

# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL V, No. 4

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

## Winter storm dumps 10-13" of snow in area



-DICK BLOOM / THE DISPATCH

Attempting to stay ahead of the game, West Main Street resident Joan Boyle gets an early start at keeping the sidewalks clear during the snowstorm Feb. 11. The storm was the first significant snow this winter and blanketed the area with more than ten inches, with heavier snowfalls to the east.

## Two candidates announce election plans

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
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EMMITSBURG, Md. – With the clock ticking away on the date the position of a fifth commissioner becomes official, some individuals have already indicated interest in running for what could be two open seats on the board.

In the upcoming April 25 town election, one seat will become vacant as Commissioner Arthur Elder's term expires. The candidate elected to fill this seat would serve until October 2009.

At the Jan. 18 town meeting, the board of commissioners voted to amend the town charter to create a seat for a fifth commissioner. The candidate chosen to fill that seat would serve a term of three years and five months.

If no one files a petition by Feb. 28 to challenge the fifth commissioner proposal and send it to the voters as a referendum, the charter change will go into effect March 10, in time for the next town election.

### Two candidates indicate intentions

Potential incumbent Commissioner Elder, who has served on the board of commissioners since 2003, told

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### Northgate access issues

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### Ambulance fees could rise

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### Rocky Ridge Fire Company awards and banquet

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### Rocky Ridge stagecoach

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### "The Passion of Bernadette"

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## Recycling coming to Emmitsburg developments

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
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EMMITSBURG, Md. – County recycling will be expanding in Emmitsburg following a 4-1 vote on Feb. 9 by the Frederick County commissioners.

The Frederick County Board of Commissioners voted to expand currently offered recycling services at their work session, increasing services to Emmit Ridge, and adding services to Brookfield and Pembroke Woods.

Emmit Ridge is among nine areas currently receiving some

county recycling services, and the Frederick County Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management (DUSWM) had recommended expansion to additional homes. Of the 33 existing homes in Emmit Ridge, 25 have recycling services.

Brookfield (50 existing homes

with 76 un-built) and Pembroke Woods (70 existing homes) were among 13 developments identified by DUSWM as not receiving recycling services, which warrant them.

The commissioners approved

-See **Recycling** on page 5

## April hearing set for Gettysburg area casino

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
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HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) has set April 5 as a public hearing date for Chance Enterprises' proposed Crossroads Gaming Resort & Spa (formerly the Gettysburg Casino and Spa) in Straban Township, Pa.

The public hearing on Chance's proposal will begin at 8:30 a.m., on

April 5, in the ballroom adjacent to the student union at Gettysburg College, 300 North Washington Street, Gettysburg.

One of Chance's investors, David Michael LeVan, serves as a member of the board of trustees at the college, according to Kendra Branchick, assistant director of communications. "The college has remained neutral on the casino," she stated, but noted that the college faculty has voted as a body against the casino.

Individuals interested in commenting at the public hearings must submit a registration form that can be downloaded from the gaming board's Web site, [www.pgcb.state.pa.us](http://www.pgcb.state.pa.us), and sent to the board

postmarked no later than March 6, according to the PGCB.

"Information gathered at the hearings will become part of the

-See **Casino** on page 5

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Limited pickups = poor service

Now that the bi-annual postage rate increase is in effect, I made a trip to the post office to purchase my 2-cent stamps. While I was there I told them that since the price of service has increased again, it was about time the U.S. postal service upgraded the poor service to Emmitsburg patrons. "Poor service?" they asked in stunned disbelief. "Yes, very poor service," I answered.

I explained that they have no morning, holiday, or Sunday pickups and only one Saturday pickup at noon. On a weekend with

a Monday federal holiday, a letter placed in the collection box at one minute past the Saturday noon pickup ... is not collected until 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday. The letter lays in the box for more than three days before being collected and then still does not leave the Post Office for another hour or more, I suppose.

What is even worse is that a substitute rural carrier often fills in on Saturdays and he/she is usually late delivering the mail. ... Even more important is that they are also late picking up outgoing mail from rural boxes. Two-thirty to three

p.m. is not uncommon for Saturday rural route deliveries on my road.

If I have time-sensitive mail running close to a deadline, I must make a trip to the post office because if I place it in my rural box, it will not get to the postal office in time for the noon pickup. Even if I place the mail in the rural box early Saturday morning, it can miss the noon pickup and never get collected until Monday afternoon. Try explaining that to your credit card company when you get hit for a late payment.

- Wayne C. Baumgardner  
Emmitsburg, Md.

## Burns - save unsolicited advice

Thanks for the public enlightenment Mayor Burns noted in *The Dispatch* 2/2/06. With your public comments, and Mr. Craig's editorial (2/2/06), I have a new outlook about Commissioners Elder and O'Neil choosing to not perform their civic duty in an ethical manner. And Mr. Craig, O'Neil's actions to capture grants is his duty to office - not an extraordinary phenomena.

Their actions in the ethical findings, according to Burns, were just different, and not wrong. So, Elder can drop his suit? If Elder ever worked in a legitimate business, he

would know that life is not always comfortable. On bad days, you stand up as an adult, brush off the garbage and move on to the next business day versus beating up, or suing yourself. The fact Elder is suing the office he represents defines Burns' logic maybe, but not mine. ...

If Burns' advice saves the citizens of Emmitsburg from municipal bankruptcy, then Burns' logic makes sense for Elder to sue Emmitsburg versus serve the office he took oath to.

My thought to Mayor Burns is mind your town, and don't give

unsolicited advice *publicly* to Emmitsburg folks about what is right, wrong or different. I think perhaps politics, not God, gave you the grey matter you point out (differencing opinions for matters of fact). The Lord has only 10 basic rules, and they are clear - no grey.

Seriously Mayor Burns, publicly giving unsolicited advice to the Emmitsburg municipal officers is as idiotic as the advice you gave. I honor a challenge to my argument.

- John Preston  
Manchester, Md.

## Northgate flooding affects all ages

I am Seth Daily and I am 9 1/2 years old. I am writing to you about a concern that the public ought to know about. When I was born, I had a problem with my heart. At the age of five I moved to Northgate and my parents didn't know we could be trapped here without assistance. We have one entrance into Northgate and it floods two or three times a year and there is no other exit or entrance for emergency

assistance. And being that I had a heart problem I could have needed assistance. My heart problem may be corrected, but I know many senior citizens and children who could need medical care.

A solution would be to put another road through. The town is trying to find a place to put a road that doesn't flood. I thank the commissioners, mayor, and town planner for working on this. And

I especially thank Commissioner Elder and Mr. Haller for researching the plans of Emmitt Ridge and Northgate to find an alternative road. I thank Commissioners O'Neil and Blanchard for standing behind us in this matter. I also thank Bill Steo, a resident of Northgate for speaking up and giving solutions on this matter at the town meeting.

- Seth Daily  
Emmitsburg, Md.

## Urban foresters could recommend town trees

I was interested in reading the recent articles in *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* about the history of the White House Gallery Pear trees and resulting sidewalk damage along Emmitsburg's Main Street. As a landscape designer I know it is a challenge to figure out the right plant for the right place.

With their tolerance of heat, drought and compacted soils, Gallery Pear trees became very popular and could survive the tough conditions found in urban areas. The 'White House' cultivar has a size and shape which fits the scale of Emmitsburg's main street and was a logical choice. Simply replacing them with another tree species

may not prevent future sidewalk damage. Without knowledge of how the Main Street tree wells were engineered, I would guess that failed root barriers and bad soil or water conditions caused tree roots to damage sidewalks. Without correct soil and site preparations of tree wells the replacement trees might do the same thing.

Ginkgo biloba trees were mentioned as possible replacements. While excellent trees for cities, Ginkgo trees are not the best trees for Main Street since they grow to a much greater size than the street's spatial scale would permit. Also, female Ginkgo trees produce plum-sized seeds which give off

disagreeable odors - only male trees would be best planted. The sex of younger seedlings cannot entirely be assured until they mature.

I suggest that the town consult with some experts in this field, such as landscape architects or urban foresters, who can help determine the correct tree species and engineering of the tree wells. The state of Maryland also offers guidance to communities through their urban forestry program. The commissioners and town can be thanked for spending time and money to keep trees planted along Emmitsburg's Main Street.

- Gary Huggens  
Fairfield, Pa.

## 100 Years Ago "In this place" From *The Emmitsburg Chronicle*

*This column offers a regular look back at Emmitsburg through the eyes of The Emmitsburg Chronicle which first appeared on June 14, 1879, published by Samuel Motter. In 1909 the paper became known as The Weekly Chronicle. It continued regular publication, allowing for a 5-year hiatus during World War II, until February 9, 1977.*

February 9, 1906

### FAIRFIELD ITEMS

The medicine show was well attended during last week. They took several hundred dollars from this place.

Mr. S.W. Plank and family, after spending one week with her parents in Fairfield, has returned to her home in Taneytown.

Mr. Samuel Hoofnagle, who was driving Mr. Wm. Lynn's lumber team has quit wagoning. He thought it too dangerous for a man of his age.

Mr. Daniel Sanders, who lives on B.F. Sanders property, will move into Mr. W.C. Roger's house in Fairfield; his son-in-law, Ed McCleaf, is moving in with him.

Mr. George McGlaughlin, of Fairfield was agreeable surprised on last Monday evening by his many friends and neighbors in honor of his 44<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mrs. Harry Brown, of Fairfield, is visiting near Cashtown.

Mr. Carl Reindollar and Christ, Musselman hauled the show people to Biglerville on Tuesday.

There were a few loads of ice put up on Tuesday but ice hauling is done, perhaps for this winter. There only remains 6 weeks until the first of April, then it will be flitting time.

Next Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> will decide whether Fairfield will have water works for the town.

Mr. Wm. Reed lost a horse last week. The animal had one of his legs broken and had to be killed.

Miss Fannie Snyder, who had typhoid fever has taken a back set and is very ill at this time. Also Howard Riley has taken a back set and is quite ill.

Our butchers are busy putting up ice 4 to 5 inches thick. It's the best they can do.

### MARRIED ON ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Mr. Theodore Bollinger and Miss Anna Francis Jackson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Jackson, of this place, were

married on St. Valentine's Day, at 4 o'clock. p.m., in the presence of a company of immediate relatives at the Lutheran Parsonage, Rev. Charles Reinwald officiating. The bride is a charming young lady, and the groom is noted for his business energy. After the ceremony an elaborate dinner was served at the home of the bride on East Main Street.

The bridal party left Emmitsburg on the evening train for Westminster and Baltimore. Many good wishes of their friends follow them.

### CORN GROWERS' CONTEST

To encourage greater interest in the culture of corn in Frederick county, the managers of the Agricultural Society have decided to have a corn growers contest at the next annual fair. A prize of a set of buggy harnesses will be offered for the best 15 ears of yellow corn grown by a Frederick County boy 16 years of age or under. The prize will be awarded by Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture. For entry in this contest there will be a charge of 50 cents, which will include four admissions to the fair.

### MEN PAST SIXTY IN DANGER

More than half mankind over sixty years of age suffer from kidney and bladder disorders, usually enlargement of prostate gland. This is both painful and dangerous, and Foley's Kidney Cure should be taken at the first sign of danger, as it corrects irregularities and has cured many old men of this disease. Mr. Rodney Burnett, of Rock Port, Mo., writes: "I suffered with enlarged prostate gland, and kidney trouble for years and after taking two bottles of Foley's Kidney Cure I feel better than I have for twenty years although I am now 91 years old." W. Tyson Lansinger.

### HARNEY NEWS

The Odd Fellows had an oyster supper on Friday evening. It was well attended.

## TOWN NEWS

## New community deputy patrols with former Ft. Detrick associate

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Frederick County Sheriff's Office has assigned Deputy John Bartlett, 38, to the town, replacing Deputy James Moxley, who recently transferred to another assignment.

Bartlett was raised in Girard, Illinois, graduating from high school in 1986, and subsequently joining the army, where he served as a military policeman (MP) until 1997.

He graduated in 1997 from the Pennsylvania Police Academy, and earned an associate degree in police science from Frederick County Community College. In 1997, Bartlett joined the Green Castle, Pa. Police Department.

From 1998 to 2000, Bartlett

served as a U.S. Department of Defense officer at Fort Detrick, where he worked with Emmitsburg community officer Deputy Donald Duman.

Bartlett joined the Frederick County Sheriff's Office in 2000, initially patrolling North Frederick County and subsequently patrolling the Middletown-Myersville area.

The deputy is also a member of the sheriff's office honor guard, participating in parades and funeral details on behalf of the force, and in special events requiring posting of the colors (flags).

His membership in the honor guard entitled him to a new 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, the black and white deputy car now seen on the streets of Emmitsburg. Officers attached to the traffic unit for the sheriff's office have also been issued the new cars.

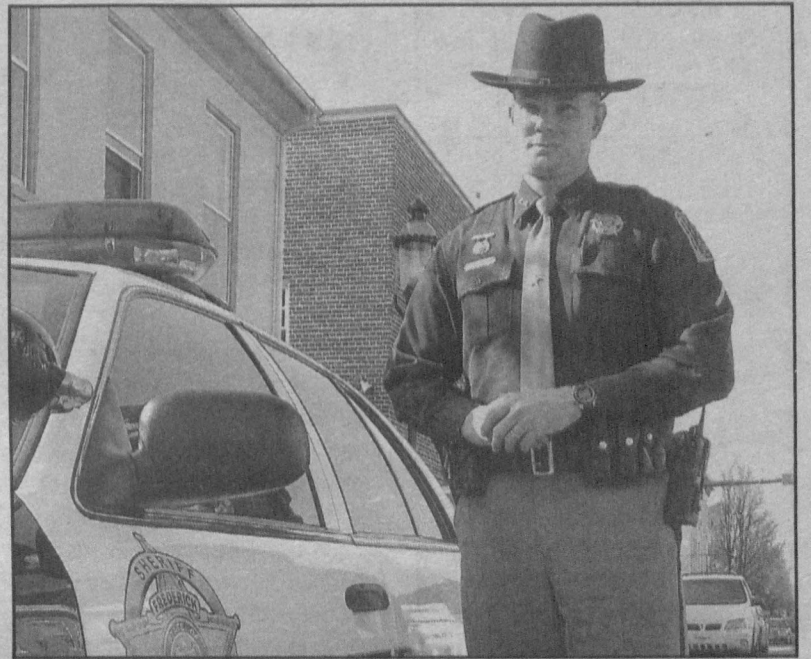
Bartlett's assignment in Emmitsburg is his first community deputy post.

"I'm familiar with Emmitsburg from doing patrols in the north county. I love this area ... it (his new position) provided a different opportunity to patrol," he told *The Dispatch*, adding that he was looking forward to "a chance to work with the community and getting to know the citizens."

Like fellow deputy Duman, Bartlett will spend some of his on-duty time patrolling Emmitsburg on bicycle.

Bartlett lives in Green Castle with his wife and children, and spends much of his off-duty time with his family and in church activities.

Residents wanting to discuss problems may call the deputy at 301-360-3933.



—RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

### New Emmitsburg community deputy

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office Deputy John Bartlett, 38, stands behind his new 2006 Ford Crown Victoria in front of the community deputy's office on East Main Street, Emmitsburg. Bartlett has been assigned to replace Deputy James Moxley, who recently transferred to another assignment.

## Referendum process spelled out in state law

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — Residents can sometimes have the final say in significant decisions made by elected town officials by initiating a referendum as provided by state law.

In the case of a town charter change, like the recent revision to create a fifth commissioner position, residents wanting to challenge that decision could take the issue directly to the voters through a referendum (a public vote).

Procedures for initiating a referendum are spelled out in Article 23A, Section 13 of the "Annotated Code of Maryland."

To bring an issue to a referendum, a petition must be filed stating the existing wording to be challenged, along with the change proposed by the petitioners.

The petition must be filed in the town offices within 40 calendar days from the approval of the charter change being challenged. Since Emmitsburg commissioners approved the charter change Jan. 18, petitioners have until Feb. 28 to file. If no petition is filed by Feb. 28, the charter change will go into effect on March 10.

A referendum petition must be signed by at least 20 percent of Emmitsburg's registered voters, about 266 signatures, based on 1,334 registered voters.

After receiving a petition, town staff would have to hold a public meeting. Each petitioner's name would be read and verified as a

qualified or non-qualified petitioner.

If the petition is found to have been signed by the required number of qualified voters, the commissioners would be required to approve a resolution indicating that a referendum would be held at the next regular election or during a special election.

As an alternative to holding a charter amendment referendum, the commissioners could pass a resolution adopting the amendment proposed by the referendum petition.

If a special election were to be held, state law provides that it be held not less than 40, no more than 60 days, following the decision that the petition is valid.

Thomas Reynolds, manager of research and information for the Maryland Municipal League (MML), told *The Dispatch*, "Once they (the town) receive a petition, they would not be able to enact the law" in question. Proposed changes would be "in abeyance" until the referendum outcome was determined.

A guidebook on handling charter amendments and referenda, "Charter amendment procedures for Maryland municipalities," is available at the MML Web site: <http://www.mdmmunicipal.org/documents/pubdocs/CharterAmendmentHandbook.pdf>.



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## Town election in April 25

The next Emmitsburg town election is scheduled for April 25. Residents will vote for at least one town commissioner post — Arthur Elder's term will expire. Town officials recently voted to add a fifth commissioner to the board, who would also likely be selected during this election as well.

- Candidate filing deadline: 4:30 p.m., March 27.
- Write-in candidate registration deadline: 4:30 p.m., April 18.
- Any town resident 18 years or older can run.

Voter registration deadline: April 7.

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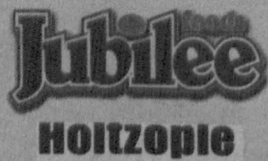
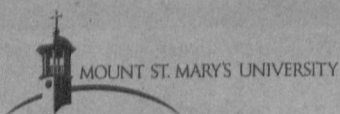


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## TOWN NEWS

# Northgate access remedy may be long way off

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
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EMMITSBURG, Md. —

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners directed town staff at their Feb. 6 meeting to inquire about easements to provide a new access to Northgate, but Town Manager David Haller remains doubtful that the answer will be that easy.

The North Seton Avenue entrance to Northgate lies within the Flat Run 100-year flood plain. Residents of both Northgate and Emmit Ridge developments have expressed concerns about access to the developments when roads are flooded.

The Emmit Ridge portion of the overall site sits at the rear of the land near Irishtown Road, but no access to Irishtown Road was ever constructed, forcing those residents to share access off North Seton with Northgate residents.

Since Emmit Ridge contains 16 houses, and Northgate has 75 houses, 91 households must rely on the same flood plain-sited access road.

The board had discussed at its previous meeting replacing the existing access point, but how to do so remained questionable. It seemed clear that creating another entrance off North Seton was not doable since the flood plain parallels North Seton between the road and the frontage of Northgate.

Connecting to Irishtown Road seemed the only plausible option, but that approach requires either condemning land (eminent domain) or establishing an easement with the Emmit Ridge property owner to allow an access road to the two developments across that property.

Town Manager David Haller feels that because the town ultimately rejected the preliminary plan for the Emmit Ridge development, that

development's property owner, Sunnie Cahler, might not be inclined to help the town resolve the Northgate access issue.

He was also not enthusiastic about condemnation of land, which could take a strip of land from the current owner, possibly impacting over a million dollars' worth of property, and forcing the town to reimburse the owner a similar amount.

The town manager expressed his feeling that, in the end, establishing an access to Northgate outside the flood zone might involve simply waiting

until adjacent land is developed, and requiring that developer to provide for an alternate access to Northgate.

"There are really not too many alternatives until property to the west is developed. Available land just doesn't exist," he stated at the recent town meeting.

Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr. said at the Feb. 6 meeting, "I am willing to go as far as necessary to see that the (new) road is built," adding that the current situation is "not acceptable: and that 'human lives are in the balance.'"

## Northgate was approved with flood plain entrance

EMMITSBURG, Md. —

The Board of Commissioners has spent portions of two town meetings struggling to find an answer to replacing the current Northgate development entrance located within the Flat Run 100-year flood plain.

Town Manager David Haller told *The Dispatch* the access issue goes back to 1990 when the site plan for Northgate was approved with its main entrance sitting in the flood plain. Both Planning Commission Chairman Gene Myers and Mayor Robert Preston signed off on those plans.

Haller also said that since the town rescinded Emmit Ridge's preliminary plan approval and the development was never built out, a portion of that development is landlocked and can only be reached using

Northgate's access road.

Residents have expressed concerns over emergency access when the road is closed during flooded conditions and the potential inability of parents to get home to children.

Sabrina Paxton-Daily, president of the Northgate Homeowners Association, told the board Jan. 18 that the intersection is closed officially two to three times a year due to flooded conditions, "but there are other times when it should have been closed."

Addressing the 1990 approval of the access road within the flood plain, post on Daily stated on Feb. 6, "It's clear for whatever reason ... it seems the town was remiss in approving our subdivision. This is a situation I believe you are liable for." — R. Fulton

## MDE unlikely to investigate 'missing' valve

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — The reasons a wastewater collection system valve went "missing" and when remains undetermined, but the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) may not be the appropriate agency to investigate.

According to Town Manager David Haller, somehow, during 1988 or 1989 when the new sewer plant and trunk line from the pumping station to the treatment plant was being constructed, an air relief valve critical to the operation of the system was never installed.

The missing valve would have helped control the flow of wastewater through the collection system at the point where a pressurized line leading from town joined a gravity-fed line leading to the plant. Its absence may have led to the spillage over time of hundreds of thousands of gallons of wastewater.

Richard McIntyre, spokesman for MDE, said on Jan. 11, "All the (MDE) staff has said was, 'Unless we get hold of some historical documents, we're not interested in backtracking as to why the valve did not get in.'"

Rigging systems to work by altering the designs on-site was

"common practice back then (the 1980s)," McIntyre stated.

"We don't have copies of what was done at that time. There are many old systems throughout the state that were worked on when they didn't worry about that kind of stuff," he said.

McIntyre said the system as built "probably worked at the time (even without the missing valve) because it didn't have enough users then to cause overfills." As more people came online over time, he said, pressure in the line increased, leading to the spillages.

The spokesman said that if there were problems with the as-built compared to what had been specified, that would have been a contract issue between the builder and the town and not normally an issue for MDE.

However, he said, "If that action led to the indirect violation of the law (sewage spills), you would think they (town staff) would have come to us."

McIntyre pointed out another mystery, "The whole line was supposed to have been forced main, but it is obvious it was not constructed." MDE could not say how this discrepancy came about.

(See related story, "'Missing' valve may be causing sewer spills" in the July 21, 2005 issue of *The Dispatch*.)

### Town of Emmitsburg - Planning Commission

The town of Emmitsburg is seeking persons with experience in the following areas of expertise; Civil Engineering, Land Surveying, Land Use/Zoning and Land Development who are interested in serving on the Town's Planning Commission.

Interested parties with the previously noted expertise should send a letter of interest to Mayor James Hoover at - The Town Office 300-A South Seton Ave. Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

### Election Judges Needed for 2006 Election

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners are seeking persons to serve as election judges for the April 25, 2006 Town election.

In accordance with the Emmitsburg Town Code, judges must be registered and qualified voters and not hold or be a candidate for any other Emmitsburg public office.

All judges are compensated for Election Day work and meals.

To apply, or for more information, call 240-629-6300, or e-mail mayorhoover@emmitsburgmd.gov

# Recycling

-Continued from page 1

adding 3,535 homes to the existing service area at an additional cost of \$58,515 for the last six months of 2006.

DUSWM based its examination of areas on expansion eligibility criteria, including:

- Are the areas in question partially serviced?
- Curbside expansion criteria index;
- Have citizens requested the service?

The DUSWM evaluated 29 specific areas in the county for

potential expansion, 20 of which it recommended, based on the eligibility criteria.

"We certainly support the recommendation for expansion. People have been waiting for that for a long time," Commissioner Jan Gardner stated. "We've been hearing...for years...about curbside expansion," she noted.

Speaking on behalf of expansion of services into Emmitsburg at the meeting were board of commissioners President Christopher V. Staiger and former Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker.

Staiger told *The Dispatch* following the meeting in Frederick,

"The town government chose to give up the (recycling) drop-off center a couple of years ago. Hopefully, the saturation of the entire Emmitsburg area will help to take some of the pressure off for recycling."

The only local development not included in the recycling expansion proposal for county fiscal year 2006 was Southgate, on South Seton Avenue. Staiger said the development was likely excluded because the number of households does not meet the county's criteria. However, he said that Southgate could be reevaluated for inclusion next year.

# Casino

-Continued from page 1

formal record that the board considers when deciding which of the proposed facilities to license," according to PGCB Chairman Tad Decker.

The proposed Gettysburg area casino falls within PGCB's Category 2, a stand-alone casino not associated with a horse park. The Category 2 sites include two in Philadelphia, one in Pittsburgh, and two "wild card" licenses which can be anywhere in the state.

The Crossroads Gaming Resort & Spa, proposed on Route 30 near the U.S. 15 interchange by Chance Enterprises, will be vying for one of the two "wild card" licenses.

Crossroads' non-Philadelphia, non-Pittsburgh competitors and their

proposed locations include:

- Tropicana Pennsylvania, LLC (Allentown);
- Sands Bethworks Gaming LLC (Bethlehem);
- Boyd Pennsylvania Partners, LP (Limerick);
- Mount Airy #1, LLC (Monroe County); and
- Pocono Manor Investors, LP (Monroe County).

Two of the "wild card" contenders previously listed for Category 2 permits, Trum Construction Company (Western Pennsylvania) and Pennsylvania Gaming Group, LLP (Lancaster), have potentially been eliminated from further consideration because of allegedly incomplete applications.

PGCB Spokesman Nick Hays told *The Dispatch* that the board found that the two applicants failed to

provide letters of credit or bonds, and that Trum further failed to provide an application filing fee. Both were given ten days to establish that they had complied with application requirements.

"They did not submit everything that was necessary," Hays stated. Should they fail to do so, the application would be eliminated from the list of contenders.

## Town Meetings

- **Commissioners Meeting**  
1st & 3rd Monday  
7:30 p.m.
- **Planning and Zoning Commission**  
Last Monday  
7:30 p.m.
- **Parks Commission**  
Feb. 21  
7:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Emmitsburg Town Office, Emmitsburg Community Center, 300A South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. For information call 240-629-6300 or visit [www.emmitsburgmd.gov](http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov).

# Candidates

-Continued from page 1

*The Dispatch* Feb. 6, "I haven't made up my mind yet," about running for re-election.

Elder was defeated last year when, as a sitting commissioner, he challenged incumbent Mayor James E. Hoover. In addition, in April of last year, the town ethics commission determined that Elder had violated town ethics regulations. On Nov. 23, 2005, Elder filed a \$5.4 million lawsuit against named town administrators and boards, including the board of commissioners. That lawsuit is still unresolved.

Former Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel, who served on the board from 2002 to 2005, when she was defeated for re-election, told *The Dispatch* Feb. 3 that she will definitely be running for board of commissioners.

Former Commissioner Clifford Sweeney, who served on the board from 2001 to 2004, confirmed Feb. 7 that he would run only if two seats were open on the board, not wanting to vie for a seat against Rosensteel.

Other unsuccessful candidates in last year's election were Harold C. Craig, Jr. and Catherine Forrence, who both ran for commissioner, and Stanley Mazaleski, who ran for the mayoral seat.

Forrence told *The Dispatch* that she did not know if she was going to run, while Mazaleski said, "I don't think I'm going to run, but I am thinking about running for county commissioner." *The Dispatch* was unable to reach Craig for comment before press deadline.

## Financial disclosures required

### Fifth commissioner could still be challenged

Candidates must file for office by March 27 to be on the ballot, or until noon, April 18 to be considered a write-in. Each must also provide proof of residency and duration of residency.

Every candidate must file a financial disclosure statement both 30 days before and seven days after the election (covering the 30-day period of time from the first filing).

The deadline to register to vote in the April 25 election is April 7. Voters must register with the Frederick County Board of Elections.

Because adding a fifth commissioner requires a change in the town charter, residents have 40 calendar days to challenge the decision by filing a referendum petition, forcing the issue to a public vote if enough signatures are gathered.

If no such petition is filed within that timeframe, the charter change will go into effect on the 50<sup>th</sup> calendar day from passage, in time for the seat to be open for the town's April election.

An attempt by Mayor James E. Hoover to veto the board of commissioners' decision to amend the town charter allowing for a fifth commissioner and removing the mayor's ability to vote as a member of the board was rescinded Jan. 26 when the town was advised that the veto of a charter change might violate state regulations.

(See related story, "The referendum process: spelled out in state law," in this issue of *The Dispatch*).

## Town may buy land for parking

EMMITSBURG, Md. - Town administrators may soon purchase land located between South Seton Avenue and School Lane for future additional community parking.

The land, about 220 feet long and 90 feet wide, may be purchased for more than \$300,000 from owner Josh Bollinger. Town Manager David Haller told *The Dispatch*. Bollinger's property is one of the few parcels of land in town that would accommodate a parking lot.

"Some point in the future it could become a parking lot," Haller said. The lot would have to be paved, as opposed to graveled, because of town regulations. A rented house would also be part of the acquisition, according to Haller. - R. Fulton

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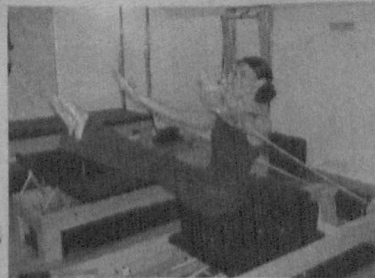
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## TOWN NEWS

# Commissioners balk at adopting ethics protocol

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
Emmitsburg News Editor  
rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

EMMITSBURG, Md. – After nearly a year of belaboring the point that the ethics commission had no written procedures by which to conduct an investigation, the town board of commissioners balked Feb. 6 at adopting a set of guidelines offered by the town's attorney.

Town Attorney John R. Clapp prepared the draft ethics ordinance and guidelines in June 2005 at the direction of the board of commissioners, who had demanded during an ongoing ethics investigation that the ethics commission produce written guidelines.

Instead of accepting the seven month-old draft that Clapp provided, which cost the town over \$4,000 according to resident Catherine Forrence, the board decided at the Feb. 6 meeting to direct the town staff to find protocols that already exist within other communities or from the state.

**Town staff will look for existing rules**

Board President Christopher V. Staiger said the investigatory process of the previous ethics cases was a "painful situation ... I don't know if it accomplished anything for the parties involved." Regarding whether or not to adopt an ethics protocol, he said, "No matter what we decide ... there will be factions unhappy."

"My recommendation is to have town staff identify a 'best practices' (guidelines used successfully by other governmental entities)," Staiger said.

William B. O'Neil, Jr. said, "If you want to go down this road (using Clapp's draft rather than looking elsewhere for rules already in use), that's fine, but it's going to need a lot of work," calling the draft "reactive, not proactive."

Town Manager David Haller said, "It might be more palatable to everyone if there is something out there acceptable to the MML (Maryland Municipal League). ... I don't think anybody is happy with the difficulties we've been involved with here (referring to the town's first ethics investigation

initiated in late 2004 and concluded in April 2005)."

**Belated rules were requested last April**

In April 2005, the town ethics commission determined that commissioners O'Neil and Arthur Elder, had violated the town's ethics code.

However, neither O'Neil nor Elder participated in the ethics investigation, citing the lack of an adopted, written protocol for the ethics commission to follow.

At the March 21, 2005 town meeting, the commissioners voted to require the ethics commission to provide them with procedures and a timeline for completing the investigation in time for the April 4 town meeting.

Town Manager David Haller told the commissioners then he had received only a partial response by that deadline. Clearly frustrated, referring to the commission's inaction as bordering on insubordination, O'Neil then led a failed attempt to oust ethics commission Chairman Theodore Brennan.

## Town News Briefs ...

**Lt. Governor visit already yielding results**

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Maryland Lieutenant Governor Michael S. Steele's Jan. 30 visit to the community, along with an entourage of representatives from various state and county agencies, is already beginning to pay off, according to Mayor James E. Hoover.

Hoover attributes Steele's visit as the impetus behind a meeting between the mayor and town staff and the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to discuss issues relating to South Seton Avenue.

The town wants to replace and/or repair the water and sewer lines, some of which may necessitate tearing up parts of the road.

Hoover will be asking the SHA to do curb and gutter work along South Seton at the same time as town work in order to coordinate road closures that could result from different timing on the two projects. Coordinated efforts would minimize the impact closures might have on residents and commuters.

An initial meeting between the town and the SHA could be imminent or might have already taken place by publication deadline. – R. Fulton

**DePaul will likely be dropped as snow route**

EMMITSBURG, Md. – DePaul Street may be dropped as part of the town's snow emergency route now that the board of commissioners has turned the final decision over to town staff with the suggestion to return to the pre-snow route policy.

Commission President Christopher V. Staiger stated at the Feb. 6 meeting, "Let the town staff decide the course" after suggestions that DePaul Street residents might prefer that travel on the road be reduced to a single lane during storms, rather than having to relocate their cars to allow both sides to be plowed as a snow route.

The town recently rescinded 71 parking tickets issued during a snow emergency because of improper notification, but, due to limited parking resources in town, residents were hard put to find places to move their cars.

Asked if the town staff would consider reverting to the former policy under which one lane of DePaul was plowed to provide at least limited access, Town Manager David Haller said, "I never got any citizen complaints under the former plan. They might have gotten their cars buried, but they just dug them out." – R. Fulton

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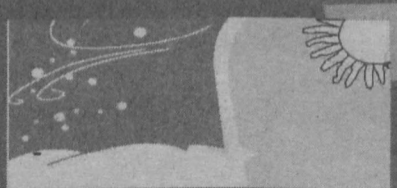
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## REGIONAL NEWS

# Ambulance service fees could rise

BY JAMES RADA, JR.  
Thurmont News Editor  
jrada@thurmontdispatch.com

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Emmitsburg Ambulance Company runs about 950 calls a year, and residents pay a service fee to have the ambulance help them. But those fees may increase 20 percent if the Frederick County Commissioners enact changes suggested by the Division of Fire and Rescue Services.

"Our ambulance billing program is designed to recoup the costs of service," said Commissioner Mike Cady.

And the cost of those routine calls is increasing, according to County EMS Billing Coordinator Tawanda Bailey.

Non-emergency BLS (Basic Life Support) calls cost \$200 and emergency BLS calls are \$300 and have been unchanged since they were first implemented in 1993. The commissioners will hold a public hearing to help them decide whether to increase the non-emergency BLS fee to \$240 and the emergency BLS fee to \$360.

BLS fees provide 80 percent of the county revenues from ambulance transport insurance billing or \$2.2 million in fiscal 2005. According to Bailey, the increase would be \$431,200 throughout the county.

How much of the increase individual companies would see depends on the company's fire tax district.

Emmitsburg's ambulance company serves an urban district, which means it has paid personnel around the clock. Because the county incurs greater costs to support an urban company, the company receives 25 percent of the ambulance fees.

"Whatever funds we receive are placed in a separate account and used for the upkeep of the building, purchasing equipment, utilities and everything needed to operate the company," said Joe Pelkey,

president of the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company.

About 60 percent of Emmitsburg Ambulance's calls are BLS. The remaining calls are considered advanced life support. ALS fees were increased in the county in 2004.

Thurmont's ambulance company serves a suburban district. This means less paid personnel and less county expense so the company receives 75 percent of the ambulance fees.

In addition to this ambulance fee, if a patient is taken to a hospital, an additional \$7.50 per mile is charged to the resident.

## Subscription club saves money

FREDERICK, Md. — Members of the Ambulance Subscription Club do not worry about increases in service fees.

For an annual payment, the subscription club accepts third party reimbursements as complete payment for ambulance services with no out-of-pocket expenses for the member. So even if insurance won't pay the full cost of the ambulance call, the subscription program covers the difference.

According to County EMS

Billing Coordinator Tawanda Bailey, about 20,000 residents subscribed to the program this year.

"Some people look at it as a contribution to their local company," Bailey said.

Seniors pay \$15 a year, adults pay \$25 a year and household of three or more people pay \$50 a year. All of this money supports the local ambulance company that serves the member.

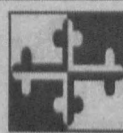
For more information, call 301-694-1308. -J. Rada

## A comparison of area ambulance fees

The proposed changes to the Basic Life Support (BLS) fees would still leave Frederick County's fees lower than many of the surrounding areas. Advanced Life Support (ALS) fees were raised in Frederick County in 2004. (N/C indicates no change.)

	BLS Non-emergency	BLS Emergency	ALS 1	ALS 2
Frederick County-Current	\$200	\$300	\$450	\$520
Frederick County-Proposed	\$240	\$360	\$450	\$520
Taneytown	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Union Bridge	\$600	\$600	\$700	\$700
Westminster	\$650	\$650	\$700	\$700
Smithsburg	\$200	\$350	\$450	\$550
Adams County	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Blue Ridge Summit	\$300	\$300	N/C	N/C

Source: Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services



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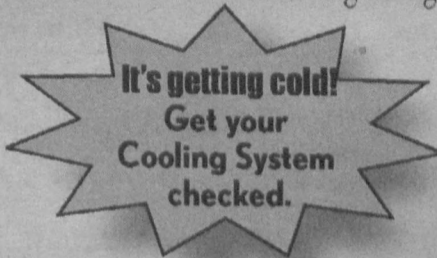
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## REGIONAL NEWS

# Baltimore developer unveils revamped Flat Run proposal

BY WILLIAM K. REINKE  
Contributing Writer

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, Pa. — In front of a packed hall at the Feb. 7 Liberty Township council meeting, Baltimore area developer Jim Quillen, Quillen Development, Inc., unveiled a revised plan for The Preserve at Flat Run, a 122-acre development proposed along Carrolls Tract Road.

The new plan revealed some dramatic changes from the original proposal, most notably the amount of land to be developed. The original plan utilized nearly the entire parcel to build 95 home sites averaging 40,000 square feet (about an acre) each.

The revised plan leaves over 70 percent of the land as green space, and calls for 88 lots to be developed averaging 8,500 square feet each. Walking trails and a picnic area are planned for the undeveloped land, and every house will back onto open space.

Quillen has addressed most of the township's concerns, but the number of homes proposed is still being debated. The current ordinance calls for a maximum of 72, but on Feb. 16, the zoning commission will hear the developer's request for a variance to allow more homes to be built. This hearing begins at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

A farm pond will be maintained to supply the community with fire suppression facilities and the old farmhouse on the property will be restored to its mid-nineteenth century appearance.

Several neighbors raised questions over the impact this development would have on their lifestyle. Addressing concerns about visual and noise pollution, Quillen stated that screens of trees would be planted and a berm along Carrolls Tract Road would be constructed to ease the impact for neighbors and passersby.

In response to a resident who asked what impact the proposed

community well serving the new homes would have on her well "which hasn't run dry in 50 years," Quillen assured the woman that the community well would be "1,000 to 1,500 feet deep" and would have no impact on the existing wells in the area.

"This is a completely different animal than typical residential wells," Quillen said. Asked if he could guarantee that her well would not run dry, a spokesperson for the developer said that was beyond their legal capability, but assured the resident that the proposed well was within state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) standards, which consider the impact on existing wells.

Ryan Homes has been contracted as the builder for the preserve and the homes should be similar in style and size to those in Emmitsburg's Brookfield development. Quillen expected the price of the new homes to range from \$350,000 to \$650,000.

## Carroll Valley News Briefs ...

### Committee recommends no speed humps

CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH, Pa. — The borough council unanimously approved the public safety committee's recommendation not to install speed humps on neighborhood roads at its Jan. 10 meeting.

The borough police department conducted a three-month traffic study last fall in response to complaints about excessive speeds on some residential roads. They monitored several roads, using traffic counters to measure vehicle volume and speed.

The data gathered suggested that citizens' complaints were anecdotal and that "there is not usually a large number of speeding vehicles, but more often a few select cars creating concerns," according to Police Chief Richard Hileman's report presented to the committee on Jan. 10.

Hileman was "actually surprised" by the study results and found the typical speeds recorded by the counters to be ... "really reasonable. It is unrealistic to expect the majority of drivers to drive under the speed limit. The real question is by how much the limits are being exceeded."

The police department owns the traffic counters and will continue to monitor the situation as circumstances warrant. — *W. Reinke*

### Park pavilion slated for overhaul

CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH, Pa. — The borough council gave manager David Hazlett authority to proceed with plans to renovate the borough pavilion, with an expense cap of \$45,000.

The estimated cost of materials for the much-needed project is around \$20,000. There was some debate as to what labor would be utilized - borough employees or outside contractors.

Most of the work will occur during winter months when the pavilion is not in use. Council members were concerned that relying on borough employees could be problematic when their energies are needed to contend with snowstorms. Therefore, contractors will likely be hired for most of the work.

According to Hazlett, the project will be completed in two phases, with some work being done before spring. The work will be curtailed during the warmer months and then completed late in 2006.

The \$45,000 budget does not include heating and air conditioning for the pavilion, which is desirable to extend its usable season. Council President Thomas Wolf suggested this \$10,000 expense might come in the form of donations and requested the public's support. — *W. Reinke*

### Council vows to keep citizens better informed

CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH, Pa. — In an effort to keep constituents better informed, the borough council voted unanimously to have all committee reports submitted in writing at council meetings and incorporated into the meeting minutes.

The documents would then be posted on the borough Web site, [www.carrollvalley.org](http://www.carrollvalley.org), once approved. With written reports incorporated into council minutes, and approved the subsequent month, citizens will be able to view all committee reports in a timelier manner.

Council President Thomas Wolf raised the concern because of the delay in committee meeting minutes becoming public due to infrequent gatherings of some committees. Previously, the minutes were made public once they were approved at the next committee meeting. In the interim, committee reports were delivered orally to the borough council.

All borough council and committee meetings are open to the public. The 2006 meeting schedule is available at the borough office. — *W. Reinke*

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REGIONAL NEWS

# 'Fairfield Commons' plans withdrawn pending redesign

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
Emmitsburg News Editor  
rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — A proposal to build a 22-unit, in-fill project in Fairfield has been withdrawn by the developer, but the project is being redesigned.

Local developer David Sites told the borough planning commission Feb. 13 that he decided to withdraw his previous proposal based on comments received during the various proposal reviews.

The development involved about 1.3 acres of land fronting on Main Street adjacent to the First National Bank.

Sites said he has directed his designers to develop a concept which would dramatically reduce the number of variations or exceptions that would be needed.

"We are totally reinventing it (the development)," Sites stated. He said the homes would all be duplexes with avenues (access) provided between the buildings. Under the previous plan, 18 of the 22 units would have been town homes, currently prohibited in Fairfield.

Sites said the architecture would match adjacent buildings in the neighborhood, and that the new proposed building heights would be within town requirements.

However, two buildings will be

demolished under the new proposal: the Kump building (26-28 West Main Street), for which Sites has submitted a demolition permit application; and the vacant First National Bank of Fairfield building (20 West Main Street). Sites has already acquired the demolition permit for the bank.

Sites projected that the development, built-out as redesigned, could generate an annual tax base of \$76,000 or more (assuming that each of the 22 homes sells for an average of at least \$250,000). At present the land only generates about \$9,500 per year in taxes.

The new proposal is unlikely to be presented to the borough before April.

POLICE ACTIVITY

# Police charge two with child pornography offenses

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — A 39-year old Tract Road resident and a 30-year old Waynesboro Pike resident have been charged with child pornography-related offenses following their arrests by Liberty Township Police on Feb. 7.

Charged by the Liberty Township Police with possession of materials depicting a child under 18 years of age and using a computer to access the Internet to download child pornography was Ralph Douglas Tracey, 39, and Bryan Richard Varner, 30, both listed as being from Fairfield.

According to the complaints in both cases, police conducted an investigation into the distribution of child pornography over the Internet, which ultimately led to the arrests of Tracey and Varner. The investigation included acquiring court orders to access Adelphia records, whose Internet service was allegedly used by the two men.

In both cases, search warrants were obtained and computers allegedly belonging to the two suspects were seized. Police allege that Tracey's computer was later found to contain two images of child

pornography with a known victim, 208 images of child pornography and 47 child pornographic movies. Varner's computer allegedly contained several images of child pornography and one child pornographic movie.

Possession of materials depicting a child under 18 years of age is a third degree felony for a first offense and using a communications device to access the Internet to download child pornography is a violation of the state crimes code. *Compiled from police reports.*

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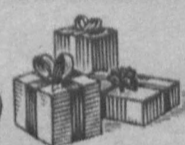
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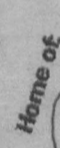
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# ROCKY RIDGE BANQUET - 2006



**Officers**

Seated, L to R: Steve Whetzel, chief; Alan Hurley, 1st assistant chief; 2nd Asst Chief - Andy Mathias, 2nd assistant chief. Lieutenants - Luke Humerick, Dennis Mathias, Doug Wivell  
 Standing, L to R: Robert Mumma, president; Dale Kline, vice president; Paulette Mathias, secretary; Penny Whetzel, assistant secretary; Bernard Wivell, treasurer; Bonny Hurley, assistant treasurer; Pastor James Russell, chaplain. Directors - Tom Myerly, Steve Wolfe, Dennis Ott, Craig Hovermale, director not pictured Ronnie Eyler.

ROCKY RIDGE, Md. - The Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company's annual banquet was a profitable one for the company.

Members gathered in the Rocky Ridge Activities Building on Jan. 26 to celebrate the company's success during their annual banquet.

The Ladies Auxiliary prepared the banquet meal and Rocky Ridge 4-H Club served it. Pastor James Russell delivered the invocation and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

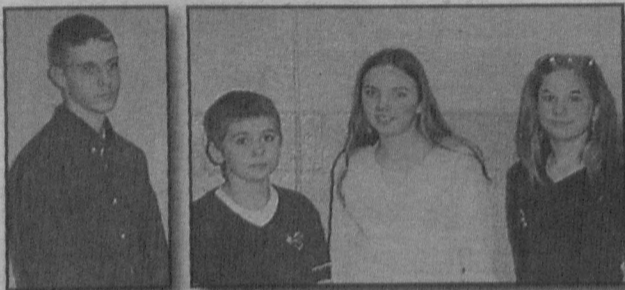
Ladies Auxiliary President Betty Ann Mumma reported on auxiliary activities for 2005 and presented Company President Robert Mumma with \$10,000 in donations from the auxiliary.

Russell led a memorial service for members Ralph Baker and Daniel Kaas who both passed away during 2005.

One of the company's achievements in 2005 was the creation of the Rocky Ridge Jr. Firemen in March. Luke Humerick introduced the officers and all 16 members. He also reported on the Jr. Firemen's activities during the year, including raising \$1,000.

Jr. Firemen President Ronnie Stonesifer thanked the leaders who helped his group and presented Rocky Ridge Fire Chief Steve Whetzel with a check for \$200. It will help pay for the grill for the fire truck the company wants to purchase. - J. Rada

-PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROCKY RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

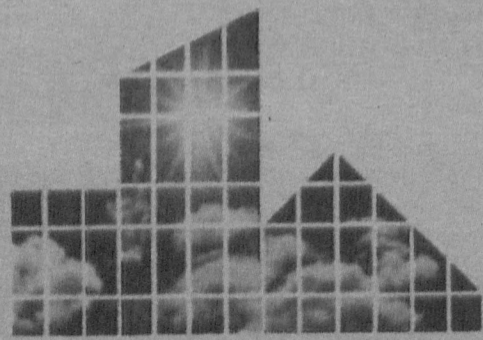


**Jr. Firemen's Officers - 2005**

L to R: Ronnie Stonesifer, president; Branden Humerick, vice-president; Megan Whetzel, treasurer; Amber Humerick, secretary



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**Ladies Auxiliary Officers**

L to R: Helen Burrier, assistant treasurer; Linda Northrup, historian; Betty Ann Mumma, president; Emily Sixx, chaplain; Brenda Miller, assistant secretary.  
 Not pictured: Betty Lee Mumma, treasurer; Nancy Summers, vice president; Libby Myers, assistant chaplain



**Top Ten Responders**

Seated, L to R: 1st Christina Hurley (90), 2nd Leon Stover Jr. (84), 3rd Bonny Hurley (81), 4th Tom Myerly (64), 5th Matt Moser (58)  
 Standing, L to R: 6th Becky Ott (57), 7th Kevin Albaugh (50), 8th Denny Ott (45), 9th Paulette Mathias (39), 10th Donnie Kaas (37)

# THURMONT AMBULANCE BANQUET - 2006

## Thurmont Ambulance celebrates its service

THURMONT, Md. —  
Thurmont Community Ambulance Service held their annual banquet on Jan. 21 at the Thurmont American Legion Post 168.

The 2006 officers are President Jason West, Vice President Joseph Wehage, Secretary Bobbie Jo Gift, Assistant Secretary Josh Wiles, Treasurer Judith White, Assistant Treasurer Joy Burrier and directors Randy Waesche, David Riffle and Jason Schultz. Operations officers are Chief Brian Shriner, Assistant Chief James Humerick, Lieutenants Dennis "DJ" Ott and James Kilby and Sergeant Josh Wiles.

Maryland State Firemen's Association President Lee Sachs installed the officers. Randy Waesche served as master of ceremonies and Rev. Ruth Ann Ward of Weller United Methodist Church delivered the invocation.

Wehage was awarded life membership for 20 years of service. Kilby received the President's Award and Jason Schultz received the Chief's Award. Waesche received special recognition for his years of service as a Frederick County dispatcher and Director of Emergency Communications.

The top ten responders were presented with an embroidered job shirt. They are: Brian Shriner, 173 calls; Riffle, 159; Marie Conte, 143; Wehage, 138; Jim Humerick, 108; Joe Muller, 106; Kilby, 85; Ott, 81; Schultz, 79 and Gift with 74.

The Point System Award were: Gift (254), Riffle (252), Ott (231), Lowman Keeney (223), Humerick (212), Wehage (211), Kilby (206), Conte (206), Shriner (201), Ryan Stoutler (196), West (185), Nathan Gift (163), Joy Burrier (147), Muller (144), Carrie Muller (144), Schultz (139) and White (136).

-ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOE AND PATTI WEHAGE



**2006 Administrative Officers**  
Front row, L to R: Josh Wiles, assistant secretary; Bobbie Jo Gift, secretary; Joe Wehage, vice president; and Jason West, president  
Back row, L to R: Jason Schultz, director, Randy Waesche, director, Dave Riffle, director and Judith White, treasurer



**Top Ten Responders**  
Front row, L to R: Joe Wehage, Marie Conte, Dave Riffle and Brian Shriner  
Back row, L to R: Bobbie Jo Gift, Jason Schultz, Jim Kilby, Joe Muller and Jim Humerick  
Absent from photo - Dennis Ott.



**2006 Line Officers**  
Left to right: Sgt. Josh Wiles, Lt. Jim Kilby, Assistant Chief Jim Humerick and Chief Brian Shriner.



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## LOCAL HISTORY

# Aborigine trail and stagecoach route preserved on Rocky Ridge farm

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
Emmitsburg News Editor  
rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

ROCKY RIDGE, Md. — Buck Forest Farm, owned by John and Linda Ballenger in Rocky Ridge, achieved international renown this past year for its vast treasure trove of dinosaur age fossils, but the farm contains other significant historic attributes as well.

Another one of the “jewels” of the property is the main farm road still in use. The dirt road, once a part of the main Colonial era stagecoach road from Emmitsburg to Thurmont, existed long before more direct roads were built and finally, U.S. 15.

Evidence, in the form of spearheads, thousands of years old, found along the farm road suggests its even earlier origin.

The stagecoach road was likely once part of an aborigine trail turned wagon road, part of a now nearly forgotten transportation system stretching from at least Gettysburg, through Frederick County, into Virginia and the Carolinas, and possibly terminating in Georgia.

From Frederick into the

Carolinas, this road system came to be called the Carolina Road, although the name or names of the road north of Frederick remain uncertain, according to Eugene Scheel, Virginia historian. Scheel told *The Dispatch* the road likely went beyond Gettysburg, possibly even into New York.

Regardless of where it began, this transportation route predominantly followed aborigine trails, a system of meandering paths which along streams and over ridges, with its various twists and turns based primarily on the migratory routes of wild game, through Adams and Frederick counties and south.

Most Colonial roads established by settlers followed aborigine or game trails since, for the most part, paths had already been cleared and the routes could be used by early wagons with little or no additional improvements.

It was not until the 1950s when a 40-mile road was built as a way of circumventing the continued use of the meandering ancient “highway” and its northern extension, which of course by then had become lost in a myriad of modern country roads.

Over the past two centuries, portions of the old Carolina Road, in one form or another, have gone from transporting occasional convoys of Conestoga wagons to nearly 100,000 vehicles a day at the intersection of Route 70 and Route 15 at Frederick, since the old road lives on, at least in part, as U.S. Route 15.

**Lumbering Conestoga wagons and stagecoaches once used this Beaver Branch ford along this dirt road, likely part of the Carolina Road. Ongoing geological work at the Ballenger Farm in 2005 resulted in the discovery by David K. Brezinski, Maryland Geological Survey, of nearby discarded cobbles (insert). Apparently, the ford was cobbled with white, glistening limestone at some point in its past.**



## Friends protect rural roads

BY MARY ELLEN MITCHELL  
Contributing Writer

Do you remember going for a Sunday drive with the family? Mom packed the picnic, Dad made sure the fishing poles and bait were in order and off you went to a grassy spot near a stream for a lazy afternoon. Inevitably, bouncing over the dirt and gravel roads made your teeth chatter and bumped you around in the back seat and you begged your dad to drive a little faster on the washboard road.

It wasn't that long ago that there were over 400 miles of dirt and gravel roads in Frederick County. And yet today there are fewer than 65 miles of these historic byways left in the county. Today's kids don't share our bumpy road memories, but one group is doing its best to preserve the dirt and gravel roads that still exist.

The Friends of Rural Roads introduced an initiative in 1991 to the Frederick County Commissioners to protect and preserve these roads. The initiative failed by one vote, but that did not deter the group. Thanks to their perseverance and research, “The Rural Roads Program” resolution was adopted by the county in 2002, accepted as “another tool to recognize and preserve the County’s agricultural and rural heritage.”

Friends’ spokesperson Susan Hanson speaks with passion and gratitude about the concerned citizens who first united in this preservation effort. “We got a petition going among a broad-based group. We are not Democrats or Republicans or “No-Growthers” — we were all concerned and rather nostalgic about keeping these roads

in their current surface condition.”

The three hundred miles of roads that once were gravel or dirt have been paved with a tar and chip mixture as part of the improvement budget in Frederick County’s Department of Public Works. The roads were paved mostly to improve safety for the public who travel them. The Rural Roads Program allows for protected roads to be removed from the program if 60 per cent of the property owners who front a particular road agree to have it improved and paved.

Sam Castleman, Executive Director of ThorpeWood environmental education center in Thurmont, is a member of the Friends of Rural Roads. ThorpeWood, which he oversees, is off Mink Farm Road and a few of the roads on the preservation list are nearby. “Those who live near rural roads have a ‘stop and smell the roses’ mentality”, he said. “The pace of life is slower. The main reason why roads get paved is because of maintenance issues. We are glad to be working with the

county on determining plans for a higher degree of maintenance.”

Rural roads preservation is an important issue in nearby Pennsylvania, where the plan is tied to a special gas tax that allows for a four million dollar budget to support engineering for these roads. “Our group read a lot and talked with our counterparts in Pennsylvania in getting a program established in Frederick County,” Hanson said.

The Frederick County Division of Public Works and the Department of Highways and Transportation are committed to preserving the character of rural roads, according to transportation engineer Dave Olney. “Roads in the program are like flies in amber; they will remain unchanged, unless the property owners ask for change.”

He noted, “Road preservation is linked to preservation efforts of the county’s historic bridges. Our rural roads follow the old property lines and haven’t been realigned since colonial times.”

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### Thurmont area rural roads

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Debold Road	2.45 miles
Dern Road	.85 miles
Eylers Valley Road	4.33 miles
Gregg Road	.95 miles
John Mehring Road	.38 miles
Raven Rock Park Road	.81 miles
Riffle Road	1.05 miles
Shoemaker Road	1.93 miles
	<b>14.94 miles</b>

Resolution No. 02-03 Sept. 24, 2002  
Frederick County Board of Commissioners

## EDUCATION

# Class of 2006 faces new graduation requirements

By SUSAN ALLEN  
Contributing Writer

Maryland and Frederick County requirements for high school diplomas have been raised for the class of 2006, and the class of 2009 will face further challenges, according to Catocin High School (CHS) principal Jack Newkirk, II.

Newkirk and CHS assistant principal Bob Viti outlined the requirements, which include course credits, a graduation project, and tests mandated by both state and

federal government standards, at the Jan. 17 meeting of the Thurmont board of commissioners at the invitation of Commissioner Ron Terpko.

Newkirk began with an overview of the 21 credits required for graduation from Maryland secondary schools. Students must earn the following credits: English (4), Social Studies (3) including Modern World History and American Studies I & II, Science (3), Mathematics (3) to include Algebra I and Geometry, Physical Education/Fitness (1/2), Health (1/2), Fine Arts (1), and Technology

Education (1). They must also earn credits from these options: Advanced Technology (2) OR Foreign Language (2) OR a state-approved Career and Technology program, plus 3 credits in elective courses from any curriculum area.

In addition, all Frederick County Public School (FCPS) students must earn 4 additional credits: 1 elective credit in Mathematics, 1 credit for a graduation project, and 2 "career pathway" elective credits. These criteria became requirements with the class of 2006.

Maryland high school students also confront two state tests before graduation. The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) is Maryland's testing program designed to meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Students must pass the MSA in English/Reading. The High School Assessments (HSA) are state-level, end-of-course examinations in Algebra, Biology, and Government. All current students must take these exams. Students in the class of 2009 (this year's ninth graders) are required to pass them in order to graduate.

Newkirk also presented an FCPS-produced video about required graduation projects. (See related article, "Graduation projects showcased," in the Jan. 19 issue of *The Dispatch*.)

Board president "Mayor" Martin Burns, who has two students "going through the process" of selecting projects, said, "The hardest part is coming up with the idea."

Commissioner Bill Blakeslee encouraged Newkirk and Viti to display some graduation projects at Thurmont's Business Expo at CHS on March 31.

## Commissioner proposes youth art competition

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr. suggested at the Feb. 6 town meeting that Emmitsburg consider holding an art competition for area youth.

The project, as O'Neil envisions it, would entail cash or savings bonds prizes for original works of art submitted by student artists from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The contestants would be divided into three age groups.

The commissioner proposed, by way of example, that the theme for 2006 could be "100 Years of Discovery — Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Emmitsburg Public Library."

If the local art contest were approved, winners' art would be displayed in the town commission chamber office for one year. A waiver would permit the town to use the art in various town-produced communications projects (such as a town calendar or other publications).

The board has placed this item on the Feb. 20 town meeting agenda for further discussion. — R. Fulton

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## Corrections

In the Feb. 2 issue of *The Dispatch*, several names appeared in error in the "Area students honored with 'King Awards'" article. Here is a corrected list of the award winners: Shelby Maly, Emmitsburg Elementary School; Josh Keller, Lewistown Elementary School; Rebecca Bittner, Sabillasville Elementary School; Jacob Dumbroski, Thurmont Primary School; Collin Schildt, Thurmont Elementary School; and Matthew Eyer, Thurmont Middle School.

In the Jan. 19 issue of *The Dispatch*, Derek Willard's name was misspelled, the first place carpentry winner in the Skills USA Contest.

We apologize for the errors.

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# The (retired) Ecologist If starlings could speak



BY BILL MEREDITH  
Dispatch Columnist

"Nay, I'll have a starling shall be taught to speak nothing but Mortimer."  
-Shakespeare

Walmart is the company we love to hate. My wife grumbles about the way it has forced small, locally owned shops out of business, but she can't resist a bargain, and regularly shops there for marked-down items. I grumble about megastores that sell people things they don't need, but I know it is more important to keep peace in the marriage than to stand up for a principle, so when she brings home "bargains" I try to keep my complaints within survivable limits. As I grow older, the lack of

logic on both our parts bothers me less than it used to.

This is the reason I found myself in the yard planting flower bulbs one day in mid-January. Now, anyone who knows the first thing about bulbs knows they should be planted in the fall before the ground freezes, so they can get their roots established before the spring growth spurt. Walmart, on the other hand, knows that most people who buy bulbs don't know the first thing about them and will buy them any time the price is marked down. So they overstock in the fall, and anything that wasn't sold when it should have been planted is put on sale later.

With all that on my mind, it is easy to see why I was not fully engaged in the business of getting crocuses into the ground at the proper depth and exposure; my hands were digging obediently, but my ears didn't have their heart in it. So when a flock of starlings flew over and

perched in the sycamore tree next door, I stopped to look at them. And, naturally, my mind wandered off to Eugene Schieffelin.

Schieffelin was a theater aficionado who lived in New York in 1890, and he thought it would be nice if he could walk through Central Park and see all of the birds mentioned in the works of Shakespeare. He scoured the entire canon, and found just one mention of starlings (I found the quotation on the Internet, but was not able to find who said it, why Mortimer was involved, or what play it was in). Apparently one mention was enough; he imported 60 starlings from England and turned them loose in the Park, and the rest is history.

Starlings are ugly, misshapen, ungraceful birds, and to make it worse they can't carry a tune. In Europe, their primary calling seems to be as gang thugs. Since their introduction in 1890 they have multiplied to the point that they are

one of our most numerous species; estimates of their population range as high as 200 million. Of course that many birds consume huge quantities of insects, but they also have a serious economic impact by pillaging grain crops. And worse, they have crowded out many native birds, especially bluebirds and red-headed woodpeckers, because they like to nest in tree holes. In fall and winter, they are a major nuisance in towns and cities, where they roost by the thousands and cover trees and sidewalks with droppings.

Normally I don't give starlings a second glance, but that day I was looking for reasons to be distracted and I was surprised by the size of the flock. Perhaps 100 of them lit in the tree at first, but they were quickly joined by a bigger group, and then more and more kept coming until the tree was black with them. They would have outnumbered the leaves, if leaves had been there; there must have been several thousands of them, and the limbs were bent by their weight. They were fascinating to watch despite their ugliness. Although they are gregarious by nature and always travel in flocks, they really don't like each other,

and when they perch on a limb they maintain a measured distance between each other that is just beyond how far they can reach to peck.

The flock continued to grow for several minutes, and suddenly they all took flight with a grand clamor of squawks and beating wings. They flew in a tight formation, keeping as close together as their personal spaces allowed, wheeling and turning in unison in response to some signal known only to them, so that the whole flock looked like a swirling black cloud. Suddenly the cloud split into two equal parts; each half flew off in its own direction, leaving behind a half-dozen stragglers who missed the signal.

The ones left behind panicked as obviously as if they had been human. They forgot about maintaining personal space, and almost ran into each other; then they darted off, zigzagging madly, and finally wheeled back to the sycamore tree. There they snuggled in close to the trunk and actually seemed to hunch down, and try to disappear.

I knew what had happened. One of the original flock had spotted a predator, possibly the Cooper's hawk that has been around all winter, and they all took flight to form a defensive formation. In this pattern the flock flies as a tight bunch, with each individual trying to work itself into the center where it would be safest. This activity increases the chance for survival because no one bird is on the outside very long, and it is harder for the hawk to single out an individual to attack. This is why, when the big flock split, the few who missed the signal were so upset. Flying alone, they were vulnerable, and they knew it.

The whole episode lasted only a minute or so, but it provided insight. If you're a bird, Attention deficit disorder is a disadvantage in natural selection; if you miss a signal, you are likely to be eaten. And in a more anthropomorphic sense, if starlings talk, before they leave the nest they will be required to memorize the Starling's Prayer: "Lord, please don't ever let me fly alone." Come to think of it, that's not a bad sentiment for all of us.

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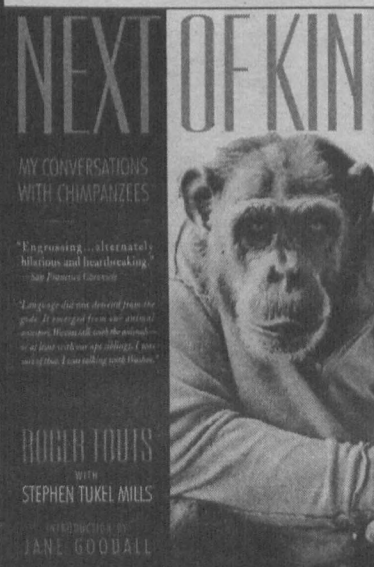
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# MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

## RENOWNED EXPERT TO SPEAK ON *The Origins of Communications*



**Roger Fouts, Ph.D.**, professor of psychology and director of the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute at Central Washington State University, will be the principal speaker at the William Meredith Science and Culture

Dinner and Lecture, March 15, on the campus of Mount St. Mary's University.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will be held at 7 p.m. in Knott Auditorium. The Callings Program, a collaborative effort by Mount St. Mary's and the Lilly Endowment Fund to promote the theological exploration of vocation, is sponsoring Fouts' lecture.

Fouts is an internationally renowned expert on the origins of communication in both chimpanzees and human beings. His research crosses many academic boundaries—biology, psychology, philosophy, language, and education.

Fouts' own life-experience is a testament to understanding a theological exploration of vocation. As a young graduate student, Fouts planned to one day become a psychologist

and work with developmentally disabled children. As an economic means to achieving this goal, he took a position as a research assistant with two faculty members who were attempting to teach a chimpanzee American Sign Language.

What began as a part-time job grew into a calling.

Remarkably, Fouts found not only that chimpanzees could learn a human language, but that his work with chimpanzees could be applied to autistic children who, after living for years unable to communicate in any form, began to sign and then, eventually, to speak. His work in this area was the subject of his best-selling book, "Next of Kin: My Conversations with Chimpanzees," published in 1997.

"Although Fouts' groundbreaking work brought him much fame and recognition, the scientific community was hostile to his work," says Karl Einolf, Ph.D., professor of economics and director of the Mount's Honors Program. "This hostility came about not only because his work challenged the long-held assumption that there is an absolute divide between humans and our closest evolutionary relatives, but because he rejected the view that morality plays no part in setting limits to scientific inquiry."

In insisting on the humane treatment of his test subjects, Fouts found himself turning down positions at Ivy League universities and challenging the bio-medical industry. "He stood up to the scientific establishment and sacrificed much in support of his calling," says Einolf. "Not only will we learn about our origins of communication, as is the "Callings theme" this academic year, but we will also learn from a very brave man how to follow our calling even in the face of strong opposition."

# Callings

On March 30-April 1, Mount St. Mary's University will host the Second Annual Callings Conference, bringing together professionals, scholars, students and the public in a national conversation exploring issues related to Christian vocation. This year, conference attendees and presenters will explore the question, "How do faith and vocation shape the field of communication?"

Conference organizer Dennis Cali, Ph.D., professor of communication, explained, "Through keynote presentations and panels with plentiful opportunities for discussion, we plan to look at several questions from a variety of angles: How do the media portray faith? How does faith shape the way professional communicators do their job? How do faith organizations use the media? How should faith shape the study of communications?"

The conference is sponsored by Mount St. Mary's University and Callings, a Mount program of theological exploration funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. For the full conference schedule and to register, visit [www.msmary.edu/callings](http://www.msmary.edu/callings) or call 301-447-5368.

## MOUNT HOSTS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATION

### Keynote presentations include:

"Communicating the Truth: Living the First Command of Jesus in Modern Media" – Archbishop John Foley will speak on how and why he became involved in communications, the work of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the purpose of its policy documents, his experiences during the papal transition of April 2005 and the experiences of the Roman Catholic Church in communications around the world. Archbishop Foley is president of the Council for Social Communications.

"It Takes a Community: Supporting Vocations to the Arts and Media" – Barbara Nicolosi will explore how to identify, develop and sustain artistic genius in a community of faith. Using "Act One", the successful Hollywood mentoring program, as a test case, Nicolosi will examine the nature of a truly creative community and explore how such communities might be multiplied in the Roman Catholic church. Nicolosi is a screenwriter and the founder and executive director of Act One, Inc.

In addition to keynote presentations and a film screening, panels will be held on the following topics:

- "How do the media portray faith?"
- "How does your faith shape the way you do your job?"
- "How do faith organizations use the media?"
- "How should faith shape the study of communications?"

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stay up-to-date with Mount events by visiting [www.msmary.edu](http://www.msmary.edu), click on "upcoming events" in the upper right corner. For athletic schedules, stats and player interviews, visit [www.mountathletics.com](http://www.mountathletics.com)

### ADMISSIONS EVENTS

#### Discovery Day Visits

February 20 & March 24

Attend classes, meet informally with a Mount student host and learn from faculty about opportunities in their departments ... while your parents attend seminars on financial aid, Freshman Seminar, career services, student development and the Wellness Center.

#### Instant Admissions for the Mount's Accelerated Professional Studies Program!

The Mount's Division of Continuing Studies will be offering Instant Admission Nights now through March. Bring your most recent college transcript (unofficial copies will be accepted) and receive an on-the-spot evaluation with a Mount advisor, with instant enrollment in the MPAS program if you meet the program criteria. Questions? Call 301-682-8315.

**Location:** Mount's St. Mary's University, Frederick Campus

**Before Session 3:** March 13, 5-6 p.m.  
March 15, 5-6 p.m.  
March 18, 9-10 a.m.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Egyptian Odyssey: A Celebration in Dance

Friday, February 17

Knott Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Featuring the Silk Road Dance Company! Discover Egypt! Travel through the ages with Washington, D.C.'s award winning Silk Road Dance Company and experience the rich variety of Egyptian dance. From the ancient magic of the Goddess Isis, to the timeless folklore of Upper Egypt, to the contemporary enchantment of Raqs Sharqi, this concert celebrates the creative genius of the Egyptian people through time.

#### FILM SCREENING: Salaam Cinema

Thursday, February 23

Laughlin Auditorium, 7 p.m.

This Iranian docudrama is a humorous and heartbreaking story of the power of movies and the tyranny of moviemakers. Presented by Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Hossam Elouan, filmmaker and screen play writer from Egypt

### ATHLETICS

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

vs. Monmouth  
February 18, 1 p.m.

vs. Quinnipiac  
February 20, 7 p.m.

vs. Wagner  
February 27, 7 p.m.

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

vs. Monmouth  
February 18, 3 p.m.

vs. Wagner  
February 22, 7 p.m.

#### BASEBALL

vs. Towson  
March 1, 2:30 p.m.

#### MEN'S LACROSSE

February 22, 3 p.m.  
vs. McDaniel (Scrimmage)  
@ McDaniel

#### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

February 26, 1 p.m.  
vs. Georgetown

#### MEN'S TENNIS

March 17, 3 p.m.  
vs. Loyola

RELIGION

Word from the pulpit

Reflections on "The Way"

BY PASTOR JANET COMINGS  
St. Mark's Lutheran and St. John's  
United Church of Christ, Sabillasville

Wouldn't you think that God had something better to do than hang out in the small town of Galilee? After all, He had just been very patient, becoming human in Jesus the normal way—all nine months with no shortcuts. Then He allowed Jesus to be born after the same any-port-in-a-storm frantic search for shelter that so many expectant families have endured down through centuries. Thus, it was in a small town, Judea (that is, Bethlehem) the infant Savior of the World ends up napping in a feedbox; his first admirer, the displaced residents of the stable, his first visitors, a crew of blue collar shepherds in work clothes. Surely, all this divine lowliness was enough

to convince people God's heart was in the right place.

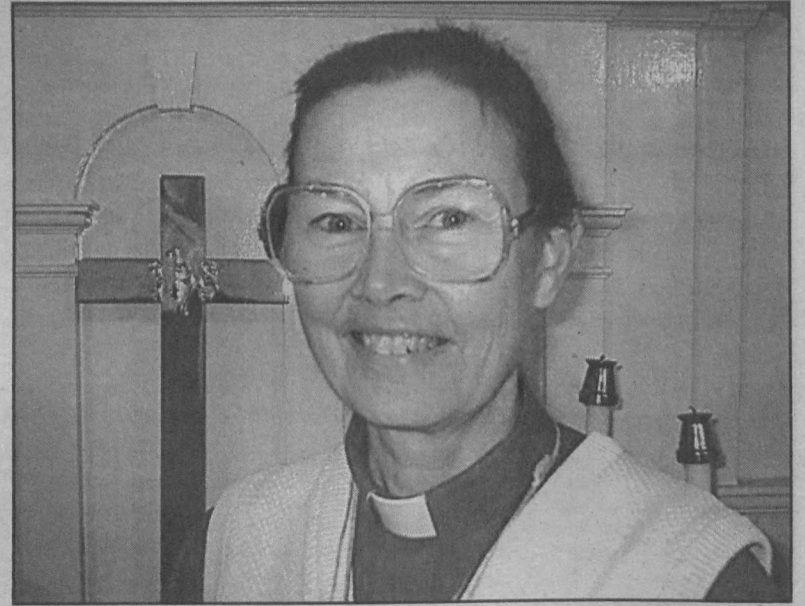
And yet, if you want to draw folks in and keep them coming, you'll need thrills, excitement, curiosity, prizes, celebrities — something out of the ordinary all the time. Send the angel choir on tour, keep the star, but maybe change the color every so often or have it dance around. The fancy gift idea has legs. Maybe a new round of presents every month—different wise men/women of course. Big entrances. Ruffles and flourishes. But that's not all God chose to do.

The ordinary human life was part of what God came to experience. In the beginning, God called it "good" — this daily human walk of learning, loving, working, having families and looking after other people, caring for the earth, enjoying each other's company

and God's company. There really is nothing better than what God calls "good." We don't have to have Christmas lights to find beauty in winter. We don't need a party to have fun. Wrapped up presents are not the only kinds or even the best. God wanted to redeem ordinary life, so He lived it.

Burp a baby — Jesus understands. Shout "no!" to a toddler as she reaches for the wrong thing — Jesus understands. Smile as a little child discovers a petting zoo — Jesus understands.

And the reverse is also true. Jesus has blessed what is ordinary and you will find Him there with you: in the dark of a long, cold January night; in the sadness of a lonely or grieving heart; in the confines of being a caregiver; in the white knuckle driving to and from work even when it's snowing; in the



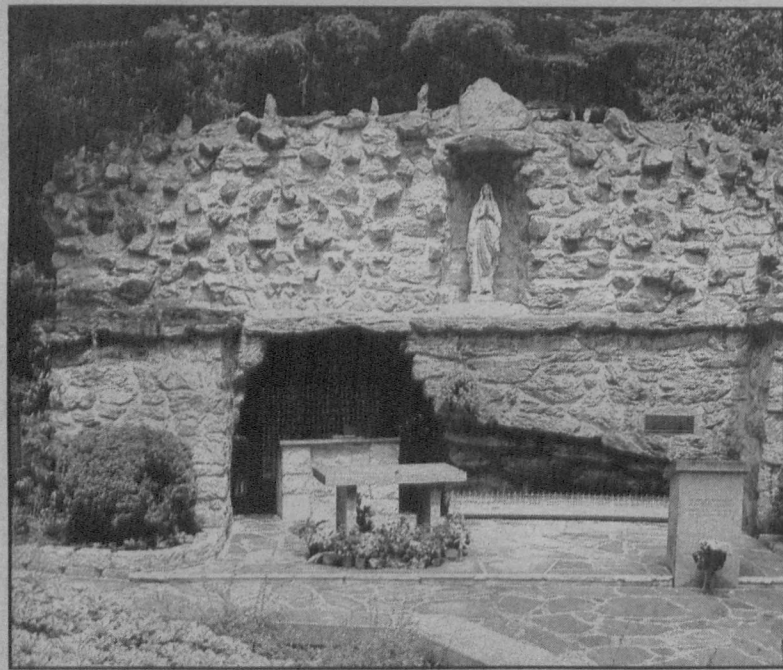
-LISA C. CANTWELL / THE DISPATCH

The Reverend Janet Comings, pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ and St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville, Md.

hurried dash-out-the-door breakfast or the collapse-in-the-street-same-spot skillet supper; in the easy chatter with friends in Sunday School; and the usual, predictable, yet absolutely precious time of worship.

Yes, worship is somewhat predictable, not only in what

activities will likely happen and what order, but most all certain in this way: we can count on Jesus being there, calling us together, a brother inviting his family to come home, sit down, talk, eat, sing and pray together. And that is good — all the time, every time.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

The National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes was filmed in one of the scenes in the new movie, "The Passion of Bernadette," shot predominantly in Nevers, France. Saint Bernadette was portrayed by actress Sydney Penny, and directed by French director Jean Delannoy.

Grotto served as movie sequel location

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes, located near Emmitsburg, served as the background for a portion of the recently released film, "The Passion of Bernadette," based on the life of the 19th century French saint, Bernadette Soubirous.

Saint Bernadette claimed to have had visions when she was 15 years old of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ, at Lourdes, France, in 1858. Shortly thereafter, she moved into the convent in Nevers, France, where she lived for the rest of her life, dying in 1879 at age 35.

Bernadette was ill much of her life, and her visions were questioned even by the mother superior at Nevers. Bernadette was canonized in 1933.

The film, a sequel to the 1988 movie, "Bernadette," relates the

saint's life after the visions and her move into the convent.

Sydney Penny, who also starred in the 1988 movie as well as in "Passion de Bernadette," portrayed Saint Bernadette in the new film, which premiered nationally on Feb. 11. The movie was directed by one of France's foremost filmmakers, Jean Delannoy.

Well after Saint Bernadette's death, her body, which has never decomposed, was placed in a

glass coffin and kept in a chapel in the Church of St. Gildard at the convent in Nevers, where it has remained on display since 1925.

The film is available through Ignatius Press in both DVD and VHS formats. For more information on "The Passion of Bernadette," visit <http://www.ignatius.com/Videos/bernadette/>.

This article was assembled from several press releases, and on-line articles including <http://www.catholicpilgrims.com/index.htm>.



Saint Bernadette Soubirous as she appeared in a c1863 photograph.

World Day of Prayer

The annual World Day of Prayer will be observed on Friday, March 3, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church, 415 West Main Street.

Women and men in more than 170 countries and regions will participate in services co-sponsored by Church Women United and World Day of Prayer USA. Locally, arrangements are being made through the Emmitsburg Council of Churches.

"Signs of the Times" is the prayer service theme written by South African women. An offering will be taken to support the work of World Day of Prayer and HIV/AIDS ministries in South Africa and the U.S.

Founded in 1941, Church Women United is an ecumenical movement reaching 25 million Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women. World Day of Prayer is an international movement whose prayers follow the sun across the globe on the day of the celebration.

For more information, contact Jean Cadle, 301-447-6275.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Miss Frederick pageant opens

BY NICOLE M. BELANGER  
Contributing Writer

The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Miss Frederick pageant, where girls get the chance to show off a talent and compete for scholarship money, is gearing up for this year's competition.

On Feb. 25, the Jack B. Kussmaul Theater will be filled with about a dozen girls hoping to walk away with this year's coveted Miss Frederick title.

The pageant is closed, which means that only women, ages 17 to 24, who are connected to the county through school, home or work are allowed to compete.

Miss Frederick is the longest-running pageant in Maryland, with the first winner crowned in 1978, organizers say.

The competition consists of four afternoons of mock interviews and dance performances, followed by two evenings of dress rehearsals. According to organizer Sue Ganley, the girls are always well prepared.

Sponsored by the Sertoma Club of Frederick and the Fredericktowne Sertoma Club, the

contest is the first step toward the famous Miss America crown. Once a girl wins the local title, she goes on to compete for Miss Maryland and then on to the national show.

In the past, three young women have gone on to compete for Miss America, and one - Virginia Cha - placed 1<sup>st</sup> runner up in the national pageant.

Ganley has described the program as a great learning experience, where the girls learn basic speaking skills, mock interviews and gain self-confidence. The top three also walk away with extra scholarship money. In the past, this amount has been as much as \$3,000 for the winner.

Judges, all well-respected community members, look for someone who will be a good representative of Frederick. She must be articulate, intelligent, comfortable with public speaking and involved in community service projects, Ganley said.

For more information about the pageant, contact Frederick Community College at 301-846-2512.

### For Children

**Feb. 18 & 25 - "The Brother's Grimm Excellent Adventure."** 2 p.m. Mix two zany actors with loads of characters. Mix in a pinch of old world style, a dash of modern culture and see what happens in this non-stop, action packed telling of the fabulous, mysterious, magical and sometimes dark tales of the renowned Brothers Grimm. See just how many stories a pair of "clowns" can get through in one hour! The Fun Company at the Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 West Patrick Street, \$12-18. 301-694-4744.

**Through March 26 - Rumpelstiltskin.** After a simple miller's daughter is imprisoned after he boasts to the king that she can spin straw into gold, a mysterious and magical little man appears to save the day. Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, Willow Tree Plaza, Rt. 40 West, Frederick. \$10.50. 301-662-6600.

### Concerts

**Feb. 17 - 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Jazz Concert.** 8 p.m. Gettysburg College Jazz Ensemble with Buzz Jones, director and Paquito D'Rivera, guest artist. Free, but tickets need to be picked up at box office that night. Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle St. Gettysburg. 717-337-8200.

**Feb. 19 - "Mozart, Magic & Mischief."** 3 p.m. FCC Faculty Soprano, Mary Gresock provides a musical celebration of the 250th birthday year of one of the greatest composers of all time. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Frederick Community College, Jack B. Kussmaul Theater, 7932 Opossumtown Pike. 301-846-2512.

**Feb. 22 - "African Extravaganza."** 7 p.m. Musician and instrument maker Mogauwane Mahloele presents an evening of African music. The event will also feature a reading by the first-place winner of the American History Essay Contest sponsored by the Gettysburg National Military Park. Adams County Art Council, Lincoln Elementary School. 717-334-5006

**Feb. 26 - Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.** 3 p.m. Chamber

music by this renowned orchestra. Frederick Community College, Jack B. Kussmaul Theater, 7932 Opossumtown Pike, 301-846-2512.

### Galleries, Exhibits, Art Shows

**Feb. 18 - African-American Influence.** 1:30 p.m. The story of our heritage is not complete until we recognize the contributions of every culture in the American tapestry. This program will provide an overview of African-American contributions to the development of Frederick County, Catocin Mountain Park Visitor Center, 6602 Foxville Road. 301-663-9388.

**Feb. 25 - Blacksmith Shop Demonstration.** 1-3 p.m. The Blacksmith Shop played a vital role in the Catocin Recreational Demonstration Area. Hardware and tools needed to build the cabin camps were manufactured on this forge, actively used by the National Park Service for over 40 years. Now the forge is fired to show visitors this vanishing art. A blacksmith will demonstrate and explain how metal is heated and shaped into useful and decorative objects. Camp Round Meadow, Catocin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road. 301-663-9388.

**Through Feb. 26 - Valley Art Association Exhibition.** Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown. Works by members of this local organization, which evolved from the Society of Hagerstown Artists. Will include landscapes, portraits, still life paintings, among other works, created in a variety of media. Many of the works will feature views of the region.

**Through Feb. 26 - Photos by James W. Strongin, African Odyssey.** An exhibition of 20 photographs by this Hagerstown resident will be on view in the Bowman Concert Gallery of The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. The images were taken in the Sub-Sahara and in Southern Africa.

**Through Feb. 28 - "New York City Love Affair."** Artist Kathy Kershner presents a portrait of New York City as experienced over a period of 35 years. The exhibit will showcase artwork comprised of multiple images on transparent film as well as photographs, including images of Times Square, Coney Island and views from the World Trade Center. Hood College, 401 Rosemont Ave. 301-663-3131.

**Through March 18 - "The Red Umbrella."** An exhibition of observations of life by Judith Einstman, featuring colorful and charming works in pastels and serigraphs. Washington County Arts Council Gallery, 14 West Washington Street. Private showings also available. 301-791-3132.

### Dance

**Feb. 18 - 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Ball.** 7:30 p.m. Princess presentation will begin at 7:30 followed by dancing from 8:30 p.m.-midnight. Howard Burns Jazz Band will play in the Courtyard, and Don Hayden in the Ballroom. Tickets may be purchased at Fredericktowne Eye Care. Proceeds benefit scholarships, Historic Steiner House, and other non-profit organizations. Holiday Inn FSK, 5400 Holiday Drive. 301-371-5203.

### Stage

**Through March 4 - "Betty the Yeti."** An absurd environmental farce concerns Russ T, an out-of-work logger who heads for the forest to find solitude and escape his failing marriage. But little peace is to be discovered when Betty, a female Sasquatch-like creature, discovers the pleasure of Russ T's company and the convenience of his keen camping gear. Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 West Patrick Street, Frederick. \$15-20. 301-694-4744.

**Through March 11 - "La Cage Aux Folles."** A fierce and funny dazzler from start to finish. In a St. Tropez nightclub, a couple's domestic tranquility is shattered when their son decides to marry the daughter of a bigoted politician. When the family's future in-laws come for a visit, the truth comes out in the wildest of ways. Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, 5 Willowdale Drive, Frederick. \$24-38. 301-662-6600.

**Feb. 17 - "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp" and "Saturday Afternoon."** 8 p.m. 1926 silent comedies starring Harry Langdon, accompanied by Ray Brubacher on the mighty Wurlitzer. \$4-6. Weinberg Center for the Arts. 20 W. Patrick St. 301-228-2828.

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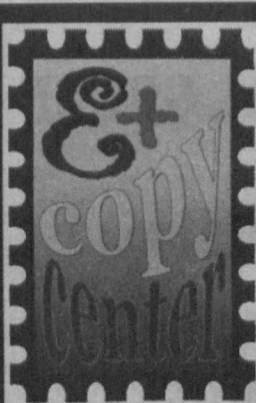
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## QUILTERS

# Recycled people — recycled fabrics



BY MARY  
ELLEN  
CUMMINGS

Dispatch  
Columnist

Recycling is a common household word at this time in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We hear the word often, and are told that recycling is good for the environment. We live in a time that anything that helps preserve our world is a good thing.

My generation didn't recycle; we just used up and used over. In fact, I think of my generation as being recycled — twice. We were growing up during the Great Depression. Lawyers became laborers; university professors became farm workers. The lucky ones were those who had access to a small piece of land where they could have a garden, some chickens and pig or two.

World War II recycled my generation again. We had lost friends and made new ones. We changed jobs and learned new skills. Women became truck drivers and welders and the men went into the military. As a generation, we went through another change in the workplace and at home. We were recycled.

This idea of making something

different from our fabric scraps is still not classified as recycling, however, sewers have used up scraps for a very long time. It is called quilt making.

Probably, in the beginning, quilts were a necessity, especially in colder climates. Quilt making has always been a way to turn scraps into something useful. However, the availability of inexpensive blankets and quilts today has seen quilts evolving into an art form. Shows are featuring more and more one-of-a-kind art quilts.

A huge benefit to home sewers was the introduction of cotton feed sacks. After being emptied, washed and ripped open, each sack yielded about a yard of cotton, printed with the same type motifs as regular bolt cotton fabric. Children's clothes and tablecloths could now be made inexpensively. And the scraps could be made into quilts.

Farms where livestock was the main product yielded the most sacks. In fact, many of their sacks were given to friends and neighbors or used as rags. One Ohio feed store "broke open" a lot of sacks for people who didn't need a lot of feed. When the sacks were empty, they were tossed into a corner of the mill and were sold for ten cents each! Today, it is not unusual to find real feed sacks from that era being sold for twenty-five dollars each. If only I had known then what I know now.



—PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ERMEL REED

## Emmitsburg seniors remember the troops

Volunteers from the Emmitsburg Senior Citizens spent two weeks creating 196 handmade Valentines for troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Kosovo. The cards were sent via the "Keystone Soldiers" organization in Fleetwood, Pa.

Shown in the photo (clockwise from upper right) are Patricia Warthen, Mary T. Miller, Elizabeth Fuss, and Eunice Neighbors. Ermel Reed, Beverly Reed, Vera Eiker, Jean Parks, Anna Mort, Florence Bassler, Lucille Valentine, Eleanor Humerick, Austin Umbel, and Linda Umbel also participated in the project.

## Relay for Life holds informational meeting

Frederick County residents interested in participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in May are invited to attend an informational training session on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 3 p.m. at the C. Burr Artz Library in the Community Room.

According to Susan Smith, event co-chair, a new comprehensive Web site can help familiarize interested individuals with the annual event that helps raise money for cancer research. The Web site, [www.acsevents.org/relay/frederick](http://www.acsevents.org/relay/frederick), includes such features as an online team, individual and volunteer registrations, sponsorship opportunities, as well as the ability to make online donations.

May 19-20 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year for Frederick County's Relay for Life at the Frederick County Fairgrounds. For additional information, contact Dawn Richards at 1-888-535-4555.

## Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball final registration

Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball League will hold its final registration on Feb. 18 and 19 at the Emmitsburg Ambulance Building from 1-3 p.m. Sign-ups are open for girls and boys ages 4-19 who want to participate in the baseball/softball program.

Tryouts will be held in March.

Minor League, ages 7-9:

March 5, 1-3 p.m., Memorial Gym, Mount St. Mary's University

March 11, noon to 1 p.m., Memorial Gym, Mount St. Mary's University

Major League, ages 9-12:

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# Community Calendar

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Feb. 17 – Gun Dinner.** Doors open at 6 p.m. Thurmont Carnival Grounds activities building. Sponsored by CYA Wrestling. 13 guns to be awarded. Information or tickets: 301-748-4759 or 301-418-2460.

**Feb. 18 – Country Butchering.** Advance meat order pickup and buffet breakfast from 6-10 a.m. Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company Activities Building.

**Feb. 18 and 25 – Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring program.** Breakfast 9 a.m. to noon, Mount Hope Methodist Church. Adults \$5; children 6-12, \$2; children 5 and under free. Maple sugaring program at 10 a.m. and noon for the public. No charge for members; non-members,

\$3. Sponsored by Strawberry Hill Nature Center, 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. Reservations required. Call 717-642-5840.

**Feb. 19 – Bingo Bonanza.** Guardian Hose Company, Thurmont. Doors open at 11 a.m. \$45 at the door.

**Feb. 19 – Spaghetti Dinner.** 3-6 p.m., St. Mary's Church, 256 Tract Road, Fairfield. Dinner \$6, children 6-12, \$3. Information: 642-8815.

**Feb. 19 – Third Sunday Service of Praise.** 6:30 p.m. Graceham Moravian Church, Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. Music by "The Walk," message from Dave Fisher.

**Feb. 19 – Daytona 500 party.** Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Littlestown Eagles large activities building, 427 Mengus Road. Food and beverages, raffles, door prizes, silent auction and more. \$20 per person. Benefits Terra Rubra After Shock Girls Travel 14 & Under Fast Pitch Softball Team. Tickets: 443-398-4618 or 410-751-1673.

**Feb. 23 – "Training with Trust."** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tranquility Farm, 11819 Whates Lane, Thurmont. A Kenny Harlow seminar. Registration: 301-271-3400.

**Feb. 25 – Benefit Breakfast.** 6-11 a.m. Sponsored by Trinity United Church of Christ, 110 East Main Street, Thurmont. Proceeds to benefit

Guardian Hose Company building fund. Adults \$6, children 5-10 \$3, under 5 eat free. Information: 301-271-4289.

**Feb. 25 – Blacksmith shop demonstrations.** 1-3 p.m. Camp Round Meadow, Catoctin Mountain Park. Evolution of blacksmithing and demonstrations.

**Feb. 27 – Emmitsburg Area Historical Society meeting.** 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center. Come explore the history of old Emmitsburg hotels.

**Feb. 28 – Fat Tuesday Pancake Brunch.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thurmont Senior Center, 806 East Main Street. \$5 per person. Information: 301-271-7911.

**March 3 – World Day of Prayer 2006.** 7:30 p.m. Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church, 415 West Main

Street. "Signs of the Times" is theme for the prayer service written by South African women.

**March 4 – Buffet Breakfast.** 6-11 a.m. Tom's Creek United Methodist Church, off Route 140 between Taneytown and Emmitsburg.) Adults \$6; Ages 5-10, \$3. Advance orders for meats: 410-756-6878 or 301-447-6384 by Feb. 26.

**March 4 – Annual spring supper and bazaar.** 1 p.m. Elias Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg. Beef, turkey and ham supper with apple fritters. Crafts, home-baked products, White Elephant table. Adults \$9; Children 6-12 \$3. Carry outs \$10.

**March 4 – Bingo Banquet.** Doors open at 4:30, bingo starts at 7 p.m. Union Bridge Fire Hall. \$25, includes meal. Information: 410-775-0001.

**March 10 – April 8. Revelations Speak Peace - Unlocking the Signs Seminar.** 7 p.m. nightly. Seventh Day Adventist Church, 15601 Catoctin Mountain Highway (US 15), Thurmont. Presented by Pastor Shawn Boonstra. Information: 301-271-3346.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### Employment

**The Busy Bee Maid Service.** A local (Thurmont) cleaning company has positions open for honest, dependable workers. Company vehicles, benefits after 90 days, and a great work environment. Please call 301-271-1170 to arrange an interview.

**Carpenter's Helpers** needed in the Thurmont area. Looking for people to do physical labor outside all year round. Must be comfortable working outside in all weather conditions. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time; must be able to do a lot of bending and lifting up to sixty (60) lbs. all day long. Steel-toed shoes are a job requirement. Please call 410-583-7711 for more information.

**Help wanted: delivery/sales.** Growing lighting distributor seeks individual for delivery/sales position. Responsibilities include: deliveries to customers; picking up products from vendors; and general warehouse duties as required. The individual will also be expected to become familiar with lighting products in order to assist current customers and acquire new ones. Ideal candidate will have an excellent driving record; an outgoing, friendly disposition; and a desire to succeed as part of a team. Please mail a brief resume along with salary requirements to: CLS PO Box 402, Thurmont, MD 21788 or fax to 301-271-1010.

### For rent

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**Clothing and food for local community available.** Also need non-perishable food items donated. Please call Kathy at 301-271-3346 for drop-off times or to receive food and clothing as needed. Thank you! S.D.A. Church, Thurmont, MD 21788

**Farrier Service.** Thurmont and surrounding areas. BWFA certified. Call Sandy Zeigler at 301-633-3030 or visit [www.shoemyhorse.com](http://www.shoemyhorse.com).

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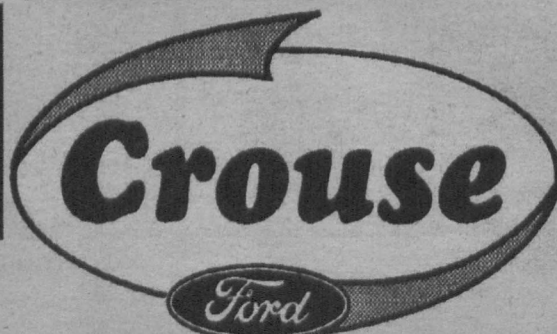


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