foster told the council that she had suggested to City Manager James Wieprecht that he develop an emergency plan (regarding employee time-management during emergency situations)

- "since all of this falls outside what is normally allowed in the employee handbook."

The proposed rules, she stated, "doesn't have to be anything like the handbook. It could be some addendum to the handbook - a couple of pages - that would only apply to these certain situations and what we will ... and will not do," she stated.

The councilwoman said she suggested that by the first of the year, Wieprecht should "develop such a plan with some definite rules that apply across-the-board to all departments, and we work from there, and I offered to help him if he needed me to develop this plan.

News-Briefs . . .

Planning & Zoning director hired

The hiring of a new director for Taneytown's Planning & Zoning office has been conditionally approved by the Taneytown Council at their November meeting. The approval was conditioned on the applicant passing an in-progress background check.

Applicant Matthew Farace's hiring would officially alleviate Town Manager James Wieprecht of his current planning and zoning responsibilities, which Wiebrecht had initially assumed while serving as Taneytown's acting town manager. Wiebrecht was appointed as town manager in August but agreed to continue to manage planning and zoning operations until a new hire could be found to relieve him of those duties.

Farace earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental & Land Use Planning and has previously been employed as a planning technician for Front Royal, Virginia, and was subsequently hired as a planning technician for Carroll County's Planning Department.

Assuming Farace will pass the background check, his starting salary will be \$44,970, and plans call for him to assume his new position on November 30.

Economic development position unfilled

Mayor Wantz informed the City Council at their November meeting that the search for a new economic development director has thus far been unproductive.

Wantz said the search has (to date) failed. "We received a few resumes.

We went through them. We chose some for interviews ... four candidates for interviews. One withdrew based on pay. Two withdrew ... saying they took other jobs, and the fourth was a no-show."

The mayor further stated that town staff will continue to seek applicants, unless staff or council members would like to recommend an alternative to changing the position, as it presently exists.

City Hall returns with ceremony

Taneytown City Hall is now back in service, after a prolonged closure while repairs were underway to restore the building that was severely damaged when it was purposely rammed by a pick-up truck in August 2019.

Town Manager Wieprecht told the council at their November meeting, "We're back to regular operations. Everybody that belongs here has been moved back, and folks have settled in nicely."

Staff did hold a "modest, limited celebration," including a ribbon-cutting, "but we did want to do something to mark the City Hall re-opening." A number of county and state officials attended.

The town offices sustained \$51,735.99 in damages resulting from the impact of the truck driven by Rodney Davis, who was reportedly angered that the city had cut his water-service. David was sentenced on September 1 to a total of 13 years in prison, with all but 18 months suspended after having pleaded guilty to first-degree assault (which is a felony), and malicious destruction of property.

Mayor seeks post-election unity

Mayor Wantz stated at the November meeting that in the wake of the November 3 election, the country needs to "come together."

Wantz said, "We're in a rather tumultuous time. Some people are upset. Some people are extremely happy. Whoever you voted for - it is what it is. What I'm hoping that we can get out of this is that we come back together as a country again."

He said that regardless of who becomes present, "We need to be a united people. That's what makes the United States a great country"

Noting that there are bound to be recounts - whatever happens on the national stage really does not need to affect our sense of community here, adding, "It is time to make this country the best that it can be, and we can start that locally by making Taneytown the best it can be ... by coming together."

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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Phil Dacey

The Holiday season is upon us in a strange way. I hope that everyone was able to have a happy, safe Thanksgiving and wish everyone a joyous Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year. It is a difficult time for many in our community, and it has been a difficult year. As I write, we do see light at the end of the tunnel in at least three very promising and effective vaccines that will help us be able to get back to some sense of normalcy soon.

The biggest issue facing the Frederick County Council in November continued to be how to handle the COVID-19 health emergency in Frederick County. Last month I wrote about the urgency of the Frederick County Board of Edu-

cation establishing a plan to return kids to in-person learning. I am pleased to report that the Board of Education did just that at their first November meeting, voting to allow a hybrid learning model beginning at the new semester on January 28.

In November, the Frederick County Council met as the Board of Health for the first time in years and years. The Board of Health includes the County Executive and the County Health Officer as an Ex Officio Member. We vigorously discussed adding business and individual restrictions that go above and beyond what the state requires. In the end, the Board of Health voted 7-1 (with myself opposed) to reduce capacity at a

slew of businesses from 50% to 25%. Additionally, we turned over the authority to the County Health Officer to designate individuals to enforce health requirements as a civil fine. The ordinance that passed also granted the authority for the health officer to add additional restrictions without going back to the Board of Health.

I opposed this for many reasons. First, I do not believe the statistics in Frederick County (which are consistently better than the state of Maryland) justified action above and beyond what the state requires. I have spoken with many private businesses who are really struggling now, and what they don't need now are additional local restrictions that make it

more difficult for them to keep their doors open and to keep employing people in the Holiday season.

Secondly, I am very troubled by the process of imposing these restrictions. We are in a health emergency and it does justify urgent action. However, we must balance that urgent action with the fact that we are still living in a democracy, and should use a normal process with public feedback whenever possible. We passed these ordinances in haste. They were first proposed on the afternoon of Thursday, November 12 and passed near midnight on November 12. The regulations went into effect at 5 PM on November 13, less than 18 hours later. We took no public comment, so we did not know the

effect these regulations would have on businesses or individuals. The regulations were poorly worded which led to confusion from businesses who happened to hear about them the next day.

The choices that have to be made are no doubt difficult. It is difficult to balance the competing interests of public health versus a person's livelihood, or a child's education. These tough choices require careful consideration which should include community feedback and public involvement.

The hasty manner and language of the ordinance forced the Board of Health to reconvene again on Tuesday November 24 to pass amendments to the ordinance to help people understand what the ordinance actually does.

County Notes...

FY22 Community Partnership Grant Program

Frederick County announced the opening of the application process for the FY22 Community Partnership Grant program that awards competitive grants to non-profit organizations serving the needs of county residents. The grants can be used for community needs, seniors and housing.

"Our human service nonprofits

do an amazing job connecting people with the resources they need," Executive Gardner said. "The benefits to our community have been clear, especially during the health pandemic this year. Together, the County and our nonprofit partners are able to leverage our efforts to provide effective services so we can all flourish and share in Frederick County's prosperity and high quality of life."

This year marks the seventh round of the grants program. Grants can be for operating expenses or for one-time purchases. Examples of one-time projects funded in the past include roof replacement for a transitional housing shelter, costs associated with a mobile dental clinic, and a refrigerator/freezer for a senior center, among others.

The deadline to submit an application is Dec. 10. Funding awards will be considered in the county budget process and announced

in April, with funding available beginning July 1. For more information and program updates, visit the website at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG or call Kelli Goetz at 301-600-1410.

FCSO welcomes Todd Wivell as the new PIO

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) welcomed Emmitsburg native and U.S. Air Force military veteran, Todd Wivell, as the new public information officer.

Wivell is a Catocin High School graduate and after serving more than 23 years on active duty, returned to Frederick County, Maryland, in 2017. He is responsible for coordinating all communications efforts for FCSO Sheriff Chuck Jenkins and the more than 430 deputies, correctional officers, and staff that support that office. As the public face of the organization, he will provide vital information to the more than 250,000 citizens and local media of Frederick County.

"We are excited to have Todd join our team and welcome him back to the local area," said Jenkins. "His extensive military experience in public relations and his knowledge of Frederick County and the surrounding areas make him the right person for this position."

Wivell started his military career in 1994 as a police officer and retired in 2017 as the chief of public affairs for the 62nd Airlift Wing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. He oversaw all information programs, media relations, public outreach, and distinguished visitor events for an organization of more than 7,000 personnel. His military work includes event coordination with the National Football League, Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, the Seattle Seahawks, the Carolina Panthers, and the World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.

Grants Support Family Shelter, Heritage Center

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner announced \$425,000 in one-time grant awards to help advance two important non-profit community projects. Funds will support the construction of an emergency family shelter, a long-standing project of the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs. Frederick County currently lacks a temporary shelter for families who find themselves facing the trauma and challenges of homelessness. Funds also will support the development of a heritage center being established by

continued on next page.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. Most people will be happy to see the end of 2020. It has been a difficult year. But we should not lose sight of the many positive things that happened in Frederick County over the past 12 months. Food distributions to students and seniors, dedicated health care workers, and innovative ways to support local business – we are truly blessed to live in such a caring community!

If you want to be inspired by our community's resilience and resolve, I encourage you to watch my annual State of the County address, which I presented last month. The video takes viewers on a journey filled with HOPE. HOPE stands for Health, Opportunity, Prosperity and Equity. We can focus on our bright future because Frederick County delivers on HOPE.

We have been able to make life better for people thanks to help from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund. Frederick County

received \$45 million, which we invested back into our community. The funds helped to pay for a long list of needs created by the pandemic: personal protective gear for Frederick Health Hospital, nursing homes, and our emergency responders; COVID-19 testing clinics; food for our food banks and our vulnerable children and seniors; assistance to businesses, renters, and legal aid; and technology for our public schools. We also helped our volunteer fire and rescue companies, who have been on the frontlines alongside career staff. Frederick County also set aside \$5 million for our municipalities, which did not receive any direct aid from the federal government. A full list of how the funds were used can be found on the County's website, at FrederickCountyMD.gov/coronavirus.

You can see how we put the funding to work by watching the State of the County video. There is a link on the County's website (FrederickCountyMD.gov), or

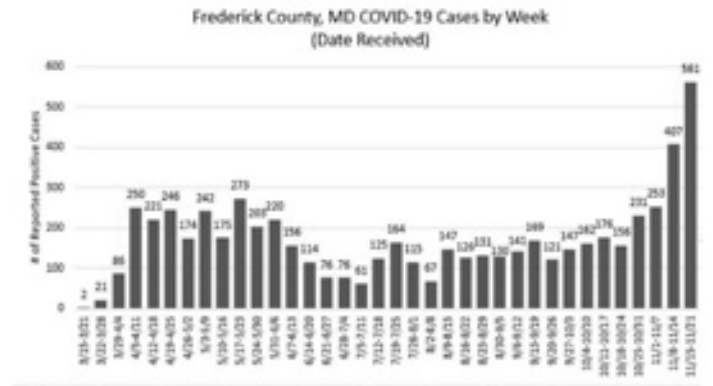
watch it on my Facebook page or the County's YouTube channel.

Coronavirus update

This summer, Frederick County residents did an amazing job to flatten the curve of new coronavirus cases. Sadly, we are seeing a second wave now that cooler temperatures are forcing people inside. The pace of new cases has quickened in recent weeks. In the week before Thanksgiving, there were twice as many cases than we saw during our worst week last spring.

By the time you read this, Frederick County will have exceeded 7,000 cases. As I write this, there are more than 30 Covid cases at Frederick Health Hospital. Hospitals in Western Maryland are full already. Dozens of other hospitals in the state are nearing their capacity.

I know we are all tired of staying home. Holidays feel different when we can't visit our extended family. But now more than ever, we must all do our part. We can't



afford to be complacent.

Wear a face covering. Wash your hands. Stay 6 feet from others when you must go out of your house. Avoid crowds. These simple steps will save lives.

Holidays

Christmas and Hanukkah are right around the corner. Family rides to see light displays are a great way to safely get into the spirit of the season. Emmitsburg will be lighting the town's tree soon. Bring your children to see the lights any time after December 7th. In Thurmont, the Town Hall is a collection site for a new toy drive. Don't forget that the dead-

line to request a letter from Santa through Frederick County Parks and Recreation is December 4th. Find out more at Recreater.com. If you are looking for activities for the family, check out the Frederick County Public Library online options. There are how-to sessions on baking gingerbread, making cinnamon ornaments, and creating winter cocktails. Learn how to make ornaments from paint chips or pony beads. Teens can log in for game nights or take a do-it-yourself course in origami snowmen. Details on all these activities can be found at FCPL.org.

I wish you and your family a healthy, happy holiday season!

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

While it seems all our traditions are one by one being cancelled, three events are still planned for holiday season. All are outdoor events.

First, the Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving morning. The intention is that all COVID 19 protocols will be met by contestants. Register online; pay an entry fee, www.runreg.com/emmitsburg-socally-distanced-turkey-trot. Thank you to Commissioners Burns and O'Donnell for providing the 'oil' to make this happen and keep the tradition alive. All the time contestants are required to wear a mask and social distance.

Secound, the annual town Christmas tree lighting will be held in front of the Community Center on the first Monday, December 7th at 6 p.m. and last, the 32nd annual 'Evening of Christmas Spirit' will be held following the Town tree lighting. The festivities will be entirely held outside. No Hayrides, but there will be choirs singing, a fire pit, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and cookies. Santa is expected to make a stop at the tree lighting.

Even though these events will be held outside; masks and social distancing will be required. As there has

been a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in Maryland, please check the town website to see if plans change.

In November, the Frederick County Office of Economic Development presented the town its County Municipalities Impact Award for the Small Business and Entrepreneurship category, "...for providing interested businesses owners, a list of local, state, and federal incentives and showing business owners list of open properties." Well done. The Town had previously won the County Municipalities Impact Award for Infrastructure and Large Projects, its green infrastructure projects. Congratulations to our staff and community!

Rutters, yes Rutters. Only one approval remains, one from State Highway approval of entry road onto Rte. 140. Puzzling is the road is shared with a future State Park N Ride site. From the Rutter's engineer, construction is now tentatively planned to start spring 2021. Governmental approvals are often a slow process with many stops along the way. The town finished its review over a year ago. The slowness has been exacerbated by COVID 19 operation limitations.

Back at the October 5th town meeting the town water use restrictions were raised from voluntary to mandatory Phase 2. We are in a drought. Please help us out by cutting back water usage.

The Ryan Homes model home in Brookfield is now complete. With the build-out of the remaining lots and the goal of opening Brookfield

Drive on to Irishtown Road for two way traffic will come with some sacrifice, and that is, the temporary closure of Irishtown Road for 60- 90 days to make the improvements for safe sight distancing.

Here we are again at this special time of year, Thanksgiving and the start of the Christmas season. Time to take the opportunity to give thanks for so much even at the expense of sacrifices we have all made over the last

year. Many of us have lost dear ones or know somebody close to us who has. Please let us keep them in our prayers. Thanks be to God for the COVID 19 vaccines that may soon be available.

Please support our restaurant and businesses. This is really going to be a tough time for them. There are a lot of wonderful people. We want them here on the other side of this.

From Lib and I, we wish you our best for the holiday season.

County Notes continued from previous page.

the African American Resources – Cultural and Heritage Society of Frederick. The Heritage Center will help residents learn about the underrepresented story of the county's African American history, including living conditions and important contributions to our community.

The Religious Coalition received \$375,000 for the Emergency Family Shelter on Hayward Road. "With the vital investment by the County and generous donors in our community, the

establishment of a new emergency family shelter program is becoming a reality," said Religious Coalition Executive Director Nick Brown. "With this new shelter we can keep families together and work towards our ultimate goal – returning families to permanent housing."

Funding for the grants came from the sale of a small parcel of surplus county-owned land along Ballenger Creek Pike. Executive Gardner expressed her appreciation for the support of the County Council to advance these two priority community projects.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

On Tuesday, November 13th, the Borough Council met and approved the advertisement of the proposed 2021 Budget. This action made the proposed 2021 Budget available for residents' review before its final adoption at the December 15th Council meeting.

The 2021 Budget is the end-product of a three-step review process occurring over three months. The first review was performed by the Borough Manager when analyzing the Borough Department submissions. The second review was performed by the Finance Committee. The third review was performed by the Borough Council during their Budget Workshop on October 20th.

The tentative 2021 budget is based on a millage rate of 2.45 mills that is 24.5 cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation, which means there will be no Carroll Valley Borough tax increase for 2021. The Borough, County, and Fire Taxes are remaining at the same level as last year. The distribution of the total tax paid approximately breaks down as follows: Carroll Valley is 13.77%, Fire Tax is 1.41%, Adams County is 23.55% and Fairfield School District is 61.21%.

The proposed budget can be reviewed at the Borough Office or go to www.carrollvalley.org for the online version. I recommend you read the 2021 Bud-

get Message. At the beginning of the budget prepared by the Borough Manager which explains while prices have risen over the years our local borough real estate property tax has held the same since 2012. However, this year's 2020 budget had a shortfall of approximately \$200,000 that the Borough Council had to take action to balance the budget, thus no tax increase. The next meeting of the Council will be held on December 15th to review any comments made by the public based on their review of the advertised 2021 budget.

The Carroll Valley Community October 14th Blood Drive resulted in 23 residents donating 20 pints of blood which is projected to save 60 local lives as reported by the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank. The next Blood Drive is scheduled for December 30th, Monday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. COVID-19 Antibody testing will be available with each successful blood donation. As a thank you, everyone will receive a free Blood Donor t-shirt. It is strongly suggested you schedule an appointment by calling 800-771-0059; however, walk-ins are welcome. Naturally, donors with appointments will be taken first. Remember a form of ID is required as well as wearing a mask. If you are not wearing a mask, a mask will be provided.

Thanksgiving is behind us and now on to December. The start of winter, also known as the "winter solstice," is December 21st (Monday). This is the shortest day of the year. Hanukkah begins on Thursday evening, December 10th, and continues through Friday, December 18th. National Chocolate Covered Anything Day is celebrated on December 16th. Had to include this one for those chocolate lovers (me, me, me) who need an excuse to have a piece of you know what. Christmas is on Friday, December 25th and the first day of Kwanzaa falls on December 26th and ends January 1, 2021.

During December, there are several activities you may want to tune into on the Carroll Valley Library's Facebook page. A virtual Yoga class will be held on December 3rd and every Friday, there will be a Storytime presented by our KPets friends, Bonnie and Danny. You also might be interested to learn about the Carroll Valley Borough Park Riparian Buffer. If so, you will find the video on the library's YouTube channel under "home" and then "Videos". The presentation is given by Joe Hallinan, Watershed Specialist, Adams County Conservation District.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the annual Fairfield Fire House Breakfast with Santa event has been canceled. Please consider

donating a toy to a child of a family in need – Toys for Tots. There is a Toys for Tots box in the Borough's lobby. The Foundation is looking for toys to be given to children in the age range from infant to 14 years old. Those families interested in receiving a toy(s) for their child or children need to go online to Gettysburg.toysfortots.org. If you have questions, contact our area Toys for Tots coordinator Richard Bradley at 717-676-0628. I would like to extend my thanks to all those who do decide to donate. Your thoughtfulness is a gift in itself that will be cherished by the child who opens up your present.

I applaud Chief Richard Hileman II of the Carroll Valley Police Department on his initiative to seek out and successfully partner with the Rite Aid Foundation's KidCents Safe Medication Disposal Program to acquire a free stainless steel locked medication disposal unit for Carroll Valley that can be used by the community to safely dispose of the unused and/or expired medication safely throughout the year. Let's get these unused medicines that are not helping anyone but represent a danger or temptation to others disposed of in a safe matter. As the Chief said, bring them to the Borough. We cannot accept illegal drugs or paraphernalia, lotions or liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, needles, thermometers, and hydrogen peroxide. Drop-offs will remain anonymous. The department does not collect any

information from the individual dropping off the medications.

On November 24th Governor Tom Wolf signed the third renewal of his 90-day Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. The first proclamation was signed eight months ago on March 6th, following the announcement of the first two presumptive positive cases of the virus in Pennsylvania. As of November 25th, on the health.pa.gov website, it was reported 94 confirmed cases have been documented in the Fairfield zip code area, which includes five municipalities: Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Freedom, Hamiltonban, and Liberty.

Bottom line, COVID-19 does not care about your political ideology or how you celebrate the holidays. Being careful during this timeframe is 'key!' The determining factor is analyzing the level of risk you and those around you are prepared to accept. You know what is best for yourself and your family. Whatever way you decide to go "wear a mask, keep well! Remember neighbor, you and your family are important to all of us. Happy Holidays!

If I can be of help, please contact me at 301-606-2021 or email me at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. For the New Year 2021, I end with a quote from an old crooner of mine, Frank Sinatra "the best is yet to come!"

Wish you all well!

Liberty Supervisor Walter Barlow

I want to thank everyone for their participation in the election and being a part of the election process. We had a great turn out and everything ran smoothly at the Township building on November 3rd. We had more than 600 people from the Township come in to vote. Kudos to all who voted.

At the November 4 meeting, the Board of Supervisors appointed Jes-

sica Ilko to the position of Assistant Treasurer and agreed to bond her for that position. The 2021 budget was approved for advertisement with the intent to adopt on December 1. Liberty Township contracted with Aero Oil to supply fuel and maintenance on our fuel tanks for 2021. Maintenance on Cove Hollow Road and the 740 Block of Harbaugh Valley Road was

addressed, and the Department of Defense was notified that the roads are not township roads and that the Township is not responsible for the roads in any manner.

Quite a few trees have come down on the roadways due to the wind, particularly the ash trees. Ditching was completed along Brent Road and Boyle Road. The Township continues to work hard to remove trees or other obstructions on our roadways. Extension Pipes were installed on Topper, Boyle, Sanders, and Irishtown Roads to make them a little wider at the turns. We continue to prepare for the winter season. Salt has been delivered. Snow markers have been put in place; we just need to paint them. Dusk to dawn lights were installed on the back of the Township building to illumi-

nate the new parking area behind the building.

The Liberty Township Board of Supervisors hired Courtney Hering as an additional part-time police officer to start in December. Additionally, we signed and adopted a resolution that would allow Liberty Township to provide 25 hours of Police work for Freedom Township. The plan is to begin patrolling Freedom Township in January, if

not sooner. The Township looked at obtaining a second police vehicle from Gettysburg Borough and has agreed to purchase that vehicle at a cost of \$6,500. This will give us the additional vehicle needed to patrol Freedom Township and provide a backup police vehicle.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support of Liberty Township. Merry Christmas and Happy Year.



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qually

As 2020 slowly comes into the final stretch, I want to remind everyone about an Adams County project that is a silver lining on a challenging year. Renovations on the of first substance abuse recovery center in Adams County are nearing completion. And it can't come soon enough.

To refresh your memory, Adams County has partnered with the RASE project, a Pa-based non-profit, to renovate the Sisters of Mercy convent in Gettysburg into a combination public substance abuse center with a few apartments for men in recovery from substance abuse.

While not new to our region, substance abuse recovery centers provide a one-stop shop for critical services for an individuals and families seeking recovery resources. Every state in the nation has Recovery Centers. Some are large and some are small, some simply provide a safe place to hold meetings and social gatherings, while others provide a variety of recovery support services combined with transitional housing units - but at the very least they all offer persons in recovery solace and positive social interaction. At this time we are only a few months away from establishing the Mercy House Recovery Center. The primary population to be served will be adult men and women, in all stages of the recovery process, their families and other loved ones between the ages of 18 and 65.

Peer-leaders at the Mercy House will draw from their own experiences to provide practical skill-building support and opportunities for others. The Mercy House peer-delivered services aim to help people initiate and sustain long-term recovery while embracing overall wellness through: Pre-existing programs like the MARS (Med-

ication Assisted Recovery Services) Program, and the Recovery Specialist Program; Peer to Peer Recovery Support Services such as Telephone Recovery Support and Recovery Coaching; Peer-facilitated Support Groups; Educational activities like vocational enrichment, computer lab, parenting, life skills, and Adult Education classes; Family Interventions; Family programs; and Positive social activities such as dances, dinners, breakfasts, cook-outs, holiday events, family game nights, recovery idol competitions, and karaoke nights

The Mercy house will have a positive impact on the utilization of Drug and Alcohol services. Through involvement with the Mercy house individuals, families, and communities can gain access to recovery-focused services and support that will increase successful treatment completion rates, promote early re-engagement for those who have relapsed, and provide pathways to recovery for individuals not in need of clinical treatment services. Services provided at the Mercy house will not replace, but rather will augment and compliment the focus of treatment, outreach, engagement and prevention to assist people in recovery to gain the skills and resources needed to implement, maintain and sustain long-term recovery. As such, staff members at the Mercy house will make appropriate referrals to treatment providers when necessary.

Mercy house services can occur in tandem with outpatient substance abuse and/or mental health treatment. For those participants in need of a more intense level of care, Mercy house services will be available to them as is deemed appropriate by the other service provider(s), and upon participant completion of the other program(s). Participants involved in the services at the

Mercy house will be exposed to and encouraged to become involved in, other forms of recovery support, such as: 12-Step meetings (NA, CA, AA), faith-based recovery programs, medication assisted recovery, etc. Participants involved in programming at the Mercy house will receive services separately, independently, and in addition to any other services they may choose to access or be involved in.

The Mercy house will be a central place where individuals in recovery can participate in recovery support services, trainings/workshops, self-help groups and social activities in an environment conducive to recovery. Recovering individuals can come together at the Mercy house to gain knowledge, learn new skills, socialize and expand their network of support. The Mercy house will offer an environment conducive to growth and change where individuals will learn how to transition into community life. At the Mercy house, people in recovery develop and implement peer-run programs that can supplement existing services offered through formal treatment systems, thus expanding community-based resources available to those in recovery. The will have ample space and rooms available to accommodate more than one service being offered at the same time.

Most programs and classes at the Mercy house will take place during normal business hours, however, in the evenings the Mercy house will become a communal spot for recovering individuals to find a safe haven. The Mercy house will provide a positive social environment where individuals will be able to find camaraderie, support, and

relaxation. Participants will learn that they can have fun in recovery. The Mercy house will be stimulating and enriching at the same time, providing respite from the streets and an atmosphere of recovery at all times. A community room equipped with coffee pots, vending machines, tables and chairs, pool table and other gaming equipment will be open and supervised every evening. There will also be A.A., N.A. and other 12-Step support groups holding meetings in segregated areas of the Mercy house during evening and weekend hours.

The Mercy house will not be a clinical program where recovering individuals are expected to follow treatment plans, receive counseling, etc. Instead, the Mercy house will be a peer-run program of choice offering community-based, peer-driven, non-clinical programs and services in a consumer-friendly environment. The same individuals who come in search of support will also support others and assist in project activities. The Mercy house will fill a unique and vital role in the addiction treatment system and surrounding communities. For a fraction of the cost of formal treatment services, the Mercy house will provide a supportive environment for recovering individuals who might otherwise resort to active substance use or other self-defeating behaviors.

The Mercy house will thus become a cost-effective means of offering community-based services and support to those in recovery at times when clinical treatment services may not be readily accessible (evenings and weekends) or cannot offer the length of stay necessary to achieve

and sustain recovery. The Mercy house will provide empowerment – something that clinical services cannot. By planning and directing Mercy house activities, individuals in recovery will learn practical lessons about planning, budgeting, employment and other aspects of being productive members of society. Also, staff at the Mercy house will assume a peer status role that allows recovering individuals to develop a sense of responsibility/self-worth that will support personal growth and long-term recovery. Rather than focusing on treatment of addiction, the Mercy house will stress personal values of recovery and assist individuals in establishing a foundation that supports living a recovering lifestyle. The Mercy house will also provide important information, resources and referral services to those in need. Staff at the Mercy house will gather/disseminate information on AOD issues, treatment programs, 12-Step Programs, recovery housing/sober living, advocacy and a multitude of community-based services that can enhance the recovery process.

While the on-going pandemic slowed us down, it will not stop this project from being a success. Over the next few weeks the major renovations will be completed, finishing touches will be finalized, and RASE staff will begin to move into the offices. We will still need to iron out covid-19 protocols for the public and private spaces, but I have full faith that we will be ready for a ribbon cutting in early 2021. Thank you for your patience as we finalize this project and as always, if you have any questions about the Mercy house or any county business, please contact me at mqually@adamscounty.us.

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









Happy Holidays!
 from our family to yours!

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With thanks for a great year in real estate we send Best Wishes for a very Merry Christmas and prosperous and Happy New Year! Peace on Earth!



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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

The election is over

Shannon Bohrer

For many, the election results did not align with what they believed would happen, and therefore they have trouble accepting the results. Not accepting the results reflects the political and social environment that we have experienced for four years. Have the political disagreements and divisions become so entrenched that they reflect new norms? While our divisiveness already existed, the current tribalism seems extreme.

The consternation on the losing side, along with the pronouncements, accusations, and allegations of voter fraud and suppression, continues. If anything, the allegations are becoming the new norm in some circles. Being a graceful loser in our current environment might not be possible. Because one side pre-planted the seeds for a “rigged election,” when that side lost, the leaders were expected to continue to claim fraud with the intent to discredit the election. Maybe it is another “deep state” conspiracy theory. I wonder what Q thinks. Of course, I wonder who Q is and why anyone would believe the absurd beliefs they tout.

The discourse before the election was not normal in that for someone

to accept or not accept the outcome of an election was dependent upon their position in the outcome. When I say it is not normal, I am referring to normal behaviors in Democracies. Not accepting a loss is normal in autocracies, where the leader always wins, and the elections are held in a one-party state. One-party governments include communist regimes, fascist states, and or the plain Jane dictator models. Many say and believe we were heading in that direction.

We have a history of teaching sportsmanship in athletic competitions, meaning if you lose square and fair, you congratulate your opponent. Historically, in politics, that culture of being a good sport usually meant that the loser would acknowledge the loss and congratulate the winner. If that does not happen, in which direction does the country move? If the followers and believers of the losing party do not accept the results, how will that affect the governance for the next four years?

If we expect our democracy not just to continue but to progress, we need to heal the divisions between us. Many on both sides believe the other side is the enemy and that we should not talk to the enemy. While our differences exist, we also have a lot in common, more than we normally think about. We like to be safe,

live in a nice home, have a secure job with good pay and health insurance at a reasonable cost, and have good schools. When we look in that direction, we find our similarities. I believe that everyone has a right to their opinions, and we should encourage meaningful interactions and discussions. It is all right to disagree.

Even if the election did not turn out as you expected, we still have several reasons to celebrate. The first being that the election is over. Your telephone will not be going to voice mail 30 to 40 times a day for political purposes. While the pollsters and campaigns will stop calling for your opinion and your money, the other markets will still be there. The numerous, please give will still be calling; after all, it is time to take care of the poor. We also have the cheaper insurance calls, the warranty extension offers, and lest we forget, your social security number has been hacked and call us right away about someone using your credit card. Oh, and please have your cards handy when you call.

Probably, the best reason for optimism and good spirits is the Christmas season has arrived. The really nice thing about the holidays is that we get to see and enjoy our family. Conversely, the bad part is that we get to see our family. This year is a little dif-

ferent; with the Covid19 virus, we have an excuse not to see some family members, especially those who voted for the wrong candidate. Don't get me wrong, I don't mind people with different opinions, but sometimes they can be obnoxious. For those people, we can have meaningful interactions after the holidays. The limits on gatherings also include our neighbors and friends, which is truly unfortunate, since many of whom we would like to see, sometimes more than some family members.

Another desirable aspect of the season is the gift-giving traditions. Everyone likes receiving gifts unless we are talking about neckties or talking tree ornaments. I should include the Clapper and other items sold on television commercials in the group of poor ideas for gifts. In some circles, not seeing someone over the holidays means you are not required to purchase the holiday gifts. I find that theory unkind and would not entertain any such abhorrent behavior. Some people do not have any sense of politeness and decency, especially during the holidays.

It is the Season for giving to others. I have already purchased most of my gifts. For several years I purchase most of my gifts at a fine chocolate shop. If I do not see the intended recipient, I can mail the gift. Everyone likes receiving edible gifts, especially older persons, not unlike myself.

Since I will not be seeing some family members and friends, I decided to write letters and send them with my Christmas cards and gifts. I think it adds a personal touch and tells the recipient that I really care.

My first letter.

Dear, brother Earl,

I hope this Christmas note finds you well and in good spirits. I understand these are difficult times, but the election is over, and we can feel hope and optimism with the holiday spirit.

We hope to see you after the pandemic, but we are unsure how long that will be. Please stay safe and tell everyone we are thinking of them.

We purchased you a nice box of chocolates and intended to mail them to you. However, with the mail being awfully slow and ever-changing weather, we were worried that the chocolates might melt. We did not want you to receive a box with a melted glob, so we indulged. You can take heart; they were delicious, and we were thinking of you while enjoying them.

PS., we are sorry that your candidate lost in the election; hopefully, the enclosed Chia Pet will you cheer up. The lettuce it grows is edible.

Merry Christmas.

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

American Mind

Anonymity? Privacy? Nope.

Mark Greathouse

Have you ever sought genuine privacy? Free from your buying habits being tracked? Free from prying eyes tracking your Internet history? Free from anyone knowing where you've been or where you're going? Have you yearned to be able to truly hide? To be anonymous?

Can we achieve anonymity? Can we hope for any privacy? Can we ever hope to be truly free, as in no one violating our private space? In an era of big-tech corporate giants glomming onto details of our personal lives six ways to Sunday, it seems just about impossible for us to hide from prying eyes. What myriad surveillance cameras and GPS enablers don't capture, Google, Facebook, Twitter, and their ilk enthusiastically record for posterity. Do you use a credit card? Piece of cake for authorities to track where you've used it. Raising funds, using a bank...it's all being tracked. Then, there are our huge, metastasizing state and federal governments that demand all sorts of information ranging from taxes to the abundant regulatory compliances that require permissions and still more information about you. Register your car? Register your gun? Escape? You ever hear of “terms of use?” I must suppress the urge to offer a gazillion LOLs.

There are “escapes” of sorts from online information larceny and deception like DuckDuckGo,

Gab, DLive, Parler, and ProtonMail, but they as yet lack significant muscle. As to the government hoarding of our information, so long as we vote in politicians that grow government and employ bureaucrats that perpetuate data collection...well, blame falls in our very own laps. As a last resort, you can chuck your phone and credit cards and go live the life of a hermit somewhere in the wilds of North America. Lots of luck with that.

There are upsides to some of these freedom-stealing devices. Surveillance cameras can come in handy in video-taping perpetrators of crimes, recording accidents, controlling traffic, and the like. GPS sure is handy in helping us find our destinations. To a degree, we seem willing to pay a price for these intrusions into our privacy.

We are not anonymous and likely never again will be. Our challenge is what do we do about it? The scariest part is how the big-tech corporate oligarchies and our governments use our information. Let's face it; they can be quite intrusive. Your buying habits can be traced resulting in advertising thrust at you per the whim of some algorithm that deems it appropriate to those habits. Your deepest, darkest online secrets can be exposed. You can be “cancelled” for espousing politics counter to the views of those big-tech oligarchs. Your posted opinions can be deemed offensive according to some vague ever-changing stan-

dard and deleted by an unfeeling, pretty-much-anonymous algorithm. Talk about lack of anonymity, a delete by big-tech can follow you the rest of your life – even if the big-tech bullies were mistaken.

Folks often reflexively compare this situation to Big Brother in George Orwell's famous novel 1984. We voluntarily stand before a two-way telescreen several times a day offering up our personal lives on the altar of information control. But it's worse than that. Just as with Orwell's classic, the very media we connect with are indoctrinating us, brainwashing us with their particular slant on history and culture. Big-tech oligarchs now fancy themselves the arbiters of truth. They not only capture our lives, but they determine what we can and cannot see. Language is cancelled, ideas are cancelled, free speech is no longer free. What data they cannot pull from you voluntarily, they will extort by threat of suspending your privileges.

Religion, gender, race, environment, guns, property rights, and more cultural issues are under ever-more-intense biased assault by leftist ideologues who condescendingly consider themselves superior in intellect to the “deplorable” or “undeserving” masses that hold what have long been held as traditional American values. They view the U.S. Constitution as a worthless scrap created by old white men not enlightened by the glorious globalist world of socialist success...oops...sorry, there's actually never been socialist success anytime or

anywhere. Besides, it most often turns into totalitarianism. Equal misery for all.

The big-tech oligarchies operate under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act which grants them wide-ranging immunities from liability that enable them to censor freely and do as they will with our private information. They effectively answer only to themselves, not to the people.

Is there a way out of the lack-of-privacy morass we face? That anonymity thing sure sounds attractive. Escape would be great, though we'd sure miss friends and family. (I find myself hoping for some modern version of John Galt...oh, you'd have to read Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged to understand that reference.) Just how do we bring the behemoths of information under our control? Do we break up Google like we did years back with Ma Bell? What about Facebook and Twitter? How do we rein in their intrusive censorship? Where is our anonymity? Where indeed are our freedoms? Lots of questions. The answers entail heavy lifting to offset big money. Twitter has recently received wrist-slap fines for political campaign violations and the Department of Justice is pursuing antitrust violations against Google, but these efforts are inadequate at best.

I do have to admit to escaping, at least in my own mind, by writing novels, scripts, and poetry mostly about the freedoms of the old frontier days of the American west. No surveillance cameras or GPS tracking on the wide-open prairies. Thanks to a great pub-

lisher, I'm blessed to be able to share those escapes with readers. But the world of escape into the literary arts is a band-aid at best.

So, I'll tell you honest and tell you true, we either get used to the lack-of-privacy dilemma or we support initiatives that grab it back. Online media alternatives are a start, as are electing legislators willing to take on the big-tech oligarchs. Missouri's Senator Josh Hawley took on an antitrust initiative against Google back when he was that state's attorney general and last year introduced the “Ending Support for Internet Censorship Act” in the U.S. Senate which modifies Section 230. Hawley's bill doesn't solve all of the privacy problem, but at least it's a start. Privacy problems are going to metastasize at an exponential rate, if we don't deal with them now.

Considering that your personal data has intrinsic value and if you're feeling feisty, send those big-tech oligarchs an invoice for the use of your personal information. Market research companies pay folks that participate in focus groups, why shouldn't big tech pay you? Insert laugh track here.

Worries about religious persecution, genderism, racism, environmentalism, gun rights, property rights, and the like will be the least of our worries if Big Brother isn't brought to a screeching halt today. We can all do our parts no matter how seemingly small, but we dare not ignore the problem of stolen privacy, the theft of the last shreds of our anonymity.

To read past editions of American Mind, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Bulwark

Authoritarianism & the GOP

Richard Patterson

A fear of displacement helps explain the profound emotional connection between Trump and his base — which is instinctively authoritarian and anti-democratic.

This linkage is captured through research by Political scientist Larry Bartels. Bartels surveyed respondents regarding four statements which, taken together, read like a blueprint for Trump:

- The traditional American way of life is disappearing so fast that we may have to use force to save it.
- A time will come when patriotic Americans have to take the law into their own hands.
- Strong leaders sometimes have to bend the rules in order to get things done.
- It is hard to trust the results of elections when so many people will vote for anyone who offers a handout.

Bartels found that: “Most Republicans and Republican-leaning independents agreed with the first statement. Nearly three-quarters agreed that election results should be treated with skepticism.” Republicans and Republican-leaning independents were also “significantly more likely to say they agreed with the other two statements than that they disagreed.”

“Ethnic antagonism,” Bartels said, is “the most powerful factor associated with willingness to resort to force in pursuit of political ends and support for ‘patriotic Americans’ taking the law into their own hands and ‘strong leaders’ bending rules.” This lies at the heart of Trump’s appeal: his shared sense of

victimization by an insidious elite; his unvarnished denunciation of white America’s supposed enemies; and his promise to keep them at bay—if necessary, by force. For many in the Republican base, he fulfills a psychic longing for an American strongman.

This will to autocracy as self-defense is supplemented by fundamentalist fanaticism. In the New York Times, Katherine Stewart describes the growth of “a radical political ideology that is profoundly hostile to democracy and pluralism, and a certain political style that seeks to provoke moral panic, rewards the paranoid and views every partisan conflict as a conflagration, the end of the world.”

Further, Stewart observes, “Christian nationalism is a creation of a uniquely isolated messaging sphere. Many members of the rank and file get their main political information not just from messaging platforms that keep their audiences in a world that is divorced from reality, but also from dedicated religious networks and reactionary faith leaders.” Their unwavering loyalty despite Trump’s glaring personal faults is, she adjures, “proof enough that the religious-nationalist end of the right-wing information bubble has gotten more, not less, resistant over time.”

This compound of racial, cultural, and religious anxiety drives the GOP’s longstanding aversion to minority voting rights—and to representative governance in an increasingly diverse society. As Republican strategists well appreciate, a party whose appeal is confined to conservative whites is, over the demographic long term, doomed to defeat. The GOP’s design is to postpone as

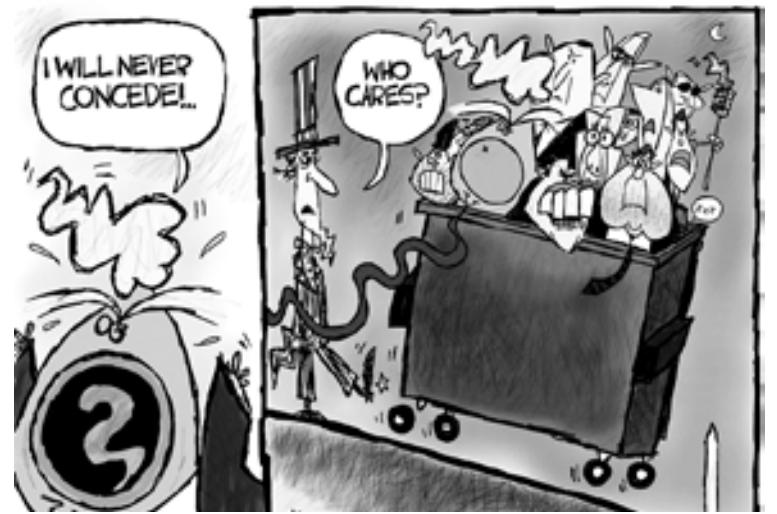
long as possible their electoral day of reckoning.

The party’s efforts to suppress the nonwhite electorate through voter ID laws, upheld by its conservative Supreme Court majority, have been amply documented—as have its massive voter purges and poll closures in minority precincts.

But these subversions of the popular will, however grotesque, merely serve as the gateway to Trump’s efforts to steal the presidency by rigging the Electoral College to reverse Joe Biden’s indubitable victory. In launching his naked attempt to disenfranchise the majority of voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin through assertions of fraud unprecedented in their speciousness and scope, Trump took the GOP’s distaste for free and fair elections to its logical conclusion: the abrogation of American democracy at the highest level.

Trump justified his anti-democratic sociopathy by proliferating a plethora of groundless and preposterous falsehoods calculated to delegitimize our electoral processes. He claimed that millions of phony mail-in ballots had been cast for Biden; that voting machines had been re-engineered to exclude millions more cast for him; and that Republican election observers had been excluded from many polling places by a host of local officials bent on serving a labyrinthine conspiracy to purloin the White House.

Subjected to an embarrassing series of defeats in the court, Trump then turned to attacks on long-established norms which exposed the seamy reality of banana Republicanism: By attempting to prevent partisan local and state officials from certifying the results confirming Biden’s victory, Trump hoped to persuade Republican state legislators to appoint a rival slate of Trump



electors and then ask the Congress to choose them over Biden’s—or at least to judge enough electoral votes unsettled to throw the decision to the House of Representatives. The House would presumably then hand Trump a second term because, per the constitutional provision for “contingent” elections that was last used in 1825, each state delegation would get one vote—and at least 26 delegations in the new Congress will contain more Republicans than Democrats.

One can fairly ask whether, in a closer election, Republicans would have pushed even harder to give Trump a second term he had lost at the ballot box. And even now one can ascertain the ongoing harm to our democracy from Trump’s aborted efforts.

One danger has become abundantly clear: far too many elected Republicans are just fine with Trump’s anti-democratic moves, or at least would not honor their sworn responsibility to defend the Constitution from his depredations—often because they are simply too terrified of their party’s base, and the voracious right-wing media which inflames it.

Ultimately, this otherworldly obduracy stems from Trump’s manifest psy-

chological illness: his imperishable narcissism; his ineradicable drive to be noticed; his relentless need to dominate; his comprehensive carelessness of all considerations save what pleases him in the moment. Television turned this moral pygmy into a mythic figure—and he cannot let go.

His loyal supporters reciprocate his needs. They will become whatever he desires—the base for his political comeback; the funders for his PAC; the audience for his new media entity. Their devotion will make a pilgrimage to Mar-a-Lago de rigueur for Republican officeholders ambitious to rise.

The consequences are inescapable. Republican elites want very much to turn the page on Donald Trump following his loss. But . . . they do not have any say in the matter, because their party now belongs to him.

For the foreseeable future, Trumpism will define the GOP. The path to regeneration runs not through reform but, one fears, must proceed from self-destruction. The wait time will be painful for the party, and fateful for the country.

To read past editions of *The Bulwark*, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

Down Under

The making of history

Lindsay Coker

What we may be witnessing is... the end of history as such. —Francis Fukuyama, 1989

You may not realise it, but the 2020 election has made world history.

For the first time, the result of a democratic election produced a result that was not based on political beliefs or ideology, party registration or history, but one based on a simple Yes/No question: “Do you want Donald Trump to lead the Nation?”

The result was an overwhelming “NO!” as about 60% of you pulled back from the brink of total collapse. Beliefs about capitalism, socialism, free markets and world leadership were disregarded. The disgust at the lies, the lack of decency, the total immersion in narcissistic self-glorification, the cover ups and arbitrary sacking of anyone who would not lick his shoes — all this became more than could be borne.

Yes, he was and still is liked (‘revered’, may be closer), because his message and attitude resonated with the millions who had been trashed by their employers, left destitute, ignored by the Democrats, (Hillary Clinton’s ‘unfortunates’ was more than insulting), and screwed by the

system. They and many other republicans had been made to fear the arrival of, horror of horrors, communism. That arch-enemy of Democracy, Rupert Murdoch, stirred up a storm of fear in all his media companies, yet even that could not hide the smell of imbecility emerging from the White house every day.

So we have a new President in what, in some ways, is a new country. One that has passed from plaything to working model needing an oil change and grease. And that is going to be the hardest task anyone has ever undertaken, and one that will not get done quickly — but he will start. And he has the best VP ever elected. Vice President Elect Kamilla Harris has impeccable credentials, wide experience, and expertise in areas Jo does not.

She too is part of history — the first person of colour to be vice president, whose values are totally democratic, who speaks without rant or hypocrisy in such a commanding voice that you want to listen. A capable team that was needed as never before.

Their immediate task is to turn back the COVID-19 tide that is swamping the country, because growth will stall until it does. In this the governors of most states will be on board — politics notwithstanding — because they are aware of the consequences if they don’t.

Yes, vaccines are being developed with unbelievable speed, but they are by no means guaranteed to be available for mass inoculations next year, and competing brands will confuse the results.

It is not just those who can pay for it that will need it, but everyone — or the virus will keep on keeping on. That means a government led universal and free service, which is, of course, socialism. The old system was becoming incapable of working properly in this day and age — population growth, pollution, the top 5% with 95% of the wealth — all these make fending for yourself impossible, but something like Obama-care will emerge.

I’m sure the senate will block it, but the need will not go away and America will never be great again until ALL the people are considered.

COVID-19 is not the greatest challenge, of course. The next is the economy. Yes, manufacturing is up, but the cost of the virus has not yet been felt. It will be greater than anyone imagines, (although there have recently been some excellent articles on this), and will affect businesses for years to come.

But the crown goes to China. They have been snapping at your heels for decades, determined to redress their perceived humiliations of last century by becoming the most powerful and influential nation. They set out to do this when Mao went. Not bothered by rules and protocol, they stole, copied, subverted and tricked businesses and technology into obtaining what-

ever was needed. As the world’s cheapest manufacturers of household goods, they gave credit to whoever would stock their goods, finishing up owning about 30 % of your economy. A state run economy could do that, and it soon became a battle of ideologies — Communism vs Capitalism — and until recently it was obvious who was winning. (Yes, it was Capitalism).

Then the Trump cancer arrived, taking systems off the table and replacing them with narcissism.

Well, that was new, but so stupid that once China had recovered its wits they knew it was time. Time to flex their muscles, their currencies, their superiority in technology and their grasp of international finance.

And get this: The research that produced the first 5G network took 20 years, a far longer time than any U.S. company would allow.

I’m sure Joe Biden is aware of all that, and I’m glad it’s him and no one else, because he has the experience and intelligence to appoint aides and ministers capable of pulling this rabbit out of the hat. Already the stamp of reason is appearing, and while his predecessor is hanging onto his comfort blanket, Joe is preparing to fight the biggest battle the world has ever seen.

At the same time he is beginning to repair the international damage Trump wrought. Allies are valued, not insulted. Threats are identified and named, not fawned upon. Trade relationships are

being reexamined, America’s reputation is being dry-cleaned, the Stars and Stripes are being raised as symbols of strength and hope.

And for us here in Australia, we have had to grow up quickly. Caught between China and their purchase of iron ore, which is a mere 36% of all exports, and yourselves, to whom we look for support as an ally, and who has been the nation we saw as our big brother (no pun intended) for seventy years, we faced a choice that left us gagging.

It was a choice we feared had been removed when Trump asked for an explanation of why China had unleashed a virus on him — and we, brown nosed to the last, did the same.

Instant and continued trade sanctions. Wine, coal, exotics like rock lobster — all were found unsafe or unfit. And with an economy reeling from Covid lockdowns, any loss of income is terrible.

We began to imagine what it would be like under Chinese rule. We quaked and cringed, but now — at last — a gleam of light.

O say can you see by the dawn’s early light. What so proudly we bailed at the twilight’s last gleaming Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

To read past editions of *the Down Under*, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Trusting God when it's difficult



Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

I wonder if any of you have begun playing the “what if” game this year? What I mean is that you find yourself frequently asking yourself “what if” so-and-so happens. You may be asking “what if” I get sick or “what if” considering the political and racial division in our country? And honestly, we are living in a complicated time, because there’s all this tension, and it seems as if it’s easier than ever to get caught up in the “what if” game. And yet, for many of us we want to trust the Lord, but we find that it is incredibly difficult because the future is so uncertain.

It’s in that context that I’d like to share with you an important time in history when much like today, trusting God was very difficult. In fact, there is this godly couple who has prayed and prayed for a son, they’re waiting and yet there was no answer.

As they’re waiting and serving God they’re watching the erosion of the culture of Israel. And so, this is the atmosphere of this text, the people of God are trying to hold onto their culture, they no longer have a sovereign king in Israel, and they’re oppressed by the Roman Empire.

The Scriptures tell us that at that time, “There was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commandments and regulations blamelessly, but they had no children” (Luke 1:5-7). And so, now we find Zechariah struggling with the very real possibility of losing the succession of priests in his family because he had no son.

This text is more than a prelude to the Christmas story, it’s about a people fighting for who they are. The priesthood was one of the last

threads of their culture because it was the priesthood that gave them their identity as the people of God. And so, they’re going through the rituals and ceremonies because that’s the only thing they’ve got left. Zechariah is holding on to what he has, “because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years” (Luke 1:7). In other words, they’ve prayed and prayed for a son, but God hasn’t answered that prayer yet.

And so, what was once a glimmer of hope for the succession of the priesthood has now grown dim for Zechariah, but “Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.” And so, with relentless determination Zechariah shuffles into the temple to maintain some semblance of who he is and who they are as a people. “And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside” (Luke 1:8-10).

He’s lighting the incense as his fathers have done for centuries, because this is his culture, this is his identity, and this is all that he has left. Zechariah is praying on the inside and the people are praying on the outside, they’re going through the routine, doing what they normally do, and they’re not really expecting anything to happen, when suddenly, “an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.” (Luke 1:11-12).

Just imagine you’ve gone into the deepest recesses of the holy place, it’s quiet, you’re used to praying and not getting an answer when suddenly God sent an angel. He was gripped with fear, but the angel said, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard” (Luke 1:13). God said, “I heard you” and his prayer had started the conversation in heaven. You see, Zechariah’s prayer was a bridge to heaven and it was his prayer that opened the door for Gabriel to come in. The angel said, “Your prayer has been heard.

Emmitsburg Council of Churches cancels Christmas tour of churches

What a year! How many events have been cancelled! How much fellowship postponed? The ECC regretfully cancels the 2020 Christmas Tour of Churches. The Tour would have placed tour participants and congregations at

an unacceptable risk from COVID-19. Our greatest priority is the well being of each and every person. We consider each person a child of God, a sister or brother.

May the Lord bless and keep everyone during these difficult times.

Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John” (Luke 1:13).

Now, what do you do when you find yourself wanting to believe, wanting to trust God, but it’s just so difficult? Zechariah recognized the impossibility, it had been so long, he was struggling with disbelief, and so he asked the angel: “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.”

In other words, God was getting ready to break the rules, he was going to do something in spite of the evidence; and we’ve got to understand that there is a God in heaven who will often wait until it’s an impossible situation, so that you know that if it hadn’t been the Lord there’s no way it could’ve been done. And so, the angel said, “Now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time” (Luke 1:18-20). And so, God put Zechariah in a position where he couldn’t mess it up and all the people would know that it was God who did this.

You see, God was preparing to do something new, it was going to be creative, it wasn’t going to make sense, and I’m sure there are some of you who have been struggling to believe. It’s been difficult, but until what’s happening in your church starts happening in your house, until your religion breaks out of a designated hour and your faith makes the journey back home, you’ll never see miracles manifested in your life. The Bible says, “When (Zechariah’s) time of service was completed, he returned home” (Luke 1:23). And this was important because he needed to believe what he heard in the temple and he would have to act on it when he got home. He did believe and the Scripture says, “After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant” (Luke 1:24).

In the same way, we need to trust that God is working in all things for

our good. And I understand that for many of you it doesn’t make sense, it feels like it’s too late, it’s the wrong season, the odds are against you, but there’s something in you that is stirring. You see, God is moving and “when it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son” (Luke 1:57). This is why trusting in the Lord is so important, because this will lead to that, and there’s something else coming, something bigger, something greater than you could ever imagine.

On the eighth day, when they came to circumcise the child, they were going to name him after his father, but his mother said, “No!” And so, “they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God” (Luke 1:62-64). This was something new, the neighbors were filled with awe, because they recognized that the Lord’s hand was on this child.

It was their son John, who grew up dedicating his life to telling people about one who was coming, one who was greater than he, and he pointed them to Jesus Christ, the one who was “born king of the Jews” (Matthew 2:2). Jesus was the Son of David who would “become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God” (Hebrews 2:17).

And so, like Zechariah and Elizabeth, we must let go of our own understanding and choose to trust in God’s plan and his purposes because they are so much higher than what we have the ability to understand. I pray for great faith for those of you reading this, because God has heard your prayers, and I pray that the purpose of the Lord will come to pass in your life. God bless you.

To learn more about Christ Community Church visit them online at ccaog.org, or better yet, join them for their Dec 23rd Christmas Night of Service.

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unto us a son is given: Isaiah 9:6*

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Christmas Eve Traditions of Old



With Christmas Eve, the Christmas holidays may practically be said to commence, though, according to ecclesiastical computation, the festival really begins on the 16th of December, or the day which is distinguished in the calendar as O. Sapientia, from the name of an anthem, sung during Advent. It is proper, however, to state that there seems to be a discrepancy of opinion on this point, and that, in the judgment of some, the true Christmas festival does not commence till the evening before Christmas Day.

The season is held to terminate on 1st of February, or the evening before the Purification of the Virgin (Candlemas Day), by which date, according to the ecclesiastical canons, all the Christmas decorations must be removed from the churches. In common parlance, certainly, the Christmas holidays comprehend a period of nearly a fortnight, commencing on Christmas Eve, and ending on Twelfth Day. The whole of this season is still a jovial one, abounding in entertainments and merry-makings of all sorts, but is very much changed from what it used to be with our ancestors in feudal times, when it was an almost unintermitted round of feasting and jollity.

To investigate the origin of many of our Christmas customs, it becomes necessary to wander far back into the regions of past time, long ere Julius Caesar had set his foot on our shores, or St. Augustine preached the doctrines of Christianity to the men of Kent.

We have frequently, in the course of this work, had occasion to remark on the numerous traces still visible in popular customs of the old pagan rites and ceremonies. These were extensively retained after the conversion of Britain to Christianity, partly because the Christian teachers found it impossible to wean their converts from their cherished superstitions and observances, and partly because they themselves, as a matter of expediency, ingrafted the rites of the Christian religion on the old heathen ceremonies, believing that thereby the cause of the Cross would be rendered more acceptable to the generality of the populace, and thus be more effectually promoted.

By such an amalgamation, no festival of the Christian year was more thoroughly characterized than Christmas; the festivities of which, originally derived from the Roman Saturnalia, had afterwards been intermingled with the ceremonies observed by the British Druids at the period of the winter-solstice, and at a subsequent period became incorporated with the grim mythology of the ancient Saxons.

Two popular observances belonging to Christmas are more especially derived from the worship of our pagan ancestors—the hanging up of the mistletoe, and the burning of the Yule log.

As regards the former of these practices, it is well known that, in the religion of the Druids, the mistletoe was regarded with the utmost veneration, though the reverence which

they paid to it seems to have been restricted to the plant when found growing on the oak—the favorite tree of their divinity Tutanus.

At the period of the winter-solstice, a great festival was celebrated in his honour. When the sacred anniversary arrived, the ancient Britons, accompanied by their priests, the Druids, sallied forth with great pomp and rejoicings to gather the mystic parasite, which, in addition to the religious reverence with which it was regarded, was believed to possess wondrous curative powers. When the oak was reached on which the mistletoe grew, the chief Druid, clothed in white (the emblem of purity), ascended, and, with a golden knife, cut the sacred plant, which was caught by another priest in the folds of his robe and various festivities followed.

The mistletoe thus gathered, was divided into small portions, and distributed among the people, who hung up the sprays over the entrances to their dwellings, as a propitiation and shelter to the sylvan deities during the season of frost and cold. These rites in connection with the mistletoe, were retained throughout the Roman dominion in Britain, and also for a long period under the sovereignty of the Jutes, Saxons, and Angles.

The special custom connected with the mistletoe on Christmas Eve, and an indubitable relic of the days of Drui-

dis, handed down through a long course of centuries, must be familiar to all our readers. A branch of the mystic plant is suspended from the wall or ceiling, and any one of the fair sex, who, either from inadvertence, or, as possibly may be insinuated, on purpose, passes beneath the sacred spray, incurs the penalty of being then and there kissed by any lord of the creation who chooses to avail himself of the privilege.

The burning of the Yule log is an ancient Christmas ceremony, transmitted to us from our Scandinavian ancestors, who, at their feast of Juul, at the winter-solstice, used to kindle huge bonfires in honour of their god Thor. The custom, though sadly shorn of the 'pomp and circumstance' which formerly attended it, is still maintained in various parts of the country.

The bringing in and placing of the ponderous block on the hearth of the wide chimney in the baronial hall was the most joyous of the ceremonies observed on Christmas Eve in feudal times. The venerable log, destined to crackle a welcome to all-comers, was drawn in triumph from its resting-place at the feet of its living brethren of the woods. Each wayfarer raised his hat as it passed, for he well knew that it was full of good promises, and that its flame would burn out old wrongs and hearthumings, and cause the liquor to bubble in the wassail-bowl, that was quaffed to the drowning of ancient

feuds and animosities. Tradition has it that one should lay aside the half-consumed block after having served its purpose on Christmas Eve, preserving it carefully in a cellar or other secure place till the next anniversary of Christmas, and then lighting the new log with the charred remains of its predecessor. The due observance of this custom was considered of the highest importance, and it was believed that the preservation of last year's Christmas log was a most effectual security to the house against fire.

We are further informed, that it was regarded as a sign of very bad-luck if a squinting person entered the hall when the log was burning, and a similarly evil omen was exhibited in the arrival of a bare-footed person, and, above all, of a flat-footed woman!

A belief was long current in Devon and Cornwall, and perhaps still lingers both there and in other remote parts of the country; that at mid-night, on Christmas Eve, the cattle in their stalls fall down on their knees in adoration of the infant Saviour, in the same manner as the legend reports them to have done in the stable at Bethlehem. Bees were also said to sing in their hives at the same time, and bread baked on Christmas Eve, it was averred, never became mouldy.

To read more selections from Robert Chamber's *The Book of Days* visit www.thebookofdays.com.

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ECOLOGY

Conifers, or are they Evergreens?

Elizabeth Ryan
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

December is the month that everyone is thinking about Christmas. A great tradition is to pick out a Christmas tree (or grab your artificial, plastic one out of storage). Then of course there's the age-old debate of live versus fake trees for Christmas. When I was dating my now fiancé, he really wanted a fake tree (he's a bit of a clean freak and didn't want needles everywhere). I disagreed to the strongest level. My family always had a live tree and, in my mind, that was what we were doing.

This "argument" originally started in the summer. We decided to write up this fake contract on a piece of scrap paper that we put on the fridge that said that he agreed to have a real Christmas tree under certain parameters (it needed to be taken down by January 15th and be a tree that we could plant after Christmas).

So, this brings me to the discussion of how did people adopt the tradition of cutting down a tree for Christmas?

It is said that Germans first started the Christmas tree tradition in the 16th century. They would cut down an evergreen to bring inside and decorate with candles. German settlers brought this tradition to America (Pennsylvania specifically) sometime during the 19th century. People thought it was quite odd at first. This tradition was thought of as a pagan symbol.

In 1846, Queen Victoria of England was sketched as gathered around a Christmas tree with her family. It was then that the tradition of Christmas trees caught on in America. Americans began decorating Christmas trees with handmade ornaments, popcorn, berries, and nuts. With the invention of electricity came the addition of Christmas lights on the tree. In 1931, the first Christmas tree was placed in the Rockefeller Center in New York City. The first tree was a small tree with no decorations. Two years later, they placed another tree. This time, with lights, as so the tradition continues today.

And so our dilemma continues.... After determining that we want a live Christmas, next comes the selection of a Christmas tree. What is a Christmas tree - a conifer or an evergreen?

These two terms are often used synonymously.

A conifer is simply a tree or shrub that produces cones. An evergreen is a tree or shrub that keeps its leaves (needles) all year long. Most conifers are evergreen, but not all, and not all evergreens are conifers. Crazy, right?

Evergreens/conifers are the epitome of winter. These are the trees that we think about when we think of snow in a forest resting peacefully on their branches. When we think of conifers, we often think of the cones they bare, which make great additions to many of our holiday decorations. Evergreens

are thought of for the branches they provide for our perfect Christmas tree!

Evergreens are plants that hold their leaves or needles through the winter. We have a few species of native evergreens in our forests- both ground cover, shrubs and trees. These include the Christmas Fern, mountain laurel, inkberry holly, American holly, red cedar, white pine, and the eastern hemlock, all of which we can find in leaf through the winter months.

The Christmas fern grows all over the forest of Strawberry Hill. Because this ground cover remains green all year, some people like to use it in their Christmas decorations- hence the name Christmas fern. It has dark green, leathery looking fronds and grows in shady areas. The leaflets of this fern also have a "foot-like" appearance. Many think these leaflets look like stockings. Others think it looks like Santa's sleigh when it's turned on its side.

Mountain laurels are a native, evergreen shrub (and are also Pennsylvania's state flower!). Mountain laurels keep their foliage all year long. They produce beautiful flowers that are white in color with stripes of pink. They bloom in May-June. It can grow between 7-15 feet tall and wide. They have dark green leaves that are similar to a rhododendron. They are typically found in shady, rocky areas in the forest.

Inkberry hollies are another species of native evergreen found from Nova Scotia all the way down to Texas.



Evergreens are the epitome of winter. They are the trees that we think about when we think of snow in a forest resting peacefully on their branches.

It's a large shrub growing 6-8 feet tall and 8-10 feet wide. Many use this shrub for natural screening, foundation plantings, and mass plantings. It's easy to maintain, the leaves are small and rounded, and can be substituted for boxwood. They also make great wreaths!

Red cedars are a prickly evergreen with scale-like foliage. They are salt tolerant so they are commonly found near roadways and sidewalks. Growing up, these grew everywhere in my parent's woods. My mom and I would go out in the woods every Christmas and cut down a small cedar. We would then decorate it inside as a mini Christmas tree (along with our large, Canaan fir.)

Then there's the infamous white pine. The classic and beautiful evergreen that is found all over our forests here and all over eastern North America. The needles of this tree are found in fascicles (bundles) of 5, a key identification feature. Its cones are slender and between 3-6 inches long. Studies show that between the ages of 15-45 years old, this tree can grow at a rate of 3 feet per year. This tree is now commonly used in plantations for lumber. Its needles can also be used in teas. This is also a popular Christmas tree. On Christmas tree farms, these plants handle shearing, a key to growing a Christmas tree.

Pennsylvania's state tree is the Eastern Hemlock. It produces tiny cones that almost look like Christmas ornaments. A healthy tree can reach heights of 100 feet tall. This tree is being threatened by the invasive hemlock wooly adelgid- a bug that sucks sap from tree. The wooly adelgid just looks like a fuzzy white dot at the bottom of the needles. The oldest eastern hemlock was found in Pennsylvania and was around 550 years old! This is not a great choice for a Christmas tree as it drops its needles very quickly when

brought inside. If using this tree, consider using it as a live tree (with a root ball) and keep it outside.

One tree that I like to mention is the American Larch. It is not a native to Pennsylvania but is an interesting species. The American Larch is a conifer, but not an evergreen. It's deciduous. In the fall, its needles turn a beautiful yellow color. Then, they all drop! Often people think the tree is dying, but not the case. In the winter, the tree does look dead, with no foliage, but still holds on to its cones. Because these trees go completely dormant during the winter, they can be found as far north as the Arctic Circle!

Firs and spruce are the trees commonly grown as Christmas trees. Although most are not native to Pennsylvania or Maryland, they still grow well here and are typically our go-to trees for the holiday season. Blue spruce, Douglas fir, Canaan fir and Fraser fir are all commonly grown.

Evergreens offer a sign of hope. No matter how hard the times are, they still survive and stay green in the hardest of times. I encourage you in this difficult time we are in, to get outside. Go on a hike and look for some of these kinds of native evergreens.

And the tree we chose this Christmas season? A Fraser fir all the way! After all, tradition is tradition!

Strawberry Hill is open everyday dawn to dusk. Over the past nine months, Strawberry Hill has been a haven, an escape, a gathering place. More than 3,000 visitors have found reprieve and sought solace in nature. If you have not had the chance, join us on a private, guided hike with a naturalist. Learn more about Strawberry Hill online at Strawberryhill.org or by calling 717-642-5840.

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IN THE COUNTRY

B is for Biscayne

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

Throughout winter many people's thoughts are turned toward snowscapes and ice-kissed imagery. However, if you need a break or a change of scenery, Biscayne National Park is a veritable watery wonderland. Located on the outskirts of metropolitan Miami, Florida is a 173,000 acre natural marine oasis. Only 5% of the park is dry land so if you want to see the other 95% you'll have to dive down into the shallow aquamarine waters.

Just below the surface you will find manatees and sea turtles grazing among verdant beds of seagrass, the world's third largest coral reef adorned with an array of colorful fish, and hidden treasures among sunken ruins alluding to the rich human history above the blue. Between 10,000 years of human history and four distinct ecosystems, the diversity found within this park both above and below the surface of the water is unparalleled.

Along the shoreline, among the tangled roots of the mangrove trees the lazily lapping waves find their terminus. The impenetrable knot of roots reaching up from the water just along the shoreline provides much more than a wavebreak. Mangrove trees slow the freshwater flow from the land into the bay keeping the salinity balance in check for a clean brackish water estuary. The densely jumbled roots provide shelter and a nursery for both commercial and endangered species alike. As the emerald mangrove leaves fall into the nursery below they break down becoming food for the tiny organisms nestled within the safety of the root system.

Away from the shoreline and protective shelter of the mangroves the park extends outward to Biscayne Bay. On a tranquil day it appears as if the sky melts into the sea as the sun skips across the horizon. Hidden within the lush seagrasses below the surface are countless species of fish, crustaceans, turtles, manatees, and more. These seagrass meadows are critically important to the overall health and ecology of the bay. As the fresh water flows bring nutrients from inland areas the grasses photosynthesize the light of the Florida sun turning both into valuable food sources while stabilizing the water quality. This shallow estuary is one of the most productive ecosystems in the park.

A little further out, small islands begin rising from the water. These are the beginning of the Florida Keys and they buttress Biscayne Bay from the Atlantic Ocean just beyond. Like pearls on a string, approximately 40 keys extend in a north-south line about 8 miles from the mainland. The islands provide crucial habitat for the endangered Schau's Swallowtail and Miami Blue butterflies. The islands also bear witness to the human history that has occurred within the park. The Tequesta Indians had extensive hunting and fishing camps throughout the islands. Mid-century pioneers farmed, fished, and salvaged what they could

from shipwrecks on the nearby coral reefs. Today, modern history features wealthy Miami elites building private party compounds, complete with ornamental lighthouses.

As the island shore slips below the surface, the land gradually descends further into the Atlantic away from metropolitan Miami towards an undersea city. Beyond the barrier islands forming the edge of Biscayne Bay are the coral tracts that form the northern edge of the Florida Reef system. Coral reefs are the most biologically diverse ecosystems on earth, with seemingly every square inch inhabited or occupied. The park is home to over 500 species of fish, each featuring a unique array of colors, shapes, and sizes. Fluorescent neons zoom past as an olive drab Moray Eel slinks back into its lair, while purple fans sway in the current surrounded by the colony.

Polyps are tiny coral animals that form the backbone of the community. They get calcium from the seawater and in turn use it to build cup-like exoskeletons to protect themselves. Generation after generation of these polyps consistently build up and create colonies. Colonies can form a variety of shapes, appearing as antlers, flowers, mounds, or other abstract designs. In the end, they collectively create the infrastructure the rest of the ecosystem lives and depends upon. Like reef systems across the globe, the Florida Reef system faces existential threats. Documented declines in overall fish species and bleaching are taking their toll on a fragile and taxed system. Warming ocean temperatures, an imbalance in water salinity, and the regularly recurring problems of "Red Tide," or algae blooms in Florida's waters are damaging the reefs. However, the conservation status as a National Park offers some protections which creates an environment that experiences fewer negative impact than reefs outside of park boundaries.



Biscayne Bay National Park protects 72,000 acres of the northernmost range of the Florida Reef Tract.

Biscayne National Park is rich with natural and biological resources, but it's also full of historical and cultural resources as well. Throughout the course of history there has been a parade of people leaving their mark on the landscape. 10,000 years ago the water level was considerably lower than present day. Approximately 4,500 years ago the seas began to rise and the bay was flooded, submerging the archaeological sites that are now frozen in time standing silent witness to the Tequesta and Glades people who inhabited these areas. As the Europeans began exploring these areas, their ships braved these shallow and treacherous waters. Many succumbed to shallow reef impacts, while others were brought down by pirates and privateers. Like a snapshot in time these underwater wrecks also provide a stationary window to the people who occupied this place in time.

A quirky village of elevated platform houses, known as Stiltsville, was erected in the 1930's to avoid Prohibition Era alcohol constraints. Today only seven of the original 30

elevated structures remain. As time marched forward wealthy industrialists and land developers of the early to mid-20th century built private and exclusive party encampments on the islands now contained in the park. The non-functioning ornamental lighthouse found on Boca Chita Key, the unofficial symbol of Biscayne National Park, is a remnant of this bygone era and the elite Cocolobo Club - which attracted Presidents Hoover, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon at various times in their lives.

Both above and below the aquamarine water Biscayne National Park is a testament to the diversity of the natural, cultural, and his-

toric resources found there. From the shoreline, in the shade of the mangrove trees, you can look out across the bay reflecting the pillowy clouds overhead and wonder where the sky ends and the sea begins. Interconnected ecosystems mix together creating a dazzling dance of colors and rhythms between the corals, keys, undersea grasses, and trees. While adjacent to one of the largest cities in the United States Biscayne National Park seems worlds away from the bustle of neighboring Miami.

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REAL SCIENCE

Protecting the environment (or not!)

Michael Rosenthal

As we all know, the current federal administration has shown no interest whatsoever in protecting the earth from climate change. Global warming is indeed real; it touches many aspects of life in this world, and it bodes poorly for the future of the planet if action is not taken to combat it. Either President Trump didn't believe in it, or he just didn't care. We will probably never know which is true.

All responsible scientists now believe without doubt that carbon dioxide, CO₂, methane, CH₄, and other greenhouse gases released from the burning of fossil fuels are making strong contributions to the warming of the earth. President-elect Biden has already discussed the issue of climate change with many European heads of state. He believes that this is an urgent issue that requires immediate action, and I absolutely agree. There is already a 300-page plan for a holistic approach to climate issues prepared by a team of former government officials, entitled the Climate 21 Project.

The report specifies dozens of ways greenhouse gases can be reduced. The Trump administration has ignored this report, increasing oil and gas drilling and eliminating, reducing, and ignoring laws that support pollution control. This is of particular interest to me. In previous articles I have described my journey from my education as a traditional

physical inorganic laboratory chemist to also an environmental scientist, during my 19 years at Bard College in the Hudson Valley of New York state.

Recommendations in the Climate 21 Project report include establishing a "Carbon Bank" that could pay farmers and forest owners to store carbon in their soils and lands, to continue to electrify car and truck production through the federal Transportation Department to reduce pollution from the burning of gasoline, and developing financial incentives that encourage carbon reductions through tax, budget and regulatory policies.

Many of these initiatives can be started by presidential action, while congressional action can hopefully follow. I certainly understand the importance of promoting successful business ventures, but one has to use some sense, I feel, to consider the damage to the environment and the long-term health of the only planet we have to live on. We must seek a balance between the two.

Ten percent of the earth has warmed 2 degrees Celsius, almost 4 degrees Fahrenheit, and though these numbers seem small to the average reader, climate scientists tell us that we are on the path to severe and irreversible damage to our planet. President-elect Biden has already expressed a plan that can face these issues and slow the temperature rise.

We need to develop policies that

do not get remade every time we change presidents. The Obama era was supportive of auto tailpipe emission standards. President Trump did all he could to weaken that effort. The auto industry is split on the issue, facing a conflict between profit and environmental protection. We need a policy that works to protect the earth and that lives on from administration to administration. It comes down to the conflict between the present and future of life on Earth, our only planet.

On a somewhat more entertaining subject, let's talk about paranormal powers. There are two kinds of magic. The magic which we know is show business and entertainment, and the magic we believe is real. I named this column Real Science to call attention to the work of those individuals who have set out to distinguish between pseudoscience, which is fine for entertainment purposes, and real science, that is consistent and follows the laws of nature without exception. The laws of nature cannot be modified by legislation (or by imagination or for profit!)

When I was very young in Youngstown, Ohio, I attended a theatre magic show where Blackstone The Magician, the most famous theater magician of the time, pulled a rabbit from a hat. Good entertainment indeed, but still he obeyed nature's laws. Oh yes, I was the 9 year-old called to



President-elect Biden's promise to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord has been greeted with open arms by environmentalists around the world.

the stage and awarded the rabbit! (I never have figured out why I was chosen). But my parents did not let me keep the rabbit. It did go to a good home, and we had a great dog at home. I don't to this day know how Blackstone did it, but it was illusion, not magic, I'm sure of that!

Toothpaste: a product so deeply ingrained in American culture that we take it for granted. There are many varieties of toothpaste on the market. When we leave our dentist's office for a checkup, we are always handed a packet containing a new toothbrush, and toothpaste. I've often wondered how our dentist chooses the toothpaste. Like all chemical products, toothpaste can be good for you or bad for you. In 2019 a chemical named triclosan was found in many types of toothpaste. Triclosan is an antibacterial chemical that helps prevent dental gingivitis. Research however found that triclosan may disrupt some thyroid hormones and immunity, and may also disrupt the effectiveness of antibiotics. It has been banned from hand soaps and body washes.

I have previously suggested to readers that you not take supplements unless they have FDA approval. The general worry with

commercial products is that they may contain dangerous chemicals. It is one thing not to be as effective as claimed, but for a chemical to be dangerous to your health is another story. The FDA, the Food and Drug Administration, is not immune for misjudgment or error, but your chances are much better that a product is safe and effective if it is FDA approved. Of course, you need to listen to the advice of your physician as well.

I was the health professions advisor in my first college teaching position, 19 years of service at Bard College in New York, and I can assure you that though many of my students who went to medical school were honest and capable of good advice, I couldn't say it was 100%. So now, I suggest that you take the advice of a board-certified physician, and do an online search for material about the drug. I also have a lot of faith in Consumer Reports and their findings, which tend to be solidly scientifically based.

P.S. Keep an eye on the Space X Launch which took place on November 15. We'll write more about it as events develop.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

DW rolls her eyes

Jack Deatherage

“I think I’ll learn to make ginger beer.” I announce as I sit back in the desk chair after several hours chasing through the interwebs.

Noises that sound suspiciously like- “Gods, not again” -drift in from the DW’s computer station in the next room.

“And what started this?” She’s standing in the room with me now and there is no mistake about what I’m hearing. Best to give it to her straight.

“Well, Ed-”

“I knew it would be Ed! Of course it was Ed!” Balor is warming up.

“Eh-hem. Ed didn’t mention ginger beer.” I begin.

“Then why are you bringing up Ed?” The DW’s one good eye is jumpin’ like spittle on a hot skillet.

“Well. He posted an article ‘Ubiquitous Medieval Pig’ on Facebook and I-”

The DW growls something about my spending too much time on the interweb and I should get my lazy self into something productive, such as earning an income.

Ignoring such negativity I plow on, “So I read the article and discovered the ancient Romans sort of revered the wild version of pigs and went looking to see how they may have prepared them for the table.”

The eye rolling begins. “And what does that have to do with ginger beer?”

I have unlimited perseverance when story telling. “Well, reading the Roman menus I chanced upon posca and that brought to mind-”

“What’s posca?”

I hesitate. “Do you really want me to go into that?”

She considers for a second. “No. Go on.”

Too late. “Posca is Latin for vinegar. Though the historical record says it was a watered down wine vinegar, probably mixed with honey and herbs, given to the Roman legionnaires because it was cheaper than wine and sort of sanitized the drinking water with its acidity. You do know water in many of it’s natural deposits has never been safe to drink?”

I consider how much more to tell her, but Balor is beginning to glow.

“Anyhow, posca reminded me of the switchel that Brook Elliott mentioned- Remember Brook? He wrote for Mother Earth News and I bought some heirloom beans off him some years back.”

More eye rolling- which is better than unleashing Balor of the evil eye!

“Anyhow, I started looking for switchel recipes because I was rather fond of the stuff I made for when we were working the big garden at Marty’s.”

“I remember that.” She cools down a tad.

“So thinking about that time I remembered ginger beer needing a ginger plant similar to wine or cider vinegar needing a scoby.”

“What? That slimy thing you kept in a jar of old wine in my cupboard?”

Crap. Balor is back.

“Not exactly the same, but close.” I hurry on. “You liked the ginger beer I made ‘Dark and Stormy’s with, didn’t you?” (A Dark and Stormy is a ginger beer with rum in it.)

“Some of them.” She allowed. “Some weren’t as nice.”

“Well, I’m thinking I’ll try my hand at making a few versions and see if I can get close to the one I liked (Schweppes) that Village Liquors used to sell when Ralph owned the store on the square.”

The DW stared at me for an uncomfortably long time. “Really?”

“What?”

“You read an article about wild pigs in Europe and end up wanting to brew ginger beer? Your mind actually works that way?” She seems genuinely puzzled.

“Doesn’t everyone’s?” I’m confused now!

“Oh gods.” She does a major eye roll. “What’s this ‘adventure’ going to cost us?”

“Did I mention ginger beer is mostly nonalcoholic and probiotic?”

“Jack!”

“Yes dear. Umm... we already have everything we need from the wine and mead making adventures so I’m guessing ginger will be the biggest investment?”

Wrong choice of words there brainiac!

“This isn’t a we adventure! And since when does anything you do turn into an investment?”

Checkmate. Best to ignore such negativity and soldier on!

“I’m still researching the process so I’ll be awhile. I’m thinking I might grow ginger in the yard so I have it as fresh as possible. There are numerous varieties I could buy-”

Crap. Another wrong word. I hurry on.

“And I’ll need a ginger beer plant if I want to make authentic ginger beer. That would require either growing my own or acquiring one

from a community of ginger beer makers that have been passing the plant along for more than a hundred years. Which will take even longer as I have to chase down some group willing to send me a plant.”

“You haven’t found a group yet?” Do I catch a hint of hope in her voice?

“So far I’ve only found a group called ‘Gingerbeer’. It’s in London and is made up of Lesbian and bisexual women. I’m thinking they might not be the group I’m looking for?”

“Sounds like a group I might-”

“What?”

“Never mind.” She smiles, rather unpleasantly. “Just let me know what you’re about to do before spending any money.” (I’ve since found a source for a ginger beer plant that hails from Germany via Texas. \$20, plus shipping)

“Yes dear. It’ll be awhile. I want to do the experimenting upstairs where I can spread out a bit and I don’t have to deal with dogs. Can’t do that until Cousin Luke and the Mad One get back to traveling again.”

“Okay.” A smile spreads across the DW’s face. “About the pigs.”

Oh dear. Why do I know where she’s about to go?

“Do you remember the HBO series ‘Hell On Wheels?’”

“Umm... yeah.” I knew it! I knew she was going there!

“What did they do with people that got out of hand?”

“Umm... fed their corpses to the pigs.”



OK, I’m at a loss as to a photo caption for this ...

The smile widens. “And what did the farmer promise to do when you slip into the manure pit at the farm?”

“Urrr... he said he’d dump several loads of pig manure on me to be sure I rotted up completely.” I’m smiling at the thought. “I couldn’t ask for a better friend.”

“Well, just remember he likes me better than you. The farm’s pigs can turn you into manure before you go into the pit.”

“Eh-hem. I’m aware of that.”

“Ah.” She laughs. “I notice you didn’t use the sarcastic ‘Yes dear’. See, you can learn without spending all that time on the interwebs.”

“Yes dear.”

Eh-hem. Due to a rather unpleasant reaction on the DW’s part

I decided not to mention learning to make sauerkraut, or getting back into meat curing, or back into egg noodle making using various expensive powders- spinach, Bulgarian paprika, cocoa and possibly Boletus edulis- to color and flavor the noodles. Hopefully, the assorted patches of scorched skin will have healed and some of my hair will have grown back by the time the upstairs apartment is vacant, and I’ve acquired a ginger beer plant to begin experimenting with. Tis going to be a long and interesting winter me thinks.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Hollies: The other Christmas plant

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener
Head Christmas Elf

When I think of Christmas, I think of the Christmas tree. A needled evergreen tree that we decorate for the holiday season. But there is another evergreen that often takes the stage during the holiday season: the holly.

Hollies come in many shapes and sizes. Often we think of them as evergreens, meaning, they hold their leaves throughout the winter season. But this plant comes in many forms, from trees to shrubs, from evergreen to deciduous.

For the most part, hollies are dioecious. This means that there are male and female plants – female plants producing only female flowers and male plants producing only male flowers. What this means for us gardeners is that if we want berries on our plants, we must have the female plant to produce the berries, with a male plant close by. The male will not produce any berries but will produce the pollen necessary to pollinate the female flower, which, in turn, becomes the berries that we want for winter interest. This is important to keep in mind when purchasing hollies, as there is a perfect male for every female! Hollies flower at slightly different times, so in order to have cross pollination take place on your particular plant, you must be sure you have the right partner for your girl.

The deciduous hollies are probably my favorite. The scientific name for this group of plants is *Ilex verticillata*, also known as the winterberry. They are typically grown for their berries, which tend to hang on through December and into January. Although birds do eat them, they don't seem to be their first choice. In my yard the birds hit the viburnums pretty hard before visiting the hollies.

Because of their attraction to birds, their winter interest, and their flexibility in the landscape, the industry has introduced many varieties and cultivars of *Ilex verticillata*. Some stay more compact, some with large berries, and yet some with gold berries. Typically, they like part sun to full sun, well drained soils, but not dry, and they tolerate some of our clay soils, unlike many other types of hollies.

The leaves on these hollies are not the typical holly leaf. They are small and oval in shape, with no spines. The color is a dull green in the summer, but a nice red color in the fall, very showy, making this a pretty plant with different attributes all year.

Here are three easy to find varieties you may want to try:

Ilex verticillata 'Winter Gold' has large, golden berries that are great for cutting this time of year. Partner it with 'Southern Gentleman' to get a heavy crop of berries. A slow grower, it can reach eight feet tall.

Ilex verticillata 'Red Sprite' is a smaller version of the winterberry. It boasts of a height of four feet, making it a bit easier to use as a foundation plant. 'Southern Gentleman' is its male partner.

And the last winterberry I will mention is 'Winter Red'. This has a heavy load of dark red berries and reaches 8'. 'Southern Gentleman' is its partner as well.

Another native holly that is thought of around the holidays is the American holly, *Ilex opaca*, sometimes called the Christmas holly. Unlike the winterberry which tolerates clay soil, the American holly does not. It likes well drained soils and lower pH. These will reach 50' tall and 20' wide, however, they are slow growers. Keep it protected from winter winds, as the leaves will burn. As with many hollies, it does require a male for the female to produce berries. When shopping for these, look for both the male and female American holly.

Two common insect problems with this plant are leaf miner and scale, and it can get a disease called tar spot. If interested in growing this native holly, go on-line to see what these issues look like so you can be prepared if you see any of them when scouting your plants for problems.

A very common group of hollies is the blue hollies. In the 80's and 90's it seemed that every new planting had a few blue hollies along the foundation of the house, and for good reason.



Hollies are typically grown for their berries, which tend to hang on through December and into January. Although birds do eat them, they don't seem to be their first choice.

These plants have a dark green leaf color, and produce big, red berries. They are a shrub, so probably will get to 6' tall, but can be maintained a bit smaller. They take pruning well and make nice decorations for wreaths and garland. Blue hollies are not native. They are a cross between two species. Here are some common cultivars of blue hollies:

Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Princess' and 'Blue Prince'. These have great leaf color – dark green leaves and dark stems. The berries are bright red, a great contrast with the dark foliage. Great for foundation plants and hedges.

Ilex x meserveae 'China Girl' and 'China Boy'. These plants have lighter colored foliage, and in my experience, get a bit larger in size than the Blue Princess.

Ilex c. mesererae 'Golden Girl'. This female holly has golden berries with dark green foliage, a nice change and contrast to the red berried plants. As with most blue hollies, this one will get about 5' tall and rounded in habit. The male partner is 'Blue Stallion'. 'Blue Stallion' can be used to pollinate most of the female blue hollies.

Ilex x meserveae 'Dragon Lady'. This is one of my favorites of the blue hollies. Unlike the cultivars mentioned so far, this one is pyramidal, not rounded. It reaches easily 20' and is relatively slender for the height of the plant. Like all blue hollies, it is relatively free of pests and disease, doesn't need pruning, and tolerant of most soils.

The English holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, is one of the more difficult hollies to grow. It doesn't like it very hot, nor very cold. It likes well-drained soils, prefers loam or sandy soils, and is hardy to zone 6. It should grow well along the coast, but in the mountains, maybe not so well. It's worth mentioning, though, because during the holidays, you may see this shrub sold as a Christmas holly in variegated form. It's often seen in bunches of cut greens or in wreaths as well, mostly because of its dark, glossy leaves, and the pretty white or yellow margins of the leaves. Most of the cultivars do get large. The straight species reaches 40', so be sure if you pick one of these up at the garden center to read the label for the height of the particular cultivar.

Here's an interesting holly to check out, the Burford holly, *Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii'. All the hollies mentioned so far in this article are dioecious, meaning two hollies are needed, both male and female, to produce berries. This one, however, bucks the rules. It is self-pollinating, so two plants are not needed for berries.

The leaves on this plant are unlike other hollies in that it has one spine on the tip, but the



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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener

Taking steps toward the winter garden

Marianne Willburn

At the top of my driveway, slightly hidden on a south-facing slope that could less generously be termed a rocky mound, there is a small gathering of snowdrops and eranthis that in a few short months will poke up amongst the stones and the chickweed. This grouping is visible only to those that pass our entranceway; and as this is not a common occurrence, it can go unappreciated.

The grouping signifies a large step in this gardener's life, and one that not every gardener decides to take, no matter how skilled their spring and summer efforts over a lifetime. It signifies a commitment to a four-season garden.

I have a large landscape and little time. Planting an insignificant amount of winter-blooming flowers that will delight only a few could be considered pure folly.

Even I have to remind myself during the winter to go find them and I'm the one who dug them in. But in this digging I took the first steps in my four-season vision for Oldmeadow, and with time and further plantings, the insignificant will become something more.

Perhaps you are dismissive of the above. Who needs a four-season garden when we have three perfectly good seasons we can fill with flowers and fragrance; and a house we can fill with armchairs and duvets during the other three months?

I used to feel similarly, and righteously so. I had limited space and limited desire, and my first foray into home and garden ownership didn't begin with the gentle caress of an early English spring, but with the icy embrace of a Mid-Atlantic winter. I could see little point in improving a cold, dormant landscape that made up the space 'twixt car and front door.

It was only through visiting other landscapes better than my own that I began to understand the importance of the winter garden and to see it as a unique and

special entity – not as a middle child constantly compared to brilliant siblings. It is a garden that gives far more than it receives.

Though many of us are busy during the “off season” tidying up beds, sharpening edges and pruning trees, our labors are intended to enhance our spring and summer displays. When those seasons appear, we will not stop our efforts – indeed they must increase in the face of relentless growth. The work is never-ending, but the carrot is fat and crisp and most of us chase it gladly.

In contrast, the winter garden does not ask this of us. It simply undresses quietly and waits to be admired. What is here, was here – it is no longer hidden by foliage and flower.

If you planted various cornus species to control erosion, you will find your slopes covered in twigs of red and yellow. If you planted ‘Sango-kaku’ Japanese maple because of the light-catching foliage, you will be gifted with bright coral stems and branches in late fall. Your textured conifers will become punctuation marks. Your carex ‘fillers’ will become the main show.

And, contrasted against the browns and greys of a winter landscape, they will all become magnificent – they will all become more.

Thus the greatest effort expended upon the winter garden is not that of weeding or watering – it is choosing wisely in the first place.

Certainly we can leave it there. We can enjoy this passive space filled with delights we hardly deserve. But often, such pleasures spark an interest in the gardener to build upon this foundation. Winter blooming flowers and bulbs are usually the next step; and with my snowdrops and my eranthis, with my hellebores and my cyclamen, I am making that commitment.

I will not for a moment pretend that this has taken any skill on my part. The only difficulty in growing the above lies in knowing when to manually divide them to increase one's stock. And one's stock must be increased, for one's salary rarely is.

Neither will I pretend that these are expensive beauties hardly seen in the landscape. Though they all have swanky relatives (rare snowdrops can sell for hundreds, even thousands), none are represented here, lest they be lost in a large landscape and there be much rending of garments and gnashing of teeth. Hence the current absence of Adonis, and a tendency when it comes to hellebores to favor the promiscuous H. orientalis over expensive and exciting nigercors crosses.

I am choosing my spots carefully. Some of these low-growers link to other, larger winter shrubs (hellebores under edgeworthia); some have begun the process of populating large areas (cyclamen in the sunken woods); and still others – such as the eranthis and snowdrops hidden at the top of the drive where we began this tale – are intended to impress in the same way as a carefully selected scarf draped casually around one's neck might do. “This? Oh I just threw that on.”

It is a slow and steady race that could someday result in a valley full of winter color, and a deep appreciation for all that winter can hold.

Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of the new book Tropical Plants and How To Love Them. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.



Burford Hollies are self-pollinating, so two plants are not needed for berries.

edges of the leaves are smoother. The leaves are a dull green, much like color of the American holly. The berries are clustered, red, and quite showy. This plant is more rounded than pyramidal.

This plant is another large one, reaching 20' tall. This plant is hardy to zone 7, so in protected areas, we might be able to grow this plant. There is a dwarf variety, that is mature at 4' – 6' that you may want to try.

Hopefully this gives you a good look at our other Christmas plant and the many options we have. Hollies are great for cutting in our holiday decorations, and they make great plants in the landscape. Just be sure to site them right, and you should have great luck with growing them. Have a great holiday season!

To read other gardening articles, visit the Gardening section of Emmitsburg.net.

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

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

Christmas Blessings
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PETS

I wish...

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

This one will likely be quite different than what we're used to in terms of holidays and gatherings and celebrations.

But I think it's important to remember – this year probably more than ever – that there's still magic around us, no matter what else might be happening.

We still have the twinkling lights, children still have that wondrous expression when they see Santa, the Grinch's heart will still grow three sizes when he hears every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small, singing. Without any presents at all.

The spirit of the holidays really is still here. And with that in mind, I'd like to send out some Christmas wishes.

For anyone who is suffering or has suffered with illness this year, I wish you perseverance, strength and hope. When it gets really tough and you feel like you're at the end of your rope, please tie a knot. And hang on.

For anyone who has lost a loved one this year, know that I understand and have lost people, too. I wish that the memories you have will soothe you and that you can find a little comfort in the thought that they truly are still with us in spirit.

I wish a moment or two of peace and joy for my friends, family, co-workers and loved ones. Even if it's just stopping for a few moments to breathe. Take that time and find a little serenity in this crazy world.

I wish that everyone who has adopted from the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter will give the four-legged friend they saved a kiss and a hug for me. Physical touch is so incredibly important. And sharing that unconditional love with an animal really is a balm for your soul.

I wish that anyone who has taken in a stray pet will know that you have helped animal shelters more than you will ever know. We are so lucky to have the folks out there caring for the four-legged souls who show up at their doors.

I wish that all the animals in our kennels will know that even though they may have been discarded, there will always be people who love them and care for them and want the very best for them. And those people will work every day (including the holidays) to make sure those four-legged babies get the absolute best we can give them.

I wish that all of our supporters will know how very much they've helped us help the animals. Without them, we couldn't do what we do every year. They save lives and it's so humbling.

I wish that all the people and groups

who are out there, every day, like we are, helping homeless animals throughout the year can take a moment to truly realize how much good they do. Putting that kind of service out into the world is overwhelmingly powerful, even though it can also be amazingly difficult.

I wish that those who are bitter and unhappy will understand, for just a split second, that there are a lot of things in this world to be grateful for and that embracing even the smallest spark of true joy really can change a life.

I wish that those who hold grudges and anger and animosity will just let every ounce of it go. Even if it's just for a few minutes. It really is so very freeing.

I wish that those who cry will laugh. I wish that those who yell will whisper. I wish that those who are cold will know warmth. I wish that those who are hungry will be full. I wish that those who hate will know love.

I wish that that animals who have a home will get a snuggle and a kiss and a present under the tree.

I wish that the animals who don't have a home will be able to connect with that special soul out there who will make sure that he or she has food and water and a safe place to rest.

I wish that those who sing, dance, chuckle so their bellies jiggle, and spread joy in any way they can will keep doing it for as long as they are able because eventually, that kind of light will illuminate the whole world. What a beautiful place that will be to live.

And for you reading these words right now, I wish you a wonderful, safe and merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

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

To read other article by Jennifer Vanderau visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



Pumpkin and Fancy came into the shelter because they didn't get along with the dogs in the home. Both of these babies are 9 years old and they really love each other, so we're looking to adopt them out together. Pumpkin is an orange boy and he's declawed in his front paws. He's a lap cat and will lick your hand while you're petting him. Fancy is a Himalayan mix and she's also declawed in her front paws. Her coloring is quite unique and she has blue eyes. Fancy can be a bit more reserved than her brother, but once she gets to know you she will warm up. We don't want to separate these two just because they ended up in a shelter. Could you open your heart and home to both of them?



Buckingham came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about him, but he was already neutered when he came to us. No one came forward for him, so he's looking for his forever home. He's about 5 years old and absolutely loves chin rubs and attention. Can you give Buckingham a second chance?



Trixie is a 2-year-old brown tabby girl who is super sweet. She came in with a LOT of other cats because their owner could no longer care for them all. Trixie loves chin scratches and ear rubs and would really like to find a home soon. Maybe even with you.

For more information about Pumpkin, Fancy, Buckingham, or Trixie call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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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



Pet holiday hazards

Dr. Jon "JB" Bramson
Catoclin Veterinary Clinic

"Please allow me to introduce myself; I'm a man (who treats dogs and cats)."
—Rolling Stones

I would like to thank Mike Hillman for the opportunity to write a column pertaining to dogs and cats and Vickie Grindler for the suggestion.

I am a small animal veterinarian working in Thurmont. For 30 years, I have been treating cats and dogs. My wife is also a small animal veterinarian. Together we have 5 dogs, 3 cats, and 3 chickens.

This month I'd like to talk about household dangers to our pets especially at holiday time. Even though Halloween has passed, there may still be leftover candy, which is a big problem. Our cats and dogs cannot metabolize ingredients in chocolate which will act as a poison to them. In particular, theobromine is the problem. Symptoms of poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, high heart rate, agitation,

tremors, and seizures. It all depends on the type of chocolate ingested, the amount, and the size of the pet. Dark chocolate and cocoa are more concentrated forms and therefore more dangerous. Milk chocolate is less toxic. No chocolate should ever be given to a pet. Furthermore, any access to chocolate, candy, or cocoa needs to be prevented because pets will seek it out. In addition, any candy or other products like sugar-free gum and some peanut butters with the artificial sweetener Xylitol are poisonous to pets. Ingestion can cause vomiting, low blood sugar, lethargy, liver damage, drunkenness, tremors, and seizures.

Thanksgiving is approaching as I write this. Turkey bones and all real bones are hazardous to our pets. They are too hard for their teeth. That goes for antlers and chew hooves too. Teeth will crack and break. Pieces of bones can get stuck in the mouth, the esophagus, the stomach, or the intestines. I have seen all of these scenarios occur. Even soft bones can cause gastrointestinal symptoms like vomiting, diarrhea, or even constipation (they are not digested.)

(they are not digested.)

Better ideas for chewing are edible and digestible Nylabones and Greenies. Kongs are good, and peanut butter (don't forget to check for no Xylitol added) or squeeze cheese can be placed inside of them.

The major holiday for a lot of potential safety hazards to pets is Christmas. Trees (artificial or real) and tree water present danger if ingested. Light strands because of their bulbs and electricity are a potential hazard. Ornaments and decorations are concerning if ingested. Tinsel and other stringy decorations can become linear foreign bodies in the stomach or intestinal tract if ingested. This is a big problem for cats who like to ingest string-type objects like dental floss and sewing thread (and the attached needle).

There is a long list of toxic plants that can cause poisoning. I will provide the list of them next month. However, Christmas plants to watch out for are poinsettias and mistletoe.

There is no end to the possibilities of what our pets manage to fit in their mouths and swallow. I have removed balls, socks, underwear, sewing needles, carpet strands, kids toys of many varieties (i.e. Nerf darts, many hairbands (out of 1 dog), pet toys, and coins.



Every year a veterinary news magazine has a contest for the strangest objects removed from any animal. This has included dogs and cats, but also pet frogs, snakes, lizards. I actually was able to get an honorable mention for removing a diamond engagement ring from a small dog's stomach. It was snatched off the owner's finger when the dog aggressively took food out of the owner's hand.

Please take preventive action to keep your pets safe year round but especially around the holidays. Remember

to puppy proof and kitten proof your house just as you would babyproof it.

If you have any question about a foreign body or toxic ingestion, please contact your veterinarian or call a veterinary poison control center. These centers are dedicated to pets and their parents. They are fee-based in order to be able to provide their service to owners and veterinarians. The number for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is 888-426-4435. The Pet Poison Helpline is 800-213-6680

Next month, I'll review more general hazards around the house for our pets.

Dealing with a prolapsed uterus



Kimberly Brokaw DVM
Walkersville Vet Clinic

It's no secret that horses and chickens are probably my favorite species to work on. While I have nothing against cattle, I don't do any routine or preventative care for them and instead happily allow the other vets at the clinic to provide the routine cattle care. However, when it's your turn to be on call, you don't get to pick which animals get sick or injured.

Last weekend was my weekend to be on call and as luck would have it, I was called about a cow emergency. The text came through that it was a cow with a prolapsed uterus. This is a fairly common complication following birth of a calf, especially if the cow stays lying down and continues to push after a difficult birth.

I've treated enough of these to know exactly how to fix them but it didn't mean that I didn't dread seeing that text. For while in theory these are relatively simple and straight forward to fix, they are extremely physically demanding. I rarely bring a vet tech to assist me on farm calls, but I immediately called to see if one of the techs would be willing to join me.

Luck was in my favor and not only could I get a tech to join me, but the farm also had a skid loader, as well as two strong, experienced, farmers to assist. When I arrived at the farm, I found a first calf heifer who was down

and had a large amount of her uterus prolapsed. She'd calved several hours before and unfortunately the calf had not survived. We were able to use the skid loader to sling the cow so her hindquarters were elevated.

When dealing with a fifty-pound uterus it's best to try to have gravity in your favor. As my tech was washing and cleaning the prolapsed uterus, I gave the cow an epidural shot to help alleviate her discomfort as well as keep her from pushing against us as we tried to replace the uterus. The uterus was placed in a large towel and the two farmers carefully elevated the heavy uterus as the tech and I pushed it back inside the cow.

While it requires a lot of strength to put it back in, you have to be gentle at the same time to prevent tearing or puncturing the uterus. As the cow was elevated in a sling, once I got the first few feet of uterus pushed back in the rest slid back inside with minimal effort. A quick palpation showed that the uterus was correctly aligned inside her.

The cow was given antibiotics and anti-inflammatories and sutured shut to prevent subsequent prolapse. While the entire procedure took less than an hour from start to finish, my tech still told me the next day that she could definitely feel the muscle soreness in her arms and shoulders.

The thing I credit most with the successful outcome for the cow was having the experienced farmer who had

proper equipment to get the job done. The farmer had not only brought the cow up out of the field and up to the

barn, but he'd placed her in a spot with easy access to running water and in a very well lit area.

The farmer had a skid loader and even had strong people to help assist. While having all those accommoda-

tions is not always possible, it does make for more efficient and effective treatment of the cow. Emergencies like this emergency really make me appreciate working with experienced and well prepared farmers.

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THE YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

It's all about cross-country jumping

Emma Simmons

People ride horses for different reasons. I ride because I love jumping. I mean I really, really love jumping. And not just any kind of jumping, cross country jumping. Cross country jumping is when you and your favorite horse head out towards a field or wooded area and jump whatever is there. You can also set up cross country jumps anywhere you have an open field. Where I ride, my coach has log jumps, hedges, ditches, a stone wall, and even a bank jump!

Like a lot of kids, I started out in an arena. It was great. This is a good way to begin horseback riding and jumping. It's flat and clearly marked. You can easily see where you are and what's around you. Mike is good about using different types of fences to keep things interesting for me. I jump cross rails, verticals, oxers, and combinations with two or three fences. And I even do some dressage to help improve my balance and precision.

But at the same time, the good things about being in an arena can also be negatives. After a while, I begin to feel like the arena is a bit confining. Sometimes I just want something different, something unpredictable. And for me, that's cross country jumping. I'm away from the arena, out in a field with tall grass and trees around.

There are also more types of things to jump over, not just fences. And because I'm out in an

open space, I'm able to ride faster than when I'm in the arena. And these are the two things I love doing the most, jumping high and riding fast. So, for me, riding and jumping cross country is like a day out of school when I get to leave all my work behind and just go out and have some fun with Wesley, my BHFF (Best Horse Friend Forever).

Even though I love cross country jumping, I know it's a serious business. Mike and my Mother remind me of this frequently when they tell me to be careful. They encourage me, but also make sure that I'm doing everything the right way. And I am careful. I wear a helmet, riding vest, riding boots and chaps. I know I'm still early in my riding career, so I always listen to my coach.

But even being careful, unexpected things will still happen. In an arena, I can clearly see fences and what's around the fences. I can see if the ground is wet or if there is an obstacle, like a stick, on the other side of the jump that might interfere with how Wesley lands. But when I'm jumping out in a field, I can't always see those kinds of obstacles. So, I have to be prepared for anything. I have to always be ready to meet any challenge. And one thing that you may have guessed about me already is that I do love challenges.

Some of the cross country jumps at my coach's farm are not too difficult and are really fun to go over. One day, Wesley, Mike, and I were out in the field get-



There is an old saying: 'The size of a fence is directly proportional to the ears you are looking at it through.' In Emma's case, the ears belong to Wesley, a seasoned Event horse, which is allowing her to build her skills and confidence necessary to jump bigger and bigger fences.

ting ready for me to jump the log pile. The log pile is about three feet tall, four feet wide and 12 feet long. Wesley was raring to go as he turned toward the jump. I asked Wesley to canter and he gave me all he had. We were going so fast I think Wesley snuck in some gallop strides right before the jump! We took a flying leap over the logs and I almost fell off when his hooves hit the ground. But I hung on.

As I trotted back toward Mike, he said to slow down and focus on my form and control rather than speed. As Wesley and I began to canter toward the jump, I took more of my reins and held them very tight. Wesley and I were cantering at the speed of a slow trot! As we approached the jump, Wesley's canter was so unhurried that it felt like we were going in slow motion. We continued toward the log pile, and I laughed to myself, wondering if we would have enough horsepower to actually make it over the logs. I'm so used to flying furiously fast over jumps that it was a strange sensation to amble like a sloth over this one.

There are two other cross country jumps at Mike's farm that are especially exciting for me. The Bank and Stone Wall are big jumps and technically difficult ones. So, they are not always easy for me to clear. But I enjoy the challenge.

The Bank is a new type of jump for me because I'm jumping off a small hill with about a four foot drop instead of jumping over something. This means that the way I sit on my horse is the opposite of how I usually sit when I'm jumping. Instead of leaning forward when I jump, I need to lean backward. Instead of holding my reins very tight, I have to keep them loose so I don't get yanked off when Wesley goes down the bank. I also need to make sure that I am looking up rather than down at the bottom of the hill. Most of the time when I go down a hill, especially a steep one, I look down at where I'm going. But when I'm on a horse, I have to remember to look up in order to help keep my balance. If I lose my balance and fall off, I'm not just falling from the back of the horse to the ground, but from the back of the horse down to the bottom of the drop.

The stone wall is a more traditional jump, but it is also the most challenging for me. It requires a lot of focus. It's a high wall with wood fences and trees on both side so I must approach it very straight (I'm not a very straight jumper) and with as much a speed as possible, while also making sure that I keep Wesley under control. When I'm jumping the stone wall, I start as far back as possible, focus my eyes just above the wall, make sure Wesley is lined up straight in front of it, and give him a little kick to let him know it's time for business. Then we're off.

Horses can run quite fast so the wall comes up quickly. When we

start the jump, I lean forward, reach toward Wesley's mane and hold the reins tight in my hands, make sure my heels are down, and say a little short prayer. Then Wesley and I fly. When it goes right, it's amazing. But occasionally it's gone less than right. Sometimes Mike's Jack Russell dog, Jake, decides he needs to participate in this activity. So just as Wesley and I start our run toward the stone wall, Jake begins his run toward us. Barking incessantly, he heads right for Wesley's hooves (probably because Jake is short and that's all he can reach).

To his credit, Wesley never finches or swerves from his path. However, I have a lot of concern for the well-being of this little dog that I love so much. So, I quickly pull Wesley to one side, so we keep from having an unfortunate collision between a 16 hand, 1,200-pound thoroughbred and a 12-inch, 12-pound pup. And even after we have slowed to a walk, little Jake continues his mission toward us, jumping and barking excitedly until Mike catches him and puts him in one of the horse stalls in the barn. With Jake safe and secure, Wesley and I give it another try. We canter back around towards the jump. I brace myself for the leap and we soar through the air and land safely on the other side.

I love the variety of different jumps in cross country. While the arena stays mostly the same year-round, the fields and woods are changing all the time. They change with the weather and with the seasons. The grass grows taller, limbs fall, the water holes fill and dry up. So, there's always something new to try. I love cross country. Maybe one day I'll get to do a steeple chase.

To read previous articles by Emma, visit the author's section of emmitsburg.net.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Having a clear flow and path of finances

Ryan Fox

As a youngster, my buddies and I spent many hours enjoying the local creeks from fishing to flipping and skipping rocks. The Covered Bridge area, the Tiber near the Rec Park, and the Narrows were just a few of the spots we went to.

Our family moved a few months ago and our boys, Sam and Ben, now have their very own creek that runs across the back of our property. The boys have spent countless hours flipping rocks, building a fort at the base of an old walnut tree, and searching for treasure.

The boys have also been helpful with clearing generations of debris, like rotting wood, from the creek that has caused it to flood and not flow too smoothly. They have also helped in clearing weeds and underbrush so we can see better and access the creek better. They've also helped move some rocks to creek banks that need a little help in fighting off erosion.

While these tasks have been fun for us, caused only a few splinters, and probably are quite therapeutic in light of what our current calendar year has brought us, they are also reminders for investors.

History has a unique way of repeating itself and we need to be prepared for dollars and cents déjà vu with our investment strategies.

Getting my "creek" mentality back after 35 years took some time. Recovering after stock market volatility can take some time too.

That 30 percent drop in the stock market earlier this year seems like a distant memory, with so many other events going on, and the stock market roaring back like very few predicted.

Flipping rocks is such a discovery process – we don't know what is underneath a rock until it is turned over. Maybe nothing is found, we see something that needs exploring, or a little critter looks at us and skitters away.

Investing with a financial advisory can feel like flipping rocks. Many people don't know what they are going to find until they uncover

the rocks of the advisory firm. The cost can seem hidden from them.

How best to explore? Get all costs and fees in writing. If that fee (rock) won't flip and show what's underneath, keep shopping.

Back at our place and with the help of some friends, we were able to clear out mountains of blockages in the creek that caused heavy waters to flood and erode the banks. Knocking down some weeds along the paths gave us a clear vision of the water too and how to access it.

Those rocks along the creek bank will give the water a bit of a boundary over time. Portfolios need to have risk boundaries too, so they stay within set guidelines.

Our finances, investments, and financial planning should not be blocked, but free flowing and easily seen in terms of their dollars and cents.

But often, there are questions like "when should I turn on Social Security" or "how will the next (fill-in-the-blank event) impact my retirement portfolio?"

Events will happen. Elections

pass. Pandemics end. We cannot allow fear to block us from building in financial success. Having an advisory to partner with can clear that trail, improve the flow, and help create a path to success.

I'm biased and happily admit it. A fee-only advisory, one who earns no commission on the sale of products, likely offers the path of least resistance to success. But some of my non fee-only advisory friends aren't too bad either.

Finally, 2020 will go down as the year of the unexpected and many adjectives will describe it. I probably can't print some of the R-rated words that might apply.

We should always be working to find ways to relive past enjoyment. Find your own creek, do some fun research, and let's realize that current challenges will fade away in the promise of a more relaxed time ahead.

If your investments are causing you stress, maybe think about hiring an advisor. I often kid clients that they pay me to worry for them. Often that, or "flipping a few rocks," seems to help relieve a little angst.

Housing Program

The Adams County Office for Aging has announced an exciting new housing program in the county. The SHARE (Shared Housing And Resource Exchange) program is designed to safely match seniors who wish to age in place and maintain independence in their homes with other seniors, or non-seniors, who are seeking affordable housing.

Seniors (hosts) who have an extra bedroom to offer can receive assistance in the home with daily activities such as housekeeping, shopping, lawn care, companionship and many other things. Home seekers would provide these services in exchange for a reasonable and affordable rental cost (not to exceed 30% of the seeker's income). Every participant arrangement is unique and agreed upon prior to a move in.

Additionally, each participant is fully vetted through an interview process which includes national background check and reference check to assure safety. The home being shared is inspected for appropriateness and safety prior to any arrangements being made. Our goal is to make safe and enduring matches which will benefit everyone!

For more information, please contact Valery Adams at 717-778-1293 or visit www.acofa.org.

Ryan Fox is partner/owner in Huston-Fox Financial Advisory Services, a fee-only fiduciary advisory firm, in Gettysburg, Hanover, and York. 717 398-2040 or Ryan@hustonfox.com.



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HEALTH NOTES

Frederick Health's chemotherapy education program

Heidi Winkler
Frederick Health

At Frederick Health, no one has to navigate cancer alone. Through services like chemotherapy education, the Frederick Health oncology team is there to ensure all patients' medical, emotional, and logistical needs are met.

While every patient's cancer journey is different, and every patient has unique questions and concerns, there are many common resources we provide during chemotherapy treatment. Every patient receiving chemotherapy at Frederick Health also receives chemotherapy education.

When chemotherapy begins, we provide a chemotherapy class that takes about one hour to complete. During this class, oncology nurses provide personal, one-on-one education that includes an overview of cancer, treatment basics, tips for managing potential side effects,

introducing the chemotherapy healthcare team, and more.

Patients also receive literature and a notebook to take to treatments with important resources for appointments, such as staff photos and phone numbers, when to call the hospital, and information about specific medications. These resources help patients to prepare and know what to expect during chemotherapy, making the experience a little easier.

Each new patient receiving either IV or oral chemotherapy works closely with a Nurse Navigator, who acts as a valuable resource to patients. The highly trained Nurse Navigator and infusion nurses work together to make sure every patient has all the tools and comprehension to be successful during treatment.

"Cancer affects so many different people and so many different lifestyles," says Judy Trentini, RN, infusion therapy nurse at Frederick Health. "I'm exposed to a lot of

raw emotions as an infusion therapy nurse, and I feel like I can support people through this. It's a very rewarding place to work."

She adds, "Our program is unique because we have a lot of support services—social workers, financial assistance and counselors, radiation in the same building, and navigators that work with patients. Our system is very well supported, and the patients are very well supported as well."

The James M Stockman Cancer Institute's Infusion Therapy hours have been extended. The new Infusion Therapy hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Additional patient and caregiver education and resources are available for oncology patients through Frederick Health, including cancer support groups, financial counseling, integrative services, advance care planning, and more. For more information, visit www.frederickhealth.org/Services/Cancer-Care.

County Board of Health tightens COVID-19 regulations

The Frederick County Board of Health set new health regulations requiring face coverings and limiting gathering sizes. The regulations were approved by the Board of Health 7 to 1.

The regulations include:

- Requiring face coverings for all persons age 5 years and older in:
- All indoor public spaces (This includes tobacconist shops, cigar bars, vapor lounges, and hookah lounges.)
- All public outdoor spaces where the person is unable to consistently maintain at least six feet of distance from individuals who are not members of their household
- Limiting indoor AND outdoor venues to 25 people or 25% of venue capacity, whichever is less
- This applies to bars, nightclubs, breweries, distilleries, wine tast-

ing rooms, and event venues, including but not limited to, civic service clubs, private clubs, indoor agro-tourism enterprise activities, fairgrounds, farm alcoholic beverage tasting rooms, farm brewery tasting rooms, rodeos, auction houses, AND social and private gatherings.

- This will apply to wedding venues on Nov. 30.
- Religious facilities are limited to 50% capacity
- Fitness centers are limited to 25% capacity and shall require face coverings of all persons on the premises
- Enforcement of this regulation will include increasing fines starting at \$250

Indoor operations for restaurants and personal services remain at 50% capacity and retail establishments remain at 75% capacity as set by Governor Hogan's Executive Order from Nov. 10.

"We need each person in Frederick County to take personal responsibility," said Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, the Health Officer of the Frederick County Health Department. "If we all wear our face coverings, stay physically distanced, and wash our hands frequently, we can help reduce the risk of our friends, family, and ourselves getting COVID-19 and ensure that our hospital has the capacity to help us all when we need it. We will continue monitoring our health metrics and are prepared to take additional actions if our local situation worsens."

These regulations were proposed because of the increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations that are occurring in record number in Frederick County. Cases for this week are expected to set an all-time high.

The Board of Health comprises the County Executive and the County Council. The County Health Officer serves as the Executive Officer and Secretary of the Board. The approved regulations and meeting minutes will be available at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BoardofHealth.

COVID-19 update

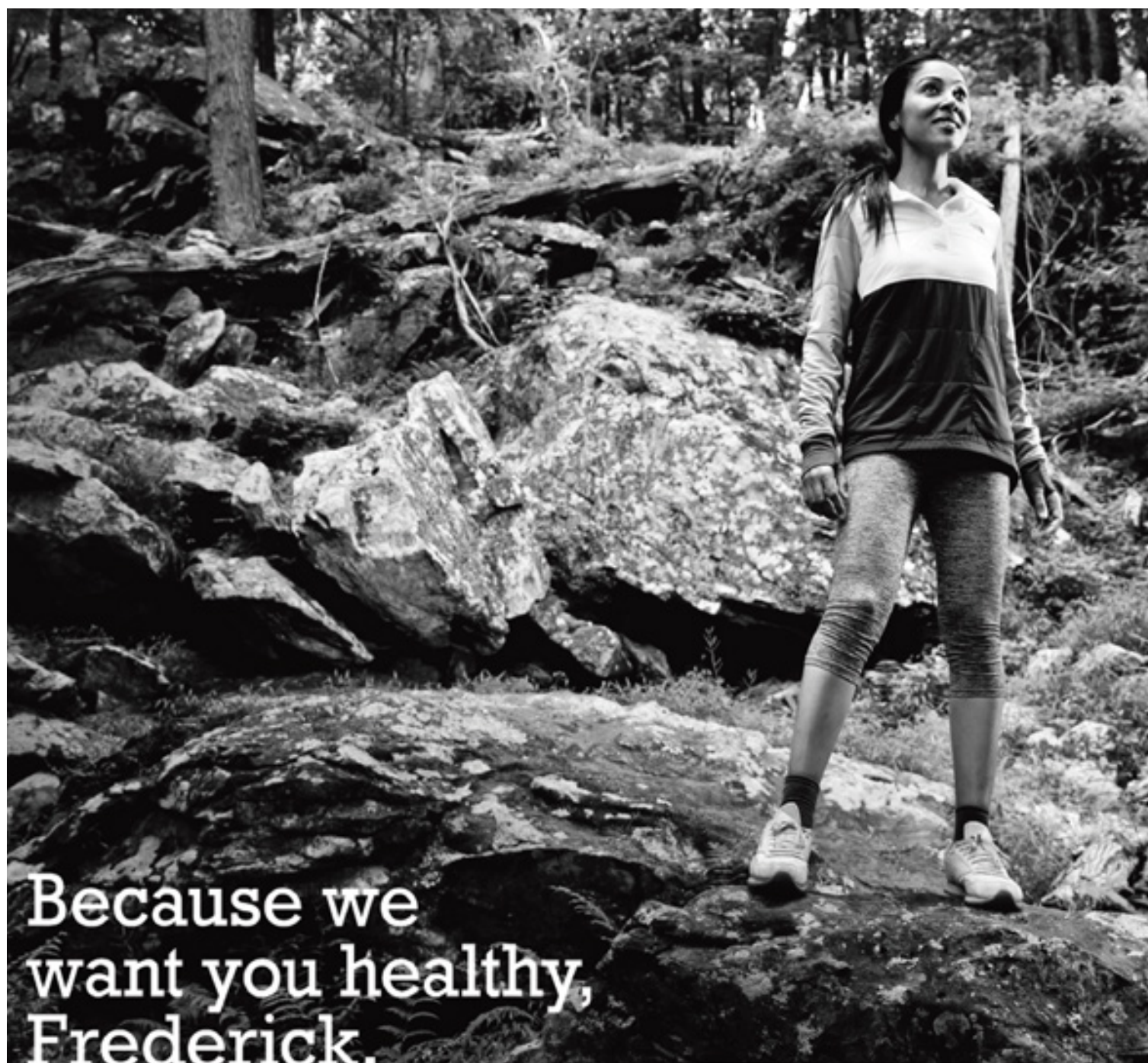
As we go to press, the Frederick County Health Department is reporting 6,733 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and 144 have died from it.

Test for the COVID can be taken at Seton Center every Tuesday, noon to 2, or at the Thurmont Town office, September 4 & 21, at 5 pm.

In Adams County 1,973 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and 72 have died from it.

To track cases in Frederick or Carroll County, visit www.coronavirus.maryland.gov.

To track cases in Adams County, visit www.health.pa.gov.



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 Frederick
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2020 local election wrap-up

Edison Hatter

Across the country, voter turnout was up significantly this election cycle compared to both the 2018-midterm elections and the 2016 Presidential election. Frederick County, Maryland and Adams County, Pennsylvania saw this trend as well, as both counties saw a significantly higher number of votes cast this election when compared to the 2016 Presidential election. In Frederick County, 126,536 votes were cast in 2016 for a total voter turnout of 76.96%. In 2020, 145,615 votes were cast.

While the true total number of registered voters for this election cycle is not yet known due to Election Day voter registrations, best estimates place voter turnout between 78-84% this year. In Adams County, 48,253 votes were cast in 2016 for a total turnout of 72.32%. This year, 52,930 votes were cast in the county, representing a voter turnout of 78.65%. While all eyes were and remain focused on the Presidential election at the top of the ticket, many important races down-ballot were contested as well.

Starting with the top of the ballot vote, the most significant local news is the shift in voting in Frederick County. Presumptive President-Elect Joe Biden (D) won Frederick County by about 14,000 votes (53-43%) over President Donald Trump (R). This is a major change from 2016, when Trump won the county over Hillary Clinton (D) by 3,000 votes (47-45%). Statewide, Biden carried the state of Maryland by a similar margin to Clinton's in 2016, 65-32%.

In the State of Pennsylvania, the opposite shift was seen statewide as Biden won the state by 80,000 votes (approximately 1.2% difference), a major win for Democrats, who lost the state by 50,000 votes (approximately 0.7% difference) in 2016. Adams County voted for Trump in both 2016 and 2020 by similar 60-35% margins both times. Additional news in Pennsylvania includes the State House passing a bipartisan resolution requiring a complete audit of the 2020 Election statewide.

An independent party will be brought in to conduct the audit. Per a press release, "audit would not question the results of the 2020 election, but rather scrutinize the process to guarantee integrity in every election." While the Associated Press has declared Biden the President-Elect with 306 Electoral Votes to Trump's 232, there are still several outstanding legal challenges filed by the Trump Campaign. Additionally, the result of the Presidential Election will not be officially certified until the Electoral College convenes to cast their votes on December 14.

In Frederick County, three open seats for the Board of Education, four questions relating to amendments to the County Charter, and two statewide ballot questions were among the major ballot items. In the Board of Education race, the winners were Sue Johnson (61,100 votes), Jason Johnson (46,700 votes), and David Bass (43,200 votes). Closely behind these three were incumbent Board members Lois Jarman and Rae Gallagher, as well as Dean Rose. Paulette Anders, who launched a massive write-in campaign, was also unsuccessful in her quest for a board seat.

Incumbent board member Michael Bunitsky did not seek re-election. Both statewide questions passed by significant margins. Question 1 allows for the General Assembly, beginning in 2024, to "increase, diminish, or add items (to the yearly state budget), provided that the General Assembly does not exceed the total proposed budget as submitted by the Governor." The question passed with 74% approval. Question 2 allows for the legalization of "sports and events betting for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education." The question passed with 67% approval.

All four questions on the ballot for Frederick County voters passed by wide margins. Question A, the Council Non-interference amendment, passed with 85% approval. The amendment "requires the County Executive to provide any information that is requested by an individual County Council member which is for the purpose of

introducing and evaluating legislation or to engage in the review and monitoring of Government programs, activities, and policy implementation." Question B, relating to Borrowing Limitations, passed with 75% approval. The amendment reduces the percentage of assessable property the County can pledge for debt from 5 to 3 percent of assessable real property, and from 15 to 9 percent of assessable personal property. Questions C and D, relating to Council Member and County Executive Vacancies, both passed with approximately 75% approval.

Both questions state that in the event of a vacancy for either a Council Member or the County Executive, the central committee of the political party of the vacating individual will nominate three persons to fill the vacancy. The Council will then select a person to fill the vacancy from the nominees after the candidates are presented to the public, subjected to interviews, and any and all public comments given. In the event the vacancy is not filled within forty-five days, the County Executive will fill the vacancy in the event of a Council Member vacancy, and the County's Chief Administrative Officer will assume the role of County Executive in the event of a County Executive vacancy. For either position, if the vacancy occurs in the first year of the term, a special election will be held to fill the seat for the balance of the term.

Parts of Frederick County lies in Congressional District 6, while other parts lie in Congressional District 8 which encompass northern Frederick County. Democrats voted more by mail than Republicans by a wide margin. District 8 voters had a choice between incumbent Jamie Raskin (D) and challenger Gregory Coll (R). While Coll won Frederick County by a 56-43% margin, Raskins won re-election by a 67-32% margin thanks to other parts of the district, which include most of Montgomery County, which skew more towards Democrats.

The final candidates on the ballot for Frederick County voters were judges. Theresa Adams, unopposed for Judicial Circuit 6 Judge,



The continuing shift of Frederick County from red to blue was highlighted by President-elect Joe Biden's 14,000 vote winning margin in the county. Adams County stayed solidly red.

won with 97.7% of the vote. Both E. Gregory Wells (Court of Special Appeals- At-Large Seat) and Kathryn Grill Graeff (Court of Special Appeals- Appellate Circuit 3) were voted to be allowed to continue in their current roles, both with greater than 85% approval.

Across the border in Pennsylvania, Adams County voters had three state-wide offices to vote for: Attorney General, Auditor General, and State Treasurer. The incumbent Attorney General, Joshua Shapiro (D) won a second term against Heather Heidelbaugh (R) by a margin of 51-46%. This five percent margin of victory is a stronger mandate than the three percent margin he won by in 2017.

With the incumbent Auditor General running for a different office in 2020, the race presented two new candidates: Timothy Defoor (R) and Nina Ahmad (D). A molecular biologist by trade, Ahmad won the race by a narrow 49-46% margin, thanks in great part to a strong endorsement for the position from former President Barack Obama.

A shocking upset occurred in the State Treasurer race with Stacy Garrity (R) defeating incumbent Joseph Torsella (D) by a slim 48.7-47.9% margin, a difference of only about 50,000 votes out of over 6.8 million that were cast. Torsella was seeking his second and final (due to term limits) term as State Treasurer and was considered a rising star in the Democratic party. Torsella was touted as a possible candidate for governor or U.S. Senator in 2022, but those aspirations may have to

be reconsidered on the tails of this shocking loss. Garrity, a U.S. Army veteran, became the first Republican to beat an incumbent Democrat in a statewide election contest since 1994. Within Adams County, all three Republican candidates won a strong majority of the vote by approximately a 2:1 ratio.

Congressional District 13 in Pennsylvania encompasses the entirety of Blair, Huntingdon, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, and Adams Counties. Recent redistricting has solidified this district as a Republican stronghold. As expected, incumbent John Joyce (R) won a second term in the U.S. House by a decisive 74-26% margin over former police officer and FBI Special Agent Todd Rowley (D). State Senatorial District 33, encompassing all of Adams County and parts of Cumberland, Franklin, and York Counties, reelected Doug Mastriano (R) to another term.

After Richard Alloway (R) resigned the position in early 2019, a special election was held, during which Mastriano won the seat with a 75% majority of the votes. This election cycle, Mastriano won against Rich Sterner (D) by a dominant 67-32% margin. Finally, Dan Moul (R) won reelection in the 91st Legislative District in Pennsylvania to serve another term in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives. Running unopposed, Moul received 94% of votes. The 91st district includes parts of Southern Adams County, including Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Litlestown, and other townships.

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HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman
Originally published in 1969

Chapter 24 St. Stephen's Church

The first Episcopal Church in Thurmont made its appearance around 1887. Although there was no church building, services were held in a room above Mr. Frederick White's office. Mr. White lived next to the Belva Birely property on West Main Street. In 1889, Episcopal services were conducted on the first floor of the I. O. O. F. lodge building on East Main Street. This was during the rector-ship of the Rev. Richard Whittingham. About 1891 Episcopalians living in Thurmont felt the need for a church building and decided to do something about it. Generous friends from all over the country contributed as well as those in the area, and in 1892 St. Stephen's Church was built.

Harriet McPherson, who later became Mrs. William McGill, spent many hours in writing to her friends, telling them of the proposed church building. Her interest in helping to obtain several memorials will always be remembered and today they serve as a reminder of her loyal support and deep

interest in the church. Among them should be mentioned three beautiful stained glass windows. One, a memorial to Mrs. McPherson, one in memory of Rev. Ernest McGill and a third in memory of Rev. McGill's wife, a daughter of Mrs. McPherson. The church, when completed was a very beautiful structure and most of the fittings were memorials.

In 1896, the Rev. McGill, who had been serving a parish at Sparrows Point, was returned by the Bishop to Catoctin Parish, where he contributed much to the church and remained a faithful rector until his death in 1906. His work was outstanding and he labored faithfully between the three mission churches, namely St. John's in Walkersville, St. Stephen's at Thurmont, and Harriet Chapel at Catoctin Furnace.

Mr. McGill and his family lived at Auburn and traveled between the missions by horse and buggy. On Sundays the rector's gig was on the road most of the day. Seldom was a church service cancelled because of bad weather. On occasions, the rectory at Catoctin was rented and this explains the reason for the McGills residing at Auburn. Rev. McGill maintained his study there which occupied a portion

of the north wing. It was while the McGills were living at Auburn, that the north wing was destroyed by a bad fire, including the rector's study and all of the early church records — an irrevocable loss.

Following the death of Rev. McGill, the parish was left vacant for a short period of time. At Walkersville, most of the congregation had moved away. At Catoctin only a small group remained as the iron works had slowed down considerably. St. Stephen's in Thurmont seemed to be the liveliest church among the three.

A few years later, after meeting with the Archdeacon, a few vestrymen met to discuss the condition of the parish. After serious consideration, they voted to sell the church at Walkersville. They also voted to sell the rectory at Catoctin and all the buildings and land of the Fitzhugh gift. The proceeds were to be used to build a rectory in Thurmont.

By 1921, Bishop Murray called the Rev. Warren Damuth from New York to serve as rector of the parish. Fr. Damuth was a native of Thurmont and because of this, accepted the charge



St. Stephen's Church

willingly, serving it faithfully for twenty-seven years.

Fr. Damuth died in 1947 and his passing left much to be desired. A short time after his death, he was succeeded by the Rev. Oscar Treder. In 1952, the Rev. Bernard Jennings became rector of Catoctin Parish which included St. Stephen's and Harriet Chapel.

In 1955 St. Stephen's underwent a number of repairs and improvements. The church was painted, plastered and the sanctuary enlarged. A new carpet was laid and the Bishop's chair refinished. The vestry room was improved, a new organ was purchased and the beautiful stained glass windows were repaired.

The Rev. Lloyd L. Wolfe succeeded Rev. Jennings in 1956 and through his efforts an active and very efficient Church School was maintained both at

St. Stephen's and at Harriet Chapel.

On November 1st, 1967, St. Stephen's held its last service, conducted by Bishop Doll. The few families in Thurmont who have remained faithful to St. Stephen's to the very end were willing to go to Harriet for the time being. This closing has eliminated a costly maintenance problem and marked the beginning of a consolidation of St. Stephen's and Harriet Chapel, which will take place at some future date on a new tract of land just outside of Thurmont, where the whole parish activity will be concentrated.

Chapter 25 The Thurmont Trolley Line

In the year 1898, while the Monocacy Valley Railroad was operating successfully between Catoctin Furnace and Thurmont, another railroad was being considered by the citizens of Frederick, Maryland. Their plans were to construct a line from Washington, D. C. to Gettysburg, passing over the Monocacy Valley Railroad and the Emmitsburg Railroad on their way to Gettysburg.

By using the tracks of these two lines, construction costs could be cut considerably. With this objective in mind, a corporation known as the Frederick, Thurmont and Northern Railroad was incorporated by the Maryland Legislature. After conducting several surveys and clearing some legal work, interest in the corporation subsided and construction work was delayed for several years.

Interest in the proposed project was revived again in 1902, at which time the name of the corporation was changed to the Washington, Frederick and Gettysburg Railroad. Additional surveys were then made and in 1905 construction work on the first section between Frederick and

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HISTORY



The Thurmont Trolley crossing an old dirt road south of Thurmont.

Lewistown was begun. This section, a distance of ten miles in the direction of Catoctin Furnace, was completed in 1907, having a maximum grade of 2 and 1/2% and was laid with new 70-pound rail. This line soon became very popular. Steam locomotives were used in hauling passengers and freight between the two communities.

The next step was to purchase the Monocacy Valley Railroad and to build the connecting link of three miles between Lewistown and Catoctin Furnace. Two years later in 1907, this portion of the line was completed, thus providing a continuous track from Frederick to Thurmont, where it made connections with the Western Maryland Railroad. The line between Frederick and Washington and from Thurmont to Gettysburg was never completed.

Not long after the line was completed, the Frederick Railroad Company was formed and took over the operation of the steam railroad between Frederick and Thurmont as well as the Frederick-Middletown Railroad and the Jefferson-Braddock Railway Company.

In 1909 electrification of the Thurmont-Frederick Division was accomplished, making it the first electric railroad in the United States to handle freight cars with electric locomotives. The first electric passenger car made its maiden run to Thurmont this same year, with many dignitaries and company officials aboard.

The unique feature of this line was the standard gauge track, which made possible the routing of freight cars over the tracks, thus providing many services to communities located along the scenic route. The interurban trolley out-paced the horse and buggy.

The coming of the trolley brought with it many changes. There was a period of leisurely excursions into the

country. Its appearance, at a time when life was still centered in the local community, and a twenty-mile journey was an adventure to be undertaken with forethought and a definite plan. The trolley soon changed all of this. There were excursions into the country, picnics, scenic rides, and all-day visits to farm friends amid sweet clean country breezes unpolluted by carbon monoxide fumes.

Trolley lines on the Potomac Edison System began as early as the mid 1800's, many originating as small city operated lines. They grew, and through a series of mergers, finally became incorporated into a network of tracks connecting most of the towns in the areas served by the Potomac Edison Company.

Gradually the automobile and the bus came into its own and patronage of the trolley line dwindled. Despite competition there were many who remained faithful commuters to the very end.

In January 1954, it was announced that passenger service between Frederick and Thurmont had declined to such an extent that it would be discontinued. As a result of this announcement, the line was deluged with riders. Not only did the citizens of the two communities develop a nostalgic interest in the trolley - but tourists from California, Florida and Oklahoma, hearing of the announcement, stopped off long enough to ride the rails of the last surviving line of its kind. Hobbyists, hundreds of them, united in clubs, were honored by special runs on Sunday afternoons, all at the regular fare rates.

Several of the extra runs were double headers with more cars jammed to capacity. On some occasions people even stood up for the round trip, just to be able to say they rode the Thurmont trolley in its last days.

Several weeks before the final run,

Maurice Ramsburg, conductor on most of the special runs had an experience he will long remember. Up in the Catoctin hills the passengers piled off, set up a tape recorder along the tracks and requested Maurice to bring the trolley down the incline at a normal pace. With whistle tooting merrily and wheels clanging in the smartest style, the sounds of the Thurmont trolley were preserved on tape for posterity.

Then came the fateful day. On Saturday, February 20, 1954, the Thurmont trolley made its final run. It was a day of sad nostalgia and for some it brought mist to the eyes and a sentimental ache in the heart.

Although it was cloudy and raining, a large crowd was on hand at Thurmont to witness the final run. Two cars, bearing a hundred or more got in. invited dignitaries, arrived shortly before noon. Paul Smith, President of the Potomac Edison Company, spoke briefly at the farewell ceremonies, conducted on a platform erected for the occasion. "This is a rather significant historical occasion, which has

created considerable interest from many angles."

Speaking on behalf of the citizens of Thurmont, Mayor, Ray Weddle remarked that although the trolley service was being discontinued, it would still be preserved in memory and take its place in a part of the rich history of Thurmont's past.

Giving up their trolley service was hard for some of the veteran commuters who had grown up with the trolley line and accepted it as a necessary part of their lives, and furthermore depended upon it for most of their transportation.

Following the ceremonies at Thurmont, the trolleys returned to Freder-

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James Walter Joy



James Walter Joy, 79, of Emmitsburg, passed away on November 12. Jim was the son of the late Austin and Catherine Joy. He was blessed with 55 years of marriage to Rebecca (Troxell) Joy, who preceded him in death earlier this year.

Jim attended St. Joseph's High School in Emmitsburg. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, the Thurmont American Legion, and the Good Timers. Jim enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, in which he served as the company sniper. He parachuted over both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, into four continents, multiple countries, several territories, and a couple of archipelago islands.

Jim was a construction worker, blessing many local homes, and was known for his strong work ethic, attention to detail, excellent mind

for math, and his willingness to go out of his way to help another. He enjoyed the simple pleasures in life: swinging on the porch with his grandchildren, fixing large bowls of ice cream, playing cards, learning magic tricks, hunting, fishing, and golfing. Jim loved people and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Jim is survived by his daughter Nicole Graff and husband Edmund, his son Wade Joy and wife Susan, his son Chad Joy and wife Michelle, and his six precious grandchildren, Bryan Graff, Hailey Joy, Emily Graff, Mason Joy, Alex Joy, and Tyler Joy. Jim was one of eight brothers and sisters and is survived by Barbara Jean Sanders, Virginia Lee Johnson, Vincent Wayne Joy, Judith Elaine Yaukey, and Thomas Eugene Joy, along with many extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his sisters Patricia Ann Otto and Mary Josephine Wivell.

In lieu of flowers, please consider doing a kind deed in Jim's honor. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic concerns, the family will not be holding a Mass of Christian Burial at this time. Jim donated his remains to science and will be interred with his wife at a later date with a private grave side memorial service.

ick where the dignitaries and guests were entertained at a special luncheon held at the Francis Scott Key Hotel.

Although passenger service between Frederick and Thurmont was discontinued, it did not, however, spell the end of the line itself. Freight service was contin-

ued for a number of years. Finally, this too was abandoned and in September 1958, the tracks were removed and this 17-mile stretch of ties and rails between Frederick and Thurmont became another chapter of recorded history.

Continued next month

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Thorndale

David Buie

Driving from Westminster to Taneytown, one could hardly imagine that the house located at 3722 Old Taneytown Road once served as a boarding school for some of America's socially elite young women.

Named for Thorndale in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Taneytown's Thorndale was the centerpiece of a 3000-acre tract of land known as "Runnymede Enlarged" that first belonged to Dr. Upton Scott (1724-1814) of Annapolis. In 1810, Belfast businessman Clotworthy Birnie (1765-1845), Scott's nephew, arrived in America with his family to manage Runnymede for his uncle; in a short time, he inherited the entire property.

Initially, Birnie built a frame house for himself and his family near Bear Branch, east of Taneytown along the road to Westminster. Just when he began making plans to build Thorndale, a much larger house, is unknown, but they had been discussed by 8 June 1831, when his son, Attorney Clotworthy Birnie, Jr., wrote from Baltimore:

"I hear some gentlemen speaking of house building & they said lumber was rising very fast. Mr. Stewart's house will be little more than the size of yrs. & he calculates that the Lot & all will cost him not much short of \$9,000, so I hope you will begin

this summer & have it under roof by fall, if you do not you may spend 2 more winters where you are. - I tried to form you a house under one roof but owing to the negroes & working people, I could not. - The plan I left you last is the best for economy I can devise having the size of the rooms to yourself."

His son would prove to be prophetic as the house was not started in the summer of 1831, and the father did spend two more winters before moving into his new abode.

Birnie noted in his diary on 7 February 1832, "I bargained with Henry Geatty to build my house agreeable to my plan for \$500 & 4 barrels flour & 400 Bacon & with Ephraim Swope for \$437 to commence 1st June." Geatty was a carpenter in Westminster and is known from an advertisement he placed in the Westminster Carrolltonian in 1833. Swope was a mason who would later work on Carroll's brick courthouse and stone jail in Westminster in 1837-38. For unknown reasons, Geatty backed out of the contract by mid-March 1832 and Birnie gave the job to carpenter Winchester Clingan. The foundation of the house was laid out on the evening of 6 April 1832, and excavation began. As most of Birnie's papers survive, there are useful details on the home's construction. On Friday, 29 November 1833, Birnie noted in his diary, "The family removed to the new House."

Until 1837 Thorndale functioned

primarily as a farm. The late Dr. Basil Crapster, a Taneytown historian, provided insight into Birnie's agricultural practices. "Birnie began by working the home farm with paid workers, slaves, and indentured servants, in a style not usual in the area. The ease with which slaves escaped to Pennsylvania was one reason why he gradually reduced their number through sale, manumission, and encouragement of emigration to Africa. In the effort to reproduce the plantation style of the Tidewater he was backward looking; in other ways Birnie was an innovative farmer. He twice served as vice-president of the Frederick County Agricultural Society and tried to get it to hold shows at Taneytown. He corresponded with the editors of farm journals. In 1819, he had a Baltimore craftsman build a new type plow to his specification. In 1820, he built a copy of a new thresher and in 1821 a corn planter. To improve his flock of sheep he imported a new stock from as far away as Poughkeepsie, NY, in 1830, but soon disposed of his flock as unprofitable. A prize bull and a heifer were shipped to him from England; unfortunately, the bull died on the way. Equally unsuccessful was a decade of effort, begun in 1827, to make and sell wine from his own grapes. Soil chemistry also attracted his attention and led him to import plaster of Paris from Pennsylvania and guano from Baltimore. Much of Birnie's farming resembled that of the usual smaller family farms of the area, growing such products as flax and wheat for both home consumption and sale in Baltimore."

However, in 1837, the year Carroll County was founded, the emphasis at Thorndale shifted from farming to education when Birnie's six daughters established Thorndale Seminary for Young Ladies. None of the girls ever married, so perhaps opening a school offered an opportunity for them to earn money and continue their activities in the proper social circles.

An advertisement for Thorndale Seminary from an 1839 Westminster newspaper described the school's curriculum - orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, and needlework plus elements of natural philosophy, which included chemistry, botany, and astronomy. A prospectus for the school carried the following information: "The course of instruction comprises the usual branches of an English education with needlework. The pupils have the



Thorndale as it appeared in 1994

advantage of daily association with a family and are under their constant care and supervision. Particular attention is given to religious instruction."

The Birnie sisters relied on their brother, Rogers (1811-1891), to teach mathematics. Margaret (1794-1878) and Hester (1796-1885) taught the other academic subjects. Frances "Fanny" (1809-1904) was the music and painting instructor and tended the garden. Ellen (1805-1890) was in charge of the dairy; Ellen's twin sister, Ann (1805-1890), was in charge of the farm; Rose (1798-1893) handled butchering and provisions. After their parents died in the 1840s, the six girls ran all aspects of the school and farm, probably with some advice from Rogers, who lived nearby at Glenburn and operated a school for boys - indeed, a family enterprise.

The Thorndale school year was divided into two terms, each 21 or 22 weeks in length. Boarding and tuition for girls older than 12 cost \$80 per term in 1839. That included \$5 for washing. There were extra charges for instruction in music, drawing, and painting which could add \$32 per term.

On top of that was the cost of books, music, and drawing material. Tuition rose to \$110 per term some years later, and French was offered. Given these prices, it is easy to see that only well-to-do families could afford to send their daughters to Thorndale. Still, it boasted recommendations from prominent ministers, doctors, and citizens such as Francis Scott Key, a Birnie relative. Most students came from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

By 1872, when the school closed, the sisters were up in years. Margaret, the eldest, died in 1878 at 83, and Fanny, the youngest, died in 1904 at the age of 94. In 1907, the house was sold outside the family, returning to a working farm. Today, it consists of slightly over one hundred and eight acres but remains one of the most significant structures in Carroll County for its architecture and history.

David Buie is a volunteer at the Historical Society of Carroll County and can be contacted via e-mail at team-buie05@msn.com.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 3

Bank Installs Burglar Alarm

This week the Emmitsburg Savings Bank install the latest type a burglar alarm. The system is so arranged that any tampering with the building, the turning of a bolt or any attempt to cut a cable will sound the alarm. The entire system is controlled by an electric timer located in the vault. The bank's retired old alarm system – Max, a 10-year-old German Sheppard, who was known for barking just about at anything, and would howl insensately, as if his ears hurt, at the singing of prohibition songs by Suffergetts, is now being employed to guard the super secret main still of the Former-Former Boozers Association in the barn of Dr. Brokaw.

Got Windshield For A Stolen Car

Not satisfied with having stolen an automobile minus a windshield, the thief or thieves who took the Ford machine of Mr. Polly from Fairfield several weeks ago return to that town Monday night and stole windshield from the car of Frank Moore, also a resident of Fairfield. The remaining part of the car was not touched. Police authorities believe they have a clue to the man responsible for the thefts but so far have been unsuccessful in attempting to capture him.

The theft of the Moore windshield was merely one of a series that I have greatly annoyed the residence of Fairfield for a long time and have given rise to the general question of "what's coming next."

On the same night that the more windshield was taking the thieves went into the garage of William Musselman and stole the body of his truck. Next they went to the residence of Joseph Musselman and took half a hog that was hanging on the butcher's hook. All these petty thefts, there is every reason to believe, were performed by the same person or persons responsible for the robbery of Mr. Polly's car and numerous other crimes committed in Fairfield and vicinity during the past year.

December 10

Speeding on Emmitsburg Road

We have heard numerous reports a very fast autos driving on the Emmitsburg State Road; that speed limits are not being observed – as one man said, "they burn up the road regardless of the danger, and with slight regard for more sane drivers." Whether the speeders are local drivers, or tourist, we are an able to say, but that speeding is a common occurrence is a sure thing. Residence along this road would be acting in the interest of their own protection, if they would gather evidence and send it to the State Auto Commissioner in Baltimore. This is a particularly fine stretch of road, but it is not built for speedway.

Inspects New Bridge

The Adams County Commissioners conducted an informal inspection Tuesday afternoon of the new Reynolds Bridge across Marsh Creek on the Emmitsburg Road near Greenmount. The bridge, in the opinion of the county board, is the most handsome structure of its kind in Adams County, even surpassing the beauty of the Conowingo span at New Oxford. The total cost of the structure amounts to \$30,000.

Cement Plant On Half Time

The Tidewater Portland Cement Plant, along the Frederick County line, near Union Bridge, one of the largest factories of its kind in the country, has put into affect a half time schedule. Approximately 400 men are employed and the plant has been operating day and night. During the war employees, who formally earned from one dollar to two and one half found themselves getting from five dollars to \$10 a day. It is said that some of the employees, who in the days of prosperity bought \$10 silk shirts and \$75 suits of clothing, are now out of work.

December 17

No Woman To Serve On Juries In Adams County

Adams has joined the list of counties where women will not be required to serve upon juries in 1921. Although no definitive ruling has been made by the Courts to this effect, it has been decided that no names of women will be placed in the wheel unless such notice is urgently requested by members of the newly enfranchised sex.

In speaking of the matter, the Court said "there is no necessity at the present times for Adams County women to be drawn as jurors on the account of the many complicated situations that may arise, and it is well known that women are incapable of handling situations that require deep thinking."

It is the privilege of women, however, to serve on the 1921 juries, and they will be given the opportunity if they demand it. So far no woman has approached either of the jury commissioners and requested that her name be placed on the jury wheel. Apparently right minded men have been able to impress upon their wives the importance of leave men's work to men, and that their women folk should concentrate on women's work – cook, cleaning, gossiping, and taking care of 'youngins.

It is not likely that the women of the County will exercise their prerogative to serve as jurors. "Serving as a juror in a long drawn out trial is not always a very pleasant task and often it is necessary for the 12 good man to be locked together in a room for hours at a time." Said one Court official. "The very thought of being locked in a room with a women for a hour is bad enough, being locked in a room

for 12 hours, without booze, listening to a women whine would be considered cruel and unusual punishment, and therefore unconstitutional."

December 24

Recovers From Deep Gash

Elias Bream, 30 years old, who lives one and a half miles north of Fairfield, is recovering slowly from a deep cut he received recently while working at a circular saw. While putting a piece of wood through the saw, Mr. Bream was cut so badly across the wrist that he nearly lost his entire right hand. 16 stitches were required to close the gash, which severed the main artery and sent blood forth in a stream. Mr. Bream probably save himself from bleeding to death by checking the flow of blood with his left hand while Oliver Clerk, a fellow workman, hastily applied a bandage.

Injured By Tractor

Clarence Smith, of Harney, was caught in a clutch pulley on his gas tractor. He was badly hurt and is in serious condition.

His Horses Killed Him

Rundown and trampled by his own team of four horses, Charles Favorite, successful farmer and dairy man of Thurmont, was, last Saturday afternoon, so badly injured that he died in half an hour from a concussion of the brain. He was endeavoring to stop his horses that had run away when frightened by the sound of a mill whistle. His team was standing alongside another team, when the horses started off, and he was caught between the two wagons.

White Christmas Prospects Growing

Prospects of snow so that Santa Claus can pay his annual visit in timeout tradition of "miniature sleigh with a eight tiny reindeer" are beginning to look good. A storm moving east will arrive late Christmas Eve day and is expected to be extensive precipitation, and with temperatures dropping throughout the day, the rain stands a very good chance of turning to snow.

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December 31

Trespass Case

The case of Daniel Stull, of Emmitsburg, charge for trespassing on the property of John Ohler, was taken up again in Frederick County Court. In the original hearing, Stull was accusing of having broken open the gate on Ohler's property. The evidence showed that Stull had used a road on the right away agreement with Ohler and that on coming to the gate one day he found it locked, and broke it open. He was originally fined \$10 and cost. Judge Worthington however, reversed the ruling, stating that Stull was justified in breaking open the gate that prevented him from using the right of way. The Judge declared however, that since the evidence show that Stull got outside of the right away and on Ohler's property as he climbed over the gate to break it open, he was guilty of a technical trespass and was fine one dollar and cost of the defense.

Married Over Stateline

At 9:30 Saturday night, when Arthur Krug and Mary Forney, of Keymar,

knocked at the door of the parsonage of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, expecting to be married by the Reverend Clay Bergstresser, they did not know that a Maryland license could not be used in Pennsylvania.

The minister knew this and told a couple he could not perform the ceremony. But as the disappointed couple turned away a happy thought struck the clergyman. He remembered reading of a case where the pastor of United Brethren Church had escorted a couple over the line and married them under the shade of a maple tree.

It took but a moment to lay this plan before the young couple, and they acted accordingly. Taking Reverend Bergstresser along with them in the buggy, they drove 2 miles down the Baltimore Pike, stopping just over the state line. There under the light of two oil lamps that were fastened on the top of the vehicle, the service was read. An hour later the trio was back at Saint Paul's, much elated over their adventure. The newlyweds continued on their honeymoon trip home.

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



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Happy New Year!

COOKING

Christmas spices & treats

Rheta Thola
Hollabaugh Brothers

Anyone that has ever spent any amount of time with me around December will know that I love Christmas. I turn into a Pollyanna and wish that the month of December could last much longer than thirty-one days. One of my favorite Christmas "traditions" with you is attending a Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert.

If you are not familiar with the group, they are what would happen if you took Christmas carols and classic rock and mixed them together (and add in some lasers and pyrotechnics). Now before that completely scares you, it is one of the most moving performances I have ever seen and each year I walk away joyful and full of Christmas spirit. The performance is just that – a performance. It is meant to be enjoyable and engaging and to lure you back year after year wondering what they will do next. But it also tells a story for those who listen and want to be a part of it.

During Christmas it is easy to operate based on autopilot and assumptions. We often assume that people already have plans for Christmas, when in truth, they may be facing a holiday season without friends and family. We may operate on autopilot while in the store to get what we need as fast as we can and get out of the store, so we walk past the person who is clearly needs help reaching that item on the top shelf or picking up their cans of soup that are rolling in the parking lot after their bag ripped.

This Christmas season, amidst all the bustle that usually comes, and all the strange and different COVID

complications, find time to just ask. Make a habit of seeing how many times you can ask "Can I help you with that?" If you have children, make it game! Tally how many times you can ask and how many different people you can ask. See if, like the Grinch, your heart can grow 3 times bigger! As your heart grows, as you help others, this world can change and "this Christmas thing" can last.

Homemade Christmas Ornaments (NOT edible)

Ingredients

- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 1/2 cup ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons craft glue, optional

Preparation Instructions: Mix the applesauce, cinnamon, and glue in a mixing bowl. You'll probably need to stir with your hands, as a spoon won't get the job done. Add more applesauce or cinnamon if needed - you want the dough to be a touch dry, but it still needs to hold together when you roll it out. When the dough can be formed into a ball, you are done mixing. Wash your hands.

Place 1/3 of the dough between two sheets of plastic wrap and use the rolling pin to roll the dough to 1/4" - 1/3" thick. Remove the top layer of plastic wrap and use cookie cutters to cut out ornaments. Repeat with the remaining dough. Use the straw to poke holes for hanging in each ornament.

Pop the ornaments on a baking rack on top of a baking sheet in a 200° oven for about 2 1/2 hours until the ornaments are dry and hard. When the ornaments are completely dry and cooled, buff the edges with fine-grit sandpaper

(optional). Decorate however you'd like, then string the ornaments on a ribbon. Write the year on the back with a Sharpie.

Homemade Simmering Spices (NOT edible)

Ingredients:

- 5 cups water
- 2 navel oranges, peeled
- 1 apple, sliced in half
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 3 star anise
- 1 teaspoon-sized knob of fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon cardamom pods
- 1 teaspoon whole cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon dried orange peel

Preparation Instructions: Combine all ingredients together in a saucepan and heat over low heat until simmering. You can keep this going for a few hours, adding additional water when needed. You can also throw everything in the crockpot and set it on low or high with the top off.

No Bake Coffee Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 cups crushed vanilla wafers
- 1 1/4 cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup finely chopped pecans
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons instant coffee crystals
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 4-5 tablespoons brewed espresso or strong coffee
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

Preparation Instructions: Combine crushed cookies, the 1 1/4 cups powdered sugar, nuts, cocoa, coffee crystals, and cinnamon. Add brewed coffee using just enough to moisten. Form



Christmas/winter simmering spice mix - makes your home smell wonderful!

mixture into 1 1/4" balls. Roll balls generously in the 1/2 cup powdered sugar. Place balls on sheet of waxed paper and let stand until dry (about an hour). Before serving, roll balls again in powdered sugar if desired.

Cinnamon Cream Cheese Cookies

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter (1 stick) softened
- 4 ounces cream cheese softened
- 1 & 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste or extract
- pinch kosher salt
- 1 & 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

Preparation Instructions: In a large bowl, cream together the butter and cream cheese with a hand mixer until smooth. Slowly add the powdered sugar until combined. Add egg, baking powder, vanilla, and salt. Mix to combine. Add flour in slowly until fully incorporated, scraping the sides as needed. Place in fridge for one hour to rest. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a small bowl, mix together the cinnamon and sugar. Set aside.

Roll dough into 1 inch sized balls, about 2 teaspoons worth of dough. Roll until coated in the

cinnamon sugar mixture. Place on a parchment lined cookie sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake for 8-9 minutes, until just set. Do not overbake, it is hard to tell when these cookies are ready, they will puff up but won't get golden brown. Let cool on baking sheet for 10 minutes. Transfer cookies to a wire rack and let cool completely.

Hollabaugh Brothers Upcoming Events

11th Annual Holiday Open House Weekend – December 4th 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; December 5th 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; December 6th 12 – 4:30 p.m. Free. No registration required.

Kids' Christmas Event – December 5th 10 – 11:30 a.m. AND 12 – 1:30 p.m. Cost \$10. Pre-registration required.

Family Cooking Class: The Great Cookie Debate – December 19th 1:30 – 3 p.m. Cost \$15. Pre-registration required.

Adventures, Experiments and Other Exploits2 – December 19th 9 – 10:30 a.m. Cost \$15. Pre-registration required.

Mini Maker: Reindeer – December 21st 10 – 11 a.m. Cost \$7. Pre-registration required.

For more information about these events, call Hollabaugh Bros at 717-677-8412 or visit our website at www.hollabaughbros.com

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MOMS TIME OUT

Christmas traditions

Mary Angel

Christmas is right around the corner and then a week later the New Year. Is this possible? We have weathered quite a storm this year and it is hard to believe all we have been through. It seems like Covid is the topic of every conversation. Even when a conversation does not start with Covid, eighty percent of the time it ends there. I don't know about anyone else, but I am tired of it. I know it is an important topic, I just want to go back to some sort of normalcy. That is what the holidays are for us.

I have spoken at length about how much I love traditions; this is their chance to shine. Traditions are going to save Christmas this year. My hope is that, through traditions, my family will be able to feel a minimal amount of normalcy. Traditions can create a sense of comfort and control. Both are super important in a time when none of us have the control we used to enjoy, especially not our kids. This is the time of year when we can follow all the CDC and state guidelines for social distancing and hanging out only with members of our household and still have a marvelous holiday. There will be family and friends that we will want to see, but that is what Zoom is for. There are plenty of fun holiday games that you can enjoy on Zoom.

As for my family, we will spend time decorating the tree, baking and watching Hallmark Christmas movies and White Christmas repeatedly. When we wake up

Christmas morning (not too early), we will meet by the tree to open gifts. The kids are of an age where they purchase gifts for the other members of the family and are super excited about it. It is wonderful to see the excitement when a sibling has put thought into a gift for each of them. My husband and oldest son will have their areas cleaned up before the last piece of wrapping paper hits the floor. My girls will disappear with all their stuff to their rooms before their trash is cleaned up. My nineteen-year-old son will ask if I need any help cleaning up before he too retreats to his room for some down time. It won't be long when we call them all out for some Christmas breakfast casseroles and orange juice.

After breakfast, we will all go to my parents in-law's space and exchange gifts there. My mom will beam with every gift the kids open and apologize that it couldn't be more. I will comment on how my parents "over did it" again this year. Next, there will be many hours of alone time to enjoy the gifts everyone has given each other. Someone usually gets a movie for Christmas, so that is often enjoyed by several of my family members. Clothes will be tried on, whole outfits created and displayed for approval, video games will be played, and candy will be eaten too fast.

We will enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner of ham, turkey, extra mashed potatoes (the nineteen year old has suddenly realized that he loves them), green beans, corn, gravy, and my mom's black bottom biscuits (a nickname that

comes from the fact that she always burns the bottoms). The meal will happen earlier than our usual dinners so that naps (if they haven't already happened) may be had for the evening showing of Christmas Vacation followed by White Christmas. The Vikings will be playing the Saints on our tv at 4:00 while we clean up dinner. While we watch the movies most, if not all, of us will play games. The games will be family favorites, new ones if we got any, and this year some new ones.

Although Christmas isn't typically a travel day for us, we have in the past gone to visit family and friends on the days surrounding Christmas. This year, for their safety and out of the love we have for them, we will not be visiting those loved ones. Keeping that in mind, I have planned some alternative ways to enjoy the holidays with them. Yes, I am breaking from tradition or maybe I am just starting some new traditions. The bottom line is that all traditions had to start somewhere. So, this year I am sending several friends and family members a request for an item in a Christmas Mad Lib. You remember Mad Libs from when you were young. You would ask for words that fit certain parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective, etc.) and then insert them into the Mad Lib and read it to everyone and watch the giggles begin. This is the perfect Zoom activity to do with friends and family. We will also start a tradition of a few games of Christmas Among Us and maybe even use the Zoom screen share feature to watch those Christmas movies together with loved ones that live in Washington state.



I have heard so many people say they are done with Zoom and I understand missing your loved ones in person. At the same time, how many of us want to have a Christmas memory of insisting on seeing someone in person and then that person or someone they love ending up in the hospital because we were asymptomatic? That is certainly not a tradition I want to start or be any part of. I have also heard from some people that there is nothing to worry about because this virus has a 99% survival rate. To that I would say the same thing and add that that statistic is a very generic uninformed account of the virus. What I mean

is that if you asked the elderly or immunocompromised that might see that as a very unrealistic account of the virus. If you asked someone who lost a healthy child or young adult family member to the virus they might also argue that statistics don't matter; what matters is putting others (even those you don't know) ahead of yourself. Christmas is the season of thinking of others before yourself. So, Zoom, or call, or send cards, but stay safe and have a Merry Christmas.

To read past editions of Moms Time out, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Fairfield prepares for winter sports

The Fairfield Area School District (FASD) board approved a proposed Return to Play Guidelines for winter sports at their November 23 meeting which will commence with appropriate COVID-19 restrictions. The plan covers practice session . . . and games held at FASD and away-from-home.

The winter sports season begins November 20, with the end-date dependent upon whether or not the district makes it into the post-season, according to Crystal Heller, director of athletics.

Regarding team practice sessions, coronavirus symptom screening will include daily symptom and temperature checks, during which coaches and athletes are required to wear masks. Test results are to be turned-in at the end of each practice.

In order to attend away-from-home games, the "home" teams of the away-from-home games are to be presented with documents certifying that the FASD teams have "completed screenings and are symptom-free."

Due to the necessity of maintaining social distancing, "huddling" is prohibited. Team members must be spread apart by at least six feet, and thus expected to communicate their intended plays to the team members in this manner. The plan further states, "Any student that does not comply with social distancing requirements should be removed and sent home from practice."

Regarding equipment - athletes and staff are required to wear masks or face-shields while on school property (except during physical-conditioning or intense cardio-workouts), and while being

transported on school-issued transportation, and are also required to be on if players or staff are sitting and watching the games or matches, even while not actually participating.

In sports wherein there may be handling-off of a ball, the ball is to be taken out-of-play and sanitized at the next occurring "dead ball" - before being allowed to be placed back into play.

Wrestling workout groups will be limited in number, and participants will be required to wipe-down with the body-wipes provided by the district after workout sessions.

According to the district, as per Governor Tom Wolf's mandates - athletes may not engage in chewing gum, licking of fingers, nor spitting. Players are not to play shirtless.

Sports faculty must wear face cover-

Sabillasville Elementary school to close

The Frederick County Public Schools Board of Education voted to close Sabillasville Elementary at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year after considering a variety of alternatives presented by community members.

In February, the Board voted to keep Sabillasville open for the 2020-21 calendar year in order

to vet possible options for keeping the school in operation.

Sabillasville Elementary had a total enrollment of 70 students as of September 30 and a building capacity for 160 students. FCPS will share more details with the Sabillasville Elementary community about future options in future meetings.

ings while in the buildings. No more than four trainees and a coach will be permitted in the weight room at one time, while only two students will be permitted in the athletic training room.

Regarding spectators - athletes are provided with three passes (medals) that they may hand-out to whomever they choose. Social distancing will be maintained in

the areas where spectators are permitted to view the games, unless two or three are of the same family who reside in the same residence . . . in which case they, as a group, will be required to maintain social distancing from any/all other spectators.

Video-cameras will be installed to allow for remote-viewing (streaming) of games.

FCPS to move to 'Hybrid Model' classes

During the Wednesday, November 11 meeting, the Frederick County Board of Education voted to begin the second half of the school year (which begins on January 28) under the 'hybrid model' proposed in the county's reopening plan for schools. The final vote for the motion was 6-0, with one board member abstaining from the vote. Overall, the decision has received a mixed reception; some strongly advocate for students returning to the classroom, while others simply believe it is too dangerous to do so.

An important caveat to this decision is that it is neither final nor binding by any definition. The board, as well as Superintendent Terry Alban, reserve the right to reconsider or reverse the decision based upon state guidance, state

direction, and/or relevant COVID-19 metrics.

As approved by the board, the hybrid model will include online and in-person instruction for students. Students will all be placed into either an 'A' or a 'B' cohort. The A cohort students will have in-person instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays, and online instruction on Thursdays and Fridays. Students in the B cohort will experience the exact opposite: online learning on Mondays and Tuesdays and in-person instruction on Thursdays and Fridays.

All students will have online instruction on Wednesdays while the school buildings are thoroughly cleaned. Additionally, school buildings will undergo a thorough cleaning on Saturday and Sunday. Any students wishing to con-

tinue exclusively with classes online will be allowed to do so.

Additionally, the board discussed and voted on a motion to allow sports to begin officially in December. This motion passed by a vote of 4-2, again with one board member abstaining from the vote. Under the plan, winter sport practices and activities will be allowed to begin on December 7, while winter sport competitions will be scheduled to begin in January. The shortened winter sports season will be followed by an abbreviated fall sports season, which will be followed by an abbreviated spring sports season.

As with the school decision, the decision to begin sports this month could be changed or reversed by the board or Superintendent Alban depending upon

state guidance, state direction, and/or relevant COVID-19 metrics. "This was a very hard vote," Board President Brad Young said in a Facebook post on his page, "but we have to be prepared to get kids back in school. Too many are falling through the cracks and we can not let that happen!"

Board member Lois Jarman was the one abstaining vote in both decisions. Jarman said that she chose to abstain because she believed that newly elected board members that will be sworn-in this month should have a say in these decisions. The recent election saw voters decide between six candidates on the ballot: incumbent board members Jarman and Rae Gallagher, both of whom were appointed to fill empty seats by County Executive Jan Gardner, David Bass, Jason

Johnson, Sue Johnson, and Dean Rose. Additionally, Paulette Anders launched a significant write-in campaign.

Ultimately, the election proved to be very competitive and was not called until over a week after Election Day, once all of the mail-in and provisional ballots were counted. In the end, Sue Johnson was the top vote getter by a wide margin, while Jason Johnson and David Bass also won seats on the board, but by much narrower margins.

Finally, President Brad Young recently announced that he will not seek another term as board president when the vote is held later this month and will instead support current Board Vice President Jay Mason for President. Young has served as president for seven of his ten years on the board, but felt that it was time for a change in leadership and for him to give someone else the opportunity to lead the board.

Library notes

Kimberly Quick
Frederick County Library

Welcome December and winter! December becomes a time for more indoor pursuits. Baking, reading,

or learning a new hobby are a natural fit for this time of year. Frederick County Public Libraries provides access to all these activities and has endless amounts of opportunities to learn new skills, read new books, or watch new movies and tv

series. Borrow a cookbook and try a new recipe, check out a book for a new DIY skill. Make sure to use our Personalized Picks and tell us what you would like to learn, do, read, or watch!

While our buildings currently remain closed, library staff are still working hard to continue to serve our communi-

ties. You are able now able to chat with a librarian through our live chat service Monday through Saturday, 10am - 5 pm. Tutoring, a writing lab, resume, and career help are available through Brain-Fuse. Parents and caregivers be sure to check our Learn From Home section for additional support and resources while continuing to learning from home.

Our library staff love helping you. Please visit FCPL.org and use Con-

tact Us Now, our live chat service, or call Thurmont Regional Library, Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Emmitsburg Branch Library on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.. Curbside pickup continues with expanded hours until 4:45 p.m. While our buildings remain closed, we are thankful to connect with you through these services and wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

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SCHOOL NEWS

Keeping students out of harm's way

Karen Yoho
Frederick County School Board

Anyone who has paid any attention this past year probably realizes that being a Board of Education member is not an easy thing to be. I find myself thinking, sardonically, that the next time we go through a once-in-a-hundred-year pandemic we'll know so much more and will be able to deal it with so much better.

So, no, it hasn't been easy. There's very little to base our decisions on. All seven of us have been reading and researching. Superintendent Alban routinely speaks with Dr. Brookmyer, the head of the Frederick County Health Department, and shares information with us. This is a new virus so the medical establishment is still learning about it.

On "60 Minutes" recently, they showed what they called "long haulers". These are people who had what seemed like a fairly mild case of Covid-19, yet weeks and months later, they are still suffering from debilitating symptoms. It's still being studied to figure out why this occurs. This disease has been shown to attack virtually every organ in the body and blood clots are commonly found.

Given all we do and do not know about the Coronavirus, it would seem to be an easy decision to not put students and staff in harm's way. So, all twenty-four school systems in Maryland opted for a virtual start to the school year. Teachers were now able to teach online at the same time their students were online in what is often called synchronous instruction. Teachers were learning how to improve their virtual instruction. Many had purchased technology in the forms of cameras, microphones, or other items to help present better lessons for their students.

As part of the motion made on July 29 to have virtual instruction for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year, we asked that Dr. Alban direct her staff to bring students into the buildings with voluntary teachers and instructional assistants. Principals would prioritize the needs of students. Students with connectivity issues have been coming in since the first days of school. They are often monitored by an instructional assistant as they work with their virtual classes.

We've also brought in students with IEPs and English Language Learners, who had not been thriving at home and it was felt would benefit from in-person small group instruction, as well as students at our Career & Technology Center for the classes that require hands-on practice. We have looked for ways to utilize the staff members who volunteered to work directly with students.

Still, we were getting reports of falling grades and unengaged students from every corner of FCPS.

In early October, Brad Young made a motion to begin hybrid instruction on Nov. 10, the start of the second term. I wrestled with this new motion. Through our July motion, we had made a promise that we would stay with virtual instruction for the entire first semester. To now ask our teachers to learn a completely new method of delivering instruction while they are working so hard and barely feel as though they're keeping their heads above water seemed unfair.

We were expecting our teachers to try out an untested system that was being called "concurrent teaching" where you have up to half of your class in front of you and potentially the other half on your computer learning from home. And don't forget the stu-

dents whose parents would opt for virtual instruction for the remainder of the year who also still need instruction. With barely a month to put this into place, I couldn't fathom how it was manageable for the teachers or how it benefitted students.

If we had moved to the hybrid model on Nov. 10, teachers deciding to retire barely had the necessary thirty days to put in their paperwork. As we had seen in neighboring counties, some teachers would flat out resign, while others would take a leave of absence. I envisioned our HR department being completely swamped. Additionally, experts had warned that the fall would show a resurgence of the virus. It did not seem wise or safe to bring a large group of students and staff

Fairfield high school shutdown

Fairfield high school has halted in-person classes as a result of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Virtual classes will be held until the school is reopened.

According to information released by the district, staff became aware on November 19 of the confirmed coronavirus incident, but stated, "Due to privacy requirements, we cannot release the name of the individual or details that may identify him or her."

The statement also noted that the victim "will isolate for 10

days and be symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning." Additionally, it was stated that anyone who may have had close contact with the individual should quarantine themselves for 14 days.

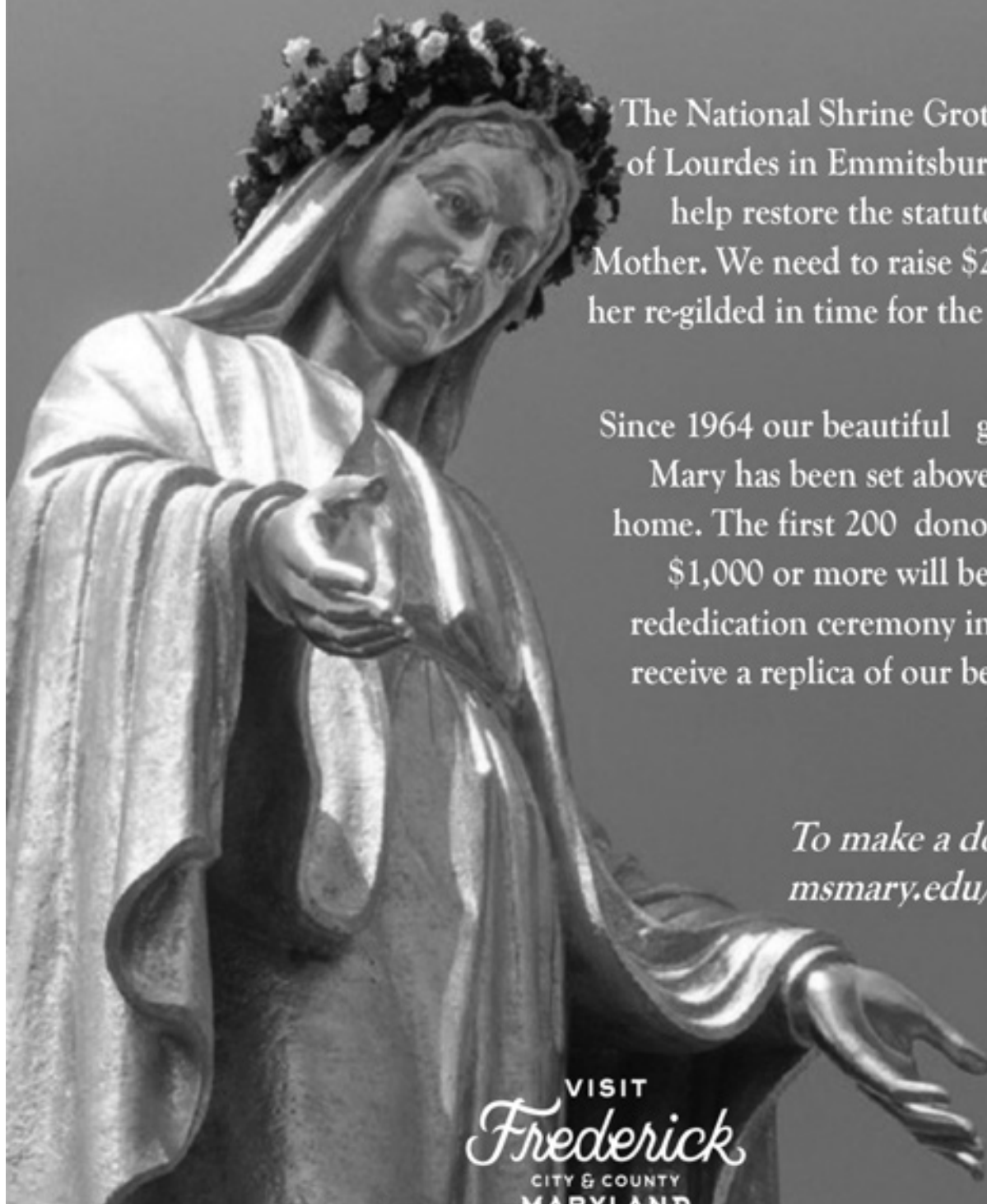
As a result of the confirmed case, the district stated, "All classes at Fairfield High School will be remote starting tomorrow (November 20) ... through December 1," and that high school students "will tentatively return to the hybrid instruction (schedules)" on December 2.

back to our buildings at that time.

As I quickly run out of space, we did pass a motion on Nov. 11 to begin hybrid instruction on Jan.

28. It remains to be seen whether the community will contain the case spread so that we are able to implement this plan. Stay tuned.

Our Lady, bright as the sun...



The National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg invites you to help restore the statue of the Blessed Mother. We need to raise \$200,000 to have her re-gilded in time for the May Crowning next spring.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month, we asked our writers to reflect on this unique fall semester: what went well, what didn't, and what we're excited for in the spring.

Freshman

The unlikely, unexpected, & wonderful

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2024

Not only was fall of 2020 my first semester ever at college, it was a semester unlike any the world had ever seen. I dove headfirst into an accelerated semester comprised of in-person and zoom classes, complicated daily schedules, a six-hundred-mile distance from my family who lives in Kentucky—and all taking place in an atmosphere of optimism and resilience amidst a pandemic. Who would have thought that my first semester of college would have all those elements at once? I certainly would not have guessed that. But nonetheless, though it was a semester like no other, I loved it.

There were so many good things about this semester for me. The ability to go to the nightly adoration that is offered on campus was indescribably powerful. Adoration—time spent in silence with the Lord to reflect and pray—was such a place of comfort for me all semester. And the friends I made through my classes, roommates, and campus ministry are some pretty amazing people. I am

already looking forward to spending the spring semester with them.

The pandemic did pose tests to keeping the doors of the Mount open for sixteen weeks straight. Like the faculty and staff, the students took on unprecedented responsibilities to make it work; for us this meant limited gatherings, less in-person lectures, and learning material at a rapid rate because of the accelerated semester. No fall break, either—just full-speed ahead for sixteen weeks straight. If anyone ever wanted to cultivate the virtues of perseverance and determination, this semester at the Mount was the place to go about it. Our resilient community worked hard to maintain the normalcy of higher education as best we could. This upkeep gave freshman like me the ability to not miss out on studying the liberal arts the way they were meant to be studied: in person, on campus. And sure, we did have to zoom in to study them sometimes—but I will take half-on-zoom and half-in-person over all-online, any day of the week.

Personally, I learn better in a classroom setting, with real human beings in front of me. I had wanted to go to college, live on campus, make friends and get as much out of my classes as possible. Even though many elements that typically comprise a “normal freshman experience” were atypical, the Mount's efforts

to make this semester as normal as possible were deeply appreciated. I also liked that because the lectures were recorded for zoom, I could go back and watch them to study better. The hybrid learning experience had some unexpectedly nifty elements.

The restriction of close-contact sports actually presented unlikely opportunities for me to discover new hobbies. Would I have signed up to play intramural badminton if it had been a “normal semester”? Probably not. I would have signed up to play intramural soccer instead. But because badminton was the option presented to me when soccer couldn't be, I chose to just go for it as something fun to try. Even though I hadn't played since I was about eight years old, playing intramural badminton with my friends was so much fun. It was a lighthearted sport, and created friendly competition that I thrived on. I plan on making it a regular hobby for my roommates and me next semester.

I also spent a lot of time outside this semester, given the limited options for indoor gatherings and activities. My friends and I loved going on walks, hiking, and visiting the grotto that's connected to the Mount. My roommates and I also joined the astronomy club on campus, got to stargaze, and study the moon together using some spectacular

telescopes. What better ways to cultivate friendship, curiosity, and philosophical and theological conversation, than by experiencing the wonders of God's creation together? Next semester, I will definitely be spending a lot of time out and about the beautiful outdoors of the Mount campus with my friends again. The pandemic's challenges drew me outdoors much more than I anticipated this semester and I am grateful for it.

At one point in the semester, there was a necessary restriction on mobility on campus that required my roommates and I to remain in our dorm for four days. Initially we were frustrated; who likes being told to stay indoors for any extended amount of time? But we quickly realized we shouldn't spend our time together steeping in negativity. Within the first day of the restriction, we elected to make the most of the extended time we were having to spend together. We seized it as an opportunity to deep-clean the dorm, to study more intensely, get more homework done than usual, and then reward ourselves with fun movie nights. We played games, had meals together, and listened to music together. On the last night of the restriction, the four of us even threw a little Christmas decorating party for ourselves; we cut paper snowflakes together, put up white Christmas lights we had been saving, and listened to Christmas music. Usually, I think Christmas music

should be played after Thanksgiving—but given our circumstances, we made an exception and, of course, sang along to every word of “All I Want For Christmas is You” by Mariah Carrey. I honestly had a lot of fun despite the situation; we really made the most of it.

This is why I refuse to be ungrateful or complaintive of this unusual first semester. I want to look back and focus on what was good about this semester. How could I let negativity overpower these happy memories and friendships that were made? I learned so much and made so many wonderful friends. I deepened my relationship with Jesus through the sacraments available on campus, and through trusting in Him amidst all struggles. He drew me to pursue virtue when I didn't always want to, and I am so glad of that. From this semester I know and understand these things all the more fully: Joy is a choice. Perseverance is a choice. Now, more than ever, these virtues cannot be thrown out the window just because times are frustrating. Actively choosing joy over negativity can bring about some of the best memories and friendships one could ever know, even in the most atypical of situations—or in my case, even the most atypical of semesters.

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

Sophomore

Learning experience

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

I started off 2020 sitting in my parent's basement counting down the seconds to the New Year at a Roaring Twenties themed party. There were no masks in sight, except for those that came in costume. There were at least twenty people in the room, which is not a capacity level that has been reached since. We were laughing. We were shaking hands. We were hugging each other.

A few weeks later, I came back to school. The words COVID-19 had never crossed my mind. I went to classes, in person and barefaced, as per the norm up until this year. It was over Spring Break, the beginning of March, that I started hearing about the virus. It was described as a global pandemic, but I still hadn't seen it. I traveled up and down the East Coast, enjoying my week away from classes and responsibilities. It started popping up where I went, first in Massachusetts and then in Maryland. As we drove back to Emmitsburg, colleges across the country were telling students to leave for spring break and not come back. Two days after we returned, the Mount made a similar statement; we had until the weekend to get out.

My last memory of normalcy at the Mount was a basketball game. I was wearing a Hawaiian button-up with palm trees over the team shirt. We had filled the fan section, squished together to fit all our friends. I don't remember if we won or lost the game, but I remember my friend and I hugging.

It hasn't felt quite the same since then. It's the same Mount St. Mary's that I got

accepted into roughly two years ago. It's the same buildings with the same people, albeit some are Zooming in from their homes and dorms. It's the same sense of peace that you get from driving up Route 15 and suddenly Mary appears from between the trees. But so much has changed and it's too much to even categorize.

I have had a cotton swab shoved up my nose five times, which is a sentence I never thought I'd write. The only place I can be barefaced and not nervous about it is in my dorm room, the place where I do everything now. I don't remember what a full classroom looks like. There are no dances or parties or big events on campus. We can't even do service trips, at a time when they're probably needed most.

Education itself has been affected. There is not a single person who will tell you that Zoom or hybrid learning is the same education as in-person pre-COVID-19. The attitude about learning has changed fundamentally and I'm very worried that it won't shift back. With the ease of online learning, the ‘learning’ side of it has been lost. It isn't about retention, it's about completion. Out of fear of being too harsh in a time where people are struggling with the pandemic in their own ways, schools everywhere have been too lax with the structure of education in the latter half of 2020. I have at least one in-person class a day and I don't feel like I'm learning anything; I can't imagine what students who are one-hundred-percent remote feel like. Online learning is not the solution to the long-term problem COVID-19 might present. The job of educators everywhere will be to find a way to bring learning back to the forefront of education, especially in university settings. I think that is what has marked this semester the most and everyone has felt the effects of this. Students aren't engaged in

the classroom, even when they're in person, and teachers are not seeing the fruits of their works in their pupils' minds. This is discouraging and exhausting for everyone: Why teach if they won't learn? Why learn if they won't teach?

I don't know what the solution is. The pandemic surges on and we're threatened with more closures and a revamp of safety measures. I will socially distance. I will wear a mask. I will go another semester with no break, although I won't do it without complaining. I will have cotton swabs shoved up my nose, over and over again, until this thing is over. I miss the normalcy, but most of all, I miss college. I miss talking to professors after class when the discussion was so good that it spills over into office hours and café meetings. I miss genuine class discourse, where everyone is in the room and no one is a black screen in the back of the class. I miss talking to my friends about what I'm reading about in textbooks and expanding my knowledge of other disciplines. We've waxed poetic about the social and mental implications of the pandemic, but I worry about the educational and institutional ones. There is only so much control we let the pandemic have over us before we decide that there are things in life that we aren't willing to sacrifice. For me, education is one of them.

I'm greatly looking forward to next semester. After grappling with pandemic precautions and the potential for closure for the past four months, the university is prepared to deal with any rise in cases and more intense regulations. With our minds finally at ease in that area, we can turn our focus to other aspects of the pandemic. The goal of the fall semester was to survive; I would like to see the spring semester focused on how we can thrive. As a community, we have perse-

vered through overwhelming odds as schools around us went remote. If any institution can restore the fundamentals of education, it's this one.

Next semester will look very similar to this one: tables spaced apart in the dining hall, classes half full and half empty, and faces covered in cloth and surgical masks. As the winter months set in, the campus is uncomfortably quiet with everyone

tucked away in their dorms. I hope the mountain doesn't get too lonely without students for the next two months; I hope students don't get too lonely away from the mountain. And I hope, someday in the not-too-distant future, we can start hugging again.

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



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“... WELL THAT WAS INTERESTING ...”

Junior

Such are the times

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

This semester was one for the books. Some were in the classroom; others surveyed those in the classroom from their dorms. There were almost no booths in Patriot. Everyone wore masks. There was no delightfully restful fall break in the calendar. But we made it.

When I and all of my classmates were sent home in March of this year, the slightly liberal prediction was that we would return after Easter instead of the two weeks suggested by the university. Of course, now we know that even the liberal view was far too conservative. When we spent the rest of the semester off-campus, we waited with expectation to return to Mary's Mountain. Few people, including faculty and administrators, thought we would not make it to the end of the semester on campus. But we made it.

How did we make it? It would be irresponsible to not admit the two reasons for the success: prayer and cooperation. In the first place, the Mount would not be who she

is today without the innumerable graces pouring down through our Blessed Mother from the Grotto, seminary and the faithful students, faculty, administration and staff at the university. The Mount is a unique place in the encyclopedia of American Catholic history not only because of her saintly history but because of all those who have continued to stay faithful throughout the centuries. Indeed, the spiritual reasons for the university's success this fall should not be overlooked by anyone who has eyes to see, especially if we want to try to do the same thing in the spring.

The secondary reason for the Mount's successful in-person semester is the cooperation among the students, faculty, administration and staff. All four of these groups proved that they had skin in the game by their unexpected willingness to overlook their own metrics of success and join in a common mission. While varying opinions were certainly offered in appropriate fora throughout the semester, everyone was ready to admit that they knew little about how the semester would look but would be willing to do whatever it took to stay on campus for the duration of the semester.

Next semester, I anticipate that

everyone on campus will work with the same zeal to stay on campus. The hard work that took place in the fall will certainly provide benefits for the spring. In the first place, we now know what works to enjoy an in-person semester with the strange external circumstances. Many of the questions that started the fall semester have already been answered and that knowledge will prove to be invaluable for the spring. Secondly, we are going to be strengthened by the assurance that we can fulfill the necessary requirements to stay on campus because we already fulfilled them in the fall with only a few challenges.

I anticipate that the two-month break will also be an asset in preparing us for the semester ahead. Hopefully, this time of rest will provide administrators, faculty and students the opportunity to reflect on two things. First, we can reflect on what they would have changed about the fall semester if we had the current knowledge that developed over the course of the three months. These considerations will hopefully allow every person in the Mount community to alter that which demands alteration for the spring. Second, we can spend time in gratitude for the ability to stay on campus in the

fall. Because of the unlikelihood of our success, we should generously embrace this break as a time to be grateful for the past, present and opportunities that will present themselves in the future.

Hopefully, after and while resting in this gratitude, we can be impelled to action as a result of this rest. We are given a time in these next two months to read, write, socialize and sleep so that we can primarily enjoy them for their own sakes and secondarily use them as a springboard for more scheduled and intense action in the spring. Throughout the month of November in Emmitsburg, every person to whom I talked about the subject was insistent, consistent and persistent in voicing his desire for a break. The spring semester will probably be very similar because we will miss our spring break and will be in the position of having to steamroll through the semester. While this method might reduce the number of trips throughout the semester, it still requires an immense amount of work to stay energized through the end of the term.

What might help students keep the faith throughout the term is a slight change in tone from the fall term. Because the societal shock of everything that occurred after

March was just starting to wear off as the fall semester started, everyone was still accustomed to identifying the times as “unprecedented” or “strange.” While these observations might be true, a regular reminder of this truth is not particularly inspiring when we have to do the work that we have been assigned to complete. What does not lack precedent is our classwork, the obligations that we have to our families and friends, our extracurricular activities and the typical thoughts and cares that go along with college life. My peers and I are keenly aware that there are parts of our current times that lack precedent; a regular reminder of this fact does not need to be provided.

This past fall semester reminds me of a line out of Augustine: “Bad times, hard times, this is what people keep saying; but let us live well, and times shall be good. We are the times: Such as we are, such are the times.” This fall, we lived well and the times were good. It is my prayer that we take the time that we have been given for the next few months to reflect on these good times and hope to replicate and multiply them in the spring.

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

Senior

Sameness

Angela Guiao
MSMU Class of 2021

I've been a student at Mount St. Mary's for almost five years, and I must say, I've gone through so much here. I lived with my first ever roommates on the top floor of Sheridan as a Freshman. I've changed majors from pre-med to accounting. I was here before the PAC and when there was still a hole in the AC. I was here when Donald Trump won presidency in 2016, and here again when he lost in 2020. I remember driving up to campus my second year in my first car and remember working at the Arc when it wasn't under construction. I've enjoyed my fair share of tiki nights and homecomings. And I remember how much I missed the Mount when I had to take a semester off. But out of all the great and unique experiences I've had, I must say this pandemic is one of the most memorable.

When we were sent home early in March, it didn't seem real. It was almost as if I were living in a fairy tale. Suddenly, I was in the comfort of my own home, enjoying the company of my family and taste of homecooked meals. I got the much-needed rest that eluded me when class was on campus, and I saved two hours each day from my grueling commute. When the semester ended, there was still an air of intrigue. No one was sure what was going to happen next. It was exciting in a way, not knowing what to expect. But quickly that excitement turned to despair.

The daily reports of people dying

became the norm. And I started to become stir crazy from being stuck in the house all day. Although half of the previous semester was virtual, I still had trouble adjusting come August. It became harder to focus and harder to juggle all the things that needed to be done and honestly, I don't know how the articulate exactly why. Everything just ended up harder to do. Perhaps it was the hour after hour of being stuck in front of the screen. Or maybe my mind was falling asleep after being stuck in the same position all day. Whatever the reason was, I had trouble getting things done. And being at home, with all my home-responsibilities made it so much harder for me to devote the time and preparation I needed for school.

The results of the pandemic hit close to home. My family was gravely affected. We had to sell our house and find a new place to stay. I was juggling homework in between meetings with the realtor. Exams between open houses. I searched for new places during my breaks at my internship. And I had to constantly budget to make sure we didn't run out of money. Sometimes I think that if I were on campus, it wouldn't be me who had to do these things. But then I think, if I didn't, who would? So now, I think of it as a blessing. At least I was able to help out.

Although, I do hope things change next semester. It is my final semester here at the Mount, and I don't really want to enjoy it virtually. I heard things are getting worse, and that the number of corona cases are getting higher, so things aren't looking too good. Last year, the students were able to walk the stage, albeit with a much smaller audience and masks cov-

ering their face. But at least they were able to walk. I hope I get to walk next year. My degree has been 5 years in the making, and I am so ready to graduate.

I don't know if what I'm feeling is a bout of senioritis or I am just getting burnt out, but I do think I need to be much more organized next semester, especially with the classes I am taking. Everyone says not to fill your last semester with difficult classes, but with my unexpected major change I am left with intermediate accounting and economics: definitely not some of the easier classes. I like seeing the things I need to have done, so I think I am going to invest in a large erase board and write all the upcoming assignments that need to be done for that week on it. I think I am going to put it downstairs, away from my desk. That way I am forced to take breaks and walk.

I also think I should establish a routine, though it sounds kind of silly since I don't really need to leave my desk. But I think assigning a time for snacks or lunch will help with the sameness I feel. At least there is something to look forward to. I also think setting a daily goal with help. I am not sure what exactly the goals will be, but I think I am going to stay away from school or work-related ones for now. Hopefully the rigorous curriculum that my classes will have this semester will be enough to keep me on my toes.

Thinking back on it, I realize that this is probably one of the most unique experiences I will have in my life. I am living through a pandemic. It's gotten so bad that schools, stores, and services have shut down and people are afraid to leave their houses. While it has

changed the school experience and work experience for me, I do believe we have opened a wide door of opportunities to improve the future. Despite the sameness, I must say, I didn't have as much trouble with technology as I thought I would. And it has opened me up to the possibility of remote work and living. It does seem tiring and boring to continuously

do work from the comfort of your home, however, it will not nearly be as monotonous if we could do work from anywhere in the world. This is just the beginning, I think. And though this semester didn't go as I expected, I do see the possibilities for the future.

To read other articles by Angela, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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HOME DECOR

One-of-a-kind gifts

Jessica Crawford
Cotton & Co.
The Mill at Keymar

The Holiday season is in full swing at this point. Christmastime is my most favorite time of year. You walk into shops, and it smells like warm spices and cinnamon. Cheerful, holiday music is playing in the background. And everything glitters and sparkles.

Christmas will inevitably look and feel a bit different this year. But you'll still be picking out gifts for those on your gift giving list. This is your friendly public service announcement, to shop small and local this holiday season, even more so than ever before. The Big Guys will make it out of this economic mess just fine. It's the little ones that need your business, encouragement and support the most, to make it out of this right end up.

So, what can you do for Small Business that doesn't cost you a thing? Engage with your favorite local businesses online and on their social media pages. When you like, share or comment on a business page's post, the algorithms pick that up, and they spread it to more people's feeds. Which then enhances their presence on social media, increasing their reach to new customers. Positive word of

mouth is basically the biggest asset to small business. If you love a business, tell you friends and family! We, as consumers, love recommendations from the people around us. Spreading the word to friends and family, contributes greatly to helping the little guys earn the business of new customers.

When you shop at my boutique, Cotton & Co in Keymar, you're supporting about fifty small, nearly all woman-owned, local businesses in your community. When you shop local and small, you're keeping your hard earned money in your community. You're helping moms and dads afford ballet and karate classes. Or contributing towards making their family's holiday just as special as yours. They aren't kidding when they say, when you make a purchase from a small business, someone actually does a happy dance. We do! And we appreciate it more than you can possibly imagine or we can convey. Shopping small and local is invaluable to your local economy.

With the world the way it is right now, many small businesses are offering services now that they weren't before. Many have added online shopping or curbside pickups. If you still aren't comfortable or aren't able to shop in person, small business owners tend to be very accommodating and under-

standing of this, and are willing to work with you to earn your business. And many also offer shipping services now. If you are an avid online shopper, consider supporting sellers on sites like Etsy. Etsy is a wonderful online shopping forum that supports thousands and thousands of small businesses.

When you shop small businesses, you're more likely to run into one-of-a-kind or unique items. These pieces might be handmade by a local artisan. They might be vintage or antique. They might be funky or funny. Small businesses tend to have more unique or interesting items, than shopping from large corporations.

Since my shop is composed of many, many businesses, we offer a wide variety of styles and items. If you're following along with us on social media, you'll see that we've been compiling lots of gift guides, for everyone on your list this season. We've got locally made beard and men's care products. An abundance of vintage Christmas. Handmade children's clothing and stuffed animals. Hundreds and hundreds of stocking stuffers for everyone. Handmade artisan jewelry, women's clothing, vintage and antique items ranging from primitive to mid century and everything in between.

The holidays are such a warm and happy time. And while this year will feel different, and we may not see all of our loved ones, we can still make it feel just as special and magical as always. In the spirit of the holidays and cookie baking season, I'd like to share a recipe of my grandmother's that I have adapted over the years, of



Gift guide for the person that loves to host.



Gift guide for the pet lover.

her Scotch Shortbread. It's very simple and easy to make, stores well in an airtight tin or container, makes a perfect addition to

any gift, and is rich and delicious.

Rosemary Sea Salt Shortbread

- Ingredients*
- 1 Lb Unsalted Butter (recommended to use the good stuff, not store brand)
 - 4 Cups All Purpose Flour
 - 1 C Granulated Sugar
 - 2 Sprigs Rosemary Roughly Chopped
 - 1 Tbsp Sea Salt

Cooking Instructions: Preheat oven to 325. In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, chopped butter and rosemary. With hands (this part is key!), combine ingredients until fully incorporated and crumbly, don't overwork dough. Press evenly into 9X13 baking pan. Bake for 50 minutes, or until golden brown. Sprinkle top lightly with sea salt. Cool for 10 mins. With sharp knife, cut into 32 even, finger length bars. For decorative touch, prick each square three times with a fork. Let fully cool before removing shortbread from pan, store in an airtight container.

Favorite recipe variation: Replace rosemary with 2 Tbsp of dried lavender buds and zest of one lemon. Sprinkle top with sugar rather than sea salt, once cooked. Happy Holidays everyone. I wish you all a happy, healthy holiday and new year.

To read past Home Decor articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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MOUNT ARTS

Advent experience at the Seton Shrine

Tristan Anderson
MSMU Class of 2024

It is hardly uncommon to hear someone or other complain about entertainment “not being as good as it used to.” The fact of the matter, as disappointing as it may be to admit, is that much of modern entertainment is detrimental to the individual. It all too often encourages immoral behavior, uncivil attitudes, and spreads the same mal du siècle that permeates modern society. For those interested in the arts, it can sometimes present a disappointing picture.

Thankfully, however, there are still efforts to produce solid, wholesome entertainment that is healthy and engaging for not only the mind but also the conscience. The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine and Basilica, located within Emmitsburg, is a perfect example of an institution performing this role. Their recent Back from the Dead performance, a walking tour or show of a respectful and prayerful nature in line with the holy day of All Souls, expressed this notion perfectly. Composed of actors portraying a series of famous and less famous Catholic saints and blessed, souls in purgatory, and devils, the impactful performance established itself as a means of encouraging our own continual conversion to Christ, as well as a further consideration of the moral responsibilities we have and the good we must do within them. More than anything, thanks to the writers, actors, and crew, it was an excellent example of the entertainment society desperately needs.

The Seton Shrine, as one would expect, will continue the mission of evangelization through another such performance, this time centered around the liturgical season of Advent and the miraculous events of Christmas. Called Door to Bethlehem, the structured walking tour will be infused with prayer, reflection, and performance. According to the description of the event, it was heavily inspired by the Mexican and South American tradition of Las Posadas, a colonial-era series of re-enactments of the Nativity of Christ in the style of a Novena and concluding with a Holy Mass. Albeit slightly different and readjusted

for an American audience, attendees will “join Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem as they search for shelter,” led by a guide around the Seton Shrine. Along the way, actors and actresses will demonstrate “the ways and excuses we may use to reject Christ,” concluding in the Basilica itself with a further presentation of the entrance of Christ into our world, through an “unexpected way.” Overall, Door to Bethlehem is a form of family entertainment that once again causes viewers to examine the position they find themselves in, to learn about the Catholic faith and grow nearer to God, and in another area so desperately in need of reform, return their perception of Christmas from rabid consumption to the birth of Christ.

During the cold of a Wednesday evening, I was fortunate enough to be able to witness the cast practicing the tour, and interview some of them in the process. Without a doubt, the pure excitement and enthusiasm for the program was evident among all of the cast members, and especially with director and evangelization programs coordinator Becca Corbell. “I love it... it’s a breath of fresh air after Back From the Dead, a very happy show,” she said reflecting on the previous experiences of the program. With a cast made up of around 50 people, most of whom are children, the challenge of directing is certainly present. “It’s crazy to manage it, because of all the kids and it being so quick after Back From the Dead, but it’s worth it.” Watching her and the cast members work together out in the cold to produce a better performance, especially with one of such importance, was nothing more than

amazing. The dedication among all of them is apparent, and the efforts to involve the viewers personally in the tour only makes the event more impactful. The director explained that each of the doors along the tour (which occur all in the same night, as opposed to the nine nights in the old tradition) which represent some issue that prevents us from growing nearer to Christ are actually based off suggestions from the population as to what they find causes struggles in their own lives to accomplish such growth. More than once, viewers will certainly find themselves contemplating how these examples relate to them, as well as how to overcome them.

“My favorite part is when you walk into the basilica, just feeling welcomed into the place of love, encountering God... it’s a very powerful moment at the end building up to that,” Keenan, an actor at the second door and employee at the Grotto, expressed. Having participated in Door to Bethlehem since the very beginning, Keenan continues to enjoy the experience more and more. He explained that viewers will be “walking with Mary and Joseph, getting doors slammed in your face,” with the intent being to draw viewers into an examination of conscience of sorts. More than that, he stated that the skits at each door are more focused on our personal struggles than Back From the Dead. In fact, the characters encountered along the way are modern people, “people you can identify with.” As the viewers interacting with the guides and actors will soon realize as they walk through, Door to Bethlehem is truly “a cool way to make

Advent something engaging instead of just like any other time of the year,” as Keenan stated.

Throughout the entirety of the evening, at each door some sort of distraction from God that all of us have likely seen was presented. Walking by the White House and the Saint Joseph’s, viewers will experience cynicism, pride, fear, and all sorts of other methods of suppressing the centrality of God to the Advent season through scenarios that are perhaps more personal than one would expect. Just as the Las Posadas tradition ends with a celebration of the Christmas Eve Mass and Joseph and Mary eventually came to rest in a stable, viewers will be welcomed out of the cold night into a Eucharistic celebration in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Basilica, a beautiful expression of the presence of God in our lives, especially during such an important liturgical season. All around, it is a reminder of the true meaning of Advent through

the commercialized distortions of it. Door to Bethlehem is a solemn yet joyful reminder that the purpose behind our celebrations is not glorification of the world, but rather the birth of a Savior who would eventually sacrifice himself for us all.

Performances such as the Door to Bethlehem event provide a new hope in this chaotic and distracted world of the arts, demonstrating that there is an answer to the need for wholesome family entertainment. With a range of dates and times spanning from December 4th, 5th, and 6th from 5:00 to 8:30 PM, tickets can be found on the Seton Shrine’s website at \$6. The show may be the perfect opportunity to evaluate our lives, enjoy some fun time with family and friends, and of equal importance, be encouraged to not “shut the door of our hearts on Jesus and His family.” It is truly an event worth seeing.

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

Please join us for a festive Christmas season.



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Door to Bethlehem
Dec. 4-6, 5-8:30 p.m.

This interactive Christmas faith drama reminds us of the true meaning of the holidays and is perfect for families of all ages. Reserve your tickets at setonshrine.org

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Christmas Mass Schedule
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ARTS

Christmas festivals & concerts

Sarah Muir
MSMU Class of 2018

This holiday season seems like a necessary jolt of cheer after a year of cancelations and isolations. While we are still keeping safe by staying apart, communities have gotten into the rhythm of providing much-needed diversions while also protecting visitors and locals alike. However, with recent case spikes, not all events will go on as planned.

Cancelations include the Gettysburg Choral Society's yearly Christmas concert and the Emmitsburg Community Choir's annual Christmas concert.

Historically, Mount Saint Mary's University has been an excellent source for Christmas performances, whether they be student plays or recitals. Unfortunately, the Mount has no plans for any campus events since the student body has left the campus for the remainder of the winter season.

The Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater has canceled all remaining classic films scheduled as part of the Celebrating 95 Years of Majestic Movies Series. This action is on the heels of the Pennsylvania Department of Health restrictions this past month in preparation for the holiday season. However, the Majestic will still offer the "majestically" delicious popcorn on the First Friday in December from 5 - 7 p.m.

Now that we got the bad news out of the way - let's look at what is happening!

In Gettysburg, the Ben Jones Brass Christmas Carol Benefit Con-

cert will take place on December 4th on Lincoln Square from 6 - 7 p.m. The event is free, festive, and fun. Proceeds will benefit the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center. This organization seeks to meet the needs of children and families in the community by providing a "community based, child focused, center that facilitates a compassionate, multidisciplinary approach to the prevention, identification, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse."

Music Gettysburg! is presenting "A Christmas Offering." It will be a virtual performance of instrumental and vocal talents that will be sure to inspire the holiday spirit! A viewing will be available on the Music Gettysburg's website, www.musicgettysburg.org, starting December 13.

Camp Eder's 10th Annual Christmas Tree Festival will be taking place December 11 - 12, along with the annual giving drive. This year is particularly hard for families, so please bring any amount of the following items for local families in need: small bags of rice, oatmeal, applesauce, and cereals. All donations will go to Fairfield families in need via Fairfield Mennonite Church Food Pantry.

The event will have activities such as a tree-decorating contest. Everyone is invited to join, and voting will occur during the Festival. The Festival is an excellent opportunity to get involved with Camp Eder and our surrounding community. Trees are limited, so you will want to sign up soon on the website. The assignment of trees is on a first-come, first-

serve basis. For more information, visit www.campeder.org.

And the submissions are in for the Adams County Arts Council's 11th Annual Gingerbread Celebration! The virtual competition will contain cash prizes for the best gingerbread house architect. The event will be held online at www.adamsarts.org on December 4 - 6. The Adams County Arts Council invites the public to view the delicious houses online and select the winners by voting with dollars for their favorite gingerbread creations.

'Christmas in Thurmont' will be starting its eighteenth year with a few changes. The traditional map stamping great opportunity for visitors and locals to find new shops. Originally, stamps were due into the town office by Christmas. However, this year, the last day for stamping will be December 9 and completed stamped maps must be turned into the Town Office by December 9 at 4 p.m.

'Christmas in Thurmont' was, from its inception, an avenue to encourage a spirit of community and giving and to also promote support for local businesses. The map stamping is for adults, and we ask that you consider donating a monetary contribution, gift certificates, or merchandise for prizes for our Christmas in Thurmont map stamping. After December 9, the ladies at the town office will draw the completed map entries for these prizes.

Santa is considered an essential worker worldwide, and his work on Christmas Eve will not be hindered. However, to keep everyone at the North Pole safe before the big night, Santa will be doing Zoom visits! On Saturday afternoon, December 5, you can talk to Santa from his home office at the North Pole. Reservation with Santa can be made by calling his satellite office located at the Thurmont town office 301-271-7313.

Santa has also teamed up with the Gettysburg Community Theatre for another chance to speak with him. While the theatre has no further performances for the remaining 2020 season, they provide an opportunity to have a Zoom chat with the Jolly Old Elf. Tickets are \$10, and they

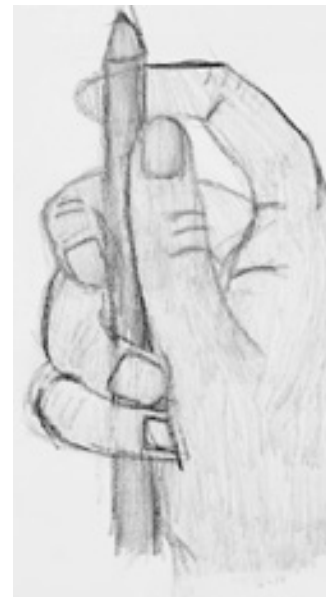
Twin Sisters win art awards

Two sisters from Carroll Valley won the top student awards at the 52nd Annual Fall Exhibition, sponsored by the Hanover Area Arts Guild. Sarah Simmons was the recipient of the Award in Excellence for her "The Hand," graphite pencil on art paper, and Emma Simmons received the Award in Merit for her "Portrait of Picasso," paint on canvas. The sisters, who are twins, are in 6th grade and are the art students of Karolyne Myers. Their works have also been exhibited at the Adams County Arts Council Gallery. And both have received Emmitsburg Community National Heritage Day art awards.

The awards juror for the

2020 Fall Show was Linda Benton McCloskey, a water colorist well known throughout Pennsylvania. The Guild's exhibition features more than 130 works of art from artists of all ages around the region.

The Simmons sisters' works of art, along with the art from other exhibitors, can be seen at Guild's Gallery in Hanover, which is open Wednesdays through Fridays, 12 noon to 6 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. The Gallery is located in historic downtown area of Hanover at 32 Carlisle Street. While the Exhibition runs through the end November, many of the works of art will continue to be displayed and on sale throughout the holidays.



have limited availability, but you can purchase a slot at www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org.

The Frederick County Society of Model Train Engineers will also sponsor Thurmont's 3rd Annual Holiday Train Display. This year's display will be available for viewing at the Thurmont Plaza Shopping Center.

Way Off Broadway's holiday includes A Christmas Special Christmas Show, Rudolph the Red-Nosed

Reindeer - The Musical (November 28 - December 27), and the theatre's 19th Annual Breakfast with Santa (and Mrs. Claus) (December 24).

The Weinberg Center for the Arts is welcoming a virtual holiday concert, "Comfort & Joy at Home," with Jim Brickman on December 6, at 4 p.m.

Through December 15 is the Operation Sparkle Scavenger Hunt in downtown Frederick. Each year,

continued on next page

continued from prior page

more than 200 independently owned businesses are all decked out for the holidays; the Frederick Partnership wonders if you can spot the sparkling lights hidden throughout downtown. Count the number of blue and silver light bursts hiding in shop and restaurant windows for your chance to win a \$50 Downtown Frederick Gift Card!

The Walkersville Southern Railroad has their annual Santa Train every weekend from December 5-20. Trains depart from 34 W. Pennsylvania Ave. Walkersville. For ticket information, call: 301-898-0899 or visit their website: www.wsr.org/ws. Rides last one and half hours with free hot chocolate and Uncle Ralph's cookies served in the museum after the ride. Santa will also be present here.

Over in Waynesboro, there is plenty to do to kick that Christmas cabin fever to the curb while also staying safe. 'That Holiday Feeling Decoration Trail' is all set up to delight tourists and locals from December 4 to December 20 in downtown Waynesboro to see the buildings in their holiday finery. A map of the brightest spots downtown is available online.

Stable Craft Brewing Company on Madrid Road is offering private holiday wagon rides on December 12 starting at 1 p.m. Reservations are required and the carriages seat up to 14 person groups. To make a res-

ervation, call: 540-490-2609.

At the Old Invista parking lot on Short Street, there is a Reverse Christmas Parade. Admission is free, and the drive-thru parade is a fun time for the whole family. Spectators are invited to drive past the parked floats from 1 to 4 p.m.

While hopes are high that normalcy is on the horizon, this year's holiday events will look different. Perhaps in the glow of tree lights and the sight of our neighbors, we can still make it merry and bright.

Celebrate the tradition of television Christmas specials

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre is set to celebrate the holiday season this year by paying tribute to television Christmas specials. For decades, Christmas specials have been a staple of the holiday season, bring families together to celebrate the joy of the season with some of their favorite characters and celebrities. This year, Way Off Broadway will look back at some of those specials with A Christmas Special Christmas Show.

Since the beginning of the television era, Christmas specials have been a regular part of holiday programming. Each year, families gathered around the television to watch some of their favorite stars like Bing Crosby and Dolly Parton celebrate the season. In Way Off Broadway's new A Christmas

Special Christmas Show, audiences will travel through time as we revisit some of these classic (and contemporary) Christmas specials.

Perry Como, one of the most popular performers of that time, hosted three different weekly television series between 1948 and 1962. He is credited with being the one who set the look and tone of what we have come to now know as "the Christmas show." Between '48 and '62, Como produced a Christmas special each year, the format of which was a variety show where he would perform numbers alongside guest stars.

While Como's specials focused on the more traditional hymns and songs in a comfortable, homey setting, at the same time on another network, Bob Hope was pioneering the other side of Christmas specials. Producing shows that were sillier and more jovial, focusing on the lighter side of Christmas.

During the early days of television, other celebrities became regular staples on the Christmas special scene including George Burns and Gracie Allen, Jack Benny, and Jackie Gleason. In the '60s and '70, Danny Kaye, Dean Martin, and Donny and Marie Osmond were the big names in holiday specials. While these programs were all of the variety show style, television series began including Christmas episodes in their seasons, and networks started airing Christmas movies like Babes in Toyland, 'Twas

the Night Before Christmas, A Charlie Brown Christmas, and Mrs. Santa Claus. In 1978, there was even a Star Wars Christmas special following the release of the first film.

A Christmas Special Christmas Show will look back at all of these holiday programs with Way Off Broadway's usual Christmas flair. A show perfect for the entire family with lots of laughs and good cheer, Way Off Broadway always makes sure to take time to remember the true meaning of the season.

A Christmas Special Christmas Show runs through December 20th, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

To learn more about Way Off Broadway's holiday productions, including the Family Theatre's Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, or any of its upcoming shows in 2021, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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MAP STAMPING FOR ADULTS

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Teachers change the game

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

After several months of anticipation around sports and updating COVID regulations, this past November, the Frederick County Public Schools' Board of Education has approved the recommendations presented by the Return To Play Committee. What does this mean for Catoclin teams amidst the COVID pandemic? Head coach of CHS baseball, Mike Franklin, expects that the virus will not be a factor in how the team progresses in spring if sports indeed continue. "I'd even like to believe that we used this time to grow and become better physically and mentally," Franklin explains. "We have spent months together studying the finer points of the game mentally and tactically—even doing assignments detailing their specific techniques. I love that our players are still doing all of these things even when we are not on a field."

According to FCPS, every sports season will have six weeks for competition. Winter sports will begin on December 7th and will compete from January 4th through February

13th. Fall sports will begin on February 13th, competing from March 5th through April 17th. Thus begins spring sports, which will begin to compete on May 7th and end on June 19th. Further modifications may be made at any time based on metrics by the Superintendent and Frederick County Health Department.

Franklin sees that, while COVID has caused great difficulty for everyone, this time away from the field has had positive effects on the athletes. The baseball team was able to have a four-week season during late fall where they could practice, but could not compete. There was a lot of uncertainty about how many athletes would be willing to participate without fans or games, but the team averaged over 50 athletes for each session. "I think Covid may have relit the passion that our players have in them," Franklin suggests. "Sometimes when something that we love is taken away from us, we appreciate all that goes with it more. This game... it's a privilege not a right and I feel like our young people understand that through Covid."

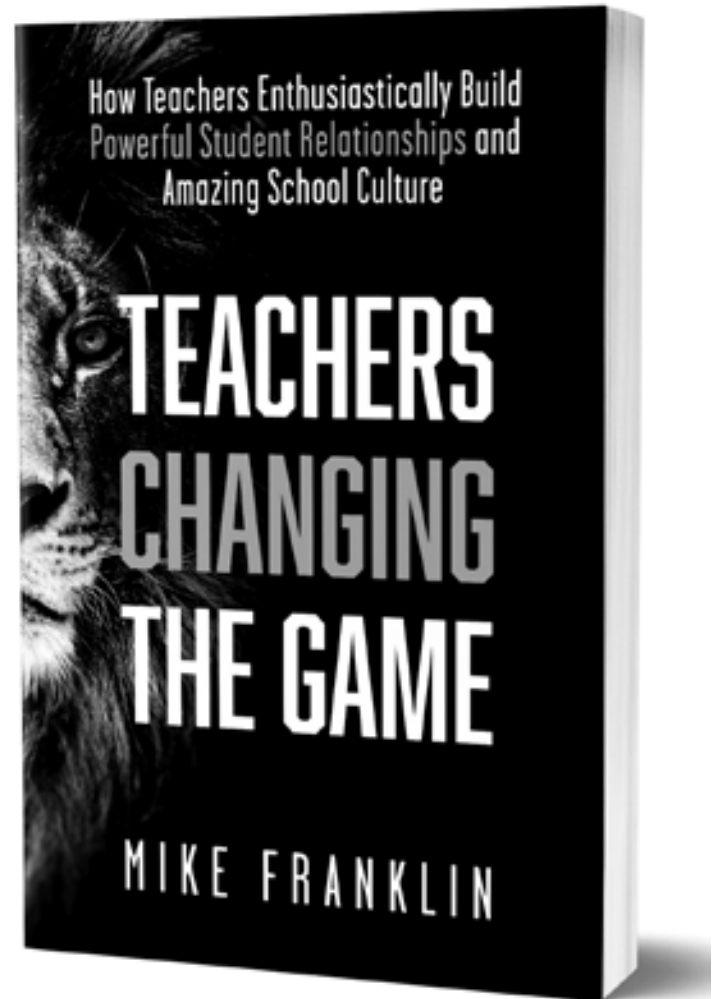
Franklin has been coaching baseball and teaching physical education

at Catoclin High School for 26 years now. He has also been serving as a virtual fitness teacher for the past 12 years. He started up the "Fired Up Fridays" program in 2012, which is still in place today, to inspire students about their future. In 2013, he started and taught the county's first Unified PE class, which he still continues to teach. Franklin has received several awards throughout his career as a coach and a teacher. He has received the titles of 2013 MSABC District Coach of the Year and 2017 Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coach of the Year. The baseball team has won the Maryland Regional Championship title in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2009, and 2013, as well as the Maryland State Baseball Championship title in 2013. His teaching awards include the titles of 2010-2011 School Based Teacher of the Year, 2014 Lions Club Teacher of the Year, 2014 Maryland AHPERD Simon McNeely Outstanding PE Teacher Award, and 2016 Hood College Charles Teacher of the Year. Just last year, Franklin received the 2019 "Teacher of the Year" Maryland State Department of Education Award.

Even after receiving such a numerous amount of honors, Franklin's most memorable achievements are the ones that are not rewarded with a trophy. When reminiscing on his 26 years of coaching and teaching, he claims that his greatest memories are with the young people he has worked with and the adults who have worked alongside him. "I'm most proud of the relationships I've been blessed to have with our amazing students, fans and community. There's no place better," Franklin assures. His idea of success for himself, a team, and an individual does not involve a physical reward. "Nobody really cares about our championships or trophies, but what they remember is how you treated them," he states. "I don't think you can define success for teams or individuals with a tangible product. You can say, 'The season will only be a success if we win the championship' but that's just not true. And it works a few ways. If you win the championship but cheated, played dirty, and were an embarrassment to your school and community... was that really a success because you have a shiny object

that says, 1st? Conversely, if a team uplifted each other everyday, served their community, grew their skill and had an undaunting will to compete each day... but they didn't have as many runs as the other team in a given game... can you really define that as losing? Success depends on what you value."

Receiving the title of Teacher of the Year last year was a humbling experience for a humble teacher. Franklin cherished the experience of meeting plenty of people across the state, and feels he grew as a teacher and a person after surrounding himself with such passionate people who serve the youth. "After 25 years of teaching, you see a lot. You see great teachers and you notice what makes them effective," he explained. "The Teacher of the Year experience really showed me some teachers that needed their light back." In a hotel during a night at a conference, he wrote his thoughts and reflections on paper, which soon became his Amazon #1 Best Seller, *Teachers Changing the Game*. This book was written to guide teachers as they build and change school culture.



Teachers Changing the Game by Mike Franklin has reached #1 on Amazon in the Teacher and Student Mentoring categories.

One significant example of this lesson is shown where it reads, "This group won't be the same as last year, and they will have new challenges. It's our job to know and adjust to that. You can't use the same style, same lessons, and same plans every year. Do you want to teach one year thirty times or do you want to teach for thirty years?"

Within this book, Franklin outlined seven steps to make teamwork happen. Step one is to introduce each member's personalities to each other. Step two is to identify and work with each member's strengths and weaknesses. Step three is creating an expressed vision. Step four is to assign roles to team members and communicate. Step five is giving them the opportunity to accept or reject that role. Step six is creating the proper culture for the team to grow. Lastly, step seven is to assess and tweak from there. "Teams and cultures are a positive thing but it takes tons and tons of work—it never stops," he says. Releasing *Teachers Changing the Game* has given Franklin an opportunity to share his message on other platforms, including recently speaking for the virtual SHAPE Maryland Convention: Achieving Greatness Together, and speaking on an episode of *On the Right Road!* Podcast with Paula Phillips.

Coach Franklin wants to thank his readers for their support and positivity, as he says, "To all of the people that went out and got it, read it, shared something positive with me about it...THANK YOU! The stories that you've shared have humbled me and touched my heart, so THANK YOU." As he wrote in *Teachers Changing the Game*, "The best way I know to change a school's culture is to serve. Serving is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less. If you really want to make a difference to someone, try serving. When you serve others, you build deep, connecting bonds and really develop relationships."

To read past Catoclin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of emmitsburg.net.

Excitement grows for Women's basketball season

Samuel Barber
MSMU Class of 2022

Fans of college basketball on both the men's and women's side of the game are hoping for a better outcome to the upcoming season than that ways in which the previous season one culminated. Due to rising COVID-19 cases across the country, that hope is quickly becoming an increased level of uncertainty. The thought of canceling practices and games as well as pausing basketball activities altogether is sitting heavy with coaches across the country. Despite the growing uncertainty, head coach Maria Marchesano and the Mount women's basketball team remain steadfastly optimistic.

Marchesano, who is in her fourth season at the helm of the Mountaineers, is set to coach one of the most talented teams in program history. Coming off their first 20-win season in decades, the Mount returns the core of their scoring, which is something that excites the head coach. Preseason all-Northeast Conference (NEC) selection Michaela Harrison highlights this season's offensive prowess. Harrison, who returns for her junior season, will look to build upon her double-figure showing from a season ago where she averaged 12.6 points per game (PPG).

Although Harrison's game has taken off during the preseason, there are plenty of players that have been working on their game, according to Marchesano, "There is a core four. Kendall Breese was all-conference last year, so she's a key returner. Rebecca Lee has been top-three in field goal percentage the last two years. Kayla Agentowicz is one of our most complete players, and maybe our most talented basketball player," she said. Depth is certainly something this team does not lack, which is a feature that makes the Mount multi-faceted on both ends of the court.

Lee's size could spell trouble for other teams around the league, as her presence on the glass and in the paint will allow her to fill the scorecard. Harrison's one-on-one this season with St. Francis BRK guard Nevena Dimitrijevic will be one of the most exciting in the mid-major ranks.

One of the biggest challenges facing schools this season has undoubtedly been scheduling. Due to travel restrictions, games have become more regional based. However, that does not mean the Mount will have to compromise the level of competition. The team will travel to national powerhouses James Madison and Maryland, both of which have run the table in their respective conferences; with the latter averaging nearly 30 wins over the past five seasons. These two matchups, along with a host of fellow mid-majors will make for an enticing tune-up before NEC play begins.

Conference play has taken an entirely different meaning this year in a multitude of ways. The obvious change has been to the format. Instead of the traditional January start, the NEC slate will begin on Dec. 8. In addition to the later

start, the scheduling is taking on a different meaning. Teams will play opponents on back-to-back days; this is in order to limit travel due to the ongoing pandemic. Playing teams on back-to-back days will allow for the conference race to always be an enticing one, as well as making each game carry weight. An interesting feature of this new playstyle is that there are makeup dates for games that are postponed due to the pandemic.

With the annual conference media days taking place last week, via Zoom, there was a clear absence, Robert Morris. The Colonials departed from the NEC to the Horizon League in July. The exit of RMU will vastly affect the road to winning the championship, as the team was a frequent heavyweight and a rival with the Mountaineers. The Mount was subsequently picked as the unanimous preseason favorites, an accolade they have not received in more than two decades.

Although a significant piece of history in women's basketball has come to an end; it allows for a new era to be ushered in. This is an era that could see a slew of titles come to the Emmitsburg area, while also giving the Mountaineers a host of teams that could try and challenge. The Sacred Heart Pioneers appear to be the biggest threat to a conference crown. The Mount's potent offense will surely be battle-tested as they face Adrienne Hagood and SHU twice this season.

Not only will this team experience various obstacles during their non-conference and conference slate, but the path to securing an NCAA Tournament berth will also be the biggest obstacle of all. The Mount has not played in the annual 64-team postseason tournament since 1995. Ongoing complications that stem from COVID-19 could make the wait even longer. The NCAA has already announced the possibility of playing the men's tournament in a single location; the same course of action could be taken in the women's tournament. Playing the entirety of



Coach Maria Marchesano and the Mount women's basketball team are keeping their fingers crossed that they will have a season this year.

March Madness in one location may be the only way Mount St. Mary's will their name on Selection Monday.

Building the depth of your program is essential for sustaining long-term success, and that is exactly what Marchesano has done with the Class of 2020 signees. The four-person class brings in a plethora of size and talent.

Isabella Hunt, the Johnstown, PA native, will bring a lethal scoring option to the team. Through 10 games of the 2019-20 season, Hunt averaged a double-double with 14.5 PPG and 10.7 RBG. Match her ability to score, her presence on the glass and size, and an elite playmaker is in the making. The freshman forward guided her team to the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Athletic Association (PIAA) quarterfinals during her senior season.

Jessica Tomasetti, an alumna of Our Lady of Good Counsel, will be keeping her talent in the state of Maryland. The 5-5 guard has proven that size does not dictate success, as she has been a versatile player for much of her career. A ball-sharing player, Tomasetti averaged four assists per game (APG). This versatility will make her a tough outing in any one-on-one that faces her this season.

Tomasetti is the lone signee that is not from the state of Pennsylvania.

Jada Lee is a player that stuffed the stat sheet during her high school career and should continue to do so during her collegiate career. A native of Pittsburgh, Lee tallied 11 triple-doubles while surpassing the 1,000-point mark, which is a feat not many players accomplish in their careers. Like Tomasetti, Lee will be a multi-dimensional player at the Mount. Expect the 5-5 guard to be an immediate impact player for Marchesano and Co.

Likely the highest-rated newcomer, Isabella Pelaia delivers it all. A stand-out at Mars Area High School, Pelaia poured in over 1,200 points during her long-standing career while averaging

a double-double. The forward brings championship-level experience to her new team. During her sophomore year, Pelaia led her team to a PIAA 5A state title while leading in nearly all categories. There is no doubt that she will acclimate perfectly into the fast-paced offense and stingy defense of the Mountaineers.

Expectations are high for this team, but they will go as far as the returnees and incoming freshman can take them.

Mount St. Mary's will open their 2020-21 season on Nov. 25 against James Madison. Tip-Off from Harrisonburg, VA is set for 4:00 p.m.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of emmitsburg.net.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Winter is upon us – TLC, for everyone!

Jefferson Breland

In accordance with Natural Law, some animals prepare for winter by lowering their body temperature, slowing their breath, adding body fat to store energy, storing food to eat later, slowing down to conserve energy, and generally preparing to stay out of the colder weather.

Similarly, our human body's thermostat adjusts like other mammals, we may add a few extra pounds of weight (thank you very much Halloween candy), and we may stock the pantry.

However, in our culture, we humans have chosen by and large to ignore Natural Law and get busier during this darker and colder time of the year. We have designed some of our most socially active and family-oriented holidays to coincide with the time of year when the natural world (in the Northern hemisphere, at least) is slowing to barely a crawl.

This inversion of natural law has consequences, particularly with regard to our health. The health of our immune system is based on our general health. If we listened to our bodies and obeyed our natural sleep cycle, our Circadian Rhythms, we would be going to bed a lot closer to sundown and waking up near sunrise. Since the days get darker earlier, we would be getting much more sleep which would support our immune system. If we listened

to our common sense, we would avoid going out into the colder weather, thereby conserving our body's energy which can then be used to support our immune system. By ignoring natural law, we have compromised the integrity of our immune systems and created a fifth season, the "cold and flu season." Theoretically, if we followed the laws of nature, we would put a major dent in over-the-counter drug sales and save loads of money.

Historically, Winter has been a time of great uncertainty. How cold will the weather get? How much snow will fall? Did we have a good harvest to store enough food to last the winter? Is our livestock healthy enough to live through the cold months? Do we have enough food for the livestock? Did we stock enough dry fuel for the hearth to heat our home and cook our food? Do we have enough warm clothing? Am I strong and healthy enough to endure the winter?

This time of year can be challenging in the best of circumstances. 2020, in particular, has additional layers of possible suffering. Many of our social, political, economical, climatological, civil rights, health, health care, emotional concerns seem to be on "steroids." Some of us who usually emotionally cruise easily from late Fall through Winter may have noticed some uneasiness in your body and mind. I have heard from such people that

they are having more difficulty remaining calm and peaceful. They are experiencing buzzing feelings in their chests, tingling in their fingers, and racing, negative thoughts among other bodily phenomena.

... And there is the pandemic of COVID-19 to top off all our usual concerns. Yes, not meeting for Thanksgiving and Christmas as we usually do, may not be what we want and it may be what we need to do for the greater good. We can call it difficult or even horrible and we can change the story to one more befitting the spirit of the holidays: gratitude and celebration. We can look at the calls to stay home and do the holidays differently as an opportunity to create new traditions and be with one another in ways with unforeseen gifts. It is an opportunity to practice our faith that everything happens for a reason and the reason is for good.

My wish is to offer hope and practical steps for us to help ourselves and our families. We are being called to live more in harmony with nature, the season of winter. If you are having challenges being peaceful with the way things are and want to feel better, I offer

the gift I got from the animals I mentioned at the top of the article: preparation. Too simple? Maybe. And I submit that you know what you need, to get through this challenging time. It's about the basics: food, clothing and shelter, and health.

I propose a makeover based on our basic needs. Sleep as much as you can. Take naps. Eat good food. Find some simple recipes, especially soups, warming



Nova was surrendered to the shelter because she was not getting along with the other dogs in the home. She's a very sweet girl who needs to be the only dog in her new home. She loves attention from humans and playing in the yard. Because of her size and energy level, an age restriction for children may apply, so be sure to talk to staff about that. Nova is a sweet girl that just wants to be with her people and hopes to find her forever home soon!

For more information about Nova call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

ourselves on the inside. Put up extra Christmas lights around the house. Make the house as visually warm as possible. Light candles and pray. Have extra blankets for your bed, couch, or favorite chair. Make a list of movies you have wanted to see and watch them. Gather books you have wanted to read and read them. Listen to beautiful music. Find simple, easy, exercises like Qigong, Taiji, Yoga, or stretching. Call your friends, family and other beloveds simply to share your day or ask for help. Smile. Did I mention sleep? Babies grow by sleeping, not by going to the gym or checking

everything off their to-do list. Give yourself and those in your life, a little TLC.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg and Towson, respectively. If you would like to know more about how Jefferson helps people please call him at 410-336-5876, email him at jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com, or visit his website www.jeffersonbrelandacupuncture.org.

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Happy holidays

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

The Holidays are almost here. What comes with holiday planning? Schedules, cards, shopping, family gatherings and of course stress. While we look forward to the fun things that come with Christmas we also have to deal with the harder chores. This year there seems to be even more to deal with because we are all trying to stay safe. Finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list is always a challenge and this year that is no different. The harder thing this year is that many people are trying to avoid going in stores unless they absolutely have to. Thank goodness for online shopping.

Online shopping is great in many ways but one thing it is not good for is getting your exercise. Sitting and finding the perfect gift is sometimes a long process. We don't always realize just how long we have been on the computer looking for gifts and ideas. Many people are on their phone or computer for hours a day anytime of the year. Now they are sedentary even longer because of shopping and searching for ideas for family and friends. I don't really have a way to keep moving while you are shopping online but my suggestion is to take a break every

20 to 30 minutes and walk around the house. An even better idea is to take a short walk outside and get some fresh air if you can. This may help clear your mind and maybe you will come up with more ideas for gifts for the people on your list.

Taking a walk, no matter how short it may be, is a great way to relieve some of the stress you may be facing because of the shopping and busy schedule you have during this time of year. This year has already brought more than normal stress and challenges. Holiday stress is added and that can be hard to cope with. Taking time for yourself is essential to help you get through all the responsibilities and added things this season brings. Another way to find calm and relieve stress is taking a few minutes to take a deep breath and think of something you enjoy. Thinking about a fun activity or a place you like to visit will clear your mind and release endorphins that will make you happy. Meditation is a great way to clear your mind and lower that racing blood pressure. Many people think you need to meditate for a while but the truth is you can simply clear your mind and breathe deeply and slowly for five minutes. You can do this anywhere. You do not have to be alone in a quiet place to benefit from meditation.

Combining meditation and walking is something people do not think about often. I took a course on Mindful Meditation and that was something I learned. Walking meditation was one of the methods we practiced. I found it very calming and helpful. Being silent and concentrating on breathing sometimes makes me more anxious. Walking and looking at nature was a pleasant way to slow my breathing and only think about what I saw.

During this busy season, try to find a few ways that you can relax and enjoy the good things. Family, friends, food and sharing is what the season is all about. Love is something we all look for and this season is the time to share it with as many people as possible.

Just a note for the future, I will be holding my annual open house in Jan-



uary. Of course, this year will be a little different. I will be making appointments so everyone will be safe and still have time to talk about what they are looking for. I will be glad to answer questions you may have on how you can start or improve an exercise pro-

gram. The date will be in the next edition of the Journal so think about joining me. Information and gift certificates are also a great Christmas gift for yourself or a loved one.

Remember to keep moving and Have a Merry and Safe Christmas.

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ASTRONOMY

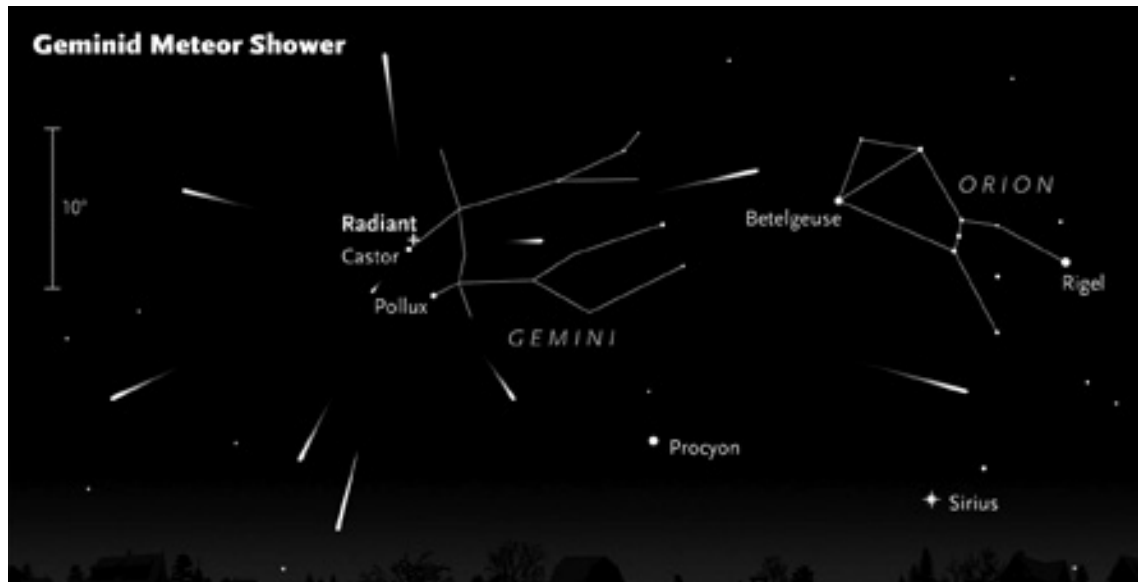
The night sky of December

Professor Wayne Wooten

The last quarter moon occurs on December 7th, and the waning crescent moon passes one degree north of Venus in the dawn on December 12th. Get up earlier that morning and the next for the peak of the Geminid meteor show, coming from near Castor and Pollux overhead. The new moon on December 14th produces a total solar eclipse, but not for us. The center line cuts across Chile and Argentina, alas. The waxing crescent passes just three degrees below Jupiter and Saturn in the evening sky on December 16th; note the two planets are now less than a degree apart. They appear to merge for most of us with the naked eye on the evening of December 21st, with Jupiter passing only .1 degree south of Saturn, and their larger moons visible around them both in the same telescopic view about 6 PM in evening twilight.

Expect to see only the four large moons of Jupiter, and Saturn's Titan. All Saturn's smaller moons are too small and faint and lost in twilight by now. The pair of planets will soon be setting, so set up early to catch them as high in the sky as you can. This approximates the upright view at about 7 p.m. with 100X with a telescope, the closest conjunction of these two planets since 1623! Faster moving Jupiter moves on, and both are getting lost in the sun's glare by New Years.

The first quarter moon is December 21st, which is also the winter solstice, our shortest day. Winter begins at 4:02 AM CST. On December



The Geminid meteor shower – always a highlight of the meteor year – is expected to peak on the night of December 13-14.

23rd, the waxing gibbous moon passes six degrees north of fading red Mars in the SE. The Full Moon, the Yule or Long Night Moon, is on December 30th.

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 November 30th visit the www.sky-maps.com

website and download the map for December 2020; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. South of it are the watery constellations of Pisces (the

fish), Capricorn (Sea Goat), Aquarius (the Water Bearer), and Cetus (the Whale). Below Aquarius is Fomalhaut, the only first magnitude star of the southern fall sky. It is the mouth of Pisces Australis, the Southern Fish. Mars is currently in Pisces, but will over eastward into Aries by month's end.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant.

Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus contains the famed

eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Their appearance in November in classical times was associated with the stormy season, when frail sailing ships stayed in port. Aldebaran is not a member of the Hyades, but about twice as close as the Hyades; distances in astronomy can be deceiving.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead

sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (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 supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirth all over the place. EAAA member Marc Glover took this fine portrait in November with just a 80mm refractor; what detail with such a small scope!

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. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year's sky feast.

To read past editions of the Sky at Night, visit emmitsburg.net

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Farmers' Almanac

"I heard the bells of Christmas Day; their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the word repeat of peace on earth, good will to men!"

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1802-1882)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Breezy, turning milder (1, 2, 3, 4); showers turning breezy again (5, 6). Fair, colder (7, 8, 9) with more showers, wet snow, west (10, 11, 12); colder windy (13, 14, 15) turning fair and milder (16, 17, 18, 19, 20). More rain and wet snow, west (21, 22, 23) turning fair and windy, at first (24, 25); yet more rain, ice, and wet snow, west (26, 27, 28); fair and colder (29, 30, 31).

Full Moon: The Full Moon for December occurs on Tuesday, December 29th. Many Native Americans referred to December's Full Moon as Cold Moon (for obvious reasons!). Other tribes called it Ice-Forming Moon and Beaver Moon because lakes and ponds begin to ice over and in many areas, beavers are scurrying to finish building their dams and lodges before the winter sets in for good.

Special Notes: Winter Solstice will occur on Monday, December 21st. The Hagerstown Town & Country Almanack wishes everyone the happiest of holidays and again, pledges to its loyal readers (and followers on social media!) to continue to inform, inspire, and entertain as it has done for 225 years! Remember that The Almanack makes a great gift that keeps giving throughout the year! Go to www.almanack.com/order to order a holiday copy or two (or three or four).

Holidays: Hanukah begins at sunset on Friday, December 11th, Christmas is celebrated on Friday, December 25th, and Kwanzaa begins on Saturday, December 26th. Enjoy family and friends during these festive times and keep that joyful and giving spirit alive throughout the coming year. New Year's Eve falls on Thursday, December 31st. Make plans to attend a First Night Celebration and enjoy a safe, family-oriented evening of fun, food, and entertainment on the very first night of the year. Look online at www.firstnight.com/cities to find a celebration nearest you.

The Garden: Consider a garden shop gift card or garden tool for the gardener in your life. Books on their favorite type of plants or a gift card to a popular gardening catalog are welcome gifts. Turn your gardening attentions to those houseplants (and other plants you have moved inside for the winter). Remember that warmer indoor temperatures can quickly dry out most plants and they will need a bit more than usual.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (9, 10); weeding and stirring the soil (5, 6); planting above-ground crops (2, 3, 4); harvesting all crops (22, 23); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); transplanting (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21); harvesting and storing grains (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"The thought that goes into the giving of a gift to a friend or loved one is so much more important than the value of the gift itself"

COMPUTER Q&A

Own your software so it does not own you!



Aysë Stenabaugh
Juster's Computer
Fairfield

All software that you purchase has a license which determines the end-users rights to their applications. It's common for popular software such as Microsoft Office or QuickBooks to require you to enter a serial number or product key for the software you purchased which is usually somewhere inside the software packaging, on your store receipt, or if purchased online, could be included in an email. Should you ever need to reinstall your software that information will be required, so it's important to keep it somewhere safe.

Product keys are generally used by software companies to cut down on piracy or the illegal use of their applications. If you ever find yourself needing to contact support for your program, your product registration will also help determine your support eligibility. In the case of Microsoft Office, with the exception of the subscription software (Office 365), your paying for the license to use the software on that one device, not to be confused with Owning the software. You will not be able to then install that software on a second device without first uninstalling it on the first device and deactivating it. Ever since Microsoft office 2013 users of Microsoft products have the ability to add their product key to their Microsoft account thus negating the need to keep your product key safe as long as you maintain access to your Microsoft account.

In order to maintain access to your Microsoft account, you should always keep your email address and phone number up to date in the event that you forget your password or get locked out of your account. You can check your Microsoft account information by logging in at

selected your account you can then choose, "I have a product key" to add your already purchased product.

If you end up losing your product key some products like QuickBooks will display your information if the application is still accessible on the device. Key finders can retrieve product keys for older versions of Office but those versions are now obsolete and those versions (2010 and older) shouldn't be installed anyway. It's recommended that you keep your software up to date, as a general rule of thumb, software that is ten years or older is considered to be obsolete. Avoiding software updates can seem like a good idea but can cause issues to be compounded and more difficult to troubleshoot and resolve.

For those who don't need to use specific applications and prefer to save money, there are often alternatives to mainstream software that offer similar functionality with little or no price tag. Open office is a great option to

replace many of the same functions found in the Microsoft Office suite. Adobe Acrobat Pro users can find many cheaper options that let you edit and create PDF's including Foxit or Nitro. Since each user has their own preferences its best to shop around and compare features and try a trial version of the software to ensure the software is a good fit for you.

For any user, the best method to ensuring that you do not lose any of your licensed software is to ensure that your device is backed up with a system image. A properly configured system image back up not only your important data files but your software and settings

as well. We recommend purchasing an external backup drive and setting up a system image with Windows built-in software which will back up all your software and data. In the event that your device received a bad update or experienced a hard drive failure, you would be able to restore to the latest system image.

This holiday season let us at Jester's Computer Services help make the most out of your devices. Whether you are looking to purchase a new machine, upgrade an existing one or just want to learn how to use your technology more efficiently we can help. Contact our support team at 717-642-6611 or visit us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com or on Facebook.

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HUMOR

Activities of the staff of the University of Harney & the Tom's Creek Fleet

As originally published in the Emmitsburg Chronicle

1913

July 25 - Dr. John Glass on the Mexican situation

Dr. John Glass and the strategy board of the War College connected with Harney University has been in consultation for 98 hours on the Mexican situation, and it is thought that when the

results of the deliberation is presented to the War and Navy Departments at Washington, a plan will have been reached whereby all trouble on the border will soon be brought to end.

According to the Doctor, It was first proposed to send the armored cruiser and six battleships of the Flat Run fleet, under the command of Admiral Bushman, to the golf. This would have been the ordinary procedure, but after considering the difficulties attending such a move, it was thought best to adopt a more original and secret plan and the following idea will be carried out.

"Seven aero-planes loaded with molasses will be sent to the scene of

the action, at the same time 800,000 rounds of Limburger bullets will be distributed to troops from Zora, Four Points, and Popular Ridge, whose regiments will already have reached the heart of Mexico."

The plan is very simple: "The molasses will be release from the aero-planes, about 100 tons from each machine. This will have the same effect on the enemy as tangle- foot flypaper has on flies. When the opposing forces are rendered incapable of marching or standing erect, Limburger bullets will be discharged at them at a rate of 10,000 a second. Death will be instantaneous due to the smell of the cheese An important feature of this mode of warfare is that death will be so horrible that no further recruiting will be possible-no one will enlist in the Mexican army."

August 8 - Appointment at Harney University

Prof. Jacob Turner who has just accepted the chair at snakeology at the University of Hardy has announced his intention of opening a correspondence school with the idea of teaching all takers a course on the science of snake charming. The professor now has 28 snakes of different varieties fully trained and he says he has no difficulty in making them do anything he asked. In the collection, there are two copperheads which he has taught to dance the tango and a black snake taught to walk the slack wire blindfolded.

September 12 - University of Harney Invents Unique Airship

Probably one of the most unique airplanes ever constructed is that

which has just been finished by Dr. Jerry Overholser and Dr. Daniel Shorb, both of the faculty of Harney University. This airplane may be seen for the next few days at the hangar of Dr. Shorb's Estates, "Pig's Misery."

It took 27 men, working day and night underwater, to build the machine. Many of the mechanical devices were designed by Adm. Bushman and the air digging devices by Dr. John Glass.

According to Dr. Overholter: "The main feature of the engine, which is of the complex eccentric type, is the simplicity of the duplicidentate. The meta centre articulates with the friction real and top burtons on the warping chock. This flutes the suction pipe in such a manner as to lap joint the back gear. The lubricator, connecting with a center balance spring, throws the pinch cock under the carburetor, at the same time opening the muffler cutout near the nephoscope. This feeds the silo juice through the bung hole and sparks the fifth wheel near the gunwale. The cloud anchor, which is regulated by a heliograph, is so adjusted on the pinochle deck that its releases automatically from the whiffle-tree, making it possible to stop and remain stationary by putting on the reverse clutch while going at the rate of 184 knots a second."

Dr. Overholter and his crew will make a flight next week at four o'clock from the Popular Ridge standpipe to the Eiffel Tower, stopping for lunch at the Sandwich Islands.

November 14 - Admiral Bushman Readies Fleet

Realizing that it will only be a matter of days until the Mexican situation will reach a crisis, Admiral Bushman is putting the Flat Run Fleet in readiness to sail to southern waters. The Board of Strategy of the Naval Annex of Harney University has been in executive session night and day for two weeks making plans for the combined attack on the Mexican arsenal of Coca-Cola Bay.

Admiral John Glass will be commanding the fleet, now coaling at Turkey Run, where it is expected that the Zorro Zouaves, under command of Col. Dan Shorb will go aboard. The Dry Bridge Dragoons will also form part of this command, which would take orders from Commodore Cornelius Buckingham, who will be the chief officer of the gunboat "Sardine." Nick Keller has been carrying cipher dispatches to Gen. Bill Snyder, who for the past 10 days has been secreted in a cider barrel in the cellar of the Mexican president's palace.

Gen. Jerry Overholter will have entire charge of the wireless towers, recently erected on Poplar Ridge. With this system, which is entirely new and the invention of Major Hiram Ranger, it is expected that the secret plans of the Strategy Board will be carried out.

The signal for the fleet to sail will be the explosion a 6,000 pop bottles from Carrick's Knob. In the event of hostilities daily bulletins will be posted at Dry Bridge, Whitman's Wharf, Pig's Misery and other seaports in the area.

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HUMOR

1914

September 13 - The Gyro Scutoplane

After many months of careful experimenting and the expenditure of \$16,547 in real stage money, Drs. Herr Van Mueller and John E. Davidson, have perfected a flying apparatus, call by them the Gyro Scutoplane. It is propelled by an eight cylinder hexagonal engine using monkey feathers for fuel and is capable of attaining a speed of 85.6 miles a minute. A diagram and full particulars of this invention may be seen in the current issue of the Pallbearer's Review. Decorations have been given both the scientist and each has received a medal of the Order of the Plush Ladle, conferred by the Sultan of Slush.

September 27 - Dr. Glass to Expand Money Supply

Dr. John Glass of the University of Harney has informed the President that he is not in favor of the recent decision of the Federal Reserve to issue smaller bank notes. Dr. Glass is working on an invention whereby, with the use of rubber and yeast, our present currency can be made to greatly expand. "Expandable bills," said Dr. Glass "will allow local residents to stretch their dollars further, allowing more to be bought with each bill." No response has yet been received from the White House on this innovate solution to solving our nation's money supply.

November 15 - Dr. Shorb Gets Returns By Wireless

With his private wireless apparatus in the tower at Pigs Misery, Dr. Dan

Shorb received the election returns. With the assistance of Dr. Glass he manipulated the intricate machine to a nicety, and long before the telegraph instruments of the county had ticked the news, Prof. Bushman, who had his airship anchored on the prairie dog house nearby, was on his way to Emmitsburg with bushel baskets filled with the correct information.

Dr. Shorb declared that owing to his splendid eyesight it was not necessary to use his wireless apparatus for returns from Thurmont, Harney and Jimtown. He simply looked over the shoulders of the clerks, from his private office at Pigs Misery, and wrote down the results. Some slight difficulty was experience in reading the tally sheet at Poplar Ridge, owing, the doctor said, too a bad wick in one of the lamps at that place.

November 29 - Tariff Code Revisions

It is reported that Dr. Glass and Professors Shorb of Harney University will be appointed by President Wilson to a special committee to revise the tariff code on codfish balls. Clarence Buckingham, brother of the Duke of Buckingham, will also revise the tariff on dill pickles. In an unrelated note, Col. Stonebottle, one of the most prominent citizens of Emmitsburg, painted his overalls on Saturday.

December 13 - Pinochle Tournament

During the holiday season the faculty of the University of Harney will engage in a pinochle tournament. The holder of last year's trophy, a dill pickle, is Dr. John Glass. The

trophy this year will be a loving cup filled with spinach, presented for this event by the Young Lady Society for the Prevention of the Use of the Denatured Alcohol and Strawberry Shortcake.

There are all kinds of corn-big and little corn, red, white and yellow corn in the cultivator thinks this particular kind is the best. Mr. Walters has been experimenting with every variety and he has succeeded in producing what he calls the "Genius Bulbus Diminutives" which grow no larger than a fried egg and is shaped like a beehive. Mr. Walters has 189 acres of this kind; each grain is capable of sustaining the life of four horses for three days. It is the farmer's intention to send this year's crop to Roostem Effendi in command of the Turkish troops near the Italian border.

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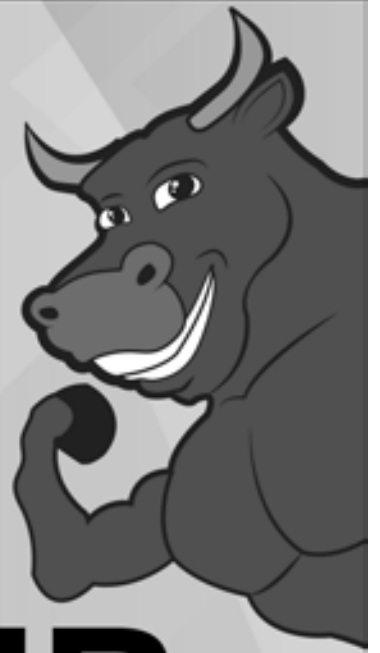


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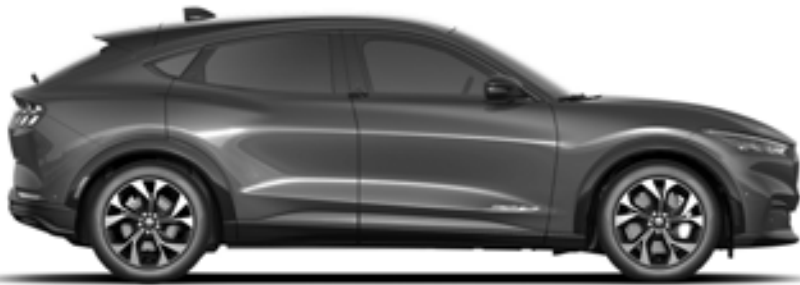


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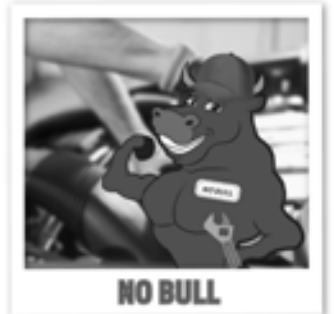
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