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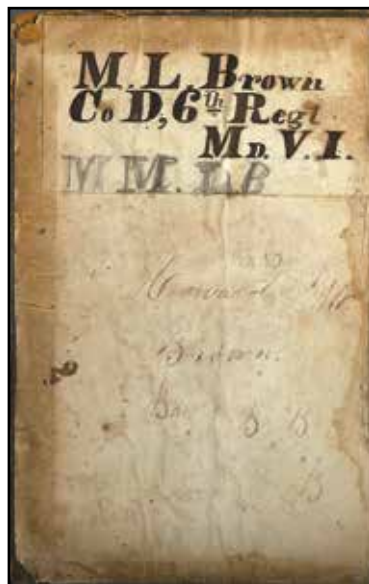
Local Civil War Soldier's Bible Returns to Rightful Family

Dennis E. Black

The weather forecast for Sunday, November 9, 2014, called for a splendid day for anyone wanting to venture out on an antiquing trip. My friend, Larry Hauver, asked me to consider going along with him that day to the first York Antique Bottle Show. I was reluctant to go, with so many things that needed to be done, but he talked me into it—as he usually does. I'm thankful that he did.

There were a fair number of dealers at the York show, with the usual assortment of collectibles being offered for sale, in addition to bottles. About an hour into the show, I happened to be checking out the display of a bottle dealer (Tom Gordon) from Manchester, Maryland, when I noticed a potential buyer beside me, holding a small Bible that the dealer had for sale. During the conversation between the two, I heard the dealer explain that the Bible belonged to a Frederick County, Maryland, Civil War soldier. That piqued my interest.

After the potential buyer returned the Bible to the dealer's display case and walked away, I picked up the book and noticed the following



The inside front cover of the 1863 Bible.

and Roster of Maryland Volunteers – War of 1861-1865.) My great-grandfather Josiah Edward Wilhide (1844-1915) was a member of Company D. In addition to being wounded in battle at Winchester, Virginia, he was captured and held as a prisoner at Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia.

While I examined the small 1863 Bible, the dealer further explained that his research confirmed the existence of a soldier in Company D named "M. L. Brown" from the Foxville area. He had acquired the book online, which had ended up in Indiana. Could this well-worn Bible, most likely carried by this soldier

— Continued on page 24 —

Catoctin's Cross Country Team Wins States Third Time in a Row

Ashley McGlaughlin



Catoctin Boys' Cross Country Team, pumping each other up before the race.

On November 8, 2014, Catoctin High's Cross Country team competed for the 2A State Cross Country Championships at Hereford High School, near northern Baltimore County. The sheer determination, love of the sport, and countless hours practice led the Catoctin Boys' Cross Country Team to win states for the third year in a row.

"It was perfect cross country weather, low 50s with a little bit of wind," said Coach Terri Gibbons. It wasn't just the nice weather that aided this group of young men to win this three-mile race.

Throughout the months of training—beginning in August and ending in November—this team practiced every day for two hours,

some staying longer just to help each other out. Running next to a group of people every day really makes a team grow strong.

"A lot of it was just how much of a family we are. At the end of the day, at race time, it's good to know that the person you're standing next to has your back just as much as you have theirs," said Patrick Van Der Cruyssen, who placed fifth in the championship.

Coaches and families were very proud. "They all work hard all the time. The boys team does a very phenomenal job of working together and pumping each other up," said Coach Gibbons. Winning states not only brings them victory, it gives each team member a feeling

— Continued on page 24 —

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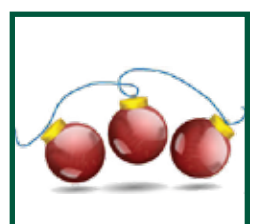
"No,
I'm Not
Willie"

See page 13 for
the story.



Holiday
Home
Decorating
Contest

See page 6 for
details.



Dear Reader:

We here at *The Catoctin Banner* hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving Day and gets to spend it enjoying time with family. We also hope that everyone can fit back into their regular-sized clothing after stuffing themselves more than the turkey.

Did you catch the stories on the front page? The Catoctin High Boys' Cross Country Team took home another championship trophy! The other feature article is a touching story of how a Civil War Bible made its way back to the original owner's family more than 150 years later.

Inside this issue, you'll find stories about the upcoming Christmas events, as well as Thanksgiving and Halloween stories. Take a look at the pictures of some of your friends and neighbors in their costumes. You'll see that the Catoctin region has lots of creative and talented people.

While you hopefully know the results of the general election, we have a story about how the voting fared in the local polling places, which differed from the overall results in some cases.

Feel that chill in the air? Winter is upon us, but will it be mild or harsh? We take a light-hearted look at the upcoming winter weather.

We continue to try and pack the pages with stories that won't leave you finishing reading the paper and feeling depressed or discouraged.

We'd also like to thank all of our advertisers, and you should, too. Why? Because it is through their support that we are able to bring you *The Catoctin Banner* each month. You can show your support by shopping at our advertisers and mentioning their ads in *The Catoctin Banner* when you do.

— James Rada, Jr., Contributing Editor

Your Paper – Your News!

Send us your community news and photographs to share with others.

Deadline for submission is on or before the 15th of the month prior to the issue month.

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After years of planning, Jim finally realized his dream of opening his own business... unfortunately



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Gardner, Delauter, and Jenkins Among the General Election Winners

James Rada, Jr.

Statewide, the biggest takeaway from the November 4, 2014, election was the win of Republican Larry Hogan in a heavily Democratic state to become the next governor of Maryland. Frederick County's election was a historic one, as representatives were selected for the county's new form of government.

Voter turnout in the county was 51.36 percent. Among the local voting precincts, voter turnout ranged from 41.06 percent at Thurmont Middle School to 51.78 percent at Woodsboro Elementary School.

The new county officers will be sworn in on December 1, 2014.

Jan Gardner (D) defeated Blaine Young (R) to become the first Frederick County Executive. Gardner won 53.82 percent of the vote, while Young finished with 45.82 percent. Although Gardner had a strong victory overall, she did not win in any of the local districts. Her best showing was at the Woodsboro Elementary polls, where she won 44.59 percent of the vote.

Gardner, who will oversee county operations, establish policies, and propose budgets, will be working with a majority Republican county council.

The Republican candidates won four of the seven seats, including the two at-large seats and the District 5 seat. The Council's job is to initiate legislation for Frederick County. It meets for only forty-five days each year.

Kirby Delauter (R) defeated Mark Long (D), 54.72 percent to 45.13 percent, to win the District 5 seat. Delauter won a majority of votes at all the local polling places, including 67.89 percent of the votes cast at Sabillasville Elementary School.

Republicans Billy Shreve and Bud Otis defeated Democrats Susan Jessee and Linda Norris for the two at-large county council seats. The Republicans also won their contests at all of the local polling places.

Incumbent Sheriff Chuck Jenkins (R) easily won re-election over Karl Bickel (D), 62.79 percent to 37.06 percent. Jenkins performed even stronger locally, where he won between 75 to 83 percent of the vote, depending on the polling place.

Four seats on the Frederick County Board of Education were open in this election. Liz Barrett (15.52 percent), Brad Young (14.20 percent), Colleen Cusimano (13.55 percent), and April Miller (12.92 percent) were the top vote getters.

For the District 4 State Senator seat, Michael Hough (R) won 66.7 percent of the vote to defeat Dan Rupli (D) who earned 33.08 percent of the vote.

The three seats open for the Maryland House of Delegates in District 4 are also all filled by Republicans. Kelly Schulz (30.89 percent), Kathy Afzali (28.49 percent), and David Vogt, III (24.69 percent) defeated Democrat Gene Stanton (15.63 percent). Stanton was the lone Democrat running for the position.

For a complete listing of the 2014 General Election results, including the final results in Frederick County, either by county or polling location, visit the Frederick County Board of Elections web page at www.frederickcountymd.gov/index.aspx. You can also find the official final results when they are posted.



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Thurmont

Snow Removal Ordinance Reminder

As winter approaches, here is a summary review of the Thurmont Snow Removal Ordinance: All sidewalks are to be cleared of ice and snow within twelve hours after snow has ceased falling.

When removing snow, it should not be pushed into the traveled portion of any public street. Property owners can be fined for ignoring the snow removal ordinance. Town officials are also requesting that people park cars in their driveways when snow is in the forecast to ensure easy access for the snow plows.

Food Bank and Clothes Closet

Donations for the food bank can be dropped off at the town office and other designated locations around town. There is a need for additional food for the holidays and winter months. Also, warm



Trinity UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Special Music for the month of December:

Sunday Worship
STARTING AT 11:00 AM

17th- Lana Sorenson Emery - Organist
14th- Bonnie Clowes & Tim Kueberth - vocalists from the Frederick Chorale
21st- Rev. Sherman Mason
24th- Matt Lind, Lucas Hogan & Rocky Birely-saxophone trio
28th- Bernie Tregoe-Performing traditional, contemporary, & southern gospel

301-271-2305
101 EAST MAIN STREET
THURMONT, MD 21788



town hall reports

by Michele Cuseo

coats, hats, scarves, and mittens are needed for those in need to make it through this winter. Please drop off items at the Clothes Closet, located at the Thurmont United Methodist Church on 13880 Long Road in Thurmont.

Sidewalk Construction Update

The State Highway Administration (SHA) construction team is progressing on the sidewalk redesign, which is incorporating handicap accessibility on all main street walkways. The work will continue on to North Church Street this month. Mayor John Kinnaird requested that the construction team avoid the downtown square area until after the holidays, so Thurmont citizens can enjoy the planned festivities.

View the Town of Thurmont's website at www.thurmont.com or call the town office at 301-271-7313 for more information.

Emmitsburg

Bridge Replacement Planned

The bridge across the Flat Run area near Jubilee Foods is slated to be replaced in the fall of 2015. The State of Maryland Highway Administration will replace the bridge that was built in 1912. The bridge is in need of replacement due to age and issues with flooding. The new bridge will be sturdier and wider and will include a sidewalk

on both sides for pedestrians. Originally, the state planned to put in only one sidewalk on one side. The town asked that the sidewalk be placed on both sides and the state has agreed to the request. One side of the bridge will be constructed at a time so that traffic can still pass over the bridge, sharing a single lane in both directions.

Town Staff Salary Review

The payroll for town staff was reviewed by the town's human resource consultant, HR Solutions. It was determined that some of the town staff is underpaid by as much as fifteen percent, according to current market comparisons. HR Solutions made the report to the town hall commissioners at the meeting on November 17. Commissioners agreed to take the information under consideration, but took no further action at the November meeting. The next town hall is scheduled for December 3, 2014.

Free Holiday Parking

Park free in Emmitsburg from December 17-24. As in previous years, the town has offered free parking to the public during the holiday season, and encourage the citizens to shop locally to support our community.

View the Town of Emmitsburg's website at www.emmitsburgmd.gov or call the town office at 301-600-6300 for more information.

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Classified Advertising costs 40¢ per word with a minimum of \$10 for line listings. Services Classifieds are \$1 per word with a minimum of \$25. Photo Classifieds are \$20 per ad limited to 1" height. Email your written listing to news@thecatocinbanner.com. To pay by check, mail payment to: *The Catocin Banner* at 515B East Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD 21727; to pay by credit card, call 301-447-2804; to pay in person, stop by E Plus Copy Center in the lobby of Jubilee Grocery Store in Emmitsburg.

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Correction in Last issue: In the Emmitsburg High School 90th Alumni Banquet article on page 20, Mr. Emory Motter was misnamed in the photo, and the group photo showed the class of 1970, not 1969. These corrections have been made to our online edition.



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Play Our Games

Each month, you're invited to participate in our Where Am I? Photo Contest and Hidden Object Game. The winners of each game are announced in the next issue of *The Catoctin Banner* newspaper. Winners are given a gift certificate to the advertiser of their choice. To participate, call 240-288-0108 or email news@thecatoctinbanner.com to record your guesses by the 15th of each month. Please don't forget to spell your full name and leave your phone number.

Where Am I? Photo Contest

For the "Where Am I?" Photo Contest, take a look at the photo to the right and tell us where it was taken. It is somewhere in or around our Northern Frederick County Area, which is defined as Rocky Ridge to Cascade and Lewistown to Emmitsburg, Foxville to Creagerstown, and everywhere around and in-between.

Last month's "Where Am I?" photo showed a tank prop used at Lawyer's Farm near Creagerstown.

Last month's winner is Mark Bailey.



Photo by Deb Spalding

Hidden Object Game

Last month's Hidden Object was a boxing bunny. It was located on page 22 in Gene's Towing advertisement. The winner of the Hidden Object Game is Bill Herron. If the winner has not been contacted, please contact us to claim your prize.

This month's Hidden Object is a Christmas Gremlin, wearing a Santa hat.

Note: Hidden Object is always hidden in one of our advertisers.

If you see your name listed as a winner, please email us at news@thecatoctinbanner.com with your name, address, and the name of the advertiser from which you would like your gift certificate, and we will send you your prize! If you do not have access to email, please call us at 240-288-0108 and leave us a message with the above information. Thank you.

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Test Your Word Power

(Answers on page 46)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Pernicious [per-nish-uh s] (adj.)
a) Unreasonable; stubborn
b) Causing great harm; destructive
c) Mysterious; enchanting | 3. Assail [uh-seyl] (v.)
a) Watch; regard with attention
b) Attack vigorously; assault
c) Protect; conceal |
| 2. Ensnare [en-soo] (v.)
a) To crouch; stoop
b) To control; govern
c) To follow; come next or afterwards | 4. Ardent [ahr-dnt] (adj.)
a) Intensely devoted; enthusiastic
b) Flexible; resilient
c) Delicate; dainty |

5. Which word above would work best in this sentence?

We can only imagine the problems that _____ when the rule of Rome collapsed.

The Catoctin Banner

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The goal of *The Catoctin Banner* is to provide good community news and information for residents of northern Frederick County, Maryland—promoting a sense of community pride and spirit.

Published on or before the beginning of each month. Publish date will be early if holidays or events warrant adjustment.
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Graceanne Eyler and Allison Rostad, Advertising Design; Michele Tester, Managing Editor and Layout Design; James Rada, Jr., Contributing Editor; Lindsay Brandt, Photojournalist

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Better Sales This Holiday Season Expected

“Retailers are hopeful for a gain in holiday sales this year,” said Maryland Retailers Association’s (MRA) President Patrick Donoho. He indicated that retailers are estimating a cautiously optimistic increase in the 3.0 percent to 3.5 percent range.

Mr. Donoho highlighted an increase in consumer confidence, lower gasoline prices, and slight increase in inventory levels as positive signs for the upcoming holiday sales.

“The overall economy in Maryland is slowly improving, but wage growth has been sluggish,” he said. “Working families are still living from pay check to pay check. But they are starting to feel more financially secure as shown in the rise in consumer confidence. Lower gasoline prices have helped them, too.” The last two years have seen modest increases in holiday shopping in Maryland with increases of about 2.5 percent. This year, it is expected to rise at a slightly better rate (3.0-3.5 percent) but still lag behind national projections of 4.0 percent, because of the sluggish wage growth.

MRA urges Maryland shoppers to support their local economy by shopping Maryland retailers. Mr. Donoho stated, “Maryland retailers are a vital part of our communities and are often our friends and neighbors.” Retailers are the largest private sector employer in Maryland.

Retailers will be promoting their holiday sales in a wider variety of venues this season. With increased competition from a variety of sources (neighboring states without sales taxes or lower sales taxes to internet sales), shopping local retailers will not only help the communities of Maryland but the state budget as well with increased sales tax revenue that would be lost to internet sales or neighboring states. With Amazon opening a distribution center in Maryland, some of that lost revenue will be captured this season as Amazon begins collecting and remitting sales taxes for purchases made by Maryland consumers. Consumers should be reminded that they are required to pay the sales tax on purchases made online, if it is not collected by the online retailer, by January 20, 2015, by using the following tax form: http://forms.marylandtaxes.com/12_forms/ST-118A.pdf.

Bargain shoppers also will not be disappointed. “Our members know that price matters and will aggressively compete for consumers’ business,” Donoho said. In addition, many retailers have improved their e-commerce promotions and sales to compete for online sales. Consumers will be able to have a multitude of choices this holiday season.

MRA’s forecast is based upon a survey of its members and a review of retail industry data and economic indicators. This year’s MRA survey of members continues the positive outlook for holiday sales from last year.

“Many of our members are predicting slight growth in the 2 percent to 5 percent range this year,” indicated Donoho. “They know their markets extremely well and tend to be very accurate in their outlook.”

The Maryland Retailers Association is the retail community’s major statewide trade association in Maryland. MRA’s membership at some 1400 locations encompasses all segments of the retail industry and includes both local independent merchants and regional and national chains.

Holiday sales are measured as sales in the GAFS category: general merchandise, clothing and clothing accessories, jewelry, furniture and home furnishings, electronics and appliances, hobby, book and music and building and garden equipment.

St. Johns Lutheran Church
Creagerstown, MD

Celebration of the Birth of Christ
with a service of Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve at 5:00PM
in our Union Church

Dinner Following Early Service
in the Parish Hall.

Candle Light Service at 8PM
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Rev. Thomas Kenea will be presiding.
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Blue Ridge Sportsmen’s Association 2014 Events

The Blue Ridge Sportsmen’s Association is holding a Cash Bingo on December 7. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. Games will begin at 12:45 p.m. Their Breakfast with Santa will be on December 13, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. On December 14, they will hold their Sunday Funday at 2:00 p.m. View their advertisement on page 27 for more information on these and other Blue Ridge Sportsmen’s Association December events.



Start Hanging Your Holiday Decorations!

The Catoctin Banner’s Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Will your home sparkle and shine in celebration of the holiday season? Be festive, creative, and use your imagination when decorating, then enter *The Catoctin Banner’s* Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Nominate your own home or a home you think could win by Friday, December 19, 2014. *The Catoctin Banner* will judge only the homes you nominate on December 19 and 20, so please leave your lights on for us between the hours of 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Please email *The Catoctin Banner* at news@thecatocinbanner.com to give the address of the home you are nominating. Homes must fall within the coverage area of the newspaper, which includes zip codes 21780, 21719, 21787, 21788, and 21727. We will feature a photo of the winning house in the January 2015 issue. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winner of the Decortating Contest, as well as to the runner-up. Happy Decorating!

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Come See Santa!!

At the Fire House
Saturday, December 13
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Ages 0-10

Guardian Hose Company
21 N. Church St., Thurmont, MD

The Creagerstown
Community Chorus Presents:

**The
Christmas
Story**

A Classical Carol Celebration
Preceded by invitational harpist Elisabeth Allen

Sunday, December 21st at 3:00 P.M.
Historical Union Church
8619 Blacks Mill Road • Creagerstown, Md.
Please join us for a celebration of the sounds
and the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus
Christ our Lord.

AROUND town

Ladies Night & Style Swap

Susan Torborg will host a Ladies Night & Style Swap at Fort Ritchie Community Center, located at 14421 Lake Royer Drive in Cascade, on Friday, December 12, 2014. Get ready for beauty and style makeovers. Bring up to ten fun accessories for a styling swap. A \$10.00 admission guarantees a fun afternoon where makeup, jewelry, friendship, and YOU are the focus for a whole evening, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Learn about an entire line of chemical free skin care and cosmetic products. Light refreshments and appetizers will be served. Call 717-642-5977. View their advertisement on page 38 for more information.

Save the Date — 6th Annual EBPA Rock n' Roll Relics Dance

The 6th Annual Dance fundraiser will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2015, from 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., at the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company building, located at 17701 Creamery Road in Emmitsburg. Enjoy rock and roll sounds from the 50s and 60s. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance; \$20.00 at the door the night of the event. Sponsored by Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA) View their advertisement on page 41 for more information.

Looking for Something to Do?

Reference the **Community Calendar** on page 47 to view the calendar for events of interest, including bingos, breakfasts, dinners, benefits, dances, shows, library programs, and much more!

Dinner With Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Kountry Kitchen

You can have dinner with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Kountry Kitchen on December 10, 2014, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. All kids meals are \$3.99 with the purchase of an adult meal (Dine in only). View their advertisement below for details and more information.

The Christmas Story

The Creagerstown Community Chorus will be presenting The Christmas Story, a Classical Carol Celebration, preceded by invitational harpist, Elisabeth Allen, on Sunday, December 21, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. View their advertisement on page 6 for more information.

Gateway Candyland Open House

Gateway Candyland will be holding an Open House on December 6 and 7, 2014. View their advertisement on page 15 for more information.

Christmas Bazaar and Yard Sale

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is holding a Christmas Bazaar and Large Yard Sale on Saturday, December 6, 2014, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Find gifts and goodies and their indoor yard sale, as well as soups and sandwiches. View their advertisement on page 30 for more information.

Come See Santa

Don't miss seeing Santa Claus at the Guardian Hose Company, located at 21 N. Church Street in Thurmont, on Saturday, December 13, 2014, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. View their advertisement on page 6.

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THURMONT

Kountry Kitchen

RESTAURANT
17 Water Street • Thurmont, MD
301-271-4071

Dinner with Santa & Mrs. Claus
December 10th, 2014 from 5PM - 8PM
All Kids meals \$3.99 with purchase of adult meal (limit 2 kids per adult) - Dine in Only.

Holiday Hours	Specials for December	Baked Goods & Things
Thanksgiving & Christmas Day CLOSED	MONDAY NIGHT All dinner Specials \$6.99	Now Taking Orders for Baked Goods for the Holiday Season.
Christmas Eve 6AM-2PM	TUESDAY NIGHT 4 pc. Chicken Dinner \$6.99 (dine in only)	Place your orders today. 301-271-4071
New Years Eve & Day 6AM-6PM	WEDNESDAY NIGHT Slippery Chicken Pot Pie with 1 vegetable \$6.99 Carry out special: 8 pc. Chicken & 2 sides \$12.99	21 Days of Christmas Drawing Begins Dec. 1 st Prizes to be awarded each day to a lucky winner.
THURSDAY "ALL DAY" Senior Citizens Day - 10% discount		

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Many thanks to everyone for their kind support throughout this year. Love, Pat



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BUSINESS news

The Season of Holiday Suckers

Deb Spalding

As we enter the Holiday shopping season, it's important to be prepared and, sometimes, cautious. Here at *The Catoctin Banner* newspaper, we encourage local shopping—with our valued advertisers, of course!

Statistics suggest that shopping locally helps support our local economy, since the money stays in our community. Another major plus is that it strengthens our community by providing jobs.

In support of shopping locally, we'd like to remind shoppers to “beware” should you decide to meander to a big city or play in cyberspace. It's a nasty world out there, sometimes. Here are some examples of situations where you should be cautious. Don't be a sucker!

Sucker Tip #1: Do not respond to unsolicited emails on the computer or unsolicited offers on the street, in the mall, or on your computer. While working on the computer, I opened an email that turned out to have a virus attached. I spent a lot of time and money removing it. Something might look appealing to click on and possibly purchase; however, be weary if you don't know the site or the sender. In the aftermath, I am fed up but wiser. May my sentiments carry us all safely through shopping season.

Sucker Tip #2: Avoid filling out forms both online and in person. Did I tell you, I just won a wonderful vacation from those nice people “giving away” free vacations at an event I attended this past summer? NOT! If I fulfil my sucker destiny, I will spend a few thousand on a vacation to some place I had no plans to visit. I get something for free, but the end doesn't justify the price.

Sucker Tip #3: Are the deals really worth the hassle? I waited in line on Black Friday last year and missed the deal. The last one was given to the lucky sucker five up in line from me. If you really want the prize, be sure to calculate your risk and reward ratios. It's cold outside!

So, save yourself time, gas, and headaches and see what your neighbors are selling (this is only a partial list of local ideas for gifts; sorry to all who are not mentioned. Please check out the ads in this issue for more ideas.)

The Thurmont Lions Club is selling some great holiday gifts of

mural designs created by Artist Yemi. Commemorative gift items include all six murals, signed prints, individual mural prints, ornaments of etched glass, and a full color giant book *Thurmont – Murals and Memories*.

Each year, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society members decorate wreaths to your design with bows, pinecones, ornaments, icicles, and more, during the Traditional Village Christmas event on December 6, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Coffee gift baskets are available at Holy Grounds Café in Emmitsburg.

Browns' Jewelry has beautiful fine jewelry, watches, and gifts in stock in Thurmont.

Schedule your appointment with Nails By Anne for a fresh holiday manicure or pedicure!

Hunters might like their trophy mounted by Quirauk Skull Works.

We have many auto repair professionals throughout *The Catoctin Banner* reading area. It may be time for a tune up, a shine, or some new tires.

Vigilant Hose Company members are selling Gun Calendars and Spring

Fling Tickets. Get yours today!

White House Ornaments, honoring President Warren G. Harding, are being sold by the Catoctin Area Civitan Club.

Gateway Candyland Market will hold a candy making open house with a large selection of Christmas gifts and crafts, including an open door into At Home Primitives, where home décor is abundant.

Get your Shot Shell Christmas lights from the Frederick County 4-H Shooting Sport Club.

There are unlimited sources for gift certificates in our local area. Patronizing local artists, authors, and photographers is a unique alternative for meaningful gifts.

Members of the Catoctin Area Civitan Club are offering 2014 White House ornaments that honor President Warren G. Harding. If you would like more information, please call 301-676-9752.

The ideas listed here are just a sampling of ideas to get you started. Remember, don't be a sucker and enjoy the Holidays!



Looking for a deal?

Here it is!

99¢ Kid's Meals



Join Us from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Dine In Only

Hamburger • Cheeseburger

4 pc. Chicken Nuggets

Includes child size fry, apple slices, and small soft drink. (Toy not included) **for only 99¢**

Mondays McDonald's in Emmitsburg

Tuesdays McDonald's in Thurmont

Wednesdays McDonald's in Walkersville



Renovations Salon and Day Spa Gets a Renovation

Georgine Rabenold

Renovations Salon and Day Spa got a makeover. The transformation began over Labor Day weekend 2014, and when the doors reopened that following Thursday, the salon had a fresh, updated new look. The Salon and Spa has been open for nine years.

"It was time for a new look. We want to keep the spa in style, just like our customers," said owner Claire Bennett.

Renovations Salon and Day Spa offers a complete package of services, from facials to hair coloring to pedicures. In addition, they also offer special occasion services for weddings, homecoming, prom, or any big day in your life. They have a full staff of ten experienced stylists, nail technicians, and even a makeup artist!



Renovations participated in Thurmont Thinks Pink in October. Claire and her staff challenged customers to "think pink" by offering them the choice of a pink glitter nail for \$5.00, to get a



pink hair flair, or to make a small donation. All proceeds went to The Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

If you haven't already, come see the new look at Renovations Salon and Day Spa, located at 120 Frederick Road in Thurmont.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!

The Catoctin Banner

The Catoctin Banner exists due to the advertising support of those featured in each issue.

Business Appreciation Awards

Business Appreciation Awards were handed out in November by the Frederick County Department of Business Development and Retention.

Sandy Wageman and her team visited three Thurmont businesses: Celebrations Catering, Heart & Hands, and Catoctin Hope Chest. Thurmont CAO Jim Humerick and Thurmont Commissioner Wes

Hamrick were also on board to thank these entrepreneurs for doing business in Frederick County and, of course, Thurmont.

Celebrations Catering, is located at 425 N. Church Street in Thurmont. Visit their website at www.celebrationsatcm.com.

Heart & Hands is located at 12 East Main Street in Thurmont.

Visit their website at www.heartandhandsworkroom.com.

Catoctin Hope Chest is located above 7-11 on Frederick Road in Thurmont. Visit their website at www.catoctinhopechest.blogspot.com.

Congratulations to all! Check out Frederick County Business Development and Retention at www.facebook.com/discoverfrederickmd.



Celebrations Catering

Business Appreciation Awards presented to three Thurmont Businesses



Catoctin Hope Chest



Heart & Hands

View Calendar

Reference the Community Calendar on page 47 to view the calendar for events of interest, including bingos, breakfasts, dinners, benefits, dances, & more!

Play Our Games

Go to page 5 to play the Where Am I? and Hidden Object games. You could be the winner of a gift certificate to one of our advertisers!

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Get Well Soon, Jacob Legg!

Jacob Legg is recuperating from injuries sustained after being run over by a vehicle at a Thurmont Middle School dance on Friday, November 14, 2014.

He's healing a broken clavicle, a lacerated liver, a broken thumb, three broken vertebrae, bruised lungs, and road rash.

Wishing him a speedy recovery!



Your Paper – Your News!

Deadline for submission is *no later than* the 15th of the month prior to the issue month.

- news@thecatocinbanner.com • 301-447-2946 fax •
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20 minutes from Thurmont

Emma Jean's General Store Opens

Lindsay Brandt

A new general store has opened in Creagerstown. However, Emma Jean's General Store isn't your everyday store. Yes, it has the usual milk, bread, and eggs, but you may be surprised to learn that it is also an antique store.

Emma Jean Goldberg and her son, Chuck Johnson, had the same kind of store open in West Virginia, but when they had an opportunity to purchase the old building in Creagerstown, they felt it would be a perfect spot to open up a new store. "It's an authentic 1800s store; it's the nostalgia of old things, and we are trying to make it as authentic as possible," describes Emma Jean.

The property was on the market several times; it went to auction, had no bidders, and then eventually went into foreclosure. That's when a friend of Emma Jean and Chuck informed them about the 118-year-old building. So the pair packed up their West Virginia store and headed to Creagerstown.

While strolling through the store, the sense of history and the feeling of nostalgia are noticeable. The store's shelving, the 24-foot store counter, and the grand staircase leading up to the antiques are all original to the turn-of-the-century building. The additional pieces of furniture that are now housed in the store come from many types of stores and include seed counters, nail bins, cheese cases, shirt display cases, and bread cases. There is also a selection of furniture from old hardware, mercantile, and general stores. They are hoping that the store will become a tourist attraction.

"I've always liked general stores. We take old store fixtures and use them in the house. They just have a look that we prefer. It's solid furniture. We have a bunch of old ice boxes in the store. We just like the look," Chuck said.

Some of the many antique items that are for sale include advertising antiques, industrial pieces, an old teller station, antique ice boxes, display cases, a revolving nail bin, displays, vintage mannequins, a workbench, old toys, signs, and milk bottles. Whether you are an avid collector or just like to look at old unique pieces, this store will appeal to anyone who appreciates antiques.

Emma Jean's General Store is already helping to keep local antique



Courtesy Photo

historical items in the community. Emma Jean and Chuck purchased several items from the Cozy Restaurant auction that are now being used to enhance the history of the store. Some items acquired are a lamppost, an enormous Christmas wreath, and holiday angels.

"It's different, almost like a tourist thing," Chuck said. "We've been pleasantly surprised by people showing up. It was packed for Colorfest. We weren't ready, but we had to let people know that we were here."

Along with managing the store, both mother and son are working to get involved with local charities in the area. They hope to get the community into the holiday spirit by hosting Santa! Santa will be visiting the store December 13, 2014, starting at 4:30 p.m. The donations received will go to local charities.

In addition to hosting some community activities, they want to service the community. "In winter time, if people can't get out, we'll have things to keep people going," stated Chuck. "If somebody calls at closed hours, and they say they need some milk or something, of course, come on up and we'll meet you at the door! If we are here, we won't turn you away. If we can accommodate the people, this is fun for us."

Emma Jean's General Store is located at 8636 Blacks Mill Road in Creagerstown (technically) Thurmont. Call 240-288-8778 for more information.

Store hours are Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY news

Jan Lawyer Fundraiser Benefits American Brain Tumor Association

Lindsay Brandt

The season of giving kicked off early at Lawyer's Farm and Moonlight Maze, located on Creagerstown Road in Thurmont. On Sunday, October 26, 2014, all admission proceeds for the farm were collected to benefit the American Brain Tumor Association in honor of Jan Lawyer, who passed away from brain cancer on December 15, 2013.

Jan was the mastermind behind the property, which includes a farm, maze, sculptures, teepee, and pumpkin cannons that he built himself. The corn maze was one of the first and largest in the state of Maryland.

"When my dad passed away, I had a really hard time dealing with it. But being surrounded by everything that my dad created, and being able to hold a fundraiser in memory of him really gives us the encouragement to get by and to keep working hard. There is a reason why we do it. It's fulfilling."

"He was always creative. He could do anything. That's just how his mentality through life was—whatever he set his mind to, he could accomplish, and he did," said Jan's daughter, Taylor Huffman. "I wanted to keep my dad's memory alive. I wanted to do something that would let people know that this place exists because of this man and his ideas, and his motivations to create a unique place to bring

families. We lost a really good man to something as awful as brain cancer, and we aren't going to give up; we are going to keep raising money for research."

When Taylor and her husband, Brandon Huffman, set out to have a fundraiser, they set a goal of raising \$5,000 for a donation. With an estimated 450 people in attendance that day, they ended up raising \$11,350 to donate to the American Brain Tumor Association. About half in attendance came specifically for the fundraiser—friends, family, and locals—but the other fifty percent of business at the farm that day was regular farm customers.

"Everyone had a really good time," Taylor stated. "A lot of people came up to me and said they were touched. Some people had stories to tell of friends and family who have been affected by brain cancer, so it was really good to gather and talk to everyone." The Huffman's hope is to continue fundraising every year.

"We set a high bar," Taylor expressed, adding, "So we hope that we can keep going up and up."

Photo by Lindsay Brandt



Taylor Huffman, daughter of Jan Lawyer, and her husband, Brandon, hold up the check showing the \$11,350 raised from the Jan Lawyer Fundraiser on October 26, 2014. Proceeds benefit the American Brain Tumor Association.

Colorfest Tallies its Annual Contributions to the Community

James Rada, Jr.

Colorfest, Inc. met for its annual meeting on November 11, 2014, at Simply Asia in Thurmont to elect officers for the coming year and to review its contributions to the Thurmont community.

Colorfest, Inc. earns income from the annual fall festival and returns much of that money back to the community through either cash donations or purchases made on behalf of organizations.

Between December 2013 and November 2014, Colorfest gave \$14,486.50 in cash and goods to the Thurmont community.

Here's how those donations break down: Guardian Hose Company—\$1,500; Thurmont Ambulance Company—\$1,500; Thurmont Police Department—\$1,500; Catoctin High School FFA—\$1,164.40 (for a hog purchase at the Community Show, which was donated back and sold again with the proceeds donated to the Thurmont Food Bank); Catoctin High Scholarship—\$3,500; Boy Scouts—\$50 (for the BSA popcorn fundraiser that was then sent to overseas servicemen); Memorial Day Observance—\$25 (for

flowers and a wreath at Memorial Park); Straw—\$188; Town Gardens—\$126.19; Commissioners of Thurmont—\$2,000; Gift Card—\$50; Thurmont Food Bank—\$2,233; Summer Donation—\$250; Thurmont Regional Library—\$100; Town Christmas Decorations—\$200; Thurmont Main Street—\$100.

In addition, local businesses and organizations benefit from the increased traffic in town during Catoctin Colorfest weekend. Hotels and restaurants are filled. Gas stations sell more.

Many organizations also use the event as a major fundraiser for their groups. Even residents make money with yard sales.

"We really try to support the local businesses, restaurants, hardware stores, grocery, by buying straw or flowers or Christmas decorations or even printing our brochures and fliers," said Colorfest President Carol Robertson.

Robertson and all of the current officers are remaining in office for the next year and will continue making contributions to their community.

The 2015 Catoctin Colorfest will be October 10 and 11, 2015.

Christmas Mart

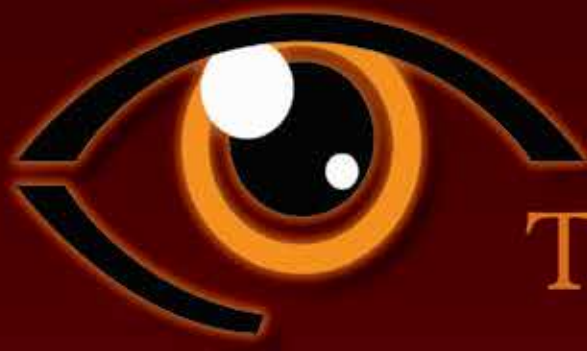
Courtesy Photo



Sheron Wolf, Deb Bennett, and Mary Ann Nee are working on centerpieces for the annual Christmas Mart and religious article sale planned for Saturday, December 6, 2014, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at St Rita's Catholic Church, located on 13219 Monterey Lane in Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania.

The sale will also feature wreaths, swags, kissing balls, a bake table, crafts, and a raffle, as well as lunch. Religious items will also be available.





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“No, I’m Not Willie”

Lindsay Brandt

He may look, walk, talk, sing, and play the guitar like Willie Nelson, but Richard Isaac Renner is not Willie Nelson. Richard started singing when he was just five years old. He would run around his parents house, grab his mother’s broom, and create a makeshift guitar while singing along to the tunes of George Jones, Hank Williams Sr., and Lefty Frizzell.

“I didn’t know what they were singing since I was so young, so I made up words that suited me, that fit the music,” laughed Richard. “Mom would say, ‘I don’t know what those words are,’ and I would say, ‘Well, I know what they are!’”

When Richard was five years old, his parents took him to a carnival where a band from Hanover, Pennsylvania, was playing. During their intermission, the Hundred and One Ranch Boys announced that there would be an amateur singing contest. Richard’s parents didn’t say anything to him; his father just grabbed him and hoisted him onto the stage. When he was on the stage, his father said to him, “Sing that Patsy Cline song that you sing!” So Richard sang “7 Lonely Days” by Patsy Cline.

“I won a silver dollar! The audience loved it and I was just thinking, wow, it’s no big deal, I sing every day,” said Richard.

It’s safe to say Richard’s singing career started after that moment. As Richard grew older, he became involved with high school bands and marching bands, as well as playing the drums. At age ten, he was being sneaked into bars to play the drums for professional bands. “I’d been offered four professional jobs, but I was too young to accept them,” he said. So he kept on singing and playing. When he turned thirteen years old, he began to write down

his lyrics. His original songs started being added to the band’s shows, and the audience would yell out, wanting to hear the drummer sing.

When Richard was in his late twenties, his band would often perform Waylon Jennings’ “Good Hearted Woman,” featuring Willie Nelson. His band mate would sing Waylon’s part, and Richard would sing Willie Nelson’s bit. As soon as Richard started to sing the first note, the crowd would start to applaud.

“I thought, what’s the problem? What am I doing?” recalls Richard. So during intermission, his band mate told him to go look in the mirror. Richard went to the bathroom, looked in the mirror and said, “I see me.” But then his band mate explained to him that the crowd doesn’t see “him.” To them, his face, his hair, and his voice are Willie Nelson. “But, I’m not Willie!” stated Richard.

Consequently, Richard Renner has been called Willy for thirty-five years, whether he’s on the road or at his home.

While dining at the Kountry Kitchen Restaurant in Thurmont, Richard laughed and said, “I’ve had ladies come in with their husbands and ask their husbands if it was okay for them to sit down with me for dinner. They would want me to sign an autograph. So I told them I could sign Willy Renner, but I can’t sign Willie Nelson, because I’m not.”

Throughout his career, Richard has played at private parties, pig roasts, motorcycle parties, pool parties, anniversaries, birthday parties, and in every club along Rt. 355. While performing at a party in 2006, Richard’s friend, Greg Nixon, pointed out that since everyone knows him as Willy, he should write a song about it. After some thought,

Richard started to develop his song, “No, I’m not Willie.”

Richard’s wife took it all in stride, and, since she likes Willie Nelson, she helped him start to look the part. She would do his hair and pick out the shirts similar to what Willie would wear.

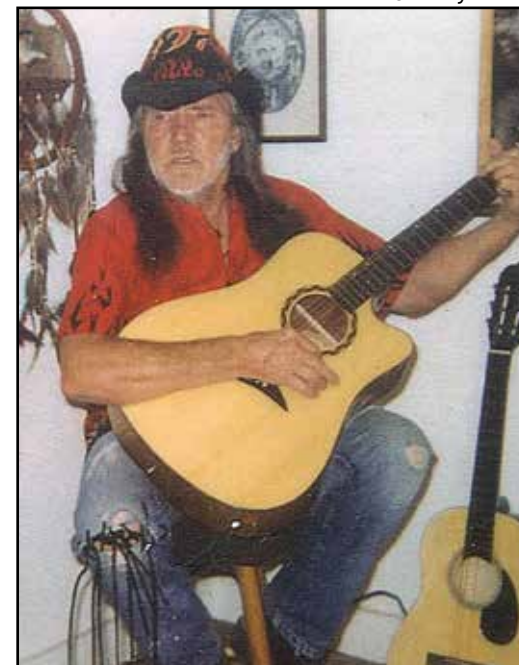
Richard has two sons and two daughters, and whenever he would start to ease off of the music scene, one daughter in particular would encourage him to keep going. “She would say to me, ‘Dad, you are depriving people and you don’t want to do that; you’re not that kind of guy. Get back out there, get your ‘you know what’ in gear, and let’s go!’”

“No, I’m Not Willie” has three verses in the song. Each verse has a different scenario of occasions when Richard was mistaken for Willie Nelson. Verse one is about when he and his wife were held up at a Pennsylvania store by a cashier who was not convinced that Willie Nelson was not standing in front of her until Richard pulled out his driver’s license to show her his name. Verse two recalls a situation at a fair where people would point and nudge one another to get a look at “Willie” walking through the crowd. The final verse tells about how, even in his hometown, people call him Willie Nelson.

“I don’t want to imitate him; it’s more of a tribute to him, and so I tell them that. But I give them this song, so they can understand,” said Richard.

“No, I’m Not Willie” will be available on December 6, 2014, during the Christmas in Thurmont event at the Kountry Kitchen on Water Street and the Thurmont Eye

Courtesy Photo



Care on East Main Street. After the event, the single will be available until December 20, 2014, at those two businesses.

Richard has decided to donate all proceeds from this project to the Thurmont Food Bank. The song is available for purchase for \$5.00.

Richard will have a ten-song country-rock album due to come out in January 2015.

“The only thing that Willie Nelson does, that I would like to do, is get that sound in my guitar that Willie Nelson has. I just can’t get that Willie Nelson sound. The Willie Nelson sound is one in a world. Certain people in the world have sounds that you just can’t copy. If I could play the guitar like Willie and make that sound, I would be happy. I still wouldn’t imitate him; I want people to know that I am not a Willie Nelson impersonator. I just happen to be born his twin.”

You can reach Richard “Willy” Renner at 240-409-1414.

In closing, Richard voiced, “God Bless All!”

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A Snowball's Chance In...

James Rada, Jr.

Brace yourselves. It could be such a cold winter that one of the best-known prognosticators—the woolly bear caterpillar—is hiding out looking for a place to stay warm.

"I haven't seen one since August," said Bill O'Toole, a prognosticator with the *Hagers-Town Town and Country Almanac*.

Though he doesn't recall how that shy caterpillar was colored, other people have said that the few woolly bears they've seen are all black, a sign of a cold winter approaching. Unscientific studies done in the 1940s found a correlation between how brown the middle of a woolly bear caterpillar was and how mild the winter was. The wider the brown band in the middle, the milder the winter; therefore, an all-black caterpillar is a warning to all who follow the predictions of the woolly bear. It's going to be cold out there!

O'Toole says that the Hershel Chart method of weather prediction that the almanac uses also shows that it will be cold this winter. Farmers developed the Hershel Chart centuries ago.

"They tracked the weather and noticed trends based on moon phases and changes," O'Toole said.

It is not exact and things like active sunspots can play with the accuracy of the predictions.

"Right now, it looks like it will be very similar to last year; colder than normal, snowier than normal," stated O'Toole.

He even explains that the conditions going into this winter are similar to those we had five years ago, during the winter of Snowmaggaden.

"I'm not saying that that's going to happen," he quickly added. "Only that things are similar."

However, Christy Purdum noted on *The Catoctin Banner's* Facebook page that the last time she saw an all-black woolly bear was the autumn before the region got hit with Snowmaggaden, and she had seen them again this fall.

Some readers chimed in on the Facebook page with their thoughts about a snowy winter.

"No thank you to a cold Winter! I want a mild Winter like we had a couple of years ago!" wrote Dawn Bonsby.

"I believe it will be a bad winter and a lot of snow," wrote Laura Hoyt.

A few people are looking forward to northern Frederick County being a winter wonderland.

"Let it snow, let it snow...I hope it is a really deep snow," Chris Digilarmo wrote.

So, now it's just a waiting game. When will the first snow fall, and can I get to Arizona before it does?

"Anyone who thinks that they are too small to make a difference has never tried to fall asleep with a mosquito in the room."

~ Christine Todd Whitman

Antique Fireback to be Donated to Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. (CFHS) will showcase an antique fireback donated by Mr. Richard Miller and the late Mrs. Dixie Miller of Frederick, Maryland, at



their Traditional Village Christmas celebration on December 6, 2014. The fireback was forged in the village iron furnace at Catoctin Furnace.

The cast iron fireback from the James Johnson and Co. furnace in Catoctin Furnace is dated 1776. It is a rare surviving example of the products made by the furnace during the Revolutionary War. The fireback is nineteen inches high, twenty-three inches wide, and three-quarter inch thick. (The same fireback is pictured in the book *Catoctin Furnace: Portrait of an Iron-Making Village* by Elizabeth Yourtee Anderson.) In addition to the date, the fireback bears the company name, a classical urn, and a fancy border. It is in excellent condition, according to John C. Newcomer, a noted art and antique appraiser.

In 1976, Mr. Miller found the fireback upside down and being used as a step behind the back door of 108 North Main Street in Woodsboro, Maryland. Mr. Miller acquired the fireback from the building owner and has preserved it in his home for the last thirty-eight years. In researching the owners of the Woodsboro house to find out if they had any connection with the furnace in the late 18th or early 19th century, the historical society found that in 1794, the house was transferred from Jacob Good to John Campbell. Clearly, the Woodsboro house was standing and occupied during the period when Johnson operated Catoctin Furnace (ca. 1790s-1810). The fireback may have been installed in a fireplace when the house was built in the late 1700s. They are still trying to determine whether any owners of 108 North Main Street were associated with Catoctin Furnace.

In 1774, the Catoctin Furnace was built by four brothers in order to produce iron from the rich deposits of hematite found in the nearby mountains. The iron furnace

at Catoctin played a pivotal role during the early years of the industrial revolution in the young United States. Cannonballs fired during the battle of Yorktown were made at the furnace.

The furnace industry supported a thriving community, and company houses were established alongside the furnace stack. Throughout the nineteenth century, the furnace produced iron for household and industrial products. After more than 100 years of operation, the Catoctin Furnace ceased production in 1903.

In 1973, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. was formed by G. Eugene Anderson, Clement E. Gardiner, J. Franklin Mentzer, and Earl M. Shankle to "foster and promote the restoration of the Catoctin Furnace Historic District... and to maintain the same exclusively for educational and scientific purposes... to exhibit to coming generations our heritage of the past..."

Today, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. celebrates, studies, and preserves the architecture, landscape, and culture of this pre-Revolutionary village. The society has been able to protect and restore several historical sites in the village and has increased community outreach programs.

The fireback will be on display during the Traditional Village Christmas on Saturday, December 6, 2014, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., in the Collier's Log House at 12607 Catoctin Furnace Road in the village of Catoctin Furnace, near Thurmont. Each year at Traditional Village Christmas, volunteers for the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society decorate wreaths to your design. Bows, pinecones, ornaments, icicles, and many other decorative items are available for you to choose. Sip mulled cider, select delicious baked goods, and shop for unique handmade gifts at the same time!

CFHS, Inc. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization. All donations go directly to the restoration, preservation, and interpretation of the historic village.



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“Think Pink” Fundraising Campaign Results in Substantial Donation to Breast Cancer Cause

Courtesy Photo



Pictured left to right are Vickie Grinder, Thurmont Main Street Manager; Sadie Wolf, Frederick Memorial Hospital; Thurmont Commissioner Wayne Hooper; Commissioner Bill Buehrer; Jeff Hurwitz; Patty Hurwitz; Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird; Commissioner Wes Hamrick; and Thurmont CAO Jim Humerick.

For the month of October, the Town of Thurmont sponsored a “Think Pink” fundraising campaign, during which many businesses and residents contributed to the Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Memorial Hospital. “Think Pink” resulted in an impressive response. Through the cooperation of residents and businesses in Thurmont, the Town of Thurmont presented the Patty Hurwitz Fund at Frederick Memorial Hospital with a check for \$5,287.10 at the town’s November 18, 2014, meeting.

Thurmont’s Chief Administrative Officer, Jim Humerick, stated, “To have this type of participation and support from businesses and residents for the first year of our program is phenomenal. This speaks volumes about our community.”

“Thanks to all the ‘Think Pink’ Business participants, the residents, and the Town of Thurmont. Thurmont rocks!” added Thurmont’s Main Street Manager, Vickie Grinder.

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Getting in the Holiday Spirit Around Town



Christmas in Emmitsburg

There are multiple events taking place in Emmitsburg on Saturday, December 6, 2014. The day is sponsored by the Emmitsburg Council of Churches.

Christ's Community Church, located at 303 West Lincoln Avenue in Emmitsburg, hosts their 3rd Annual Christmas Bazaar, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There will be nineteen vendors and a silent auction, as well as baked goods and food for sale. There will be a free scavenger hunt, free cookie decorating for the kids, and a free picture with good ol' St Nicholas. For more information, contact Heather at 717-321-5522 or Pastor John at 301-447-4224.

Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 100 West North Avenue in Emmitsburg, will hold their Annual Christmas Bazaar and Beef, Turkey, & Ham Supper (with apple fritters), starting at noon. The cost is \$11.00 for adults; \$4.00 for children (ages 6-12); \$12.00 for carryout. The supper also includes stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce and cake. The annual bazaar includes crafts, home baked products, yard sale items.

The Lions Club of Emmitsburg hosts its annual Christmas Party for the children of Emmitsburg, hosted at the Vigilant Hose Company fire hall, located at 25 West Main Street in Emmitsburg. Free for children of all ages, featuring crafts, magic show, food, and a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Contact Lions Club for a time at joe@NOSPAMemmitsburg.net.

Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar will be held at Mother Seton School, located at 100 Creamery Road in Emmitsburg, from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Enjoy a pancake breakfast then shop their craft and specialty gifts vendors at the bazaar. With photos for Santa, door prizes, raffles, and a kids' bazaar, there's something for everyone. Free admission to the bazaar. Breakfast tickets are available for \$7.00 (ages 7-adult); \$5.00 (ages 3-6); Free (ages 2 and under). Visit www.MotherSetonSchool.org for more information.

Spend an evening with the Mount St. Mary's University Chorale at The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, located at 339 South Seton Avenue in Emmitsburg, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. They will perform Haydn's Mass in Times of War. Find comfort from the worries of today in a beautifully hopeful artistic performance.

Don't miss the Christmas Craft Fair at the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Saint Joseph Catholic Church (corner of North Seton Avenue and DePaul Street) in Emmitsburg, from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There will be over thirty vendors. Baked goods and food for sale. (Event also on Friday, December 5, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) Contact Jane Gjerde at 717-642-1247 or Gwen Topper at 301-447-2713 for information.

Free parking is available at Christ's Community Church, Seton Shrine, Mother Seton School, Elias Lutheran Church, and St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration

Come join in the fun-filled festivities at the annual Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration. This year's event, sponsored by the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library, will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2014, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., at the Blue Ridge Summit Plaza, located at the intersection of Monterey Lane and Sabillasville Road. There is something for everyone at this year's activities and it's all free!

There will be songs of the season by Rich Fehle and others, fire truck rides, horse-drawn sleigh rides, s'mores on the plaza, refreshments, craft making for the kids, and the historic Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will open its doors for the annual Holiday Open House.

At 6:30 p.m., the tree lighting ceremony will take place. This year the tree lighting will honor the memory of Jerry Scruggs and Dorothy Abplanalp.

At 7:00 p.m. the program continues at the Monterey Pass Battlefield museum and interpretive center, with a special candle light program and tours by Civil War and Monterey Pass Battlefield Historian, John Miller.

Any questions regarding the event, please call library board members, Duke and Lynn Martin at 717-642-5645.

Christmas in Thurmont

Christmas in Thurmont will be held on December 6, 2014, and will begin with a ribbon cutting at 9:00 a.m. at Mechanicstown Square Park in the center of Thurmont. Santa will be available for free photos, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and, again, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Thurmont Lions Remembrance Tree will lit at 4:00 p.m., with caroling. Gather at 5:00 p.m. at Hobbs Hardware for prize drawing. Be sure to get a map and visit the listed businesses so you can enter the prize drawings. Children need only register to be eligible for prizes.

An Evening of Christmas Spirit

Come out for the 26th Annual An Evening of Christmas Spirit on Monday, December 1, 2014, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The event will begin with the Emmitsburg Tree Lighting Ceremony on the square in Emmitsburg. Join local choirs in caroling and Mayor Briggs in the lighting of the town Christmas tree. At 6:30 p.m. Santa will arrive at The Carriage House Inn. All are invited for complimentary hot dogs, cookies, live Nativity, entertainment, and hayrides. Local choirs and vocalists will be featured in Joann's Ballroom from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Canned goods and donations will be accepted for the Emmitsburg Lions Club Christmas Food Drive.

Event sponsored by The Carriage House Inn, the Town of Emmitsburg, and the EBPA.

Free Children's Christmas Party


The Emmitsburg Lions Club will host its annual Children's Christmas Party on December 6, 2014, at the Vigilant Hose Company, located at 25 East Main Street in Emmitsburg, starting at 10:00 a.m. The event is free and will feature children's crafts, face painting, Khan-Du the magician, and hot dogs and hot chocolate. It is also anticipated that Santa and Mrs. Claus will make an appearance.

Santa Comes to the Fire Museum

The Chief of the North Pole Fire Department, ol' Santa Claus himself, will be at the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum in Emmitsburg on Saturday, December 13, 2014, from 1:30-4:00 p.m. The museum will be participating in Frederick County Museums by Candlelight that day, and will also be collecting for Toys for Tots for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Representatives of the Reserve will be on hand to receive new, unwrapped toys to pass on to deserving children.

The museum is located at 300B South Seton Avenue in Emmitsburg, in front of the Community Center. Stop in on December 13 for a visit with Santa Claus and a free tour of the museum.

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Legg Named Thurmont's Volunteer of the Year

James Rada, Jr.

Erik Legg was named the 2014 Thurmont Volunteer of the Year in October 2014. He was chosen from among a group of six volunteers who had been nominated.

"Our community is very fortunate to have such individuals who give of their time freely," said Colleen Gillen with the Lions Club.

Legg was nominated for his volunteer work throughout the community, particularly with Project Hope, an organization that helps find activities for young people to hopefully give them productive alternatives to drugs and alcohol.

"I lost my friend when I was twenty-one years old," Legg said. "He died in my arms. That's when I made the decision to help."

Legg will have his name added to the Volunteer of the Year plaque that is displayed in the town office. He will receive a gift certificate for two to a local restaurant, and a \$400 donation to Project Hope will be made in his name.

Other nominees for this year's Volunteer of the Year Award were Beth Watson, Nancy Dutterer, Joann Miller, Regina Amery, and Rodman Myers.

"These are individuals with significant contributions to the Thurmont community and are well-rounded volunteers who generously give their time, energy, and skill," said Joyce Anthony with the Thurmont Lions Club.

Also recognized at the ceremony in Community Park on October 25 was the 2014 Police Officer of



Erik Legg awarded 2014 Volunteer of the Year.



Officer D. Armstrong awarded 2014 Police Officer of the Year.

Photos by James Rada, Jr.



Pictured are the nominees for the 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award. Erik Legg (second from left) was presented with the award. The other nominees were Beth Watson, Nancy Dutterer, Joann Miller, Regina Amery, and Rodman Myers.

the Year. Officer D. Armstrong was awarded this honor. He received a plaque, dinner for two at a local restaurant, and a \$400 donation made to the charity of his choice, which was Boy Scout Troop 270.

The award ceremony was held as part of the Lions Club annual "Make A Difference" Day.

"This is a great opportunity for the Town of Thurmont to recognize the Volunteer of the Year and the Police Officer of the Year," said Mayor John Kinnaird.

The Lions Club has been sponsoring the day since 2006. Each year, organizations and groups are encouraged to perform a service project during the day.

"Today is the day of volunteerism," said J.R. Wantz with the Thurmont Lions Club. "Basically, it's people helping people."

A couple dozen people, including three members of the Thurmont Board of Commissioners and Police Chief Greg Eyler, attended the afternoon ceremony at the park. Even as the Lions were recognizing volunteers in the community, dozens of volunteers were busy in the park preparing it for the Halloween in the Park festivities that evening.

The Thurmont Lions Clubs had planned on dedicating a Lion drinking fountain at the Community Park and a Lion bench at the Trolley Trail Park, but production problems have delayed the project.

"They will be tangible evidence of what the Thurmont Lions Club gives the town," Wantz said.

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Emmitsburg 727 Scouts Out in the Community “Scouting for Food”

You may have noticed a bag hanging recently from your door after the first weekend in November. As part of the nationwide “Scouting for Food” campaign, Emmitsburg Scouts performed their daily good turn by canvassing Emmitsburg neighborhoods and leaving bags at each residence to collect food for the Emmitsburg Food Bank. On Saturday, November 8, the scouts revisited those neighborhoods to collect donations, count, and deliver them to the food bank. The result was 1,165 items donated to the Emmitsburg Food Bank that will directly benefit those in need in the Emmitsburg community.

“We certainly needed the help,” said Emmitsburg Food Bank Director, Phyllis Kelly. “Our food bank was low, but we knew the Boy Scouts were coming. We count on their help every year,” added Kelly.

The Boy Scout Troop and Pack 727 is sponsored by St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. For more information about scouting in Emmitsburg, please contact St. Joseph’s Church at 301-447-2326.



Courtesy Photo

Emmitsburg 727 Scouts: (front row) Caleb Alessi, Julia Neibecker, Luke Buchheister; (second row) Chris Anadale, Nicholas Lowe, Mathias Buchheister, Dominic McKenney, Mary Neibecker; (third row) Food Bank Director Phyllis Kelly, Joe Legare, Thomas Legare, Thomas Lowe; (fourth row) David Anadale, Mrs. Alessi, Brian McKenney, Bob Neibecker, and Doug Lowe.

Successful Mission to Kenya Made by the Emmitsburg Council of Churches

Lindsay Brandt

The Emmitsburg Council of Churches went to Africa for two weeks in July 2014 to supply the local communities there with much needed entertainment, medical assistance, and learning opportunities.

Pastor Jon Greenstone was part of the nine-person team, dubbed “Team Kenya 2014,” who started their two-week journey by boarding a plane at Dulles Airport. After several flights, the team finally reached their mission site in the village of Kiminini, which is about fifteen miles from the larger city of Kitale, Kenya. Their trip was focused around four villages in the Kiminini and Khalwenge area.

The team was involved with two schools: Grade 9 at the Lenana Girls High School, and the Pathfinder Academy School. These African children don’t have the luxury of participating in craft sessions during their everyday life, so the team members took it upon themselves to bring a little artistic joy to the children.

Color photos were taken of every student and staff member and then printed and framed on-site for the Pathfinder Academy. The children were able to choose from a variety of colored bandanas; then they were given fabric markers to decorate them however they liked.

Gifts provided by the Emmitsburg Council of Churches included: 284 little dresses that were hand made by Carolyn Weaver, who created different patterns and designs for each dress; 20 quilts that were given to the orphans at Pathfinder; the high school girls of the Lenana were able to decorate their own tote bags; 33 soccer balls from One World Futbol were handed out to the community; and over 100 solar flashlights were given to the students and staff at Pathfinder.

It wasn’t just all fun and games, though. Medical supplies, doctors’ clinics, and informational sessions were held. There were three suitcases full of medications distributed to clinics held at Mitumbe slum, Pathfinder Academy, St. Joseph’s Girls High School, and Khalwenge village. A total of 618 patients were seen by Drs. Calvin Chatlos and Holly Hoffman, with Dr. Kathrin Muegge overseeing the blood sugar and malaria testing stations.

Over 180 pounds of medical supplies from Med Wish and several United States hospitals were delivered to Kiminini Health Center and Mitumbe Health Center.

Four hundred toothbrushes and 288 tubes of toothpaste were given out at Pathfinder Academy and the elementary school at Khalwenge village, along with information on dental hygiene.

Marie Hoffman, who was equipped with an auto-refractor—purchased by Dr. Drew Stoken in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for this and future missions—performed over 300 eye exams. The 180 students who were determined to need prescription lenses will receive them within the next few months, once they are shipped or flown to Kenya.

“Helping Babies Breathe” training was provided at the four different health groups: Mbai, Makwangwa, Kiminini Health Center, and Muthangare. Pediatrician Holly Hoffman provided training to each village, and they were given kits that included an ambu bad, stethoscope, towels, bulb suction devices, hats, cord clamps, and blankets.

Packets of ten different varieties of non-GMO seeds were distributed to 450 families at Biointensive Agriculture workshops at four villages in Kiminini and Khalwenge.

Pastor Jon held worship twice a day with Pathfinder Academy students and was assisted by Merri Saylor, a Methodist Deacon at Trinity UMC of Emmitsburg, and Lisa Riffle of St. John’s Lutheran Church of Thurmont. Bible school was held for the students of Pathfinder Academy, Lenana Girls High School, and at Khalwenge village by Phyllis Kelly, Tracy Sebold, Betsy Miller, Lisa Riffle, and Merri Saylor.

Over 400 Bibles were distributed among the men, women, and children of Kiminini and Khalwenge.

The nine members of Team Kenya returned to the United States tired and exhausted, but with new friends and memories that will last a lifetime.

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Allison Rostad

Imagine locking up your business at the end of the day—closing out the register, shutting off the lights, locking up until the next day. Now imagine that the next day you find your business had been broken into. It is now part of a crime scene.

According to the Thurmont Police Department, the Thurmont area recorded ten commercial burglaries between the months of August and October. For a small town of 4.1 square miles, that's a lot.

On Thursday, November 6, 2014, the Thurmont Police Department invited business owners to join them at the Thurmont Library to discuss burglary prevention tips in hopes of curtailing future commercial burglaries.

Prevention tips were reviewed by Thurmont's Police Chief, Greg Eyer. While these tips are not guaranteed to keep a burglary from happening, when utilized, they may help to maximize your protection against a burglary.

There were three big take-a-ways from the prevention discussion: (1) Work as a team with the police; (2) Be proactive; and (3) Always remain calm. Thurmont has a police department comprised of thirteen officers. These officers work split shifts in order to cover 24 hours of every day. A community of active allies who work to enhance the safety and quality of neighborhoods makes for a big help.

Working as a team with the police in your community can dramatically decrease the likelihood of crime in your area. Imagine the force of thirteen officers now aided to well over one thousand, due to the allies of the community. That's a number sure to deter a possible burglary.

This expansion of allies simply requires that business owners take measures to more securely protect their businesses. Start by taking

a look at your business's physical layout, your employees, and your business's overall security. Consider installing video surveillance, proper interior and exterior lighting, and a monitored alarm system. Make sure adequate locks are installed on all doors, and consider adding additional hardware that will improve the level of security of your current doors and locks.

Keep windows and counters clear to allow for law enforcement and civilian surveillance. Do not keep cash in register after closing. Monies should be taken straight to the bank or placed in a safe that is anchored to the floor. Always provide training for employees, so they are familiar with security procedures and know your expectations.

Although some of the mentioned security improvements are costly, consider the cost of each improvement you make against the potential savings through loss reduction. Crimes against businesses are usually crimes of opportunity. Failure to take good security precautions invites crime into a business.

Perhaps even after precautionary steps are taken to prevent a burglary, you still become victim, remain calm. Officers and their families will appreciate this more than you know. The last thing anyone would want out of a burglary is injury or the loss of life. No amount of money could replace the worth of an individual's life. Understand that the way a crime is reported determines the way the police are dispatched to handle the situation. If someone has shoplifted from your business, simply report it as such. Don't panic and describe matters worse than they are.

Crimes have different classifications. A robbery is handled differently than a shoplifting situation, because a robbery is

classified to have some sort of violent or forceful action along with obtaining unauthorized control over property. Shoplifting from a business is to obtain unauthorized control over property but without force or violence. Although there is only a slight difference between the two, it is important to note that an officer dispatched to a robbery is likely to respond with more caution and concern towards the violent action.

Don't forget, in the event of an emergency, please call 911.

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Halloween Marches into Emmitsburg

James Rada, Jr.

Five o'clock is the witching hour in Emmitsburg on Halloween night. That's when the ghost, goblins, and other characters venture out to take over the streets of the town.

On October 31, 2014, costumed characters knocked on doors of homes and businesses for trick or treating. Undeterred by the cold temperatures after the sun went down, dozens of costumed characters lined up for the annual Halloween parade, which made

its way down Seton Avenue to the cheers and claps of the spectators.

After the parade, many in the parade and crowd made their way to the Vigilant Hose Company to enjoy refreshments, play games, and find out who won the best costume awards.

"The Emmitsburg Halloween party is right out of Norman Rockwell," said Renate Provance of Emmitsburg. She had been handing out candy to trick or treaters earlier

in the evening. Many of the people knocking at her door enjoyed her teacup mouse costume so much that they told her she should participate in the parade. She gave in and enjoyed herself immensely.

Not to be outdone, others came up with just as elaborate costumes, from the Quaker Oaks Man to the Lego Man to the Harry Potter Family to a banana.

Nikolai Bokinski of Emmitsburg was a head on a table.

"He came up with the idea himself," said Nikolai's father, Eric. "He saw it on a show and decided that he wanted to be a head."

The evening offered something for everyone, with children enjoying themselves just as much as the adults.

The parade and party is sponsored annually by the Emmitsburg Lions Club.

Photo by James Rada, Jr.

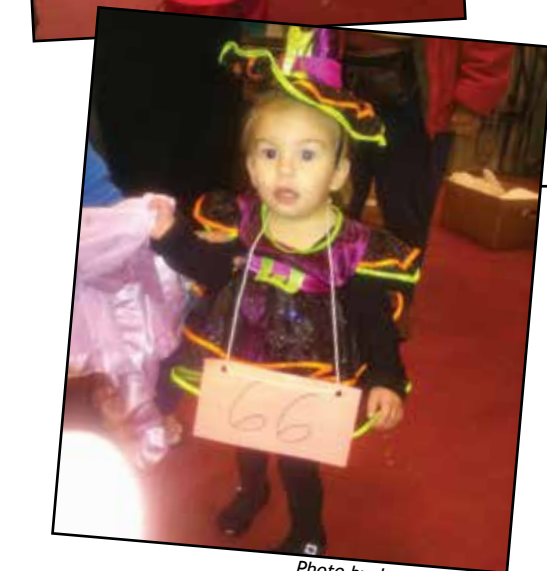


Photo by James Rada, Jr.

Costume Winners

Submitted by Jim Houck, Jr.

Cutest Costume—First place, #66 Tiny Witch (Nevaeh Pogue); Second place, #104 Raggedy Ann (Grace Fisher); Third place, #74 Queen of Hearts (Aliyah Snedegar).

Ugliest Costume—First place, #87 Headless (Randy Hall); Second place, #102 Table (Nikolai Bokinski); Third place #109 Ugly Doctor (Greg Sterner).

Most Original—First place, #52 Lego Man (Kai Ridenour); Second place, #94 Quaker Oats Man (Mathew Miller); Third place, #95 Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd (J. & M. Risser).

Scariest—First place, #99 Pirate and Ship (Evan Rudolf); Second place, #96 The Grim Reaper (Aiden Caltrell); Third place, #57 Little Girl (Kala Penzavcchin).

Groups (three or more)—First place, #98 Harry Potter (Vargas Family); Second place, #113 Frozen (Burns Family); Third place, #81 Inmate and Dog (Flohr Family).

Note: My apologies to anyone whose name I may have misspelled; I had a difficult time deciphering the writing.



Photo by James Rada, Jr.



Photo by Jim Houck, Jr.



Photo by Jim Houck, Jr.



Photo by Jim Houck, Jr.

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fitness matters

by George Puvel, Anytime Fitness Owner



Expert Answers to Your Health and Wellness Questions

Question: Almost every time I go for a run, whether it's outside or indoors on a treadmill, within 10-15 minutes, I get a cramp in my side. What causes this runner's cramp and can you give me any suggestions on how to alleviate it?

Answer: There are many theories as to why the runner's cramp happens. A large amount of food may have settled in the intestines, you may have tried exercising too soon after eating or drinking, there could be a lack of oxygen to the diaphragm, or even in the ligaments that attach the liver, stomach, and spleen to the diaphragm. Running makes our internal organs bounce up and down, and all of this movement could contribute to a side stitch. To help alleviate the cramp, try changing the rhythm of your breath, along with how you breathe. For example, find a pattern of inhales and exhales for a certain number of steps (e.g. inhale for two steps and exhale for four). Then, switch breathing from your belly to your chest. You could also try pressing into the side stitch with your opposite hand while raising your arm (on the

same side as the cramp) overhead. You can also try lying down with your hips elevated. Both of these techniques help to ease pressure on the ligaments that connect your diaphragm to the other organs.

Question: Whey protein powder seems to upset my stomach. Are there any other alternative protein powders that I can try?

Answer: An upset stomach could be a sign that you have an allergy or sensitivity to whey protein. Try egg, pea, brown rice, or hemp protein, which are all excellent alternatives for whey. Lactose and gluten could also be culprits, so you might start by looking for brands of whey protein labeled lactose-free or gluten-free. Of course, it could also be what you are combining with whey that is causing the issue. Instead of milk, try blending powders with kale juice, unsweetened almond milk, or coconut milk to pack a double punch of protein and phytonutrients. You could also try sprinkling protein powder over fruit, in Greek yogurt, or adding to recipes for an alternative protein boost.

To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.

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SCHOOL news

Teaching a Love of Learning with ELO

James Rada, Jr.

When the school bell rings at 3:05 p.m. at Sabillasville Elementary School, not all of the students head for the nearest exit. About two dozen students stay after on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) club.

Students are invited to join ELO to have additional opportunities to practice reading and math in fun ways. Students get help and enrichment for critical skills needed to be successful in school.

"I really like it when we separate," said fourth grader Brenton Kelley. "We get snacks and I get to read."

ELO has two components. The students start the session meeting as a group in the media center. During a recent session, they spent the first twenty-five minutes on math problems from the day, using flash cards, plastic chips, markers, and plastic-covered worksheets. They spread out in small groups on the floor and at tables to tackle various challenges.

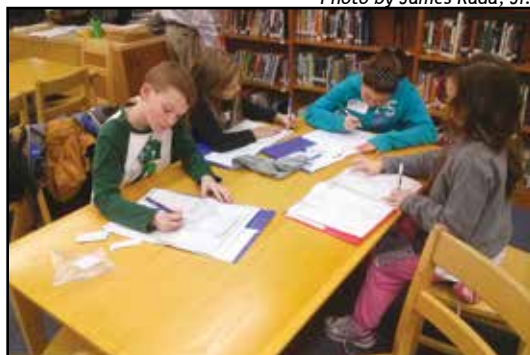


Photo by James Rada, Jr.

Students are able to practice and sharpen their skills in reading and math in fun ways in the Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) club at Sabillasville Elementary School.

"It helps me learn more," said Elizabeth Morgan, a fifth grader.

"When I go to class, I know the problems just like that," fifth grader Hanna Legore said, as she snapped her fingers.

For the second half of each session, teachers take the students in small groups to eat a snack and work on more-specialized topics. Teacher Laura Keilholtz took four girls to her classroom to work on money concepts.

The second graders used plastic coins to count out \$3.00 in three different \$1.00 groups. Then they got to take their money and make purchases at a class store. They saw the prices listed for small items that they could purchase and counted out the money needed. Once they had made two purchases, they were asked to count up how much money they had left. The students enjoyed it, because they got to keep the hand stamps, pads, or other little items they had purchased.

For the students who are struggling to meet standards for math and reading, the club is a chance to learn those things. For students who are already meeting standards, ELO encourages them to enjoy learning.

Words for Thirds

The Grange is a national organization that has community service in mind. In November 2014, the Thurmont Grange went to Thurmont, Emmitsburg, and Sabillasville Elementary schools and gave each third grader a dictionary. This is an annual activity intended to give our areas' third graders their very own dictionary.



Photo by Deb Spalding



Sabillasville Elementary School

Pictured from left are: (front row) Kate Kreitz, SES Principal; third grade students, Calli Hensch, Nathanael Hahn, and Hope Brown; (back row) Grange members Jim Royer and Kay Barth; third grade teacher Marnie Mortenson; Administrative Specialist Jane Savage; and Grange President Rodman Myers.

Photo by Lindsay Brandt



Emmitsburg Elementary School

Pictured from left are: (first row) Tessa McKenzie, Samantha Orndorff, Kayleigh Frantz, Nate Fluke, Cody Faulkner; (second row) Bob Wiles, Paulette Mathias, and Cliff Stewart.

Photo by Deb Spalding



Thurmont Elementary School

Pictured from left are: (front row) third grade students, Gavin Valentine, Jonathan Kaufhold, Zac Reynolds, and Riley Elias; (back row) Rodman Myers, Kay Barth, and Helen Troxell with the Thurmont Grange; Christina McKeever, TES Principal; Desiree Ench, Third Grade Teacher; and Counselor Beth Myers.

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Mother Seton School Welcomes a Menagerie for Annual Blessing of the Animals

The threat of rain couldn't keep people and their pets away from Mother Seton School (MSS) on October 10, 2014. Goats, horses, chickens, and rabbits were among the many creatures, both big and small, participating in Mother Seton School's annual Blessing of the Animals. A Catholic tradition that goes back to the fourth

century, MSS is one of the only Catholic schools in the state to host such an event. It is held on or near October 4 each year, in honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment.

"It's a great community liturgy," said Shelia Dorsey, an MSS teacher and event coordinator. "I love how it makes you stop and think about the wonderful gifts from God—nature, the animals, each other." Most in attendance were families of current students, but many that came were members of the local community or former families and students who remember the event from their time at the school. "It's a tradition that brings people together," added Dorsey.

Pet owners lined up around the circle in the front of the school and listened to a performance by Mrs. Dorsey's first grade class. Students recited the prayer of St. Francis, followed by Deacon John Hawkins of St. Anthony Shrine and Our Lady of Mount Carmel giving his blessing. He took care to bless each and every creature—even the stuffed bears for the Kindergarten room—as he walked around the circle. Afterwards, pet owners had the opportunity to show off their beloved pets to the students as they walked around to visit with each one. Though overcast, the rain held out until just after the final animal was blessed. "St. Francis was looking out for us!" declared Sr. Joan Corcoran, Assistant Principal at MSS.



Courtesy Photo

Surrounded by students, Deacon John Hawkins (center) blesses the McCormick Family's goats, Bumper (left) and Riley (right), at Mother Seton School's annual Blessing of the Animals on October 10, 2014.

Commitment Recognized at TEPS PTA General Meeting

National PTA Honors Life Achievement Winner

National PTA is proud to announce Rachael Hamscher, a Kindergarten teacher from Thurmont Primary School (TPS), as the latest recipient of National PTA's Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given to PTA members and leaders.

The National PTA Life Achievement Award recognizes a person who lives out his or her commitment to children on a daily basis and tirelessly advocates for children's education, health, and well-being.

Mrs. Hamscher has been a committed and positive part of the Thurmont Elementary and Primary School (TEPS) PTA for ten years. She has gone above the call of duty to advocate for the education of all children at both Thurmont Primary School and Thurmont Elementary School. The PTA recognizes Mrs. Hamscher for her commitment to PTA and also to the Thurmont community. Mrs. Hamscher was honored at their General PTA Meeting in October by the TEPS board; her peers; and Frederick County PTA president, Julie Marker.

TEPS PTA Five-Year Service Award

Mrs. Christina Williams of Thurmont Elementary School (TES), was honored at TEPS PTA's General PTA Meeting in October for her outstanding commitment to the TEPS PTA. Mrs. Williams has been a teacher representative on TEPS PTA Board of Directors for five years. She has been a committed advocate for the education of all children at both TPS and TES. The PTA recognizes Mrs. Williams for her commitment to PTA and also to the Thurmont community.

FFA Happenings

John Kempisty, Chapter Reporter

From October 29 to November 1, 2014, the Catoctin FFA chapter—along with many other chapters from all over the country—attended the 87th National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky. There, along with over 64,000 other FFA members and guests, they participated in sessions, workshops, Career success tours, and a career show. Members also competed in Career Development Events (CDE) competitions, in which members demonstrate their knowledge and skills in agricultural applications in a wide variety of subjects on the National level, competing against other states. The Catoctin FFA chapter had three CDE teams compete at nationals, bringing home numerous awards. The Livestock Judging team, including members Ailsinn Latham, Brietta Latham, Margo Sweeney, and Ashley Ridenour, placed silver. The Parliamentary Procedure team, including Dusty Hahn, Kayla Umbel, Morgan Moreland, Justin McAfee, Hannah Barth, and Kayleigh Best, placed bronze. The Agricultural sales team, including Ashley McAfee, Megan Millison, John Kempisty, and Stephanie Kennedy, placed silver

as well. Also, members Elizabeth Shriver and Daniel Myers had the honor of receiving their American Degree. FFA members may earn degrees in accordance to their participation and completion of Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE) projects, chapter activities, involvement in the organization, and demonstration of their knowledge of the organization. They go in order of Green hand, Chapter, State, and American degrees.

Delegates Nicole Milbourne and Jacob Shriver also traveled to Kentucky, representing their chapter and state. While in Louisville, the members enjoyed fun activities, including a rodeo, seeing country star Justin Moore in concert, attending a dance, touring Louisville Slugger, visiting a baseball bat factory and Church Hill Downs, shopping at over a hundred vendors—including an FFA mega store—and meeting other members from around the country. The Catoctin FFA chapter would like to thank all who contributed to making the trip possible, and thank the chaperones for giving their time to travel out to Nationals with the chapter.

Planning Meeting for Celebration of Sabillasville Elementary School's 50 Years of Education

Sabillasville Elementary will be celebrating fifty years of education during the 2015/2016 school year. For anyone interested in attending, there will be a meeting to begin the planning of the celebration on December 8, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sabillasville Elementary School auditorium. The school is located at 16210-B Sabillasville Road in Sabillasville, Maryland.

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Soldier's Bible Returns — Continued from cover page

during the Civil War, have belonged to a relative of my brother-in-law, Ed Hatter? Ed's mother and John Brown (Brown's Jewelry & Gift Shop in Thurmont) are both descendants of the Brown family from the Foxville area. I had to get home and further research this with Ed.

Some things simply can't be explained. After further research that evening, Ed confirmed with much excitement that the Bible belonged to his great-grandfather, Martin Luther Brown (1836-1898), who had, in fact, served in Company D and was wounded in battle at Cold Harbor, Virginia. Two days after the York Antique Bottle Show, which coincidentally turned out to be Veterans Day, Ed was able to acquire the Bible. The incredible luck of standing in the right place at the right time at a small antique bottle show resulted in a local Civil War soldier's Bible being returned to his family for safe-keeping—over one hundred years later. What are the odds?

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Catoctin's Cross Country Team — Continued from cover page

of accomplishment, achieved from all of the training and dedication, which will only help them with their future goals.

Zach Gascho, who came in first place, winning the overall championship, said, "I think that all the training that our team has done extremely helped us. We got some great workouts in over the season that I think made us prepared for states. Running has given me a work ethic that makes me set higher goals for myself, and I make sure to work every day to achieve those goals and I plan to continue using this throughout my life."

Not only did the boys cross country team succeed, the Catoctin Girls' Cross Country Team also did a phenomenal job in the race, placing seventh overall.

"The girls also do a tremendous job of working together. They do this thing called "little sister, big sister," where upper classmen and lower classmen have an exchange of gifts once in a while—they even give each other motivational quotes," said Coach Terri Gibbons.

Even being injured, many players have kept a positive mindset. Sophomore cross country runner, Lilie Perella, said "...all I can hope for is to be injury free next year and just train my butt off for states. Last year, my freshman year was better than this year. I want to make my junior and senior year count."

Girls who qualified in the 2A Cross Country State Championships: Bella Kreiner, Molly Janc, Julien Webster, Lillie Perella, Sienna Caselle, Courtney Orndorff, Hannah Romsburg.

Boys who qualified in the 2A Cross Country State Championships: Zach Gascho, Patrick Van Der Cruyssen, Demetrius Patterson, Paul Slotwinski, Eric Myers, Andrew Douwes, Keith Gasior.

Students Make a Difference in Thurmont

The students at Thurmont Primary School (TPS) and Thurmont Elementary School (TES) collected over 1,000 cans and food items during their recent food drive for the Thurmont Food Bank. Sponsored by the Thurmont Elementary and Primary School PTA, and in conjunction with school counselors Beth Myers (TES) and Kathy Nichols (TPS), the food drive complimented the recent Character Counts Week and Red Ribbon Week at each school, following the theme of Connections. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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SPORTS news

Emmitsburg Baseball 14U Wins 2014 County Championship

The Emmitsburg 14U Fall Baseball Team won the Frederick County Babe Ruth 13-14 Championship in October. They ended the season with a 17-0 record, outscoring their opponents 229 to 55, with playoff wins of 11-1 over the UMAC Tigers, 16-3 over Brunswick, and 12-6 over the Frederick Dairy Queen Team in the championship game.

Courtesy Photo



Pictured from left are: (front row) Nick Reaver, Alex Wivell, Issiah Wivell, Jacob Wivell, Jack Malachowski; (second row) Coach Doug Wivell, Devin Shorb, Stevie Wantz, Colton Devilbiss, Jacob Legg, Austin Riley, Coach Brian Devilbiss, Noah Oleszczuk, Coach John Malachowski, and Nate Roberts. Missing from picture is Garrett Malachowski.

Catoctin Sports Boosters to Hold Holiday Open House

The Catoctin Sports Boosters will hold its 6th Annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 6, 2014, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Catoctin High School (CHS) in Thurmont.

Cougar apparel, blankets, stadium seats, hats, and miscellaneous novelty items will be available for your Christmas shopping. There will be light refreshments. Payment may be made by cash, check, or credit card for Sports Boosters items.

Organizations within CHS and sports teams will be invited to have their current fundraisers available for your Holiday purchases (cash or check will be accepted by each individual group or team).

For more information please contact Bob Marlow at 443-829-3809.

Show Your Cougar Spirit

The Catoctin High School (CHS) Sports Boosters will be selling Cougar clothing (sweatpants, sweatshirts, and T-shirts), blankets, stadium seats, hats and other miscellaneous Cougar items at the following upcoming home sporting events: Tuesday, December 9—Girls Basketball, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, December 16—Girls Basketball, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Friday, December 19—Boys Basketball, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Items will be available on the above dates in the hallway between the gymnasiums. Payment may be made by cash, check, or credit card.

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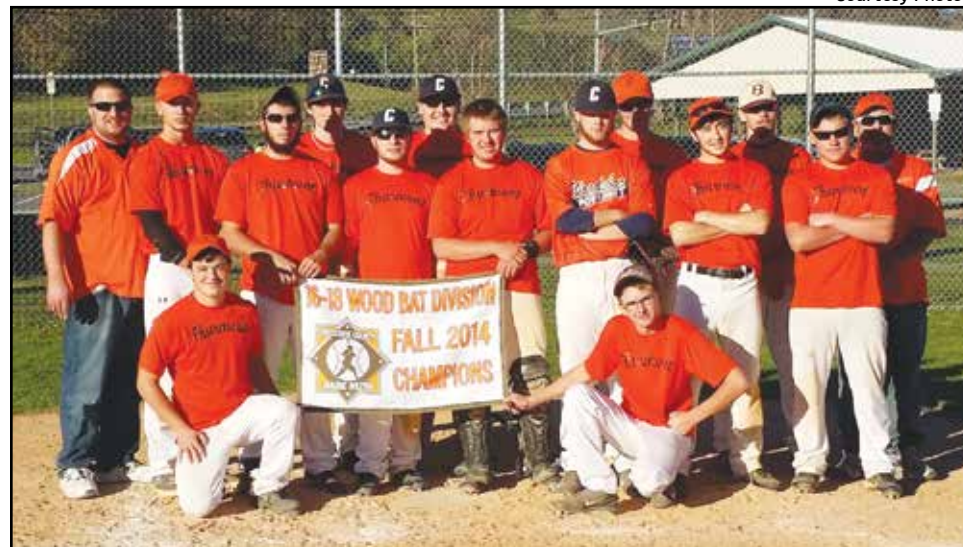
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Thurmont Frederick County 2014 Fall Baseball Wood Bat League Champs

Thurmont won the overall standings with a record of 14-2, and had to win only one game in the tournament to go to championships on Sunday, October 26, 2014. On Saturday, October 25, 2014, Thurmont played one of Frederick's teams and won 15-4 in five innings, with solid pitching from Austin Tyeryar and Jordan Hahn. With only nine players in the game, Thurmont batted through the lineup in the 4th inning to score eleven runs, with each player scoring at least once in the inning. Thurmont moved on to the championship game on Sunday to play another Fredrick team. With excellent pitching from Austin Hanshew, the team went on to capture an 8-2 victory to win the championship.

Manager Mike Hahn said he had coached many of the players before, so he knew he had a good team, and the few added players who he had not previously coached—because they were older than his son—he had seen play before. The team was comprised of 16- to 19-year-old players. When practices started, Hahn knew success was in the future for the team. Coaching the boys was a great experience for Manager Mike Hahn and Coach Terry Fowler; all of the boys had different things to bring to the field each and every game, which provided a great experience for the players and the coaches. Each and every player contributed something throughout the year to get Thurmont to the championship.

Courtesy Photo



Pictured are: (bottom, left) Jordan Hahn; (bottom, right) Dakota Bittner; (middle from left) Manager Mike Hahn, Austin Hanshew, Cody Fowler, Nathaniel Gimmell, Chris Yingling, Austin Tyeryar, Landon Wivell, Mike Stull; (back from left) Mark Goff, Tyler Burke, Corey Hendrickson, Trent Wigfield, and Assistant Coach Terry Fowler. Not pictured: Cory Yingling.

C.B.C. Launches 8U Tournament Team for 2015

Catoctin Baseball Club (C.B.C.) is excited to announce that they will be adding an 8U tournament team for 2015. This will be a tournament team only, with no league games. The team will play 4-5 tournaments in the spring and early summer. Players should be born on or after May 1, 2006. Players from all over the region are welcome to participate and try out. This team will not interfere with recreational league play or participation. The players that make this squad will also have access to train in our 21,000 square foot winter facility from January-March, and to also participate in our winter Speed and Agility Program that will be conducted over that same time span. Tryouts will be conducted in early January at our indoor facility.

If you are interested in having your ball player participate in this program, please email them at catocinbaseballclub@hotmail.com or call 267-664-5059. You can find them on their website at catocinbaseballclub.org or via their Facebook page: Catoctin Baseball Club.

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The Catoctin Banner

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the health jeanne

by Jeanne Angleberger, Shaklee Associate for a Healthier Life

Can you believe we are writing the last health article of 2014? Well, neither can yours truly! Here is a recap of the healthy tips shared with *The Catoctin Banner* readers this year.

- Make your heart healthier by deciding to become a non-smoker. Write down three reasons why you want to quit. Consult with your health provider to learn about a smoking cessation program.
- Juicing is an excellent way to get your important daily servings of vegetables and fruits. Create your own combinations. It's fun, easy, and nutritious.
- Regular dental check-ups can help prevent serious dental health problems. Early diagnosis of gingivitis, oral cancer, or tooth decay can be detected when having a dental exam.
- Parents need to create a positive eating environment for their children. Indeed, they are influential. Being a good role model about healthy eating can make a lasting impact on your children.
- Summertime snacking is a great time to encourage healthy eating versus caloric snacks. It's the best

time of the year to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables at one of your local orchards.

- Research shows that we should eat more whole grains, legumes, veggies, fruits, and nuts to meet our daily fiber needs.
- Take on a new challenge! Yours truly did. What an amazing opportunity to share my "Not Too Late Basketball Camp" experience with the readers.
- Kale is an exceptional vegetable. It is a good source of minerals. Try Kale chips. They are satisfying, minus the saturated fat and sodium.
- Keeping up with the latest healthcare information requires knowledge and research. *In Fitness and in Health: A Practical Guide to Healthy Diet and Nutrition, Exercise, Injury Prevention and Avoiding Disease* is an excellent resource. The author is Dr. Philip Maffetone. He addresses many aspects of healthy living.

Being committed to living a healthy lifestyle is a choice. Make 2015 the year you make that choice to start living a more healthy lifestyle.

Scouting for Food Drive Supports Food Banks during Holidays

Last year, the Scouting for Food Drive in Frederick County raised more than 95,000 pounds of food for the nine participating Food Banks, including Brunswick, Emmitsburg and Frederick Community Action Agency, Jefferson, Knoxville, Middletown, Thurmont, Urbana, and Walkersville.

"This is a forty percent increase over the previous year," said Rev. Brian Scott, Executive Director of the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs. "This enabled the food banks to meet the needs of poor families in their communities through the holidays."

"The bags for the drive were distributed in the county," said Richard Griffin, Scouting for Food – Appalachian

The scouts and their leaders were on the streets of these communities on Saturday, November 8, 2014, starting at 9:00 a.m., to pick up the bags of food. Thousands of scouts participated in this drive and all food that was collected will stay in the community where it was donated. The poorest families in each community will benefit from this project.

Local residents were asked to fill the bags with healthy cereals, baby food, peanut butter, canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned meats, pasta and canned sauce, canned soups, rice and instant potatoes.

"The Scouting for food drive is one of the largest in the county," said Rev. Scott.

Bags and flyers for this year's drive were donated by Frederick Gorilla and The Lube Center. This enables the Scouting organizations behind to donate cash donations directly to the food banks.

"Over 1,400 families a month are served by the food banks feeding the poor in Frederick County," said Rev. Scott. "Many of these families are single parent families with children; some are elderly or disabled, living on fixed incomes or minimum wages without sufficient money to feed their children. Some are heads of families, who have been recently laid off."

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Black Friday and Holiday Safe Shopping Tips from AlertID and McGruff the Crime Dog

With the busy holiday season approaching, AlertID and the National Crime Prevention Council help keep families safe while shopping.

Nearly forty percent of Americans are expected to go shopping on Black Friday. With all of the excitement, it is easy for family members to become separated and for people to become vulnerable to crime.

"A distracted shopper is the prime target for opportunistic holiday criminals," said Ann M. Harkins, National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) President and CEO. "You can keep the Grinch and other cunning crooks away by following ten simple shopping safety suggestions."

AlertID and the NCPC (home to McGruff the Crime Dog) share these tips to help keep you and your family safe on Black Friday (or even Thursday!) and throughout the busy holiday season.

- Be informed about your surroundings. Use the free McGruff mobile app available from AlertID™ to receive alerts about registered sex offenders living and working in the vicinity of

your shopping venue, as well as crime alerts for thousands of cities.

- Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.

- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit.

- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.

- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.

When shopping with children:

- If you are shopping with children, make a plan in case you are separated from each other.

- Select a central meeting place.

- Teach them to know they can ask mall personnel or store security employees if they need help.

- Have them memorize or keep your cell phone number handy.

- Keep up-to-date photos and accurate descriptions of each child electronically with AlertID's My Family Wallet™ located in the AlertID app. Should they go missing, this information can be sent quickly to law enforcement when every moment counts.

"Malls are extremely busy places on Black Friday and throughout the holidays," said Keli Wilson, mom of three and founder of AlertID. "By keeping these safety tips in mind, families can help ensure not only a fun shopping experience, but also a safe one."

AlertID is the fastest-growing neighborhood-focused safety network that is free to use and helps protect families and neighborhoods. A virtual neighborhood watch for the 21st century, AlertID's mission is to help members live safely by providing a secure way to receive trusted public safety alerts and share information with family and neighbors.

AlertID uses proven technology to help citizens and federal, state, and local authorities share information about crime, sex

offenders, natural disasters, missing children and severe weather that can threaten public safety. AlertID is accessible to members online as well as by email and mobile app. For more information, visit www.AlertID.com.

The National Crime Prevention Council is the nonprofit leader in crime prevention. For more than 30 years, our symbol of safety, McGruff the Crime Dog®, has delivered easy-to-use crime prevention tips to millions of adults, teens, and children. Law enforcement agencies nationwide rely on our expertise to make an impact on personal safety and crime every day. For more information on how NCPC can be a public safety expert for you or how to "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®," visit www.ncpc.org.

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- 13th - Breakfast with Santa 9:00AM - 11AM, Ages 0-10 \$5.00 and 11-adult \$6.99
- 14th - Sunday Funday - Hog Maw Cook Off at 2:00PM, Pre-register at the bar.
- 19th - Meat Raffle and Buffet - Raffle begins at 6:30PM
- 24th - Closes at 6:00PM
- 25th - CLOSED
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looking back

by James Rada, Jr.



How a Goldfish Stand Became the Center of the Free World One Afternoon During WWII

In the midst of WWII, all two of the world's most-powerful leaders could talk about one Sunday afternoon in 1942 was goldfish.

About eighty percent of the goldfish sold in the United States came from farms in Frederick County, Maryland, in the early decades of the 20th century. Many of those goldfish farms were near Thurmont.

One of those goldfish farming operations was Hunting Creek Fisheries. Frederick Tresselt started the business in 1923. Tresselt was a graduate of Cornell and had worked at the state trout hatchery in Hackettstown, New Jersey.

"In driving around the county with a friend in 1922, Dad was amazed to see all the goldfish ponds in the area," Ernest Tresselt once said in an interview.

Other Frederick County goldfish farmers included George English, Frank Rice, Earl Rice, Maurice

Albaugh, M.H. Hoke, Ross Firor, Sam Eaton, David and Adam Zentz, Walter Rice, Joseph Weller, Richard Kefauver, and Martin Kefauver.

"Every farm that could had fish ponds," Ernest Tresselt said. "It was a cash crop for them."

On weekends, Frederick Tresselt ran a retail store next to the main north-south road through the county. According to Ernest, the store had a large pond with a Hunting Creek Fisheries sign in the middle of it. Above the name was a large fantail goldfish painted in bright orange. The area was nicely landscaped with water lilies, shrubs, and bamboo. It was an attractive location and an eye-catching sign, so eye-catching that one Sunday afternoon in 1942, three large black cars pulled off the road and stopped.

A military man stepped out of the car, and Frederick recognized him as General George Marshall, President Franklin Roosevelt's chief of staff.

Photo Courtesy of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum



President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill are shown fishing at Shangri-La.

"Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt and I are interested in seeing your operation here," Marshall said, according to Ernest.

Frederick agreed, and the drivers pulled the cars in closer to the fish house, the storage building with concrete pools and wire vats.

"President Roosevelt looked in the door, but he didn't come in, since he was handicapped and couldn't get out of the car," Ernest Tresselt wrote in his autobiography.

However, Winston Churchill, the prime minister of Great Britain, got out of the car and walked into the fish house with Frederick. They began talking about Tresselt's unique crop. Churchill showed an interest in the golden orfe, which were fifteen to eighteen inches long. Churchill said he had even bigger ones in his pond in England. Tresselt

told the prime minister that he, too, had larger fish in his ponds on Hunting Creek Fisheries.

As the cars with Roosevelt and Churchill departed, a Secret Service agent told Frederick not to tell anyone about the visit.

"This made no sense to Dad because there were already at least a hundred local people out there taking it all in. But Dad didn't tell anybody, not even us kids," Ernest said. He found out at school the next day, when everyone but Ernest seemed to know about the visit of the two world leaders.

Ernest said that *National Geographic Magazine* looked into the story when they did an article about goldfish in the 1970s. The researchers could find nothing that definitely said the world leaders had stopped at the goldfish stand, but they did acknowledge Churchill had been in the United States at the time and visiting the Presidential retreat at Shangri-La, which was located in the Catoclin Mountains near Thurmont.

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The Best Christmas Present Ever

by Valerie Nusbaum

I've given and received a lot of Christmas gifts over the years. I remember most of them fondly, and some have funny stories attached. Choosing the best gift ever was posing a problem for me, so I asked some friends and family to share memories of their most special presents. I set out a few guidelines: no babies, puppies, engagement rings, or spouses. I wanted to hear the stories about those quirky, lovingly hand-made or thoughtfully purchased gifts—the ones that linger in our hearts even now. The following is what the people told me.

Randy's best gift ever came when he was a little boy. He loved playing with big metal tractors and trucks, so he was thrilled on Christmas morning to get a wooden barn in which to park all of his equipment. There was a big barn door on the end, large enough to "drive" his tractor into the bay; part of the roof actually came off so that he could see inside. The thing that made this gift so special was that Randy's dad had spent countless hours in their garage designing and building the barn from scratch.

When I asked my mother to tell me about the best Christmas present she ever received, she decided that it had to be her baby carriage. As a little girl, she really wanted a carriage for her dolls, but money was tight during the Depression years. Mom asked Santa for a carriage every year, and she was thrilled to get one when she was seven years old. To make it even more special, her beloved grandmother sewed a specially-sized quilt to fit the carriage. None of the other grandchildren received a quilt from Grandma that year, so Mom felt very special. We still have the carriage and the quilt.

My in-laws spent a lot of time pondering my question, and they gave me a two-page answer. There was no mention of a present in their notes, save this, "The best gift is being able to celebrate the birth of Jesus." My brother had a similar response. He said that the best gift is the giving and receiving of a little extra kindness each year.

Some of the responses were about toys received from Santa or from frazzled parents. Randy Derflinger loved his Deluxe Playmobile, and he shared pictures of it. Gwen Masser dearly wanted a set of Rock

Em' Sock Em' Robots. Santa never delivered, but Gwen's mom finally gave Gwen the set when she was sixteen. Kathy Escamilla chose her Pebbles Flintstone doll as her best gift. Her parents got it for her at Macy's in New York City. We were all reminded that our dolls ended up bald from so much "love." Brenda Reeves told me that her best gifts ever were an Etch-a-Sketch and a transistor radio. Terry Pryor got a shiny purple mini-bike one Christmas. The bike was broken, because "Santa" had tried it out on Christmas Eve and was too heavy for it!

Other friends shared stories of gifts received as teenagers. Connie House described a set of beautiful green antique bottles that she mysteriously received in the mail. No one knew where the gift had come from. It turned out that Connie's dad had given her the bottles, and he explained that "sometimes the oldest child needs a little something special under the tree."

Linda Towns said, "When I was in the fifth and sixth grade, I used the school's flute in band. When I went to high school, I was terrified that I would have to give up the flute because we were quite poor. The elementary school allowed me to take their flute to high school, but only for seventh grade. I was panicked. I hoped for a flute for Christmas, even though I knew we couldn't afford one. I opened my small gifts and there was no flute. I was heartbroken, but I tried not to show it. My dad left the room and came back with a flute case with a red bow on top!"

Stephanie Nusbaum still uses the piano bench that her brother custom-built for her. Jeanell Willis remembered the fishing rod and reel that her stepfather gave her when she was fourteen. More importantly, Jeanell remembered how her stepfather taught her to fish and the hours spent on their boat. Gayle Maas still wears the Black Hills gold ring that her parents gave her the last year she was home.

There were more memories about gifts received as adults. Tempie Powell recalled her first Christmas as a single mom. Money was tight, but her kids were small and didn't mind gifts from the dollar store. Tempie told me that upon returning from

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church on Christmas Eve, the family found an assortment of wrapped packages on their front porch.

Eileen Markum described the care package she received from her mom the first year she was away from her family. Eileen was stationed in Greece and had been feeling so alone until the package arrived.

Terry Miller got a set of luggage from her future mother-in-law. Terry remembers tearing the luggage apart to find the plane ticket that she was sure was inside. Linda Moss recalls being a young teacher, and receiving special gifts from her students, including a coonskin hat and a handmade pillow and blanket. Loberta Staley received a special gift from her husband, Harold, but this is a family newspaper, and it's best if I say no more.

What was the best Christmas present I ever received? There were so many: the shiny, pink Easy Bake Oven that Kathy Wilson and I left plugged in and nearly burned down the house; the gold heart-shaped watch that my grandparents gave me the year I was five, because I had learned to tell time (even then I liked a challenge); my first Barbie doll (a gift from Aunt Faye), which was actually one of the first Barbies, because I was around the year they were invented; my drum set that I played for hours every day (the drums mysteriously disappeared, and my parents told me that Santa had taken them back); or maybe it was the Chatty Cathy doll that I wanted so badly. I woke on Christmas morning to see Chatty Cathy sitting beside my bed, and I was rendered speechless. All I could do was point.

I was mulling over all these gifts the other night, when the phone rang.

It was my brother calling. I had been very sick, and he called to check on me. We talked for a bit and he asked what I was doing. I laughed and told him that I was curled up on the couch under my favorite blanket. He had given me the blanket some thirty years ago for Christmas, and even though it's getting threadbare from washing, I still use it every day. Nothing has ever kept me as warm. That long-ago Christmas, my brother gave me a whole "Box of Warmth," as he called it—fuzzy slippers, fleece pajamas, a warm robe, a heater, and the blanket. It was his first year out of high school, and he was working his way through college. I knew he could ill afford to give me so much. He said that it was the least he could do after I had done so much for him, and he pointed out that I had given him an allowance each week all through high school. I'd bought the Members Only jacket that he wanted so badly, and the Capezio shoes. I'd even gotten him the Miami Vice outfit that he wanted to wear to a school dance, and I had helped him with his college tuition. I was happy to do those things. He was my little brother and I enjoyed spoiling him, plus it gave our parents a break from all the expenses. Maybe it was because I was sick and scared that night, but all these memories came flooding back, and I huddled under the best Christmas present ever and cried my eyes out.

Here's what I learned from this exercise. We cherish the gifts, but we cherish the memories more. The best gifts are given or made with love and are often the product of sacrifice. They mean so much to us, because the people who gave them mean so much.

Merry Christmas, everyone. I hope you get exactly what you want.

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Snooze alarm

It's inevitable, the older you get the more sleep-deprived you feel. But, are those who claim they suffer insomnia really getting less sleep than the rest of us? The Association of Mature American Citizens cites a recent study in which researchers at University of Chicago used new, minimally-invasive technology to record what really happens when seniors retire for the night.

It turns out that many people who say they can't sleep may only think they can't. For example, 42 percent of those who participated in the study said they rarely, if ever, had trouble falling asleep. On average, the wrist-monitors they wore showed that it took them about 27 minutes to nod off for the night. Twelve-percent said they usually had trouble falling asleep at night, but their monitors showed that it took them only about four minutes longer to fall asleep.

The study showed that those who said they got less sleep because they woke up at night, actually slept an average of 19 minutes longer than those who said they usually slept through the night. And, it concluded that test subjects who complained that they woke up too early in the mornings got just about the same amount of total sleep time as their counterparts who said getting up early didn't bother them.

No doubt that perceptions of sleep are subjective and, according to the researchers, it may be that some of us don't get enough so-called deep sleep-the kind that babies and teen-agers enjoy.

Beware the Munchies

A trespasser was arrested in a Wichita, Kansas, home in the middle of the night when the woman of the house called the police to deal with a stranger in her kitchen.

The man was arrested on suspicion of burglary, although he said that he thought he was in his aunt's house, the Associated Press reported.

Apparently the intruder was suffering from the munchies and took the time out for a midnight snack, quipped the Association of Mature American Citizens. It seems the woman came out of her bedroom at about 3:30 a.m. and found him in the kitchen munching away on cookie dough taken from her fridge.

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Beautiful Cape with yesteryear charm but many modern updates including new roof, & central A/C and heat pump installed 2008. Beautiful views all on almost 2 acres! A must see!!



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This lovely Colonial set on 1.87 acres offers 3 bedrooms & 2 1/2 baths! Updated flooring including new carpet, ceramic tile and laminate! Great room with gas fireplace, Living room/office with French doors & main level laundry. Lovely front porch overlooking flower garden and small fish pond. Expansive unfinished lower level with walk out to rear yard. Some woods w/ a small trail! A must see!



NEW LISTING!
Myers Road
Rocky Ridge, MD - \$140,000

Two bedroom mobile home on almost 5 acres. Detached 3 plus car garage with water and electric. Property is partially fenced. Mobile home was renovated a couple of years ago. Nice property.



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13917 Graceham Rd.
Thurmont, MD - \$102,000

This colonial offers spacious kitchen, dining and living room on main level with half bath, laundry and mud room! Roof less than 10 years old, new water heater, large shed, 1/2 acre of ground in lovely little Graceham!



NEW PRICE!
9629 Gravel Hill Rd.
Woodsboro - \$219,900

Wonderful Cape Cod offering 3 bedrooms, 1 & 1/2 Baths, and an office/den/nursery! Hardwood floors throughout (under carpet). Roof replaced in 2009! Expansive lower level with walk up. Great covered rear porch, front porch and 2 car garage!



NEW LISTING!!
Wigville Road
Thurmont - \$374,500

4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath two story with attached 3 car garage and separate 2 car garage. Kitchen update and stainless appliances installed 2011 Heat pumps/AC installed 2006, Whole house generator installed 2013 (propane) Many improvements on over 6 acres. FR 8457727



NEW LISTING!!
6629 Eylers Valley Flint Rd.
Sabillasville - \$399,900

Gorgeous woodland setting on 14.5 acres w/ 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath split level which offers 2700 sq ft of living space! Spacious rooms, hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry & mud room at kitchen level! Newer carpet in bedrooms, new HVAC system 2012, security system & wired for generator! Lovely screened porch that looks out to garden area, tractor shed, garden shed and work shop w/heat & electric! Surrounded by 241 acres of forest! Beautiful setting and just minutes to town! A must see!



NEW PRICE!!
131 Cody Dr. #24
Thurmont - \$153,500

Sought after 2nd floor condo in Albert Courts! 2 bedrooms, 2 full bath & elevator in lobby!



2 HOMES ON PROPERTY
15210 Sabillasville Rd.
Thurmont - \$429,900

Unique, secluded property! 28+ beautiful wooded acres, main house w/ 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Tenant house has open floor plan with large master suite on main level!



UNDER CONTRACT
15429 Kelbaugh Rd.
Thurmont - \$89,900

Charming vintage brick colonial. 2 bedrooms, 1 full bath (on main level), lilacs. Easy access to Rt. 15. Third Party Approval Required. As-Is.



NEW PRICE!
13626 Catoctin Furnace Rd.
Thurmont, MD - \$154,900

Spacious home on over 3/4 of an acre, currently 3 separate units. Could easily be returned to a single family. Great rental history! AS-IS.



NEW LISTING!!
11743 Cash Smith Rd.
Woodsboro, MD - \$424,900

Gorgeous 3 bedroom, 3 full bath colonial w/fantastic views! Main level offers Living, Dining w/hardwoods, crown molding and chair rail, family room w/ gas fireplace & gourmet kitchen. laundry and 1/2 bath. Upper level offers spacious master w/ 2 walk in closets & private bath, 2 large bedrooms & hall bath! Huge rec room w/ full bath in lower level w/ walk up to rear yard! 2 x 6 construction!



NEW LISTING
231 N. Seton Ave.
Emmitsburg, MD - \$205,000

This lovely colonial has 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, spacious rooms with walk in bay windows in several rooms! Hardwood floors and pocket doors between dining and living room, walk up attic, beautiful staircase and updated kitchen with double ovens, cooktop, butlers pantry and mud room! Updated windows, spacious detached garage, shed, front porch and wonderful fenced yard! As-is but shows well.

Beautiful Lots!



Old Frederick Rd./Loy Station
Rocky Ridge - \$49,900

Affordable 1.73 acre lot with endless possibilities! 4 bedroom conventional perc! Seller will drill well at this price prior to closing. Winter views of the Loys Station Covered Bridge and short walk to Loys Station Park. Easy commute to Rt. 15. Come build your dream home! Take advantage of this affordable price, this won't last!



3 Gorgeous Building Lots
Wigville Rd., Thurmont, MD

3 gorgeous building lots.
• (\$199,900 - 13.35 Acres, 6 BR, perc, well)
• (\$149,900 - 5 Acres, 5 BR, perc, well)
• (\$159,900 - 5.57 Acres, 6 BR, perc, 2 wells)



16.2 Acres Lot Ward Kline Rd.
Myersville, MD - \$130,000

Lovely, wooded 16.2 acre building lot with well (8 gallons per minute) and 7 bedroom perc. Build your dream home and enjoy nature! Secluded setting with abundant wildlife including deer and turkey. Log road cut in to top of lot. Call for Plat.

our neighborhood veterans



by Jim Houck, Jr.

Loren “Curly” W. Kruen E-6 U.S. Navy (Retired)

Loren was born to Lawrence W. and Clorence Kruen in a small town in Minnesota in the northeast corner named Edgerton, population approximately three thousand, a farming community. Curly grew up with two brothers, Donovan and Carroll “Buck”, and two sisters, Lois and June. Curly and his brother Donovan are the only surviving members of his family today. When he was about twelve years old, the family moved to Tracy, Minnesota where he attended Tracy Public High School. Curly, at twelve years old, went to work on a farm for his brother-in-law on breaks from school and holidays.

Curly graduated from Tracy Public High School in 1960 and soon after decided to join the military because he had a lot of family - uncles, brothers, etc., in the military. He was very proud of them and decided it was the future for him. Curly wanted it to be his choice and not the draft boards, he chose the Navy.

On July 20, 1960, he went to boot camp in San Diego, California at the recruit training center. He then went to Naval School in Pensacola, Florida. After graduating there, he was sent to Camtasia, Japan for another field school before they sent him to Guam where he was stationed at the Naval Communication Center for ten months. For some reason, he was transferred from Guam early to Okinawa, at Troy Station. While Curly was at Okinawa in 1963, they asked for volunteers

for a detachment to go to Vietnam and he volunteered. He went to Vietnam and landed aboard the USS Hancock where he was stationed for three months. When the Hancock was rotated back to Hawaii, it was replaced by another carrier, the USS Midway. Curly was transferred back and was on the Hancock until March of 1964.

He then returned to Okinawa. He was debriefed and spent another six months there before being transferred to the Naval Communications Center in Washington D.C., a small base in the woods south of Andrews Air Force Base. Curly was there for two years after which he was sent to the USS Liberty, home ported in Norfolk, Virginia. The day after Curly reported there, they pulled out to sea. They were on a mission off the west coast of Africa, up and down, for almost six months, returned to Norfolk for a couple of weeks and then went back out again on another mission on the west coast of Africa. When they were on port call at Accra on the Ivory coast for one day making their rounds of the bars, the shore patrol came and got them and told them they had to get back to the ship immediately because they were pulling out.

The ship had received orders to head straight for the Mediterranean Sea. Curly didn't know where they were headed, but he had a suspicion they were headed for the eastern Mediterranean where things were getting awfully hot between Israel and Egypt. That was during the

Six-Day War where Israel, in Curly's words “kicked the hell out of Egypt.” His suspicion was right, because they headed for the war zone.

The Liberty was a non-combatant ship and had no guns except four World War II .50-cal. machine guns. They were sent with no protection and no cover whatsoever. Just a couple of days off the Sinai Peninsula, they were attacked by air and sea by Israeli Forces, our ally. They were first attacked by air. The planes that attacked them were unmarked. At the time, they had no idea who was attacking them. They thought it was the Egyptians because Israel was an ally. The fact that there were no identifiable markings on the planes had them really puzzled.

The Liberty was hit from forward to aft with rockets and tandem fire, striking a bunch of men, including Curly, who had just assembled on the port side of the ship towards the fantail and were waiting to go on watch at 4 o'clock. They were just standing around smoking cigarettes like sailors tend to do and were missed by the tandem fire by about fifteen feet. As soon as they were hit, a message came over the intercom for general quarters battle stations. Curly said they all scrambled down below. Some of the guys on deck got hit by the tandem fire. The rockets hit the bridge and blew that apart and several guys were killed on the deck and bridge. Curly's battle station was down in his work station and orders were that if he had to, he was to destroy all records. He and some other guys were demolishing all classified equipment and paper work. They were an intelligence-gathering ship, or in other words, a spy ship. Curly was down there for quite a while. He could hear the bullets from cannons and rocket fire and they were being hit left and right. All but one of their life rafts were destroyed and all of their communicating antennas were knocked out, so they couldn't call for help. One of the radiomen managed to get out, fix one antenna, and was able to send an SOS to the rest of the fleet located next to Crete, hundreds of miles away from the Liberty and her crew. Curly said after the planes hit them, there were three Israeli torpedo boats that fired - what some guys said was five torpedoes, but Curly said he only knows of two of them. He said one went about twenty feet aft and missed the ship, but the other one hit them dead center in their working spaces where he was located. When



Courtesy Photo

that torpedo hit, it killed twenty-five of his buddies. They had been warned about bullets coming through the side of the ship, so they all made as small a target of themselves as they could. They were laying down on the deck of the compartment with their feet pointed to the outside the bulkhead of the ship. That way, if any bullets did hit them, it would hit their feet and not their head. Curly said no bullets hit them, but the torpedo did. The guy that laid next to him about a foot away, instantly disappeared - just blown away. Curly was blown up into the air. While he was in the air, he thought for quite a while about his fiancée because they had planned to be married the next time he pulled back in to Norfolk. He remembers thinking, or saying out loud, he doesn't remember which, “I am so sorry, Judy.” That was the last he remembers. He lost consciousness, he doesn't know for how long. When Curly came to, he was laying in salt water. Mediterranean Sea water was coming through the hole the torpedo made in the side of the ship. He remembered thinking “This is warm,” it was a hot day.

The ship was listing to the starboard side where the water came in and filled the compartments. Curly didn't know what to do because he said his brains were scrambled. He lay there a few minutes, got up, and said, “I've got to get the heck out of here,” but he didn't know what to do or where to go because the whole compartment was absolutely pitch black. He said he could have scratched his nose and never seen his hand. He sustained a concussion from the torpedo blast that made him temporarily deaf. He could hear nothing, but had pressure like you get at high altitude. Curly couldn't see or hear, but over to his left was a very gray faint light that gave off no

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illumination, just a pale gray light. He figured that had to be the hole in the side where the water came in, so he stood up and headed towards that hole. He figured anything that could blow a hole like that could also blow away the deck. He could easily, at any time, just step off into space and he would be gone.

He headed toward that light, but he had to shuffle his feet instead of taking a step, so he would not step off into the hole. He had to slide his feet so he could feel where the edge of the hole would be. Curly was sliding along and kicked a body. He bent down to see if he could do anything to find out if he was alive or dead, but the body was under about three feet of water. When Curly reached down for him, there was no life response from him. Curly tried to pick him up, but he couldn't because he thinks something was laying across him holding him down—or maybe he didn't have the strength to lift him. Either way, there was no response from him and Curly knew he was dead. He had no idea who the sailor was, so he sat down for a couple of minutes next to him until he decided he had to do something to get the heck out of there, because if he stayed, he would die with him.

Curly got up again and headed for the pale light. The closer he got to it, his ears started to work again. He could hear shouting and he said, "Thank God, I'm not alone." He said he heard a horrible sound, but to hear any sound at that time Curly said was Heaven. He saw other guys standing at the ladder. There was only one ladder to get up out of that hole to the upper deck. For some reason, the ladder didn't come down. If it would have, he would not have survived. Curly could have dived out through that hole in the side. He found out later that if he had, he would probably have been shot.

The torpedo boats were circling the ship and shooting at anyone showing themselves in any way. He got lucky by staying inside the ship. His comrades opened the hatch above them and they started to climb out. They had a bunch of injured that had to be taken care of, and they managed to get them all out. Curly and the crew took the injured to the mess deck which was turned into a medical station. He said they carried quite a few of the wounded with arms missing and torsos torn open. They turned them over to the medics. They only had one doctor and a couple of corpsmen. There were some guys that weren't wounded that helped and they laid the wounded out on tables on the mess deck and the medics took over from there.

Curly said thirty-four men were killed and one hundred and seventy-

one wounded, including himself. The total number of able-bodied men aboard before the strike was two hundred and ninety. The count after the strike was eighty-five able-bodied men.

Curly said the heck with it he was going up on deck and help with what he could because there was so much to do. He joined a working party that went around and picked up the bodies of the nine men that were killed on deck. Curly said he knew he had been hit in the back but he couldn't see it, so he went ahead and joined the party picking up bodies. They picked up two of his buddies' bodies at the forward machine gun mounts. They wrapped them up and put them in the line locker where they keep all the ships mooring lines and laid them out on the lines. Curly said he was ashamed to say he had to quit because his back was killing him, plus he had broken bones in his right foot. When he quit, he was going to go down to the mess deck and turn himself in to the medics. He had to stop and lean over the rail of the ship to ease the pain in his back. A chief petty officer came over. He was going to talk to Curly, but when he saw the blood on the back of his shirt and pants the Chief said, "Buddy, you are coming with me now." He took Curly down to the mess decks and turned him over to the medics. They put him on the table. By that time, there had been so many seriously injured, they were running out of all medications. The only things the medic could do was put a battle dressing on Curly's back and give him two aspirins. The Chief that brought him down got a Navy coffee cup, which is about a half a cup larger than a kitchen or restaurant cup, and filled it with whiskey. No one is supposed to have whiskey aboard ship, but he put just enough coffee in it to give it color to look like coffee. The chief gave it to Curly and told him not to tell anyone where it came from. Curly made the Chief a promise he keeps to this day; he said until he dies, he'll never give the Chief's name. He said he feels that cup of whiskey did more for him than all the pain killers they would normally have had, could have done for him. He said that was the best cup of coffee he has ever had in his life.

They had no protection during the whole time they were there and no help from anybody. They went through that night scared that at any time they could be attacked again or a bulkhead could buckle under the water pressure. If that would have happened, the ship would have gone down with them all aboard. They had watches out for any approaching aircraft or boats

or anything else. Watches were also set to continuously check for water leaks and any bulkhead that may be buckling under that pressure. Since only a third of the crew was left that could do anything, and that's not many men, Curly said he thinks they had some help from above because no planes came and no bulkheads buckled until the next morning.

Eighteen hours later they joined with four other ships. The America, being a medical ship, sent over some supplies and personnel by helicopter. The Davis tied up alongside of them and sent over a whole bunch of medical personnel, engineers, damage control people, and electricians - Curly said, "You name it, they sent it over. They took over the ship, except for command of it. They took over everything that needed to be done. They sent over stretchers and crutches and everything." They started to take the critically injured patients above deck. The most seriously injured went first. By the time they got to Curly, there were no stretchers left. They gave him a pair of crutches. He went over next to the ladder ready to climb up on deck and he saw this other sailor who had a mangled leg. He didn't have a crutch. The sailor was being helped by a friend of his and he was having a pretty hard time of it. Curly gave

him one of his and fell in behind him. Between Curly and the sailor's friend, they got him up on deck. When they got up on deck the sailor wanted to give Curly his crutch back, but he wouldn't take it back. Curly said the grateful look on the sailor's face got him right in the heart. Curly said he didn't know him because he was from a different division on the ship and he went off to where his people were gathered on the ship.

Curly went up forward to the ship by himself with one crutch to be air lifted aboard a chopper for transport to the carrier USS America. Once aboard, the America crew took them in hand and helped them down into their hospital. They were a great bunch of guys and really did a good job, according to Curly. When they got down in their hospital they had to go through triage which is a process for sorting injured people into groups based on their need for medical attention. Curly went through triage. He waited two days before they got to him, because the doctors were working twenty-four hours a day in the operating rooms since there were that many wounded. By the time they got to Curly, they took him in, fixed his foot, and then performed surgery on his back. They

— Continued on page 34

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Our Neighborhood Veterans—Continued from page 33

dug shrapnel out of his spine and when they did, they made a hole too big to close. So, he was walking around with an open hole in his back. Curly was there for two weeks and then they put him in a helicopter and he left the USS America for Naples, Italy to a Naval Hospital where they did surgery again. This time, they closed the hole in his back. He was there a week when he was transferred to Frankfurt, Germany to an Army Hospital for another week. There, he just lay around and healed.

Curly then flew by military plane from Rhein-Main Air Base back to the United States and landed at Andrews Air Force Base. It was a full plane-load and the wounded were sent all over America to different hospitals. Curly, being engaged to be married, chose Washington, D.C. He was sent to the Navy Hospital at Bethesda, Maryland. He said he thought that was great because that's where the President went, and if it was good enough for the President of the USA, it was good enough for Curly. While he was there, the stitches were removed from his back. He spent a month going through therapy.

On August 10, 1967, three days after being discharged from the

hospital, he was married. Curly's new bride was Judith Lee who was a descendant of General Robert E. Lee. He was then transferred to Norfolk, Virginia to the naval Communications Station. He was given three medals: Combat Action, Purple Heart, and the Presidential Unit Citation. Curly was at Norfolk for a year, then transferred to Rhoda Naval Base in Spain. While there, he was awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation "That ended the Liberty incident," Curly said. He remained in Rhoda, Spain for four years. Curly was sent there for three years, but at the end of three years, the Navy ran out of money, so they delayed all transfers for another year. He lived there in a Spanish town for four years and said they had a ball and loved it there.

Curly was then transferred to Turks Island in the British West Indies, just off Florida, and he was on isolated duty there for a year. His family couldn't go with him. He and Judy bought a house in Lanham, Maryland and his family stayed there. Curly was then transferred to Bermuda for a year. He said he hated that place. It was no place for him. He said it was beautiful, but duty there was bad.

Curly was next transferred to the aircraft carrier USS Independence for two years. He loved it. They made several cruises; one was in the middle of winter. They went up the North Atlantic and across the Arctic Circle to see if they could hold flight ops, war games, in those conditions. They went to Northern Norway. Curly said it was rough up there. For an aircraft carrier, they were bobbing around like corks. They couldn't run flight ops, but they chipped tons and tons of ice off the flight deck; otherwise, it would have gotten too heavy and they wouldn't have been able to handle it. Curly said, "Cold! My gosh, whoever said salt water doesn't freeze should go up there in the middle of winter." He said when you cross the Arctic Circle you become a blue nose. They finished their flight ops there and then pulled into Portsmouth, England for down time. Two years later, Curly came back to the states again and was stationed at the Naval Communications Station at Annapolis, just across the water from the Naval Academy. After two years there, he was again transferred to another ship, the USS Guam, a landing platform for helicopters. While Curly was on there, he was part of a Master of Arms Force. He said it's like a police department in town. He spent a year on the USS Guam. He retired May 30, 1980, and the ship was in dry dock at the time at the Philadelphia Naval Yard.

That completed twenty years of service for Curly. He went back to his home in Lanham, Maryland to be with his wife, Judy. He went to work in D.C. for Press Releases Wire, a news wire service where he was a wire chief for six years. Curly and the family moved from Lanham to Thurmont in 1986. He has two sons, Tom and Ed, a daughter Darlene, three grandsons and two

granddaughters. His oldest boy, Tom, lives in Smithsburg, Maryland. His second son is Ed who lives in Flugerville, Texas and his youngest, Darlene, lives in Taneytown, Maryland. Tom has three children, one son and two daughters, Ed has one son, Corey, and Darlene has a son, Joshua. Curly said he worked for so many years behind closed doors in the intelligence field, it was a breath of fresh air to be able to drive a truck over the road and see the sunshine. He drove for several different companies since moving to Thurmont in 1986: Bowers Lumber, J&R Transports, Delauter Construction Company and Home Run, hauling oversized loads. After twelve years, he retired. Curly's wife, Judith, had a heart attack and needed care. He took leave, turned sixty-two, then quit any jobs. He retired. For eight years, he was his wife's care-giver. Curly lost her two and a half years ago. Since then he's been on his own. He told me that he has never told his story to anyone, even his family, and that I am the first to hear it. He said he felt it was time for his children to hear the story and reading it would be a good way. He had to stop several times while telling his story to me and I can understand why. It was getting to me emotionally and I didn't live it. I only heard it from Curly.

I know that Curly is the true definition of Hero. When you see him, shake his hand and thank him for sacrificing so much to serve our country.

I am so proud to have met and talked with Curly. Thank you and may God Bless you, Curly.

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Traveling for the holidays? Take *The Catoctin Banner* along with you! Have someone take a photo of you holding *The Catoctin Banner*, and you could be included in our next issue. Email your photo, along with the details of where you traveled, name(s) of person(s) pictured, and any details you would like to add, to news@thecatoctinbanner.com.

—The Catoctin Banner staff



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HO-HO-HO, Santa Claus is coming to town. As a matter of fact, he will be stopping here, at The American Legion in Thurmont, for Breakfast on December 20. Santa will only be here from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning for breakfast. The cost for having Breakfast with Santa is free for kids ages 12 and under; \$5.00 for those over age 12. Santa will be sharing juice, scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, coffee, and tea.

This month, we will be having entertainment downstairs on December 5 with DJ Jake; on December 12, Big Al will be doing the Honors; and on December 19, for our Ham & Turkey Night, Ralph Gann will be here. On New Year's Eve, we will be having DJ James; bring a dish to share and bring in the New Year here.

Next month, the band Poverty Ridge will be here on January 10, 2015, from 8:00 p.m.-midnight. There is a Fender Electric Guitar donated by Poverty Ridge to our Scholarship Fund, being raffled off; winner to be announced the night of the dance. Raffle tickets available at the Legion or from Members of the Auxiliary, The Sons of the Legion.

There will be Bingo on Thursday evenings, and on Wednesday evenings they will be doing Corn Hole upstairs. Don't forget our Ace of Hearts on Wednesday. Kitchen is open on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. Legion will be closed on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day.

VFW Post 6658

12 W. Main Street, Emmitsburg

DJ Southpaw will be at the VFW Post 6658 on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. DJ/Karaoke with Brian's Songs will be held on Saturday, December 13, from 8:00 p.m.-midnight; Ugly Sweater Party! Come in your best ugly sweater for a chance at a prize. Judging will be done at 11:00 p.m.

DJ/Karaoke with Mountain Music will be on Saturday, December 20, from 8:00 p.m.-midnight. Turkey/Ham Give Away, sponsored by the Men's Auxiliary, is on Saturday, December 20, from 6:00-10:00 p.m.

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senior moments

by Helen Deluca

Hello, seniors—young and old. There was a time when we wondered what activities we could schedule that would be interesting enough to encourage seniors to come and join others for lunch and companionship. I think we have found some answers. All credit has to go to Teresa, our coordinator, and to George Anzelone, the president of the Board of Directors.

In addition to regular activities such as the Canaries (the seniors' vocal group on Mondays); Alice Eyler, our exercise instructor; the knitting group and card games on Tuesdays; our Wednesday computer class (by appointment); Thursday's exercise and Tai Chi; quilting; Wii bowling; 500 card games; Friday blood pressure check by Thurmont Ambulance; and games and cards...I can tell you it gets kind of busy around here when we add in all the "specials" of the month.

Every third Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. is 50-50 Bingo. We really have fun. Have lunch first, if you so choose, and then stay for 50-50. Bring a friend. All ages are welcome.

Add in special events like Debbie from Country Meadows, who gave lovely gifts at a Bingo that she sponsored. The Halloween party came next. What creative costumes, comprising of a group of seniors who literally let their hair down and let themselves feel young again. Tony Cornejo won the prize for "best" costume. Well, maybe it wasn't the most creative, but it sure was the funniest. The flu shots followed, which brought in a steady group of people. Three days later, Adriene gave us an interesting presentation about the transit system. Silpada Jewelry always attracts the ladies, which

was followed by Ellie Jenkins from the Department of Aging. Ellie is the "go to lady" if you have any questions about Medicare and supplementary insurance. She plans to come back.

Add to all of the above, the Open House for Veterans and their families. In a separate thank you article in this issue, I tell you about the outstanding community participation that made the whole afternoon such a gratifying experience. The information, entertainment, food, and socializing was enjoyed and appreciated by all. Some of the highlights for me were the flag that each of the Veterans signed, the cards of thanks and honor that the third graders from Thurmont Elementary School made for each of the Veterans, and Chuck Fisher singing "God Bless America"—every person in the room stood up, joined hands, and sang with him. We are grateful to all our Veterans, and we honor them.

December is going to be another busy month. Get your calendars out, because we will be looking forward to you joining us for some exciting events. On Wednesday, December 3, at 10:30 a.m., there will be a talk by Hari Sharma on Medicare and senior prescriptions, and at 1:00 p.m., Teresa will have a class on holiday arrangements. Call and sign up. On Thursday, December 4, at 1:00 p.m., we will have quilting group and family treasures and memories book. On December 6, our annual Christmas Party will take place at noon at the Moravian Church, with turkey, oysters and all of the trimmings, served family-style. Entertainment will be provided by John and Peggy Offutt, and we will have door



Photos by Irene Matthews

Veterans Day Celebration at Thurmont Senior Center

William Rice, Ken Oland, Lee Toms, Joe Eyler, Robert Long, Robert Follin, and George Deluca, just to name a few who were there to celebrate Veterans Day.



Halloween Party at Thurmont Senior Center

prizes. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please call 301-271-7911 or sign up by Monday, December 1, at the Center. On Wednesday, December 10, at 11:00 a.m., the Golden Tones chorus will be performing holiday music. It will be a great time, so come in to be entertained and have lunch. On Tuesday, December 16, at 10:30 a.m., Fred Balus, Frederick City Health Department, will talk on the stresses of the holidays. On Wednesday, December 17, from 12:00-1:00 p.m., there will be Christmas tunes with Terry during lunch, and at 1:00 p.m., 50-50 Bingo will be held. On Monday, December 22, at 12:45 p.m., the Canaries will have a Holiday Performance at the Thurmont Senior Center. The Center will be closed on December 25 and 26. Enjoy the Holidays with your family and friends. Don't forget that on December 31, at 12:00 p.m. (notice I said noon, not midnight—we are seniors after all), we will celebrate New Year's Eve with a pot-luck lunch and a short general meeting. We will give you the latest news and an opportunity to make suggestions or to ask questions that will help your Center to grow and be a place you can enjoy.

We are proud to tell you that we have now served 10,060 meals, and we are really looking forward to being there for you if you need a ride to the Center or if you are homebound and need your lunch delivered to you. Just when we were getting started in that direction, our van completely broke down. We are doing all we can to replace it, and we need your help. Keep good thoughts that we might qualify for a grant. We are an independent non-profit approved 501(c)(3) organization. If you have any helpful suggestions, we welcome hearing from you.

The monthly birthday parties continue to be a popular happening. Nobody looks like they just admitted to being another year older! You're always welcome to come for cake and ice cream... and to fib a little about how old you really are! I've reached an age where reversing the numbers doesn't help anymore, so I just grin and bear it.

We send our best wishes to and yours for a happy and joyous Holiday season. Until next time, Smile and be thankful!

P.S. Don't forget to sign up for December 6 annual Christmas Party.

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by Chris O'Connor



mountain talk

Party Planning in Sabillasville

Thanksgiving reminds me of the gifts I've enjoyed, including thoughtful advice and support from others. I have an ever-expanding list of folks that I've neglected to adequately thank for their kindness and generosity of spirit over the years.

One neighbor on this list is Vickie Willard of Special Event Services in Sabillasville. She was a stranger who came to my rescue in the final stages of my daughter's wedding planning a few years ago.

Planning a wedding reception was way outside my wheelhouse. I lacked a storied history of planning anything but kid's birthday parties. But I had time, determination, horticultural knowledge, and a creative bent.

While planning for the wedding, the flowers were left on the back burner until a few days before the wedding. Perhaps I was mistakenly confident regarding the flowers. It doesn't much matter why, except I had other fish to fry. The procrastination nearly caused me to meet with my personal Waterloo.

Enter, one of my soon-to-be heroes on the Mountain, Vickie Willard, floral designer extraordinaire.

I called her on the advice of friends and explained my predicament. She said there wasn't enough time to obtain rare wedding flowers. I wondered aloud that if we provided the flowers would she consider working her magic. Thankfully, she consented.

Dad of the Bride (DOB) scooped up a variety of fresh flowers on his way home from work, while I gathered foliage and flowers from

our yard that might satisfy the bride and groom's color scheme. Then, I delivered them all to Miss Vickie. I was stunned by the beautiful bouquets she had displayed in her shop. We chatted about the bride's hopes and desires for her bouquet, and I departed, confident that Vickie would come through.

Less than two days later, DOB picked up the beautiful bouquets and boutonnieres and delivered them to the venue, with time to spare. All was right with the world and the wedding took place without another worry.

Fast forward to Autumn 2014.

A trend in men's boutonnieres is that a flower's stem be encased in an empty rifle shell casing. Vickie says it's the latest thing. She would know, since she's been the owner of her event planning business in Sabillasville for over seven years. She's also noticed that grooms are becoming increasingly involved in wedding planning.

Her own wedding to Paul Willard in 1976 resulted in her move from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania to become our long-time neighbor on the Mountain. Three children and six grandchildren later, she continues to follow a path of entrepreneurial spirit with great energy and enthusiasm. Anyone who over-thinks hosting Thanksgiving, throwing a dinner party, or any other celebratory occasion, can't help but marvel at Vickie's creativity, easy-going nature, sense of humor, and gift for logistics.

Vickie is humble about her business acumen and creative versatility in design. Her goal is to

meet as many needs that her clients desire and to provide the best service she can to plan any event, be it prom, a party, or a full-scale wedding planning. Weddings are of special interest to her, an interest that grew during the thirteen years that she and her business partner, Pam Fox, ran the now defunct, A Touch of Country Store, in Sabillasville.

The event planning business developed gradually after A Touch of Country closed. Individuals began contacting Vickie to inquire if she'd design flowers and centerpieces for their respective events. After about a year, one event led to another, which evolved into the current incarnation of a thriving full-service event planning business.

Special Event Services is a "soup to nuts" operation, providing everything from invitations, to planning, and on-site supervision of the entire event. Or she may provide as little as what I needed, with the bouquets that Vickie designed and fashioned at the eleventh hour for my daughter's wedding. She also provides an extensive variety of rental items for the church, party, or reception venue, including chair covers, linens, and backdrops for the head table.

Choosing a venue for any gathering is a top priority before considering hosting an event. Vickie points out that most popular venues book a year ahead of time. An unusual piece of advice Vickie offers is that although a wedding is inarguably an exciting and special day, it is just one day with many, many, more to follow, so there is no need to break



Vickie Willard of Special Event Services in Sabillasville.

the bank. She provides strategies, alternatives, and suggestions as to how to economize and still host a beautiful and memorable gathering for family and friends.

There's something to be said about hiring an event planner like Vickie. She brings something more to the party. She, her daughters, and longtime friend, Pam Fox, are all about providing all aspects of accomplishing a successful event, whether it is making deliveries, floral design, decorating, or simply providing rental items to the client or venue.

Vickie especially enjoys wedding planning. She says it's just plain fun. It's about meeting strangers who stay in touch long after the event for which she'd originally been hired. Clients frequently share the joy of their firstborn child's arrival and continue to share news of other milestones in their lives. The original relationship grows into something deeper over time.

Strangers are friends Miss Vickie has yet to meet.

For more information, contact Vickie Willard at 301-241-3041 or email floralsandmore@aol.com.

Services for St. John's UCC Announced

Following Rev. Janet Comings' retirement from the ministry in October, the pulpit at St. John's United Church of Christ in Sabillasville is currently being filled by various pastoral leaders.

Those participating until the end of 2014 are: Mr. Phillip Anglin, Archivist and second year student at Lancaster Seminary, on November 23; Pastor Joanne (Coleman) Gaver of Waynesboro on November 30; Rev. Ted Haas (retired) of Frederick celebrating Communion on December 7; Pastor Joanne Gaver on December 14; and Lay Pastor Andrew Corl of Middletown on December 21.

Rev. David Denham, former co-pastor of Apple's UCC, Thurmont, and St. John's UCC, Sabillasville, will officiate at the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's. A service of Lessons and Carols will be held on December 28 at the morning service at 11:15 a.m.

Plan to attend one or more of these special services of Advent and Christmas at St. John's Church on the corner of Route 550 and Harbaugh Valley Road in Sabillasville. Sunday services are held at 11:15 a.m., weekly. Viola Noffsinger is the organist.

A special evening will be presented on December 6, 2014. The youth of the church will hold their annual Dinner Theatre, beginning with fellowship at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's Parish Hall, with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Their Christmas program and dessert will follow at the church. To make a reservation for dinner, please call the church at 301-241-3488 by November 30 and leave a message, giving your name and how many people will attend.



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Ladies Night & Style Swap



Friday, December 12th
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Fort Ritchie Community Center
14421 Lake Royer Drive, Cascade
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Light Refreshments & Appetizers
Beauty & Style Makeovers included!
\$10.00 Admission

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Look through your closet & jewelry stash for any items that you are willing to part with
Bring up to 10 Items and leave with as many "New" accessories including...

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Earrings • Rings
Clutches • Handbags
Belts • Scarfs • Hats





Emmitsburg Senior News

by Susan Allen

As I write this, we are still two weeks away from Thanksgiving Day, but the chilly fingers of winter have stretched from the north, pushing temperatures well below the seasonal norm, bringing colder winds and snow flurries. Can true winter be far behind? The remains of Thanksgiving's turkey will turn up in soups and casseroles past the first of December, fueling the rush of holiday events. Activities at the senior center take on a Christmas hue with a "Make & Take" fresh greenery centerpiece on Wednesday, December 3, 2014. On December 10, 2014, speaker Fred Bailius will help us with "Preparing for the Holidays." This year's county-wide holiday meal & party for seniors are being held in Emmitsburg on December 18, 2014 (reservations must be made by December 12). The following day, Friday, December 19, we're going to bake cookies for our friends who receive home-delivered meals. We'll celebrate with punch and cookies on December 23, before the center closes on December 24 and 25 for a Merry Christmas! Our

last event of 2014 will be to ring in the New Year with food and games on December 31. We'll enjoy another day off when the center closes on January 1, 2015.

Regular Activities include our walkers' group (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays), 9:00 a.m.; bowling (Mondays), meet at 12:15 p.m.; art class (Mondays), 1:30-3:00 p.m.; strength training (Tuesdays and Thursdays), 10:00 a.m.; bridge (December 3 and 17), 12:30 p.m.; canasta (Fridays), 12:30 p.m. and Thursday, December 11; cards, games and puzzles (December 2, 9, & 30); trivia (December 12 and 17).

The senior citizens encourage everyone fifty years of age and older to join their activities at the Emmitsburg Community Center. Persons sixty and over are eligible for the hot lunch program.

For information on the lunch program and all other activities you are interested in, please contact our coordinator, Linda Umbel, at 301-600-6350, or email LUmbel@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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Christmas Cantata

December 21, 2014

10:00am

Music by our choir, handbell choir, and instrument ensemble.

Blue Christmas Service

December 21, 2014

5:00pm

A service of comfort and hope for those who struggle with sadness.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 2014

7:00pm

Contemporary candlelight service

11:00pm

Traditional candlelight service

Christmas VISIONS

We're living crazy-busy lives in a 24/7 world, and moving so fast we fail to see what God is doing. Come and see God at work as hope is born again this Christmas. Join us for a new sermon series (December 7-24, 2014).



At Weller United Methodist Church, Our family is your family.

Christine Schoene Maccabee

On The Wild Side

**"Earth's crammed with heaven, And every common bush afire with God."
—Elizabeth Barrett Browning**

"There they are!" I exclaimed when I saw the first purple blooms of the wild Canadian Aster in September. "There they are in all their late summer, early autumn glory!"

Fifteen years ago, I dug up a clump of them under a power line before they were blasted with herbicide, and now they grace one edge of my chicken coup with their brilliance. They never cease to take my breath away. The small clump I planted so many years ago has expanded year after year via its root system, and every year there are more gorgeous purple flowers, about the size of a quarter. Perhaps you have seen them, too, in some field or meadow or even someone's yard. If so, you know how I feel.

The diversity of wild plants in our region—be they medicinal; edible food for birds, pollinators and other insects; or simply for beauty—is astounding. All summer long, I grow and collect wild herbs for drying and, as of November 18, they are all well dried and in various jars for the winter teas. It is quite the collection, and the teas we make are wonderful! Also, like so many other nature lovers, this autumn, I ran around my gardens before the first hard frost, cutting as many zinnias, late flowering roses, marigolds, and even some honey suckle. As I put them in various vases in the middle of my kitchen table, I felt satisfied that another autumn tradition of mine was fulfilled.

I will truly miss the smells and sight of flowers and greens and

growing things outside, won't you? Back we go to the browns and grays of winter. Sigh. Change stops for no one. Outside today, the temperature is in the lower 20's, with a strong wind blowing, so I am inside writing.

However, along with the deep chill comes the happy thought of Thanksgiving dinner! I know that one of my main contributions on the table will be Ground Cherries. "Ground Cherries?" you ask. Yes, these are late season wild edibles, which I permit to grow all summer in my gardens, just about wherever they want. You may have seen them in their small Chinese lantern-like husks. They are just now ripening, each pea-size fruit bursting with flavorful vitamins. I call it a wild flavor, indescribable really. The gardens grew more than ever this year, so I have a bountiful harvest.

I know that I am just one of a tiny handful of people in Maryland who even know about Ground Cherries and, for that matter, all of the other wild offerings of food and herb. I would sure hate to think that I am the only one who is aware of them. I know for a fact that the Native Americans knew about every wild edible and medicinal in this pristine mountain valley I live in and surrounding areas. They didn't just grow crops. They were true herbalists, wild edible connoisseurs! They depended on the wild plants, as well as the deer and other wild critters like turkeys and rabbits, to survive.

Then there are the old timers, a number of which are still alive and

kicking here in Frederick County, who still hunt the wild asparagus and mushrooms, too, of course. So I guess you might say I am in good company, even though I am also in the minority, no doubt.

How many wonderful wild areas have I seen come and go in my lifetime? Far too many. Perhaps you have had the same experience... black raspberries, picked by the quarts full, cut down and turned into a parking lot; rare wild flowers along back roads mowed down without a thought; and an old growth mulberry tree fairly dripping in wonderful fruit cut down to make way for a new home. I remember that magnificent mulberry tree well, with mostly children and some adults climbing its sturdy branches, picking and playing and eating the wonderful fruit. Those were the days children actually went outside and played for hours on end, instead of sitting behind a computer screen playing war games.

Another tree that I love for its fruit and beautiful red foliage in the autumn is the Staghorn or Smooth Sumac. It is a native that grows profusely here in Frederick County. You may have seen it along Route 15 this fall. Unfortunately, because its leaves are similar in

appearance to the Ailantus or Tree of Heaven, the sumacs have been cut and herbicided quite a lot. However, it is a spunky tree, and will grow right back from the root stock! I rejoice when I see a nice grove of them, for I harvest their lovely fruits and dry them to create a fruity flavor in my herb teas. Yum. Some birds eat them to survive through the winter, too.

I hope you all have a bountiful and meaningful harvest of joy this Thanksgiving, and don't forget "all our other relations" while you're at it! Food, water, and shelter...we all need it.



Catoctin Church of Christ

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Our Bible speaks of the coming judgment in which all men will be participants. **2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. We live in a world that believes being good enough to please God. Yet God has said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." **Matthew 7:21.**

Therefore if we believe in God and we believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, we should be asking ourselves the question, "What is the will of God?" In all religious questions we should study our Bible to find, like the Pharisees asked Jesus in **Matthew 21:25** The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man? And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'"

Eternal life without God is a serious matter and questions that pertain to it deserve all the time and attention needed to find the correct answers. God sent Jesus to earth to bring His will for man. Jesus brought God's plan for salvation and yet in our world so many have tried to add to or take from God's plan. People want to change what God has said to suit their lives and this does not please God. Before you make an eternal mistake, I encourage you to ask questions. If the answers are not from the Bible, then think seriously!

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Dear Readers

Several months ago the Board of Directors of the Thurmont Senior Center decided to host an open house to thank and honor the Veterans of Thurmont and Northern Frederick County. When the word got out about our plans, the support of the community was overwhelming.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all who worked or contributed in some way to make Saturday, November 8, 2014, a memorable day. Many thanks to the merchants of Thurmont who allowed us to post or distribute our flyers; to David Wingate, Elder Care Attorney, who spoke on legal services for Veterans; to James Burger, Community-Based Outpatient Clinic Coordinator at Fort Detrick, who spoke about medical services now available at Ft. Detrick; to Mike "Mad Dog" Sater of the DAV, who spoke about Veteran benefits; and to Ernie Unger of the DAV. All of these gentlemen were on hand to answer questions or help in any way. Our thanks also go to the Emmitsburg VFW and the Thurmont American Legion Post 168, who were available to the Veterans. We regret that the AMVETS was not among the group. Our thanks to the Gilbane Co. of Laurel, Maryland, and to Bill Buehrer, an associate of Stauffer Funeral Home, for their financial help—always needed, always appreciated.

Many thanks to Deb Spalding, publisher of *The Catoctin Banner*, for making the flag poster that the Veterans were proud to sign and designate their branch of service, as well as to Gracie of *The Catoctin Banner*, who took pictures of each of the Veterans. To John Kempisty, son of Teresa (Center coordinator), who presented the PowerPoint on the history of a captured Nazi flag that his great uncle sent home to his grandfather from a battle in North Africa in WWII. This flag that was signed by all of the members of that unit was on display. Our thanks also to *The Frederick News-Post* for their interest and support. Thanks to Vickie Grinder of Main Street Thurmont for her guidance and expertise, and for also passing out information to the Veterans. Thank you to Irene Matthews for sewing a new patriotic cover for our piano, to Pam Robbins for the table decorations, and to Minna Stitely for the beautiful patriotic silk flower arrangement.

Of course, no celebration or open house would be complete without food. So our heartfelt thanks to Rocky's Pizza in Thurmont for the delicious baked ziti, meatballs, salad, and bread; to the Thurmont Kountry Kitchen for the potato salad and coleslaw; to the Thurmont Food Lion for the sheet cake with a special message for the Veterans; to the Thurmont Lions Club for the hot dog machine and rolls; to the ladies of the Civitan Club for all of the outstanding homemade cookies; to Weis's Market in Thurmont for the soft drinks and water; to the ladies of the Civitan Club and our Thurmont Senior Center volunteers who served in the kitchen; and to the Leo's—the young version of the Lion's Club. Too often, we read of the dark side of the younger generation, so it was truly a pleasure to watch the Leo's as they served and helped in the kitchen and wherever they were needed, and to see the same attitude in John and Jim Kempisty as they prepared for their part in the day's activities.

Thanks to the Utz Snacks Company for their donation of individual bags of chips, to Catoctin Mountain Orchard for the basket of apples, and to Gateway Market & Candy Land for the huge bag of candy. A very special thanks to all of the third grade students of Thurmont Elementary School, as these students wrote and decorated over 100 cards of thanks to the Veterans. The Veterans were all so pleased and impressed by the messages and the effort each of the students presented. Thanks to Joe Eyler for the use of his flags and decorations, and Pam Robbins of the Catoctin Civitans and the Thurmont Senior Center for use of her decorations. Thank you to Gateway Flower and Gift Shop for the balloons. All of it added so much to the atmosphere of the day.

And last—but certainly not least—our sincere thanks to Chuck Fisher and his wife, Sara. Chuck was the 2012 Baltimore County Senior Idol and has entertained at our Center before. He not only entertained everyone for the whole afternoon, but also served as Emcee throughout the day.

Saying thanks to all the volunteers, the Thurmont Senior Center Board of Directors, and all of those mentioned seems hardly enough. What a great day we had!

It was a pleasure to thank and honor all of the Veterans of the past, present, and future.

— Sincerely, Helen Deluca, Thurmont Senior Center Board of Directors

Thank You

The 1st Annual Catoctin High School Alumni Vinny Healy Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Carroll Valley Golf Course on Saturday, October 25, 2014, and it was a huge success. Congratulations to our first year's champions: the team of Matty Thompson, Mitch Althoff, Justin Albright, and Kyle Beard.

Thanks to our 95 golfers, many volunteers, and the Carroll Valley staff for making our event a great success. We would like to thank our tournament sponsors: The Norris Auto Group; One Call Concepts, Inc.; Precision Automation; Tommy West Memorial; Lambert Cable Splicing; Utiliquet; and W.F. Delauter and Son, Inc. We would also like to thank the following families and companies that participated as sponsors in some way: Criswell Chevrolet of Thurmont, our hole in one sponsor; Carroll Valley Golf Course; Avon; Baltimore County Golf; Baltimore Ravens; Green Brothers Construction; North Atlantic Framing; Ruddo's Golf of Ocean City; Sheetz; The Ott House; the Burd/Suter families; the Watson family; the Fogle family; the Harley Family; the Hashemzadeh family; the Medairy family; the Seidel family/1st Lieutenant Rob Seidel Memorial; Washington Capitals; Washington Nationals; Xpress Bio; Coach Franklin; and The Vinny Healy Memorial Christian Outreach Fund (MCOF). All proceeds from the event will go to the Vinny Healy MCOF, to be used to help organizations and families in our area.

We hope to see you at next year's event! God bless you and your family!

— Vinnys Family and Friends; The Catoctin High School Baseball Alumni

Heartfelt Gratitude

Nancy Lee Sweeney (pictured right) passed away on October 25, 2014, and her loving family, having several wheel chairs—electrical and manual (Nancy was confined to them due to the loss of both legs)—wanted to donate them to people who needed them. "Pee Wee," being a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 121, asked if we could see that they were given to Veterans or to people in our community who could use them. They were on the way to deliver them to Post 121, when they found out someone in the community was in desperate need of one of the electric chairs, so they dropped it off on the way. They delivered one electric chair and two manual chairs to the Post, where Doug Adams and Ron Cool, Sr. helped to put them in the basement. We, the Sons of the American Legion, found out that a Veteran, who had his leg amputated, was in desperate need of a wheelchair, so we delivered the electric wheelchair to him; when we left, he was a very happy man.

We, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 121, give our thanks and appreciation to the Sweeney Family for their donation to people in need. We offer them our prayers in their time of grief.

God Bless the U.S.A., Veterans, our community, and the Sweeney Family for their generosity.


— Sons of the American Legion Squadron 121



Clifford "Pee Wee" Sweeney, Clifford "Wink" Sweeney, and Tina Marie Sweeney—son, husband, and daughter of Nancy Lee Sweeney.

Photo by Jim Houck, Jr.





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Where Community & Ideas Connect

by Linda Frydl, Library Associate, Thurmont Regional Library/Emmitsburg Branch Library, lfrydl@frederickcountymd.gov, 301-600-7212

Computer Basics Series

A new session of our Computer Basics series begins Wednesday, December 3, 2014, with volunteer Mike Mathis. This three-session series features computer labs teaching specific basic computer functions with step-by-step instructions. Sessions include information on using personal and library computers. There will be opportunities to ask questions. Attendance at all three sessions is strongly encouraged. Classes are held in the Thurmont Library Small Meeting Room. Winter session dates are December 3, 2014; January 7, 2015; February 4, 2015. Please call the Information Desk at 301-600-7212 to register.

7th Annual Holly Jolly Seasonal Celebration

It's that time of year again! Please join us for our 7th Annual Holly Jolly Seasonal Celebration! This event is part of Thurmont Main Street's "Christmas In Thurmont" on Saturday, December 6. The library will be a stamping station all day. And if you drop in between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., there will be special activities including holiday face painting and make and take crafts for all ages, including a make and take craft table for adults hosted by the Friends of the Thurmont Library. Afterward, at 1:00 p.m., we'll have our annual special story time with Santa and Mrs. Claus. We look forward to seeing you at this special

event for all ages. No registration needed.

Make-A-Gift, Give-A-Gift

Drop by the Thurmont Regional Library each Monday in December, up until Christmas, to make a hand-crafted gift from the heart for someone special. Each week we will feature a different craft. Get all your gifts made just in time for the holidays. Good for all ages.

Special Programs for Children

Learn How To Talk Robot for Grades 3-6. Behind every computer, app, or robot, there is someone who wrote the programs that told the device or app what to do. Join us for an hour of very beginning computer programming concepts as part of the National Computer Science Week's "Hour of Code" event. Team up with others to test your skills in the language of computers. This session will be off-line. No previous coding skills needed. This program is being offered at two different times: Thursday, December 11; register for the 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. session at fcpl.org or call 301-600-7212.

Preschool Power: *Merry Christmas, Merry Crow*: An afternoon of fun for our preschool friends. Share a special story about a clever crow, the value of friendship, and giving gifts. After the story, make a special gift for our feathered friends. Tuesday, December 16, 1:30-2:15 p.m. Register online at fcpl.org or call 301-600-7212.

— Continued on page 46

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Tickling Our Tastebuds

by Denise Valentine

Hello, everyone. As we are nearing the holiday season, we start anticipating the “big meal” and getting our menu down on paper, so we don’t forget anything (at least that’s what I have to do), and also jotting down the ingredients as we get our grocery list started.

For our Holiday dinner, each family brings something to the table. It takes a lot of pressure off when we share the menu. At this time of year, pumpkin recipes seem to be found everywhere. My daughter, Amanda, found this delicious recipe for “Pumpkin Pecan Crunch” last year and has made it several times for our family get-togethers.

So, as you make your choices for your Holiday dinner, you may choose this recipe as an alternative to traditional pumpkin pie. Our whole family enjoys it, and I hope you will, too.





Pumpkin Pecan Crunch

1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin	1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk	¼ teaspoon salt
3 eggs	1 package (2-layer size) yellow cake mix
1 cup granulated sugar	1 cup chopped pecans
½ cup firmly packed brown sugar	1 cup (2 sticks) butter, melted
6 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice (divided)	Whipped cream (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix pumpkin, milk, eggs, sugars, 5 teaspoons of the pumpkin pie spice, vanilla, and salt in large bowl until well blended. Pour into a 13 x 9 inch baking pan (sprayed with non-stick cooking spray).

Mix cake mix and remaining 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice in medium bowl with wire whisk. Sprinkle dry cake mix evenly over pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle with pecans. Drizzle evenly with the melted butter.

Bake 50 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm or at room temperature. Top with whipped cream if desired.

Tip: Make ahead. Prepare as directed. Cool completely; cover. Refrigerate overnight. Let stand 30 minutes to bring to room temperature before serving.

**This recipe is from McCormick & Company, Inc. (www.mccormick.com)*



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Dietz Family Wins Second Place for Float



Courtesy Photos

(left) The Dietz Family of Thurmont entered an Autism Awareness Float in the Gettysburg Parade on October 28, 2014. They won second place in the Family entries.



(right) Color guards, Dustin and Alesis, did a routine with the float.

Unique Halloween Costume

Austin Hines, five years old, was very proud of his Halloween costume this year as Smokey the Bear. He received a lot of great compliments!

Courtesy Photo



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Arts & Entertainment is a place where you can express and share your creative side with the community, whether it be poetry, short stories, art, photography, and the like, we welcome you to send us your entries at news@thecatocinbanner.com. Let your creativity shine.

The Strong Gray Line

Book to be published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Date of release announced soon.

A Message from Bob Seidel of Emmitsburg

As you probably know, my son 1LT Rob Seidel was a local soldier who was killed in action back in 2006. He was a member of the West Point class of 2004. This class had more soldiers killed than any other class at the academy. In honor of those brave soldiers, the Class of 2004 has decided to write a book titled, *The Strong Gray Line*. Ten Years at War. There is a separate chapter dedicated to each soldier who died. The excerpt below is part of the chapter dedicated to Rob, written by Dave Strickler, who was a classmate of Rob's and was deployed with him to Iraq.

The book is complete, and I just received news that Rowman & Littlefield Publishers have agreed to print the book. When the book hits the shelves at the stores, the proceeds from the sale of these books will be donated to the various charities that have been established for each soldier. Rob's charity is the 1LT Rob Seidel Wounded Soldiers fund held at the Community Foundation of Frederick County.

You can find additional information at the following website: www.facebook.com/grayline2004. We'll keep you up to date about when and where the book will be sold.

Deeds not Words: Remembering Rob Seidel

Dave Strickler

Although I no longer recall the exact date, I can say with absolute certainty that I remember the day I met Rob Seidel. During the first summer at West Point (often referred to as Beast Barracks) there is a brief respite for New Cadets halfway through the three months of Cadet Basic Training. This roughly eight hour break, which one might mistakenly believe is a nice gesture to New Cadets, actually exists because it is logistically easier for the upperclassmen who are moving into and out of the barracks. Nonetheless, it is a terrific (albeit brief) escape for New Cadets who are experiencing what is likely the worst summer of their lives (until they graduate and deploy to Southwest Asia). Rob and I met during this break, at the house of Major Jeff Logan, who would eventually become our sponsor for our remaining years at West Point.

When I first asked Rob what he thought of our experiences at Cadet Basic Training, I was somewhat surprised when he remarked, through his trademark wry smile, "It sucks, but whatever..." Though I did not realize it at the time, this was classic Rob: brief, honest, dry, and witty. Rob had a rare ability to keep things in perspective, and seemed to have an exceptional tolerance for bullshit and an aptitude for remaining focused while others wandered off the path to become West Point graduates. This is surprising, perhaps, for a young man who was carrying the pride of his entire hometown on his journey and would ultimately hold the distinction of being the first Emmitsburg, Maryland resident to graduate from the United States Military Academy. But not so surprisingly, this tolerance and humility served him well both during his time at West Point, and as an Infantry officer in combat...



1LT Robert A. Seidel III
KIA in Abu Ghraib, Iraq on 18 MAY 06

Courtesy Photo

World Premier of Almost Blue Mountain City: The History of Thurmont Film Documentary Held

John Nickerson

Emmy Award winning producer, Chris Haugh, premiered his highly anticipated film documentary, *Almost Blue Mountain City: The History of Thurmont*, on Sunday, October 26, 2014, at The Springfield Manor Winery & Distillery near Lewistown. The showing was a great success, and everyone left knowing a lot more about the founding of the original Mechanicstown—now Thurmont—as well as how Thurmont got its name and what the lives of the people who worked and raised families in the area was like over the years. The event was sponsored and organized by Donna Voellinger and the Thurmont Historical Society, with representatives in attendance from the Catocin Furnace Historical Society, Main Street Thurmont, the Frederick County Department of Tourism, and more.

It was a beautiful, sunny fall day on the edge of the Catocin Mountains at historic Springfield Manor, former home of James Johnson, one of the original owners of the Catocin Furnace. He lived in the house from 1793 to when he died in 1809. The manor provided the perfect setting to learn the history of Thurmont in the film documentary, which was comprised of well-researched documents dating back to the early 1700s, as well as video interviews taken over the past fifteen years from long-time Thurmont residents such as George Wireman, Sterling Kelbaugh, Albert Zentz, and many more. Their reminiscing provided interesting, humorous, and poignant insights into the events that have shaped today's Thurmont. A recurring theme was the overall sense of community and scenic beauty that have characterized Thurmont since it was founded. Interviewee Margaret (Bruchey) Krone spoke of her arrival in Thurmont that, "We felt that we'd moved into Heaven."

Fine local wine and excellent fare—served by the Carriage House Inn—were provided during intermission. Chris gave an excellent



Photo by John Nickerson

Director Chris Haugh and Event Coordinator and Thurmont Historical Society President Donna Voellinger are all smiles at the World Premier showing of Chris Haugh's film, *Almost Blue Mountain City*.

talk on the making of the program and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and the first-ever awarded "Frederick County Oscar." It was well deserved! At the conclusion, Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaid, said, "This is a proud moment for the town of Thurmont and it's an excellent film. I recommend everyone see it at the first chance possible."

The documentary is a valuable and priceless film that collects and preserves our local area's history, trials, tribulations, and ups and downs for future generations. The *Almost Blue Mountain City* DVD will be available for purchase for \$25.00 at the Creeger House during the Christmas in Thurmont celebration on Saturday, December 6, 2014, and for the Museums by Candlelight Tour the following Saturday, December 13. Stop by between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on either day.

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Let Your Light Shine!

Richard Troxell and CHS Students Give Awesome Concert

Deb Spalding

The evening of November 15, 2014, was one to be remembered, as Thurmont native and international tenor, Richard Troxell, returned to his alma mater, Catocin High School (CHS), to present—along with current students of the CHS music program—a world-class concert to benefit the Catocin High School music program and the Thurmont Senior Center.

This benefit concert included operatic works in several different languages that Richard has sung in different characters, including “Quanto e bella” from l’eslier d’amore, “La Donna e mobile” from Rigoletto, and “Bring Him Home” from Les Miserables, as well as some show tunes and classics. Richard framed his concert around two universal elements that he experiences everywhere. “The first is love... I see everywhere I go, every country I am in, from Chili to Israel, from Taiwan to Beijing, from Italy to France to Canada to the United States. Everywhere I go, I see love... People wanting to be in love, I see people in love, and I see people who love has messed them up so much... The other thing I always see is music.



Richard Troxell and his Russian accompanist took their bow with the CHS choral ensemble and bands at the end of the benefit concert at Catocin High School.

It's in every person's life... It's on your cell phone, on your alarm clock, when you wait on the phone to the cable company, it's on everything... It's a trillion dollar industry,” said Richard.

The concert was peppered with Richard's stories about love and music. He shared humorous personal stories about his childhood loves, and stories about how love changed as he grew into an adult.

Richard identified other CHS graduates who became famous in the entertainment business, including Neal

(Angleberger) Coty, a singer-songwriter who now resides in Nashville; Susanne Mentzer, a mezzo soprano from Thurmont; Michael Gray, a drummer with the Lee Brice Band (he performed during this concert, along with the CHS band); Ann Perry, Dale Webster, Jimmy Rickard, Mickie Late, and many others. He acknowledged former teachers and mentors with gratitude.

Richard taught a masters class to CHS students the day before the concert. CHS soprano soloist, Katelyn Claxton, said, “The concert was awesome and the masters class

was amazing! We are really lucky to have had Mr. Troxell teach us.”

Claxton, Diana Burch (alto) and Taylor Zentz (soprano) also presented solos, and Cody Horman performed a guitar solo. The Jazz ensemble was joined by noted performers.

Music and Band teacher, Mr. Z (Zamostny), presented Richard with an honorary Tri-M National Music Honor Society life membership at CHS.

Special thanks was extended to piano accompanists Dr. Kathleen Taylor, Christine Merki, and Windy Schmidt. The evening's financial sponsors included His Place Auto Repair, Mrs. Gail Frantz, and Mrs. Karen Graf (in loving memory of her husband.)

Richard chose this concert to officially release his new CD, *So In Love*. One dollar from every sale will benefit the CHS music program and the Thurmont Senior Center. If you would like to be a donor to the CHS music program, please visit www.catocincougarband.com.

“It doesn't matter what kind of music we enjoy. We're all connected,” expressed Richard.



by Francis Smith

Christmas is
such a lovely time of year
beginning before Thanksgiving
First Sunday of Advent
getting the streets dressed in
festive lights and festoons
greenery and tinsel
red balls and candlelight
the Advent wreath
circle of evergreens
three violet tapers and a
pink
store windows at their best
tempting wares displayed with
peppermint delight

Merry Christmas

shoppers in a hurry
crowding the malls
all the frantic searching
for the perfect gift
even children trying
extra special hard
elves and deer and
greeting cards and
caroling
Midnight Mass
Santa Claus and
Christ Child
vie for hearts'
content

by Francis Smith

I hear jingle bells ringing
They tell me that Christmas Day
Will bring the angels singing!
“In God's peace, go your way!”
I see a magic star beaming
Over a stable of straw
Bringing the hope of redeeming
Fulfilling the Bible's Old Law.
I feel the raw winter cold
Winds raking over the land
Again comes the message of old
“Take refuge in Jesus' Hand.”
Year after year my senses repeat
The blessings God sends as His Treat.



your public library

Where Community & Ideas Connect

by Linda Frydl, Library Associate, Thurmont Regional Library/Emmitsburg Branch Library, lfrydl@frederickcountymd.gov, 301-600-7212

— Continued from page 41

Make A Cookie Plate For Santa: Do you leave cookies out for Santa on Christmas Eve? Well, drop by anytime on Tuesday, December 23, to decorate a cute little cookie plate to put them on. Santa is sure to appreciate the extra touch! For children of all ages.

Catch the Gingerbread Man: The Gingerbread Man is on the loose in the library. He is leaving crumbs and clues everywhere. Drop in December 27, 28, or 29 and join the fun, as we follow his path and make a Gingerbread craft.

Countdown to "Noon" Year's Eve: It's the last day of 2014, and we're hosting a special celebration for anyone who can't stay awake until midnight. We'll countdown to noon with our party hats and confetti, play a game, and make a special craft. Event on Wednesday, December 31 at 11:30 a.m.

Artists on Display

This month, we welcome two artists to the Thurmont Library: Howard Clark and Kelsey Wailes. Howard Clark is an award-winning professional photographer with over fifty years of experience behind the lens. His Bio states that while landscapes are his specialty, many of Howard's images provide an intimate look at animals, flowers, plants, and trees. His images have been selected for inclusion in juried exhibitions in galleries throughout the Washington, D.C., area. More information about Howard can be found on his website at www.hclarkphotos.com. Howard's photographs are in the Delaplaine Satellite Gallery and will be on display

through January.

Kelsey Wailes is a Maryland-based toymaker, illustrator, and teacher. Her work has been featured on io9, Mental Floss, BuzzFeed, Kotaku, and more. She uses mostly sculpey for her line of toys, and traditional media for her drawings. Kelsey's illustrations include animals, game characters, Doctor Who, and more. Samples of her art can be found at www.Eattoast.deviantart.com. Kelsey's illustrations will be on display through December.

Other News

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will be provided at both the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries this winter. Trained volunteers will provide free assistance in the library's meeting rooms through the end of March 2015. Through the IRS VITA program, median to low-income tax payers are able to access free tax preparation services for simple returns for individuals earning less than \$51,000 annually. More information will be coming.

Do you own a favorite collection you'd like to showcase in the library lobby glass exhibit case? It can be for an organization, a seasonal theme, or something fun. Previous collections showcased include hand-crafted pottery, Hello Kitty, garden gnomes, and shark teeth.

Stop by or call the information desk at 301-600-7212 if you'd like to share.

All Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25.

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— Answers —

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. a
5. ensued

november

- 24....Mackenzie's Light Bereavement and Awareness Group, Thurmont Regional Library, Moser Road, Thurmont. 6:30 p.m. Free and open to anyone. 301-524-8064.
- 27....122nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, St. John's Lutheran Church, 8619 Blacks Mill Rd., Creagerstown, MD. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. \$17/Adults; \$8/ages 7-10; Free/ages under 7. \$18/Carryout.
- 27....6th Annual Emmitsburg Wattle Waddle, Town Park, Emmitsburg. 8:00 a.m.—5-mile run; 9:30 a.m.—1-mile walk. \$20/adult (before 11/20); \$25/adult (after 11/20). \$5—1-mile walk. Free hot breakfast for runners, walkers, spectators. Benefits Seton Center, Inc. www.emmitsburgturkeytrot.com or Jenni Ryan at 240-285-5904.
- 29.... Small business Saturday! Boycott the chains and shop in your neighborhood! Get out & bolster your local retail & restaurants. Shop Small in a big way!
- 30.... Emmitsburg Community Chorus' Annual Christmas Concert, Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg. 4:00 p.m.
- 30.... Quiet Love Concert, MorningStar Family Church, 14698 Albert Staub Rd., Thurmont. 6:00 p.m. www.morningstarfc.org.

december

- 1..... 26th Annual An Evening of Christmas Spirit, Emmitsburg Town Square to Carriage House Inn, Emmitsburg. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Tree lighting on the square then to the Carriage House Inn for local choirs, entertainment, Santa arrives at 6:30 p.m.
- 1..... Annual Christmas Party, Thurmont Community Clothes Closet, Thurmont United Methodist Church, Long Rd., Thurmont. Special items available for Christmas! No clothes distributed this evening. Refreshments served. 6:00 p.m.
- 2..... Old Fashioned Bingo, Emmitsburg Fire Hall, West Main St., Emmitsburg. Doors open 5:00 p.m.; early birds 6:50 p.m.; Bingo 7:00 p.m. Basic package \$8. Shirley Little 301-447-2703.
- 4..... Mother Seton School Take-a-Tour Tuesday. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Denise Vaught at 301-447-3161 or dvaught@mothersetonschool.org.
- 4-6... Elias Lutheran Church Annual Yard Sale, 100 W. North Ave., Emmitsburg. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Christmas items, clothing, books, kitchenware. 301-447-6239.
- 5..... Annual EBPA Awards Banquet, Carriage House Inn, JoAnn's Ballroom, Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 6:00-9:00 p.m. \$20/ticket. Featuring Fairfield H.S. Show Choir. chris@infinityglobaltravel.com.
- 5..... Washington County Rural Heritage Museum (RHM) Rural Heritage Village by Candlelight - "Children's Frolic," 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, MD. 6:00-9:00 p.m. www.ruralheritagemuseum.org; 240-420-1714.
- 5..... Christmas Craft Fair, The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Saint Joseph Catholic Church (corner of North Seton Avenue and DePaul Street), Emmitsburg. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Over 30 vendors. Baked goods/food for sale. (Also on Friday, December 5, from 9am to 5pm). Jane Gjerde 717-642-1247; Gwen Topper 301-447-2713.
- 6..... Traditional Village Christmas, Collier's

community calendar

- Log House, 12607 Catoctin Furnace Rd., Thurmont. 1776 James Johnson fireback will be on display. Bows, pinecones, ornaments, icicles, baked goods, handmade gifts & more.
- 6..... Other Voices Theatre's Upcoming Production of A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail (running Dec. 6-27), The Performing Arts Factory, 244 South Jefferson St., Frederick, MD. 301-662-3722.
- 6..... Christmas Bazaar & Large Indoor Yard Sale, St. Lutheran Church, Parish House, 8619 Blacks Mill Rd., Creagerstown. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- 6..... Catoctin Furnace Historical Society's Traditional Village Christmas. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Volunteers decorate wreaths to your design. Bows, pine cones, ornaments, icicles & more are available. Mulled cider, baked goods, children's activities, living history actors, raffles. catoctinfurnace.org.
- 6..... Thurmont Senior Center Annual Christmas Party, Graceham Moravian Church, 8231 Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. 12:00 p.m. \$15. Please call or sign in at the Center (by Dec. 1). 301-271-7911.
- 6..... Annual Ham, Turkey and Roast Beef Supper w/Apple Fritters, Elias Lutheran Church, 100 W. North Ave., Emmitsburg. 12:00 p.m. \$11/Adults; \$4/ages 6-12. \$12/Carryout. Yard Sale & Bazaar.
- 6..... Make Christmas Gifts for Friends and Families, Harriet Chapel, 12625 Catoctin Furnace Rd., Thurmont. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Food, baked goods, crafts and gently used Christmas items for sale (during Traditional Christmas in the Village, Catoctin Furnace Historical Society). Make-Your-Own jewelry table \$5-\$10—make earrings/bracelets.
- 6..... Christmas Bazaar, Christ's Community Church, 303 West Lincoln Ave., Emmitsburg. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Vendors/silent auction. Baked goods/food for sale. Free scavenger hunt, cookie decorating for kids, picture with Santa. Heather 717-321-5522; Pastor John 301-447-4224.
- 6..... Christmas Party for the Children of Emmitsburg, Emmitsburg Lions Club at Vigilant Hose Company, 25 West Main St., Emmitsburg. Free. Crafts, magic show, food, & visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- 6..... Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar, Mother Seton School, 100 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg. 8:00 a.m.-noon. Door prizes, raffles, Kids' Bazaar; something for everyone. Free admission to Bazaar. Breakfast: \$7/ages 7-Adult; \$5/ages 3-6; Free/ages 2 & under. www.MotherSetonSchool.org.
- 6..... ThorpeWood's 15th Annual Holiday Open House, 12805-A Mink Farm Road, Thurmont. 3:00-8:00 p.m. Santa visits between 4:00-6:00 p.m. Cider, cookies, warm fire, music. Free event. www.thorpewood.org.
- 6..... Evening with the Mount St. Mary's University Chorale, The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, 339 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 7:00-8:00 p.m. Performing Haydn's Mass in Times of War.
- 6..... Catoctin Sports Boosters' 6th Annual Holiday Open House, Catoctin High School, Thurmont. Cougar apparel, blankets, stadium seats, hats, miscellaneous novelty items for sale. Bob Marlow 443-829-3809.
- 6..... Christmas in Thurmont, Main Street, Thurmont. Ribbon cutting 9:00 a.m., Free photos with Santa 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- 6..... Christmas Craft Fair, The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Saint Joseph Catholic Church (corner of North Seton Avenue and DePaul Street), Emmitsburg. 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Over 30 vendors. Baked goods/food for sale. Jane Gjerde 717-642-1247; Gwen Topper 301-447-2713.
- 6..... Mother Seton School Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar. 8:00 a.m.-noon. Pancake breakfast, photos with Santa Claus. Door prizes, raffles, and Christmas carols will get you in the spirit. New this year - Kids' Bazaar with tons of gifts for the little ones to buy for their families under \$10! Admission to the Bazaar is free. Pancake breakfast is \$7/ages 7+, \$5/ages 3-6, and FREE for ages 2 and under.
- 6..... Christmas in the Village at Harriet Chapel, Catoctin Episcopal Parish, 12625 Catoctin Furnace Rd. (3 miles south of Thurmont). Christmas Yard Sale 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Workshop to make earrings/bracelets. Homemade soup and baked goods available for purchase. www.harrietchapel.com.
- 6..... Absolute Real Estate Auction, Eyler Estate, 36 Blue Ridge Ave., Thurmont. 11:00 a.m.
- 6..... Holiday Social, Frederick County Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) at Edenton Retirement Community, Manor House. 10:00 a.m.
- 6..... Holiday Magic, Children's Museum of Rose Hill Manor Park, 1611 N. Market St., Frederick, MD. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Visit Santa in the carriage museum. \$4 admission. Pre-registration recommended. www.rosehillmuseum.com.
- 6&7 Gateway Candyland Open House, Rt. 15 & Franklinville Rd., Thurmont. Candy and gift baskets, candy making and citrus by the case. 301-271-2322.
- 7..... Overeaters Anonymous, Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 W. Patrick Street. Room #103, Frederick. (Meets weekly on Sunday) at 7:00 p.m. OA charges no dues or fees. All are welcome. www.northernblueridgeoa.org.
- 7..... Cash Bingo, Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Association, 3009 Waynesboro Pike, Fairfield, PA. Doors open 11:00 a.m., bingo begins 12:45 p.m. 717-794-5404.
- 8..... Planning Meeting for Sabillasville Elementary School's 50th Anniversary (2015/2016 school year) Celebration, Sabillasville Elementary School auditorium, 16210-B Sabillasville Rd., Sabillasville. 6:00 p.m.
- 8..... Thurmont Community Clothes Closet, Thurmont United Methodist Church, Long Rd., Thurmont. (Normally open to public 1st Monday night of each month & 3rd Tuesday morning of each month). Clothes, coats and shoes only. 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 8..... Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass. December 8, 10:15 a.m. at Mother Seton School. Please join us in Mass as we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
- 9-13. Seton Center's Thrift Shop's Christmas Open House, 16840 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. Cider and cookies. Santa visits on Dec. 13 (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.).
- 12.... Christmas Coffee House w/Home Comfort Band and Silver Lining, Elias Lutheran Church, 100 W. North Ave., Emmitsburg. 6:30 p.m. Preceded by Pot Luck Supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. Event open to all. 301-447-6239.
- 12.... Ladies Night & Style Swap, Susan and Carla at Fort Ritchie Community Center,

14421 Lake Royer Drive, Cascade. Beauty and style makeovers. Bring up to 10 fun accessories for styling swap. \$10 admission. 717-642-5977.

- 13.... Ol' Santa Claus himself at the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum, 300B South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 1:30-4:00 p.m. Toys for Tots for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve on hand to receive new, unwrapped toys. Visit with Santa Claus; free tour of museum.
- 13.... Breakfast with Santa, Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Association, 3009 Waynesboro Pike, Fairfield, PA. 9:00-11:00 a.m., 0-10/\$5, 11-adult/\$6.99. 717-794-5404.
- 13.... Christmas Craft Fair & Vendor Sale, Emmitsburg Fire Hall, West Main St., Emmitsburg. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Shirley Little 301-447-2703.
- 13.... Museums by Candlelight, Children's Museum of Rose Hill Manor Park, 1611 N. Market St., Frederick, MD. 2:00-7:00 p.m. Free. www.rosehillmuseum.com.
- 14.... Hog Maw Cook Off, Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Association, 3009 Waynesboro Pike, Fairfield, PA. 2:00 p.m., Pre-register at the bar. 717-794-5404.
- 15.... Mother Seton School Christmas Program. 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Snow date December 19. 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.
- 16.... Thurmont Community Clothes Closet, Thurmont United Methodist Church, Long Rd., Thurmont. 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- 17.... Christmas Concert, Graceham Moravian Church, 8231-A Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. 7:00 p.m. Bells of Grace Handbell Choir, Hosanna Voice Choir, congregational singing, soloists. Donations of canned goods accepted for Thurmont Food Bank.
- 20.... Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration, Blue Ridge Summit Plaza at the intersection of Monterey Lane and Sabillasville Road, Blue Ridge Summit, PA. 4:00-7:00 p.m., tree lighting 6:30 p.m.
- 21.... The Christmas Story, The Creagerstown Community Chorus at Union Church, 8619 Blacks Mill Road, Creagerstown. 3:00 p.m.
- 21.... Christmas Cantata, Weller United Methodist Church, 101 N. Altamont Ave., Thurmont. 10:00 a.m. wellerumc.com.
- 21.... Blue Christmas Service, Weller United Methodist Church, 101 N. Altamont Ave., Thurmont. 5:00 p.m. wellerumc.com.
- 24.... Christmas Eve Service, Weller United Methodist Church, 101 N. Altamont Ave., Thurmont. 7:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m. wellerumc.com.
- 24.... Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2014, 7:00 p.m. (15116 Foxville Church Road, Sabillasville, MD 21780).
- 24.... Christmas Eve Lovefeast and Candlelight Services, Graceham Moravian Church, 8231-A Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 p.m.
- 30.... Post-Christmas Sale, Seton Center's Thrift Shop, 16840 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. (Runs through Jan. 10).

january

- 10..... Feast of Elizabeth Ann Seton Mass, National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Basilica, South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 10:30 a.m. 301-447-3161 or visit the website at www.mothersetonschool.org.

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