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from
Adams County

written by: **Commissioner Randy Phiel**

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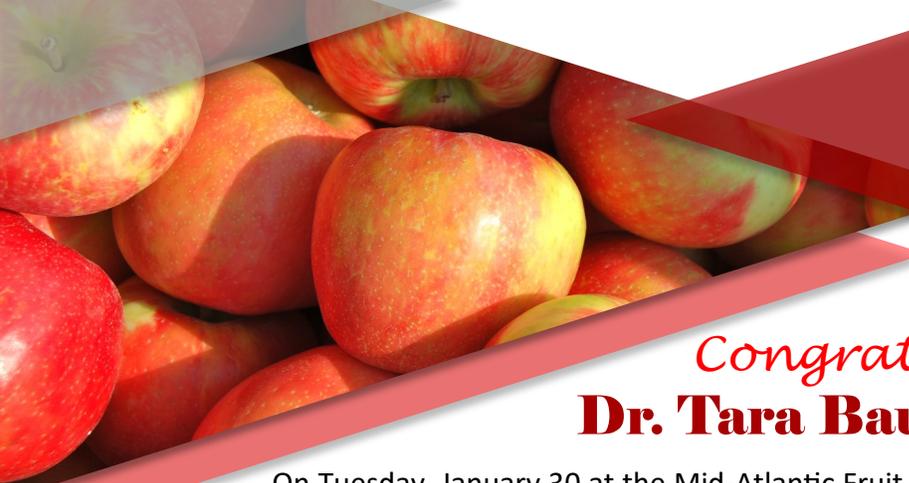
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Well Being 2018

Well Being 2018 was kicked off with a Winter Hike up Big Roundtop! The hike was sponsored by Healthy Adams County. Thirteen county employees, friends, and family members (including two pups) joined a group of roughly 25 men, women, and children on an overcast but wonderful winter day. The hike was equivalent to walking 37 flights of stairs; but so much more fun!

The next Winter Hike will be held on Sunday, February 18. It will take place at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, 1100 Pine Grove Road, Gardner's. It begins at 1:30 and will be 4 miles. Please consider bringing your family and friends and getting outside to enjoy the beautiful winter scenery in Adams County. Contact HR Director Michele Miller 717-337-9822 for details. Michele says couch potatoes are especially encouraged to attend!



Congratulations **Dr. Tara Baugher**

On Tuesday, January 30 at the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey, Dr. Tara Baugher, Penn State Tree Fruit Extension Educator received the 2018 SHAP (State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania) Distinguished Service Award.

Tara's interest in pomology started early in her life as she spent time at her grandfather Henry Miller's Consolidated Orchard Co in Paw Paw, WV. She earned a BA from Western Maryland College, her Masters and PhD degrees from West Virginia University. For 14 years starting in 1980 she held a faculty position at West Virginia University as Extension Fruit Specialist and Horticulture Professor. She then took time off to start a family, but continued to be involved in the community and tree fruit industry. She started at Penn State Extension in 2004 and serves as the leader of the Tree Fruit Team.

During Tara's time at Extension she has worked on the following projects to name a few that have benefited growers:

- ◆ Prediction of Bitter Pit in 'Honeycrisp' Apples and Best Management Implications.
- ◆ Relationship between 'Honeycrisp' crop load and sensory panel evaluations of the fruit
- ◆ Brush mechanism for distributing apples in a low-cost apple harvest unit
- ◆ Design and field test of a low-cost apple harvest-assist unit.
- ◆ Numerous projects related to the string blossom thinner

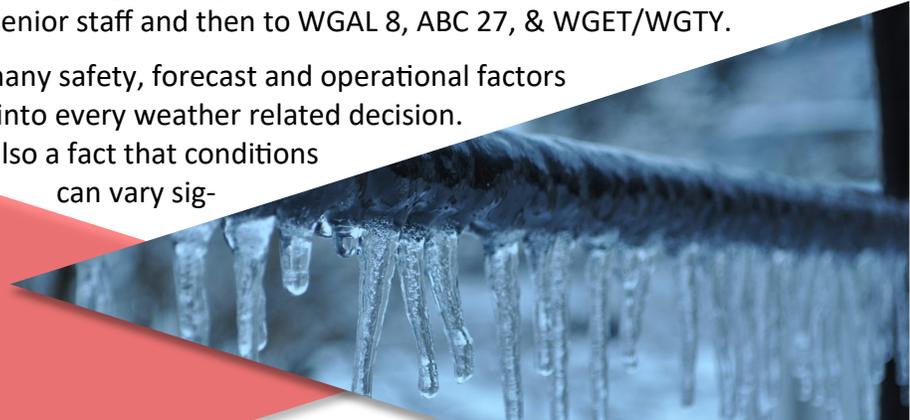
Tara has also been recognized by the international apple industry. She received an International Fruit Tree Association Extension Award for her work with the Penn State Extension Young Grower Alliance for which she helped form. Today the Young Grower Alliance includes over 300 members from the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Congratulations Tara!!

Winter Weather

It's that time of year when snow and ice may cause delays, closures or issuance of liberal leave. A reminder that the first place you should look for the status of County and Court operations is the Home Page of the Adams County web site. Once a decision is made the first call is to the IT Department for posting on the top of the Home Page. Normally we try to post a decision by 6AM. The decision can sometimes be difficult when conditions are changing or forecast to change during commute time. The IT notification is followed by notification to senior staff and then to WGAL 8, ABC 27, & WGET/WGTY.

There are many safety, forecast and operational factors that go into every weather related decision.

It is also a fact that conditions can vary sig-





nificantly depending on where you reside and your personal situation.

We have folks traveling from many different areas and elevations. When I start down the trail to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the NPS posts signs that say "Safety Is Ultimately Your Responsibility." I believe that message can apply to all of us. Whatever our county decision is, liberal leave is always an option if you feel travel in your case is unrealistic. Know the conditions in your area and travel safely!

Adams County Conservation District Manager

Congratulations to Adam McClain for being selected as the Adams County Conservation District Manager. Adams began his new duties on February 5th. Adam had served the Adams County Conservation District since 2009 as the Watershed Specialist. The collaboration between Planning, Rural Resources, GIS, Penn State Extension and the Conservation District is commendable; and we anticipate Adam's appointment will be a continuation of those beneficial relationships.

Emergency Operations Center Exercise

Last Friday, The Adams County Department of Emergency Services conducted a functional exercise at the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The purpose of the exercise was to provide the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) with the opportunity to evaluate ACDES Director Warren Bladen's knowledge, skills, and abilities as they relate to the role of Emergency Manager. It was the final step in Warren's certification process. All three commissioners and the county manager attended the comprehensive exercise.

The exercise started with a severe weather event (heavy rain, high winds, and flooding). As time passed, a missing person's incident and hazardous materials incident were added. Over 40 individuals from Adams and neighboring counties assembled to conduct the exercise. They were actively involved in the exercise either as participants or as evaluators. The list includes, but is not limited to, the following: PEMA, faculty members of the Emergency Management Institute of FEMA, the Gettysburg Municipal Authority, the Franklin County Department of Emergency Services, Cumberland County Department of Emergency Services, York County Department of Emergency Services, and the Gettysburg Hospital.

Upon conclusion of the exercise, Fred Boylstein, Director of PEMA's Central Area Office, stated the he was "very pleased with what was observed during the exercise." Congratulations Warren!



South Mountain Partnership

Commissioners Martin and Qually, along with Planning Department staff, attended the South Mountain Partnership's annual breakfast meeting. Adams County had two partner organizations that received grants; Adams County Historic Barn Preservation Society and the Land Conservancy of Adams County. Grants are awarded based upon the merit of applications received by the South Mt. Partnership. We appreciate all the work and expertise that goes in to grant applications and applaud the positive result.



Winter fire hall dinner season is upon us and there are two events that signal to me it's time for cold weather, snow, ice and good food. One is the Pennsylvania Farm Show and the other is the Cashtown Community Fair. I have gone to the Cashtown Fair since I was a small child, when my grandmother ran the kitchen and we played bingo upstairs after dinner. I should have kept some of those colorful and cheap ceramic coin banks I won in the form of animals, fire hydrants and other objects – because they would be collector's items now. I believe the bingo, dance and games are long gone; but the oysters with turkey, chicken & waffles and roast beef are still going strong. I did my part this year in supporting the fire department by partaking of turkey/oysters on Thursday and chicken & waffles/oysters on Friday. Also don't forget that Heidlersburg FD has a delicious roast beef & oyster dinner once a month during the winter. Buchanan Valley FD serves up a monthly seafood feast on the 1st Saturday of each month that is normally a sellout. Doors open at 4PM for seating and appetizers and dinner served at 6PM. Get there early! The annual Gettysburg Optimist all you can eat Oyster & Shrimp Feed is being held Saturday, March 24 at the Gettysburg Fire Department from 12-3. This Tuesday morning, don't forget those St James fastnachts or the annual Memorial Prince of Peace Pancake Breakfast at the Gettysburg Fire Department. On Monday, February 19, BSA Troop 73 has their all you can eat spaghetti dinner at General Pickett's Buffet. It is an excellent meal with a lot of food options and supports some great causes.

Now that we have the fire hall culinary schedule down for supporting your community organizations, I've been telling you there are some good historical movies out there and thus far I have seen *The Showman* and *The Post*. I have *The Darkest Hour* on my movie radar this week. *The Shape of Water* and *I, Tonya* is showing at the beautiful Majestic Theater.

This Sunday, February 11th the Gettysburg Kiwanis Club is sponsoring "*Adams County's Got Talent*" contest at the All Star Aspire complex. All net proceeds will be donated to the Children's Advocacy Center of Adams County. Also the proceeds from the silent auction held in connection with the talent contest will also be donated to the CAC. Some very attractive items are included in the silent auction. Doors open at 2:00pm and the talent contest begins at 3:00pm. Commissioner Martin says the contest will have more acts than the Super Bowl.

No matter what you do - get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

The **End**