

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL VI, No. 23

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

DECEMBER 6, 2007

Wintertime

A Mason-Dixon Guide to Activities, Services and Events



Holiday gift ideas

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Wormald Development agreement reached for 569 new homes

By JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
jrada@thedispatch.us

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, Pa. — By 2023, Liberty Township could be more than 150 percent its current size if a settlement agreement reached between the Liberty Township Supervisors and Wormald Companies is approved by an Adams County judge.

The Liberty Township Supervisors released the details of the agreement during their Dec. 4 meeting. Three years in negotiations, the supervisors, Wormald Companies and 80 percent of the property owners most affected by the development have signed off on the agreement.

"Originally, there were 1181 house properties in the original plan," said Supervisor Chairman Peter Foscatto. "That has now dropped to 499."

In addition, the Liberty Estates section of the 701-acre development has decreased from 106 houses to 70. All of the houses in the new plan will be single-family homes with lots no smaller than 7,000 square feet rather than the mix originally proposed.

The new concept plan clusters the houses more to create additional large areas of open space. In the Liberty Estates design, 32 percent of the space is preserved and the open space plan has 60 percent of its space preserved.

"By us owning so many acres, what it's done is preserve 300-some acres in perpetuity," Developer Ed Wormald said.

Overall, about 10 percent of the land is expected to have an impervious surface, which is nearly half of what the original plan called for.

"It provides areas for the rainwater to regenerate our aquifer," said Supervisor Vice Chairman John Bostek. "We took that into account as we went through this."

-See **Wormald** on page 3



Holiday season kicks off in Emmitsburg

By STEPHANIE LONG
Dispatch Staff Writer
slong@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Just as the clock struck 6 p.m. on Dec. 3 and snowflakes gently began falling to the earth, a large group of people gathered together in front of the Emmitsburg Community Center to witness the annual tree-lighting ceremony and kick off the evenings

festivities.

It was the town's official kick off of the holiday season and the 19th annual "Evening of Christmas Spirit" event.

Kurstin Metz, a sixth grader from Emmitsburg, was one of those who braved the frigid temperatures to witness the tree-lighting ceremony. As a first-year attendee, Metz said she was looking forward to spending the evening with friends and seeing

the tree lighting ceremony for two reasons.

"It looks cool and exciting," Metz said.

Her friend, and seasoned attendee, Joy Jullian, also from Emmitsburg and in the sixth grade, said she enjoys coming to the event every year to see the big tree and participate in all of the evening's activities,

-See **Emmitsburg** on page 3

- ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL SR. / THE DISPATCH

This Issue

■ **EMMITSBURG**
Fire destroys barn,
kills animals
-see page 5

■ **FAIRFIELD**
Borough sticks with
tax bureau
- see page 6

■ **FEATURE**
Lincoln conspirator in
Emmitsburg
- see page 8

Still no sign ordinance after two years

By STEPHANIE LONG
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — Over two years ago, the Emmitsburg sign ordinance went under scrutiny following allegations that the ordinance violated political sign regulations and a challenge by the American Civil Liberties Union to the same effect. After undergoing lengthy review, discussion and revision by the Emmitsburg Planning and Zoning Commission, the final revised ordinance was handed to the Emmitsburg may-

or and town commissioners on Nov. 19 for review and approval, but to the dismay of some it was not met with immediate approval.

"I feel that we presented something that was directly responding to the community," said Tim O'Donnell, vice chair of the planning and zoning commission, at the commission's Nov. 26 meeting. "I feel that it missed the mark when it went in front of commissioners and I really regret that."

For 13 months the planning and zoning commission worked through the sign ordinance, addressing sever-

al concerns raised by the town commissioners, residents and businesses, which included addressing issues pertaining to political signs and self-illuminated signs.

Despite that, the commissioners discussed the ordinance at length on

Nov. 19 and made several revisions to the proposed ordinance.

One major revision was the commissioners added to the ordinance that nonconforming signs may

-See **Sign** on page 3

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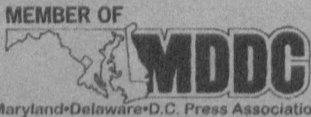
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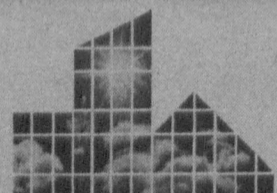


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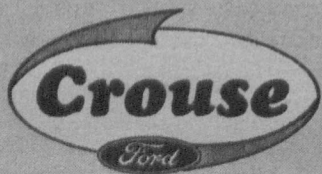
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Dispatch encourages its readers to express their thoughts and opinions about issues that appear in this publication or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to the Dispatch and should be no longer than 300 words in length. They must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes. The Dispatch reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

Casey's parents say "Thank you"

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Frederick County community, religious, business, and other private communities, the Lions Club, the towns of Thurmont and Emmitsburg, the Georgetown and Duke healthcare communities, supervisors and co-workers of Structural Systems and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the generous federal government leave donors, our hometown and Indiana COTA family, The Patty Pallatos Fund, our friends, relatives and neighbors.

Over the past year and a half we have been on a journey, sometimes joyous, sometimes painful, and currently a sorrowful journey with the tremendous loss of our son Casey Bly.

This journey that many families are forced to endure when their child is diagnosed with cancer is devastating and heart wrenching. Families are faced with hard decisions in order to care for and save their child regardless of the sacrifice. Many families feel hope-

less and isolated. Because of your support we were never alone. You cried when we cried, when we prayed, you prayed and then you reached out and helped us carry our burden. When we rejoiced we could hear your cheers and support for our brave son. Your prayer services were an outpour of hope and love that touched us very deeply. The fund raising events, monetary donations, and leave donations allowed us to spend very precious needed time to be with and take care of Casey without financial worry. This special gift of time you have given us will forever be ours. Your unselfish generosity will be passed on to other families who need a community like ours and are without. We are eternally grateful and feel very blessed to have so many caring hearts support Casey throughout his treatment and continue to support us through this difficult time. Thank you and God bless all of you.

Pat and Beth Bly
Thurmont

Halloween activities create insensitivity to real horrors

I am responding to the letter from the Fairfield woman about the Emmitsburg Veterinary Hospital's Live-Nightmare Haunted Asylum. Frankly, I was horrified and sickened by a particular description in this Halloween thrill experience. Yes, it's fake, but the impressions made on the imagination and the effect on the subconscious of the people who saw it are real. So often we read about the unspeakable horrors and inhuman cruelties inflicted upon children in some African nations, but accept as an "amusement" the tableau she described as "the chainsaw massacre of the

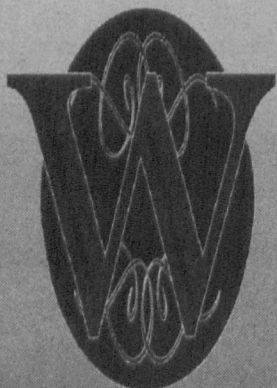
caged children."

I was in town on Halloween and can't really comment anymore on the Haunted Asylum. But this kind of insensitivity to horror, horrors which are real in many places to real people, was out on the sidewalks of Emmitsburg. We passed a boy with a bloodied knife and body along side his dad with a slashed and bruised face. My three-year-old daughter looked long and hard and seriously at that pair. She understands what's wrong with this picture. Why can't we?

Paula Q. Smaldone
Emmitsburg

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EDITORIAL

Sign it already!

On November 19, the Emmitsburg Planning and Zoning Commission handed the town commissioners the sign ordinance for approval. But rather than approve it, the board spent a great deal of time discussing the ordinance and making several changes. And yet, after the discussions were discussed and the changes changed, the commissioners closed the meeting without signing the revised ordinance and resolved to continue working it over at the Dec. 17 meeting.

While it is not uncommon for the commissioners to work over an ordinance before approving it, what is troubling about the issue is that this ordinance has been reworked by the planning and zoning commissioners for over a year and yet it does not appear that approval of the ordinance will occur in the near future.

The planning commissioners did extensive research while in the process of working on the ordinance. They heard comments from private residences; local independent businesses; sign makers; the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association; Edward T. McMahon, senior fellow at the Urban Land Institute, international speaker; Jakubiak and Associates, Inc., Emmitsburg's planning consultant; the work has been done for

the commissioners.

Furthermore, during the 13-month process none of the town commissioners attended a meeting pertaining to the signage issue as a private citizen, made public comments or provided input on the proposed ordinance. Additionally, a poll conducted on Nov. 24 of 24 business and professionals in the Emmitsburg region indicated none had been contacted by any of the town commissioners prior to their vote to change the document on Nov. 19 or since their vote; some said the commissioners had never entered their stores or businesses nor had ever talked to them.

The commissioners are making major changes to a document that was thoroughly researched by the planning commission, while the commissioners themselves have made no apparent attempts to research the issue at length. The work has been done for the commissioners by the planning commission, and although they are entitled to final say on the ordinances contents and approval, there is no reason for the ordinance to continue to hang in limbo. The town commissioners need to take the last step and approve the ordinance and enable the town to signage that is inviting, welcoming and informative.

CORRECTION

In the November 15 article, "Mount employee wins gold at Special Olympics" Syd Lean should have been spelled Syd Lea.

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Wormald

-Continued from page 1

Though the number of houses in the plan has been cut by more than half, residents still had concerns about the number of houses and the impact of those houses on area wells and voiced them to the supervisors.

"To add 200 homes, 500 feet from my house, that worries me," said resident Bill Arnold.

Pump testing for the Wormald wells will be expanded beyond the typical timeframe to make sure the water usage from those wells does not adversely affect neighboring wells. If it does, Wormald would have to mitigate the impact. New roads will also be constructed without curbing to encourage water to runoff the impervious surface and percolate through the ground.

"It would appear that there is enough water underneath this valley that three Wormald develop-

ments could go in," Bostek said.

Liberty Township has 914 residents or around 365 homes. The new Wormald plan for 569 houses represent a 156 percent increase over 15 years. No new homes would be constructed until the fifth year after final approval of the final design.

Besides Wormald, Liberty Township is expecting two additional development proposals, though none near the size of Wormald. The Mirage development is for 42 houses and the Steel and Associates projected size is 174 houses.

The agreement allows for some potential tax benefits to current residents. "We have significantly reduced the number of roads in this neighborhood that will come to a state or township road,"

Foscato said.

He explained that because these roads will be maintained by the homeowners' association, current township residents will not incur additional expenses to maintain the roads while new residents' taxes will help pay for current road maintenance.

One supervisor did see a possible cost increase. "I could see our police department probably increasing," Supervisor Paul Harner said.

The signed agreement now goes before Adams County Judge Michael George, who will have the final say.

Sign

-Continued from page 1

not be replaced once taken down, even if taken down for a brief time for repair. Other major revisions were made to the temporary signs section of the ordinance, which included the removal of a bullet outlining regulations of political signs.

Other minor revisions were made to the ordinance and discussion on the ordinance is expected to continue at the December 17 meeting. It is unknown when the ordinance will be voted upon, as there are still issues the council would like to address.

THEN AND NOW A LOOK AT THE ORIGINAL WORMALD PROPOSAL AND WHAT WAS SETTLED ON.

	2004	2007
Total acres	701	701
Totally residential acres	582	332.65
No. of houses - Open space plan	1181 various types	499 single-family
No. of houses - Liberty Estates	106 single-family	70 single-family
Impervious surface	19.20%	15%
Preserved land - Open space plan		60%
Preserved land - Liberty Estates		32%

Source: December 4, 2007 Wormald Settlement Agreement overview.

Emmitsburg

-Continued from page 1

especially the festivities at The Carriage House Inn.

Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover got the evening started with the tree lighting, which was followed by the singing of a few carols. But it didn't take long before the singing ended and the festivities moved to a warmer location at The Carriage House Inn.

Barrel fires set up in the parking lot of The Carriage House Inn made the evening seem a bit less frigid as people took in the live nativity, petted the sheep and grabbed a free hot dog and cup of hot cocoa before heading inside The Carriage House Inn to munch on sweets and listen to the various choirs sing Christmas music.

Hoover, who attended the event with his family, said the evenings festivities, especially the choir performances, are what small towns are all about and

what he enjoys about living in Emmitsburg.

"It really shows so much of a community coming together," Hoover said. "With different people and groups, it creates such a great night and an opportunity to socialize."

Hoover also expressed his desire for the younger generations to get involved in activities like the "Evening of Christmas Spirit" to ensure that such events continue in the future.

"It's important to get the kids out; if they're not interested then it will end," Hoover said.

Plenty of kids seemed interested in the Lions Clubs annual Christmas party held on Dec. 1, which welcomed dozens of children and their families to participate in various holiday activities from face painting to ornament decorating. Held at the Vigilant Hose Company, a magic show performed by Khan-Du & Company provided entertainment prior to the big event of the day- the



- ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL SR. / THE DISPATCH

These live sheep were part of the nativity scene at the Carriage House Inn for the 19th annual "Evening of Christmas Spirit."

arrival of Santa Claus.

Lions Club member Joe Ritz said the event had been held for well over 75 years, and "is a time-honored tradition" in Emmitsburg that exemplifies the Lions Club motto: "We Serve."

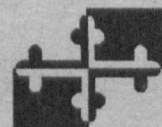
"This is a team effort," Ritz said. "This is a delightful turn out... we're already thinking about next year."

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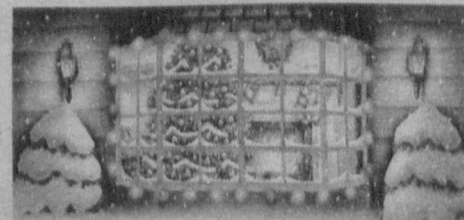
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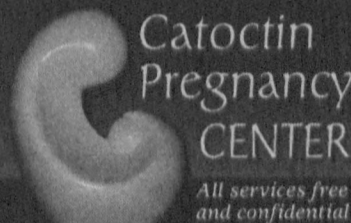
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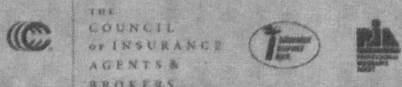
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TOWN NEWS

Would you like fries with that?



- JAMES RADA JR. / THE DISPATCH

Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover got behind the counter at the Emmitsburg McDonald's on Dec. 4. He worked for three hours greeting customers, ringing up orders and raising money for a scholarship fund he started for Emmitsburg students this year. A portion of the sales that he rung up will be donated to the fund. Though that amount is not yet known, Key Sanitation did make a \$200 donation to the fund that evening. Now that he is an experienced fast-food cashier, Hoover hopes to get behind the counter again sometime in the spring.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prizes for Christmas decorating contest approved

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The Emmitsburg town commissioners approved the prizes for the annual Christmas decorating contest, which will be held on Dec. 20. Judging will be done between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. with first, second and third place awards given for best decorated home, children's choice and best decorated business. First prize will be \$50, second prize will be \$30 and third prize will be \$20 businesses will be given gift certificates. Pastor Jon Greenstone of Elias Lutheran Church and Linda Umbel with the Vigilant Hose Company Ladies Auxiliary are the judges so far.

- J. Rada

Town waives off-street parking restrictions for some businesses

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The Emmitsburg Mayor and Commissioners are hoping a code change will help fill some of the vacant storefronts on town. The commissioners unanimously approved a change to the Village Zone parking in town. The change, approved Nov. 5, waives the off-street parking requirement in the code for commercial uses in existing buildings. This does not include buildings which are to be enlarged or any use other than commercial and only relates to the village zone

- J. Rada

Ambulance company to move

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The new Emmitsburg Ambulance Company building is just about ready to be occupied. The move to the new building at 17701 Creamery Road is expected this month and the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony are planned for Sunday, January 27, 2008 from 1-4 p.m. The new building has seating for 385 people and is available for booking for events. Carriage House Catering, Classic Affairs Catering and One More Catering are the exclusive caterers for ambulance company events at the building.

- J. Rada



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TOWN NEWS

P&Z wants town to create institutional zone

BY JAMES RADA JR.
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jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Emmitsburg Planning and Zoning Commission would like to see an institutional zoning category created in the Town of Emmitsburg. The commission voted 4-0 to include a recommendation for such zoning in the comprehensive plan they are preparing to send to the mayor and town commissioners.

“We do need to add something in the comp plan addressing institutional zoning,” Planning Commissioner Patrick Joy said during the Nov. 26 planning commission meeting. “We did designate land using that.”

Mayor James Hoover said later that he doesn’t expect the details to be worked out for institutional zoning to be completed before the comprehensive plan is approved so he noted that, “Some of their recommendations could be a little premature.”

Land that is currently used for institutional purposes—the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Emmitsburg Community Building, etc.—is zoned open space. Institutional zoning would better define how the land is used.

The planning and zoning recommendation, written by Joy, includes civic and governmental institutions, public



High winds encourage barn fire

Gary Cox’s barn is fully engulfed and threatening to catch the back of the Cox house on fire during the Dec. 4 fire that destroyed the barn and killed a number of animals.

- ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL SR. / THE DISPATCH

BY JAMES RADA JR.
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — When Gary Cox of Emmitsburg woke up on Dec. 4, he thought it was daylight outside until he realized his barn was on fire.

The barns at 11237 Simmons Road came up very close to the back of the 1873 farmhouse and threatened to catch it on fire around 3:06 a.m. on Dec.

4. About 60 firefighters from Frederick, Carroll and Adams counties responded to the blaze.

“Our biggest challenge was the wind,” said Wayne Powell with Vigilant Hose Company. “It really gave us a fit and it only got worse when we got there.”

When Vigilant Hose arrived on the scene, the first hose crew moved to protect the rear of the house from igniting. The second hose crew went to protect two fuel tanks from exploding.

“The tanks were steaming when we got there, so we were lucky,” Powell said.

Gary and Sally Cox, their six children and Sally’s mother were taken to a neighbors home while the fire crews set up a tanker task force. This was a group of five tanker engines that began shuttling water from a nearby pond to the fire scene to put out the fire.

The fire was brought under control in about 20 minutes,

though firefighters remained on the scene for hours going through the debris to make sure nothing was smoldering that could re-ignite. The family suffered no injuries; however, three goats, two dogs and as many as 15 cats were lost in the fire.

“If the wind had been blowing in the opposite direction, the outcome could have been a lot worse,” Powell said.

The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

and private schools, nursing homes, performing arts centers, museums and retreat/conference centers. The zoning would also allow for ancillary uses that directly support the institutional use. One example of this would be allowing university housing for staff, fac-

ulty and students to also be zoned institutional, though it is residential in the way it is used.

The recommendation will be included in the comp plan that the planning and zoning commission will send to the mayor and town commissioners. They then have the option of keeping it, deleting it or modifying it for inclusion in the final comprehensive plan.

“It’s a reasonable recommendation,” said Hoover. “We’ll have to consider the pros

and cons. My guess is that it will be several months, if not a year

down the road, before we’ll decide.”

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REGIONAL NEWS

Special session did too much, too fast

BY JAMES RADA JR.
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — State Senator David Brinkley expressed disappointment at the recently completed special session and what it accomplished to the Emmitsburg town commissioners on Dec. 3.

"Many of us perceived we did not need to go down in special session. Why? Because the budget was balanced through the end of June and we could have taken care of a lot of it in regular session," Brinkley said.

He said the session was the governor's way to solve the

state's structural deficit. By the end of the session, taxes had been raised \$1.3 billion and the legislature had committed to reduce spending by \$500 million. Sales tax, income taxes, corporate taxes and vehicle titling fees were all increased.

Brinkley said the analysts were estimating that the average family of four making more than \$40,000 a year would pay only \$7 more a year.

"It may not sound like much, but from there it only goes up," Brinkley said. "The governor when marketing this said 85 percent of residents would not pay more taxes and we've found out that's not so."

One tax increase Brinkley

said especially concerned him is that computer services will now be taxed. Only Maryland and Connecticut do this. Connecticut's tax is 1 percent. Maryland's will be 6 percent.

"I've already been contacted by several computer service firms in the Frederick County area who have said they think they will have to relocate," Brinkley said.

He worries that the legislature moved too fast and is going to find a lot of problems once the details of what it passed becomes known. His hope is that most of the problems will make themselves known by the 2008 legislative session and can be corrected then.



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Fairfield bureau goes against the grain, sticks with YATB

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — At a time when other municipalities in York

and Adams counties in Pennsylvania have made the decision to bid adieu to the York Adams Tax Bureau following problems, the Borough of Fairfield has decided to go against the grain and employ the services of YATB for at least another year.

"We just got into it, so we probably won't know until next year," said Councilor Carroll Smith. "I strongly feel we should step back before we make any recommendations to change anything; we should know where we're heading."

Problems arose for the borough in regards to tax allocations to the borough, which the council agreed are partially due to the problems inherited when the

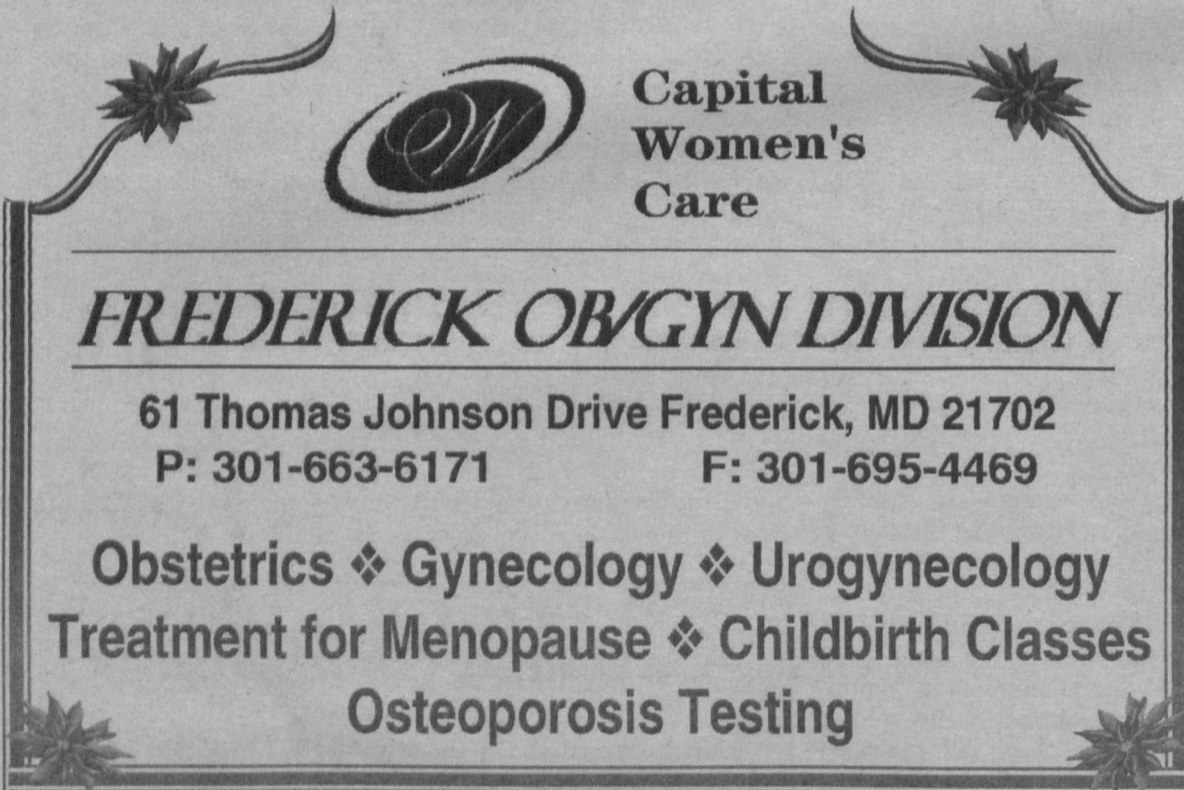
bureau merged with the Adams County Bureau.

"We exacerbated the situation through our own ignorance. The more I look at it, the more it makes sense," Smith said.

Concern was raised in regards to employing a different tax agency, which treasurer and secretary Robert Fortenbaugh said "would be immensely impractical" this time of year, thus the decision was made to stay with YATB.

"We need to look into it [changing bureaus] so we understand," Smith said, "otherwise we could jump out of one fire into another fire."

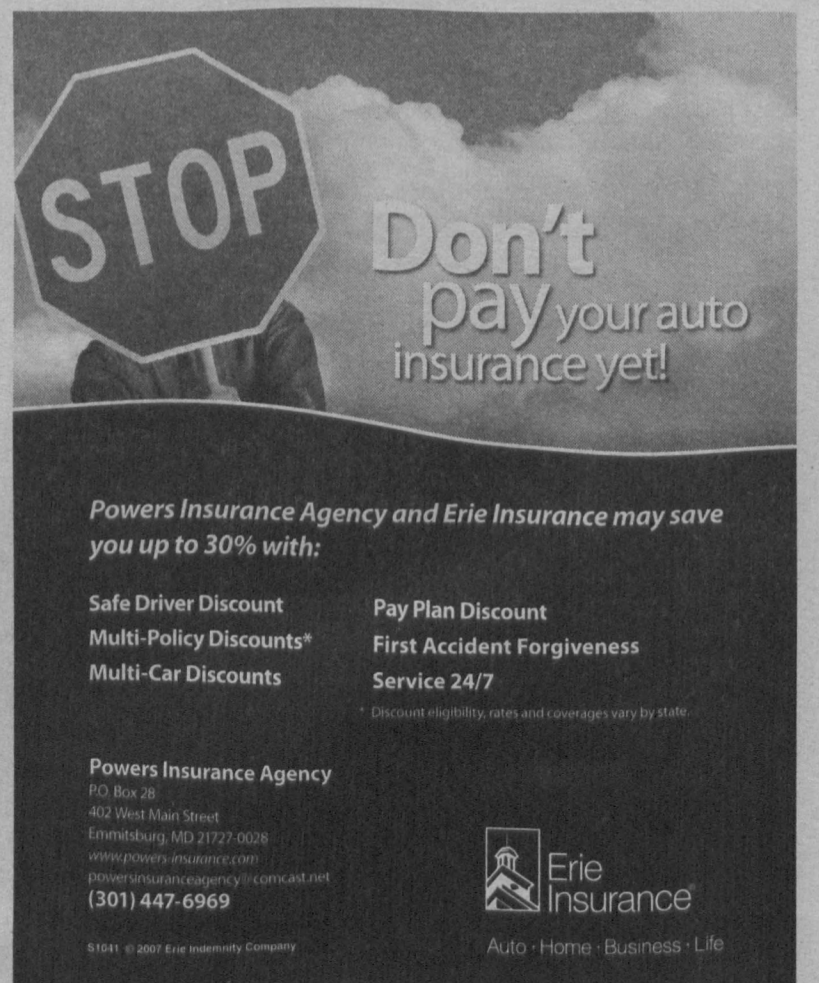
- S. Long



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REGIONAL NEWS

Biomass plant could power Thurmont

By STEPHANIE LONG
Dispatch Staff Writer
slong@thedispatch.us

THURMONT, Md. — The construction of a power plant in Thurmont that would save money for the town and benefit the environment at the same time may be right around the corner if William Rodenberg has anything to do with it.

At the most-recent Thurmont Economic Development Council meeting, held Nov. 21, Rodenberg, owner of Energy Management Strategies, Inc., shared his "Vision for Thurmont's Energy Future," which involves the building of a large power plant that would use biomass to create the power.

Employing reliable and

proven technology, Biomass, such as wood chips or animal droppings, would be broken down using anaerobic respiration or other methods to produce the electricity which could then be distributed to the town or possibly sold to other places.

By using biomass as a power source, the town would no longer need to use fossil fuels, which would stabilize the current price of electricity because the cost of electricity would no longer rise with the market.

In addition to saving the town money in the long run, the plant would have a zero carbon footprint, Rodenberg said, as it would use renewable biomass for fuel, which will remove over 150 million tons of CO2 from the atmosphere annually.

Furthermore, the building of the plant would lure new business and jobs to Thurmont due to the stable energy prices, Rodenberg said.

While Rodenberg said there are companies interested in the plant, finding the money to fund the plant is a main obstacle standing in the way of the project. There are places to get the funding for the plant, which would cost an estimated \$40 - \$50 million to build, through grants or loans but getting the money takes time and involves a great deal of work.

Rodenberg is currently working with the Maryland Energy Administration to acquire a grant, which he hopes to have sometime between the end of the year and April 2008.

Tranquility Farms to hold annual Holiday Campaign Drive

THURMONT, Md. — With the holiday season in full swing, charities and non-profit groups around the area are turning to the public for donations to help those in need. Not only are people in need of help this time of year, but animals as well.

Tranquility Farm Equestrian Center in Thurmont is currently seeking donations to help support the farm, which employs rescue horses that are used in therapeutic riding for children and adults, during the winter months.

On Dec. 8 from 7 - 11 p.m., the annual Holiday Campaign Drive will be held at Tranquility Farm to raise money to cover the cost of horse feed, hay, veterinarian care and other expenses at the farm.

Funds raised from the fundraiser will also go towards the building of an indoor riding ring, which is to be named in honor of one of the farms



- Photo Courtesy Sarah Transeau

(Right) Sarah Transeau, president and founder of Tranquility Farm, and (Left) Pattie Bianca of 'Natural Relief for Horse & Hound Massage' give rescued horse, Ecco Andiamo, some carrots. On December 8 from 7 - 11 p.m. Tranquility will host its annual Holiday Campaign Drive to raise money for the farm.

most beloved rescues, Elmo, who recently passed away.

The fundraising event is an event that people of all ages can enjoy, said Sarah Transeau, president and founder of Tranquility Farm, and will feature a visit from Santa Claus, an auction, music, food and fun.

"The community is supportive. I couldn't do my job without their help... I just ask for continued support," Transeau said. "It's [the event] in honor of Elmo, he would want us to keep caring."

- S. Long

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How a Lincoln conspirator came to call Emmitsburg home



— PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

After John Surratt Jr. fled the United States following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, he joined the Papal Zouaves in Rome. The above picture shows Surratt in uniform. Shortly thereafter, he was arrested and returned to the United States to stand trial for his role in the Lincoln assassination.

BY JAMES RADA JR.

News Editor

jrada@thedispach.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — John Surratt Jr. hated life in Emmitsburg, but then he hated life in America. Maybe that was why he tried to kidnap the President of the United States.

Surratt was born April 13, 1844 in Washington DC, the youngest of John and Mary Surratt's five children. When the Civil War broke out, Surratt was attending St. Charles College near Baltimore. His father died the following year while Surratt was home and he did not return to complete his schooling. Instead, he was appointed U.S. postmaster of Surrattsville, but he also became a postmaster of sorts for the Confederacy. He carried letters and troop information to Confederate boats on the Potomac River.

"We had a regular established line from Washington to the Potomac, and I being the only unmarried man on the route, I had most of the hard riding to do. I devised various ways to carry the dispatches - sometimes in the heel of my boots, sometimes between the planks of the buggy," Surratt said in an 1870 speech.

Samuel Mudd introduced Surratt to John Wilkes Booth on December 23, 1864 in Washington. Surratt willingly joined in Booth's conspiracy to abduct President Abraham Lincoln by stopping his carriage while it was en route to a destination.

"To our great disappointment, however, the President was not there but one of the government officials - Mr. [Salmon P.] Chase, if I mistake not. We did not disturb him, as we wanted a bigger chase than he could have afforded us. It was certainly a bitter disappointment, but yet I think a most fortunate one for us. It was our last attempt," Surratt said.

On the night, Booth and some of Surratt's other co-conspirators attempted a triple assassination of Lincoln, the vice president and the secretary of state, Surratt said he was in Elmira, NY spying for the Confederacy. However, it was believed initially that Surratt attempted to assassinate the secretary of state. Surratt found himself a wanted man with a \$25,000 bounty on his head.

Surratt fled to Canada. "A parish priest, Father Charles Boucher, gave sanctuary to the former Catholic seminarian, and Surratt remained there in hiding from mid-April through the trial, conviction, sentencing, and hanging of his mother. He followed the trial by reading the papers, and through secret correspondence with friends in Washington. In all that time, from the end of April to the first week of July, Surratt made no effort to save his mother from the gallows. Later, he blamed his friends for failing to inform him about the true peril that Mary Surratt faced," James Swanson wrote in *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*.

Mary Surratt was arrested and hanged with three other conspirators - George Atzerodt, Lewis Paine and David Herold.

From Canada, Surratt fled to England in September 1865 and then onto Rome, where he joined the Papal Zouaves, the army of the Papal State. On a trip to Egypt in 1866, Surratt was identified as a Lincoln conspirator and arrested.

He was returned to the United States where he stood trial in a civilian court that began on June 10, 1867. Af-

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(7) waives all defenses; and (8) appoints Secured Party as Authorized Representative for User, effective upon User's default re User's contractual obligations in favor of Secured Party as set forth below under "Payment Terms" and "Default Terms," with full authorization and power granted Secured Party for engaging in any and all actions on behalf of User including, but not limited by, authentication of a record on behalf of User, as Secured Party, in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate, and User further consents and agrees that this appointment of Secured Party as Authorized Representative for User, effective upon User's default, is irrevocable and coupled with a security interest. **User further consents and agrees with all of the following additional terms of Self-executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use: Payment Terms:** In accordance with fees for unauthorized use of DANIEL ANTHONY CUNEO® as set forth above, User hereby consents and agrees that User shall pay Secured Party all unauthorized-use fees in full within ten (10) days of date Secured Party's invoice, hereinafter "Invoice," itemizing said fees, is sent. **Default Terms:** In event of non-payment in full of all unauthorized-use fees by User within ten (10) days of date Invoice is sent, User shall be deemed in default and (a) all of User's property and interest in property pledged as collateral by User, as set forth in above in paragraph "(2)," immediately becomes, i.e. is, property of Secured Party; 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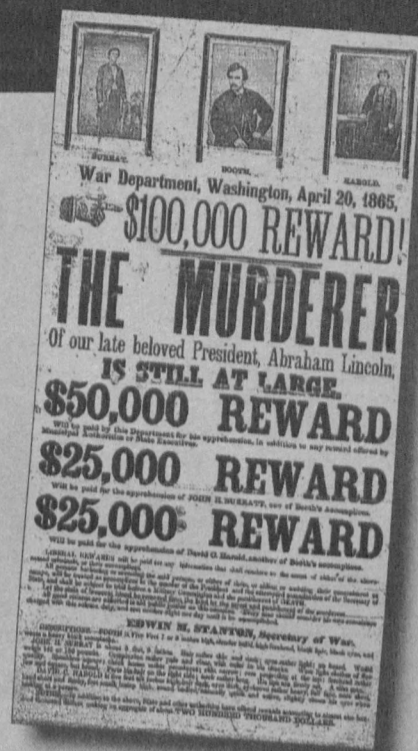
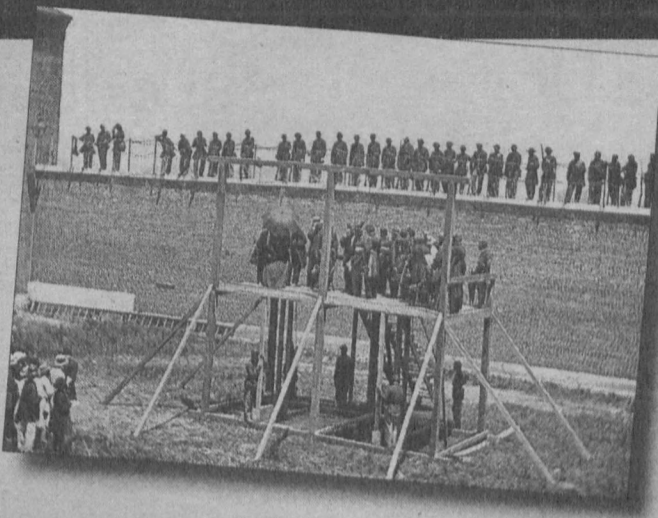
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ter testimony from 170 witnesses, the trial ended two months later with a hung jury. The government eventually dropped the charges and Surratt was freed in the summer of 1868.

"John Surratt was a free man. His mother was dead, he had been exposed as a leader in a plot to kidnap President Lincoln, and he had earned the reputation of a coward who had abandoned his mother to die. But at least he was alive. If he had been captured in 1865 and tried by military tribunal, he certainly would have been convicted, and would likely have been executed," Swanson wrote.

Surratt tried to turn his experiences into a career on the lecture circuit. He readily admitted a part in the kidnapping, but denied involvement in the assassination. When his speaking tour was cancelled because of public outrage, Surratt took up teaching. Following a stint as a teacher at a school in Rockville, he

used his Catholic connections to secure a position in Emmitsburg.

One source puts Surratt in Emmitsburg as early as 1870, teaching at St. Joseph's School, which was identified as being held in the old fire hall opposite St. Joseph's Church.

"He rattled his classes and resorted to physical punishment."

ment to maintain discipline. On older boys, some of them twenty or twenty-one, he used his fists. The younger boys John would beat with a paddle after he had stretched them over a special punishment desk which he had designed," according to a 1938 letter by Frederick Welty.

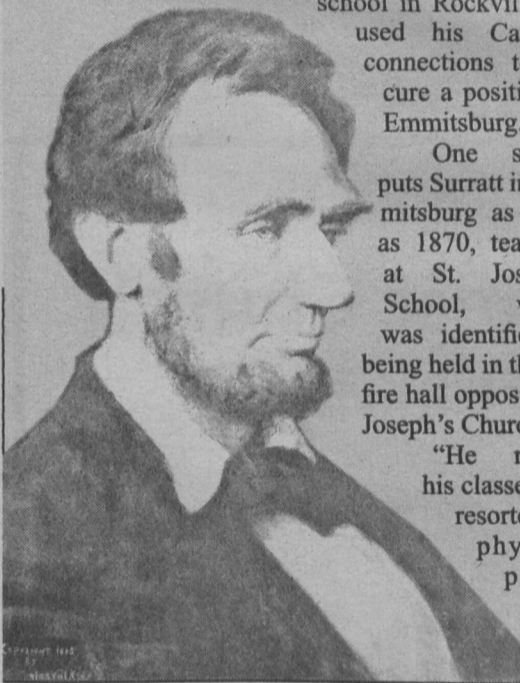
Sandra Walia with the Surratt House Museum's James O. Hall Research Center doubts this could have been Surratt because his students nicknamed the man in Welty's letter "Old Bear" and Surratt would have only been about 27 years old at the time, barely older than the oldest boys he taught.

Another account, which comes directly from Surratt, said he left his teaching position in Rockville in 1873 and took a position of principal at St. Vincent's Academy in Emmitsburg with 60 students. This was probably St. Vincent's Hall, which was built in 1857 as a combination school and literary and social center next to St. Joseph's Church. The Daughters of Charity took over the teaching there in 1878, so the 1873 date for Surratt's tenure would have been right.

During his time there, Surratt wrote to Father Jolivet who had sheltered him in England when he had fled Canada after Lincoln's assassination. "My greatest desire, Father Jolivet is to leave this abominable country and go to Europe there to spend the balance of my days in peace and quiet," Surratt wrote.

At the time Surratt wrote the letter, he had been married 11 months to Mary Victorine Hunter, a second cousin of Francis Scott Key. He was also the father of a newborn son. Shortly thereafter, the Surratts moved to Baltimore where Surratt took a job at the Baltimore Steam Packet Company.

When he died of pneumonia on April 21, 1916 at age 72, he was the last surviving member of the Lincoln conspiracy and the only one known to have called Emmitsburg home.



Above left: A popular sketch showing John Wilkes Booth assassinating Abraham Lincoln in 1865. Surratt was part of a group Booth gathered to try and kidnap Lincoln, but Surratt always asserted he had no role in what was supposed to have been a triple assassination of the president, vice president and secretary of state. Above middle: Surratt's mother, Mary, was among the four conspirators tried and hanged for their roles in the Lincoln assassination. Above right: One of the first wanted posters issued after the assassination lists a \$25,000 reward for Surratt's capture as an accomplice of Booth.

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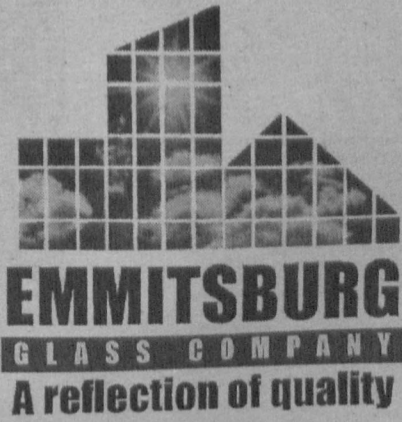


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BUSINESS

Bollinger recertified for producing quality work

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The NAHB Research Center has recertified Bollinger Construction, an assurance that the company is meeting a high level of quality and business operations. The NAHB Research Center, a subsidiary of the National Association of Home Builders, offers the certification program as an independent, third-party evaluation of participating contractors.

“NHQ Certified Trade Contractors are truly committed to quality, and are leaders in their fields,” said Research Center president Michael Luzier. “Contractors involved in the program have noted that they have experienced a reduction in callbacks, and that it has increased their job satisfaction and helped them take more pride in their work. Builders are wise to hire contractors participating in a program that is evaluated by a name they trust.”

To achieve certification, contractors must develop, document, implement, and maintain a quality management system that enables them to consistently meet code and regulatory requirements, builder specifications, and homeowner expectations. After at least three months of operating under their quality system, participating companies may apply

for certification through the NAHB Research Center. Each company must then pass a certification audit and sustain their certification status through annual audits.

The purpose of the audit is to ensure that the company is meeting requirements, and conducting operations in accordance with its documented procedures. Audits include an examination of the company’s records and procedures on the jobsite. Earning certification and displaying the NHQ Certified Trade Contractor program’s seal demonstrates a company’s ongoing and proactive commitment to quality and continuous improvement.

“Today, every contractor says that they provide quality service to their customers, but when NHQ Certified Trade Contractors who carry the NAHB Research Center label are used you can expect greater customer satisfaction,” said Frank Alexander, NHQ program director at the Research Center. “We are working closely with contractors to raise the bar on professionalism in the industry across the nation.”

For more information on the NHQ Certified Trade Contractor program, visit www.nahbrc.org/quality or e-mail quality@nahbrc.org.

SSI celebrates two years without lost-time accident

THURMONT, Md. — Structural Systems, Inc. recently celebrated two years without a lost time accident at its Frederick, MD engineered wood products facility and one year without a lost time accident at its Thurmont, MD manufacturing facility. SSI provides structural solutions to the residential and light commercial markets through innovative products and services, with additional offices in Culpeper, Va. and Elkton, Md.

“SSI has done a tremendous job with safety in the last few years,” says Karlys Kline, SSI vice president of distributor products and quality assurance. SSI has been increasing employee involvement in creating and enforcing a safe working environment for all of us. This commitment has resulted in these lost time accident accomplishments and has allowed us to focus on accurate and timely orders for our customers, said Ms. Kline.

In addition to having no lost time accidents, SSI is also proud

of the low number of medical cases reported by its occupational health services provider. Tom Myers, SSI’s Safety Manager, says that these results are a direct reflection of SSI’s safety committee and SSI

management’s support of the safety program.

The Frederick and Thurmont employees were honored at barbecue celebrations in October.

Thurmont Economic Development Meeting

January 16, 2008

Cozy Restaurant & Inn

Dinner available at 6 p.m.

Meeting at 7 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Sarah Transeau will give an overview of Tranquility Farms.



Emmitsburg Business and Professionals Association Meeting

December 11, 2007

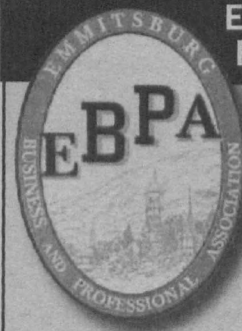
Carriage House Inn

Social at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7 p.m. (\$15 cost)

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot will present the “EBPA Extraordinary Service Award” to Bob Hance and the

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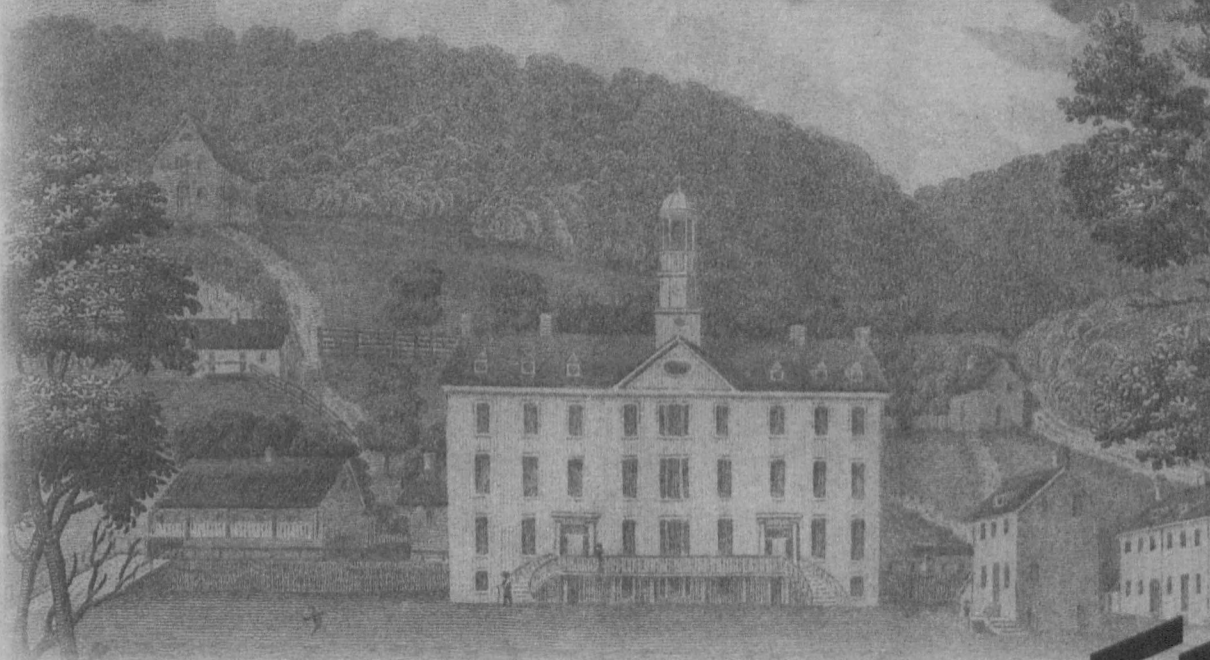
Christmas Eve

4:30 PM Family Candlelight Service
 (Worship time for parents and Happy Birthday Jesus Party for children)

7:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service

All are welcome! Register children for Birthday Party by calling 301-447-3740 and leave a message

Mount St. Mary's University nearly burned down in 1826



BY JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
jrada@thedispatch.us

Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of articles The Dispatch will be featuring to highlight the year-long celebration of Mount St. Mary's University's bicentennial.

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The new building at Mount St. Mary's was a symbol of its growth and progress from its beginnings in 1808 to 1824. It was three stories tall and 95 feet across and 50 feet deep. It would give the 115 young men attending the college, the space they needed.

"The new edifice which had cost so much thought and toil, which had grown with each added stone into its builder's heart, so to speak, was nearly finished. Very stately it looked with its background of forest and its cross-crowned cupola upon that fair June morning of Pentecost, Sunday, June 6, 1824," wrote Mary E. Meline and Edward F.X. McSween in *The Story of the Mountain*.

That night all retired to bed believing in the morning classes, some in the new building, would resume with the morning.

"At midnight a cry of fire aroused the college; yet without disorder the dormitories were speedily vacated and professors and students gathered in the play-grounds. The fire started in the tower, and burned rapidly downwards, until the entire edifice was in ruins. Teachers and boys had as much as they could manage to save the old log college, the infirmary, etc. Blankets spread on the roof were kept wet by a chain of students passing buckets and pails from the plenteous fountain to teachers up there," student Basil Elder wrote of the night.

Mount President John Dubois worked beside the students and staff trying to extinguish the fire. It soon became evident that the building would be lost, but Dubois maintained a positive outlook.

"Soon he pointed out some defects in the plan of the flaming edifice, which he would remedy in the next; — and this too, though the snows of sixty winters had whitened his head, and he had gone beyond his present means in erecting the building which was destroyed. And again he realized his prediction. He had the public confidence and sympathy," Mount President John McCafrey recalled of Dubois during his 1842 funeral oration for Dubois.

The next morning Dubois picked himself up and started over.

"The very next day he with some of the professors, after surveying the ruins, walked down to the second terrace and calmly pointed out the ground on which the present noble structure stands, saying, 'I will place the new building here. I have all along felt that it was a mistake to build on

the upper (back) terrace!'

"Some declared they feared he was losing his mind; yet true to his word two weeks after he marked off the ground with a pickaxe! Many of the students were from Louisiana and the West Indies and great admirers of Napoleon. From that day forth the boys gave Father Dubois the sobriquet of 'Little Corporal,' for he was low of stature, the 'Little President,' as he called himself," Elder wrote.

Years later, a man on his deathbed was said to have confessed to starting the fire in the hope of getting a job in a new building, according to Elder.

Though a new building was constructed, the college incurred more debt to build it. That extra debt began a period of time when the college accrued too much debt. It was one of the factors in the Mount's 1881 bankruptcy.

Pictured above is Mount St. Mary's in 1826, two years after it nearly burned to the ground. It is the earliest known picture of the college. President John Dubois (right) worked tirelessly alongside students and staff to try put out the fire that broke out on June 6, 1824.

— PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCHIVES MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY EMMITSBURG, MD

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Photos by Dr. Hargadon and other pilgrims in Africa, August 2007

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EDUCATION

Catoctin High guidance counselor selected as Maryland's Counselor of the Year

By SUSAN ALLEN
Contributing Writer

THURMONT, Md. — Curtis Howser, guidance counselor at Catoctin High School for nine years, was recently named Maryland's High School Counselor of the Year by the Maryland School Counselor Association. Thurmont Middle School (TMS) principal Barbara Keiling was selected as Maryland Counselor Advocate of the Year by the same professional organization. Both veteran educators will be recognized by the Frederick County Board of Education at its January 23, 2008 meeting.

Howser has 35 years experience as a teacher and counselor.

He began his career as an industrial arts/technical education instructor, following his graduation from Georgia Southern College. He also earned a master's degree in guidance counseling from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) in Westminster, Maryland. Before coming to CHS, he was a counselor at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School and Frederick High School.

At Catoctin, he has been counselor to 300-340 students each school year, and is noted for coming to school at 6 a.m. to do his paperwork so that he can be available to his students and school staff during regular school hours. Since receiving

the Counselor of the Year award, he has had to squeeze in time for interviews and "mug shots," one staff member commented. An anonymous student said that "he works hard to make sure we work hard... [but] his jokes are terrible."

Keiling came to TMS as principal in 2005. Her award is based on collaboration with the guidance staff and recognizing the value of the counselors' contributions to the overall school environment. She has been employed by Frederick County Schools since 1983, and holds degrees from West Virginia University, the University of Maryland, and Western Maryland College.

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December 8	Sister Mary Elephant
December 14 -15	Stick Time
December 21 - 22	Mascaraid
December 28 - 29	Red Line

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Happy Holidays Happy Holidays Happy Holidays

On Nov. 3, Mount St. Mary's students and volunteers planted trees along a campus stream between Route 15 and Jim Phelan Way as part of a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant. The MSM Environmental Science program and MSM Physical Plant Grounds Dept. along with the Frederick County Watershed Management Office recently received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to restore some of our local streams. These streamside plantings will shade the stream and prevent erosion which will improve water quality tremendously. Also, the trees and shrubs will remove carbon dioxide from the air and help reduce the greenhouse effect.

EDUCATION

Catoctin High food drive sees success



- PHOTO COURTESY OF CATOCTIN HIGH SCHOOL

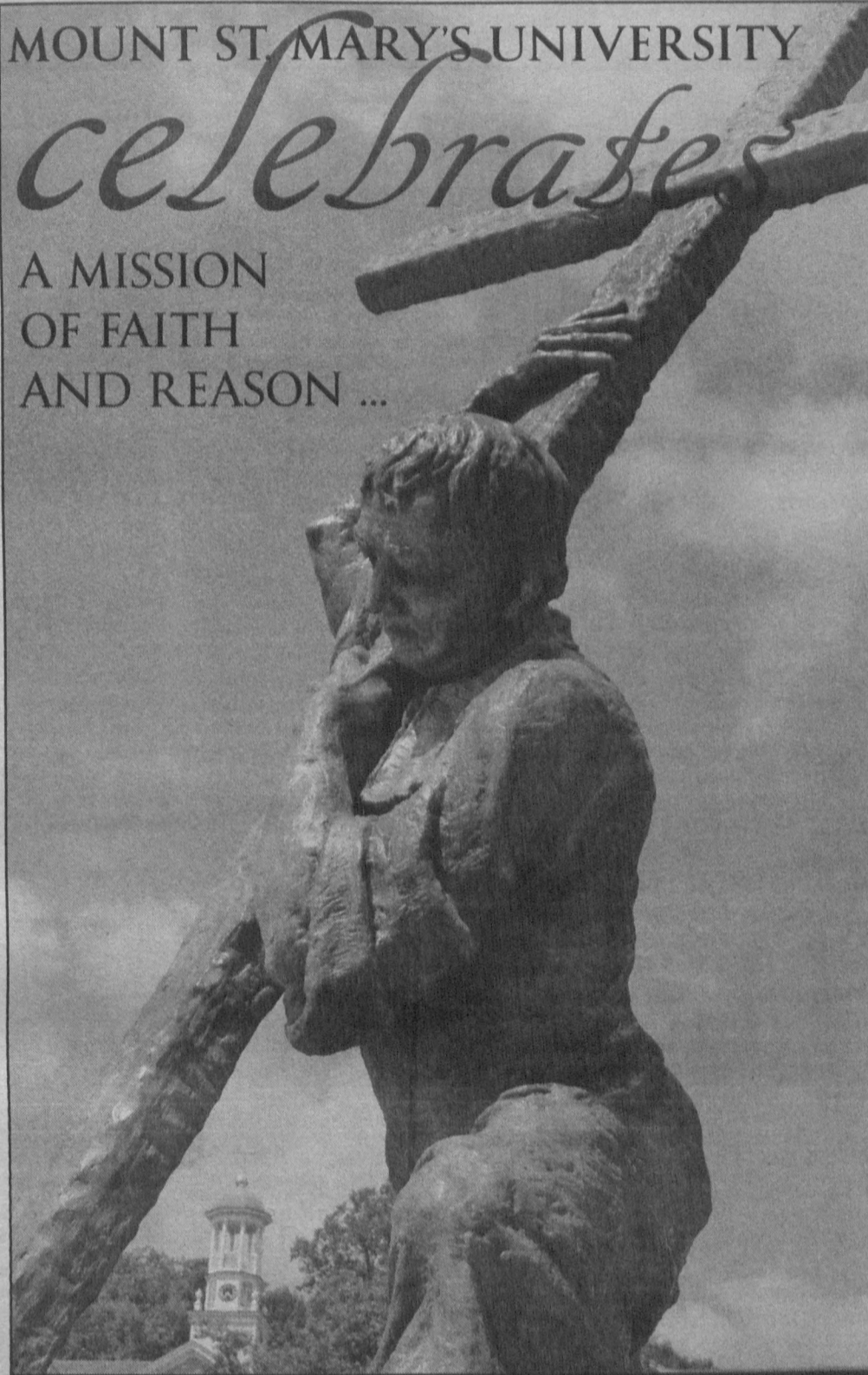
Discovering that shelves that store food at the Thurmont Food Bank were very empty, students and staff at Catoctin High recently decided to become active and address this need. A school-wide food drive collected numerous boxes of canned food from tuna, spaghetti sauce, cake mix, vegetables etc. The items were delivered to the food bank located at St. Johns Lutheran Church on N. Church St. Catoctin High students pictured below from left to right are: Justin Bonnie, Victoria Farmer-Long, Samantha Cool, Keyoni Ellis, Becky Fry, Jay Ballenger, and Samantha Cochran.

Flocking to learn more about birds



Students from Mother Seton School learned about birds of prey during an Oct. 19 presentation at the school. A naturalist from Zoo America in Hershey, Pa. came to the school with five different birds and a snake to educate the students about hunting birds. About 100 students and staff enjoyed the discussion.

- PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SILVER FANCY GARDEN CLUB



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ABOUT OUR FOUNDER: Mount St. Mary's University founder Fr. John DuBois, came to America in 1791 fleeing religious persecution in his native France. DuBois, as a traveling priest, built a small chapel on a mountain outside Emmitsburg envisioning the spot as a future seminary and Catholic university. By the fall of 1808, Fr. DuBois' dream became reality when he established Mount St. Mary's College. Fr. DuBois stayed at the Mount until being named the third bishop of New York in 1826.

Mount St. Mary's University appreciates the support of our community as we celebrate our bicentennial.

For 200 years, Mount St. Mary's University has sent forth graduates strengthened in their faith, dedicated to the pursuit of truth and inspired by Catholic values to make a difference.

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ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

SENIOR EVENTS

Senior Events in December

'Tis the season—to be jolly and deck the halls, to light the town tree and sing carols, to celebrate with your family and friends, to wait and watch, and to give to others. Most of all, it's the time to "have yourself a merry little Christmas" and look forward to the New Year.

The seniors encourage all eligible persons (50 years and older) to join them for regular program activities and special events. Our lunch program is open to those 60 and older. The center is lovely and the "natives" are friendly! Check us out!

Special events

December 11 & 18 – Seasonal crafts, 12:30 p.m.

December 14 – Holiday dinner at noon.

December 18 – Blood pressure check with Nurse Steve, 11 a.m.

December 19 – Christmas Bingo, 12:30 p.m. Bring a wrapped gift for someone of your own gender.

December 24 & 25 – Center closed for Christmas holiday.

January 1 – Center closed for New Year's Day.

Regular activities

Bowling: Mondays at Taneytown bowling center. Carpool; meet at center at 12:30 p.m.

Strength Training & Conditioning: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Dress comfortably, wear athletic shoes. Participants will use small weights. Free.

Bingo: December 5 & 19.

Cards, 500, and Bridge Group: December 12 & 26.

Men's Pool: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Pinochle: Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

Cards & Games: Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

Shopping at Jubilee Foods: Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

Programs are held in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. Call for lunch reservations 24 hours in advance. The senior center will close whenever county offices are closed. To register for special events or for information, call program coordinator Linda Umbel, (301) 600-6350.

LIBRARY EVENTS

December at the Emmitsburg Library

Storytimes

Babies with Books (birth-24 months with an adult)
December 12, 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Two Terrific Storytime (age 2)
December 11, 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Head Start Storytime (ages 3-5)
December 11, 18 at 9:45 a.m.

Pre-School Storytime (ages 3-5)
December 13, 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime (all ages)
December 12, 19 at 7 p.m.

Children's Programs

Gingerbread Gala (ages 3 and up)
Pick up your "faux" gingerbread house anytime December 1-15 at the library, take it home, decorate it and return it by Dec. 17 for our holiday display. December 1, all day

Children's Holiday Tea (ages 0-6)
Put on your holiday finery and have tea and treats at the library.
December 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Reading Rocks! (ages 10-12)
Read your choice of *Tiger, Tiger* by Lynne Reid Bank or *Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo.
December 10 at 4 p.m. Registration required.

"Did You Know?" Series (ages 6-12)
Create snowflake-inspired crafts.
December 15 at 11 a.m.

ART (ages 3-6)
Storytime with fun books and a coordinating art project.
December 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Night Owls (ages 6-12)
An evening of games, crafts, snacks and lots of laughs.
Registration required.
December 18 at 4 p.m.
December 29 at 2:30 p.m.

The Book Bunch (ages 6-11)
Read and discuss *Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg with a craft or special activity.
December 19 at 4 p.m.

Teen Programs

Animé Club (grades 6-12)
December 14 at 6 p.m.

Knit 1, Bead 2 (teens and adults)
Bring your favorite craft materials, relax, exchange ideas and learn new skills.
December 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Adult Programs

Friends of Library Board Meeting (adult)
December 10 at 7 p.m.

Non-Fiction Book Club (adult)
December 13 at 1 p.m.

Tuesday Evening Book Club (adults)
December 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Knitting Nook (teens and adults)
December 20 at 4 p.m.

Genealogy Focus Group (teens and adults)
December 27 at 7 p.m.

Programs, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Emmitsburg Library in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. Registration or information: (240) 629-6329.

FAIRFIELD SENIOR EVENTS

Senior Events at the Fairfield Senior Center

The Fairfield Senior Center welcomes all seniors of the Greater Fairfield, Pa. area. The center is in the Social Room at St. John's Lutheran Church, 13 East Main Street, Fairfield. Questions about activities? Call Cheryl Kulkusky, the site director, at (717) 642-6523.

Special Events

December 3 - Garden Club Crafts

December 5 - Blood Pressure checks

December 6 - To the Mall for Christmas shopping; lunch out

December 12 - Garden Club Christmas flowers

December 17 - 9:30 a.m. carpool to VFW Christmas party; reservations required, \$6 each.; 10:30 a.m. Asera Care speaker, "Steps to Survival"

December 19 - Covered Dish Christmas Party; please bring a \$5 (wrapped) gift

December 24 & 25 - Closed for Christmas

Regular activities

Exercise: Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Dress comfortably and wear athletic shoes.

Line Dancing: Monday and Friday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Needlework: Mondays, 10:30 a.m. - noon. Bring your project - beginners welcome.

Lunch: Monday through Friday at noon, except for Special Events already noted.

Card games: your choice. Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Games and puzzles: Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., except for Special Events.

Chat Time: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Call for lunch reservations 48 hours in advance. The senior center will close whenever Adams County offices are closed. To register for special events, call (717) 642-6523.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Red Wings are 2007 Fall Ball Champs



The 13-15 year old Emmitsburg Red Wings defeated Frederick Dairymaid with a score of 12-5 in the championship game at Loats Field. They ended the season with a 17-2 record. Pictured are (l to r): Peter Mercandetti, Zach Ford, Michael Welty, Aaron Stoner, Assistant Coach Mike Yon, Richard Doane Jr., Assistant Coach Dave Welty, Brad Ellis, Henry Jones, Manager John Mercandetti, Dondre Yon, Assistant Coach Richard Doane Sr., Seth Martin, Josh Brotherton, and Chris Cobb. Not pictured are Jordan Martin and Jared Cobb.

New VFW Ladies Auxiliary officers



- PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EMMITSBURG VFW LADIES AUXILIARY

The Emmitsburg Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6658 celebrated its 60th anniversary recently at Carroll Valley Resort. Auxiliary charter members from 1947 honored during the event include (from left): Gloria Martin Bauerline, Genevieve Kugler Zacharias, Etta Mae Norris, Jane Gingell, and Dolores Joy Henke.

40 years of life as a Thurmont Lion



The Thurmont Lions Club recently recognized Frank "Bud" Long for his 40 years of service as a Thurmont Lion. Long has served in numerous offices and on many committees over his four decades of membership. In 1994, he was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow and perfect attendance awards. In December 2004, the Thurmont Lions Club presented Lion Bud with a Life Membership. Long is owner of Long Construction located in Thurmont.

Supporting veterans for 60 years



- PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EMMITSBURG VFW LADIES AUXILIARY

The Emmitsburg Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6658 new officers are (from left): seated, Gloria Bauerline, chaplain; Evelyn Ott, conductress; standing, Barbara Knott, sr. vice president; Joan Tracey, guard; Mary R. Topper, president; Dolores Henke, secretary.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR PART OF THE COMMUNITY?

Let us know what your church, neighborhood or organization is doing in the community. *The Dispatch* welcomes press releases for community news items. Send your items of interest by e-mail to: editor@thedispatch.us or by mail to: Dispatch Community News, P.O. Box 358, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

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Rev. Reggie Rice, Pastor

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December 16 "God Comes to Save"
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Community CALENDAR

December 6 – Depression and Bipolar Disorder Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month. 7 – 8:30 p.m. for more information call (301) 447-2207.

December 7 – Bazaar at St. John's Union Church, Creagerstown at the parish house 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. All proceeds go toward replacing windows and roof in the 1834 Union Church. (301) 898-9898, (301) 898-7718.

December 7 – All You Can Eat Italian Buffet at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall, Thurmont, Md. 5 - 7:30 p.m. Pasta, Pizza, Drinks and Desserts. Adults \$10, Ages 4-12 \$4, 3 and under Free. Sponsored by our Knights of Columbus. (301) 271-4439.

December 7 – Bazaar at the Parish House in Creagerstown. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Home made baked goods, apple dumplings, soups and sandwiches. Our cook book Celebrating 275 years in Creagerstown and a CD with music written and performed by church members. Many other items including some items from the Whimsical Place in Thurmont.

December 7 – Bazaar at St. John's Lutheran Church in Creagerstown. Baked goods, crafts, soups sandwiches and a white elephant table. 3 - 9 p.m.

December 7 & 8 – Annual Holiday Open House at Thorpewood. Friday, 5 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 3 - 7 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments, a warm fire, seasonal music, and our beautifully decorated Christmas tree, with over 3,000 lights and many homemade decorations. (301) 271-2823, www.thorpewood.org.

December 8 – Museums by Candlelight. Self guided tour features 21 locations in Frederick County. Each Museums by Candlelight site offers fun and learning for the entire family to enjoy as part of Children's Weekend in Frederick. (301) 600-4042.

December 8 – 3rd annual Cookie Walk Sale with Crafts at The Tom's Creek United Methodist Church off Route 140, Tom's Creek Church Rd., Emmitsburg, Md. "Oldies and Goodies" homemade Christmas Cookies and Candy \$6.25 per pound. 9 - 11 a.m. (301) 271-3260. Snow date Dec. 15.

December 8 – "Tours for Twos" FMH Birth Place at Frederick Memorial Hospital, 400 West 7th Street, Frederick. Advance registration &

payment required. \$20 per child. (240) 379-6000.

December 8 – "Small Wonder" Sibling Class – (Ages 3-5) at Frederick Memorial Hospital, 400 W. 7th St., Frederick. Advance registration & payment required. \$35 per child. (240) 379-6000.

December 8 – "Saturday Express" Childbirth Education at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick or Frederick Memorial Hospital, 400 W. 7th St., Frederick. \$110 per couple. (240) 379-6000.

December 8 & 9 – Holiday House Tour. The Woodsboro Historical Society tours are Saturday, 4 - 8 p.m. and Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. Tickets \$15. The self guided tour includes homes, the Woodsboro Historical Society Museum, and several churches. Tickets available November 11 from Society members, Woodsboro Bank lobby, 5 N. Main St. and on tour days at the old Post Office building, 7 N. Main St. (240) 285-4949.

December 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18 – Holiday Boardinghouse Lunches at Willow Pond Farm 145 Tract Rd., Fairfield, Pa. Executive Chef, Madeline creates superb meals drawing on the farm's bounty and seasonal ingredients. Enjoy appetizers, soup, main course, salad, and dessert, followed by demonstrations on quick and easy herbal culinary, craft, and decorating ideas. Reservations required. Fee, \$25. (717) 642-6387, info@willowpondherbs.com.

December 9 – Christmas Fun Day at Tom's Creek UMC. Children 4 and older. 12:30 - 5:30 p.m. Free. pre-register by Dec. 1. Space is limited. For more information contact LuAnn (717) 642-6032. (301) 447-3171.

December 9 & 23 – Boulevard Singles Dance at Boulevard & Beyond Caterers, 1011 Baltimore Blvd., Westminster. Every 2nd and 4th Sunday. 7 - 10:30 p.m. \$8. Free dance lesson 7 - 7:30 p.m. Full bar and snacks. Peggy (410) 876-6810.

December 10 – Community Blood Drive at Fellowship Baptist Church, 1 - 7 p.m. We have a goal of at least 40 units and since there has been a severe shortage of blood in the area for several months now and the holiday is upon us, we are asking for your assistance to reach our goal. Please call to schedule your donation time (717) 642-6767 or email admin@fellowshipbaptistpa.org.

December 13 – Thurmont Mom's Club meets the second Thursday of each month at Graceham Moravian Church, Rocky Ridge Rd. 10 a.m. (301) 271-5415.

Through December 15 – "Holiday of Trees" at the Taneytown History Museum, 24 East Baltimore Street, Taneytown, Md. 29 Christmas Trees on display. Come see and vote on your favorite trees and they are up for silent auction. Fridays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 1 - 4 p.m. For a private tour call (410) 756-1113, www.taneytownmuseum.org

December 15 – Free Home Buyer Education Class by The Frederick at 14 East All Saints St. Frederick, Md. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Registration required by Dec. 13. Call Brad (301) 600-3966.

December 15 – Free Workshop on Renovating Barns at the Myersville Fire Hall, 301 Main Street, Myersville. 9:30 a.m. - noon. Two speakers, free refreshments, and an information swap. For more information, upcoming Barnstormers events, and to volunteer please contact Birch Hotz at (301) 293-2215.

December 15 – Evergreen Walk at Thorpewood. 7 - 9 p.m. Find out how these hardy trees thrive during icy conditions. \$5, \$3 members. RSVP (301) 271-2823, www.thorpewood.org.

December 15 – "Comfort Measures Plus". Natural pain management techniques at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick. Advance registration & payment required. \$30 per couple. (240) 379-6000.

December 15 – "Where's the Instruction Manual?" Baby Care Basics Class at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick. Advance registration & payment required. \$65 per couple. (240) 379-6000.

December 19 – Fruit Baskets at The Wolfsville Ruritan Club. Large \$13.50; small \$7.50. Available 5 - 7 p.m. at Wolfsville Ruritan Community Park, Brandenburg Hollow Rd. Route 70 to Exit 42 to MD 17N. Go 7 miles to Wolfsville, turn right on Stottlemeyer Road, turn left on Brandenburg Hollow Road to the Wolfsville Ruritan Community Park. Proceeds to benefit community activities and park maintenance. To order, call (301) 293-2535 by December 12.

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Arts & Entertainment

C A L E N D A R

December 7 – The Nutcracker at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St. Frederick, Md. Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. A Frederick holiday tradition for 28 years! Guest artists from New York City Ballet and Suzanne Farrell Ballet join local performers in this enchanted production. \$25, \$23, \$11. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

December 7 & 8 – Holiday Open House at Thorpewood: Friday 5 – 9 p.m., Saturday 3 – 7 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments, a warm fire, seasonal music, and our spruce tree, decorated with over 3,000 lights and many homemade decorations.

December 7 & 8 – “Holiday Vocal Concert” from three local performing groups at Frederick Community College’s Jack B. Kussmaul Theater. Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 2 and 8 p.m. Advance, group, and family packaged tickets offered at discount prices. Full-price tickets may be purchased at the JBK Theater box office the evening of the performance. For ticket and show information, call (301) 865-3092, (301) 662-8320.

December 7 to 9 – The Nutcracker at the Weinberg Center, Frederick, Md. A Frederick holiday tradition in its 28th year! \$25 orchestra and mezzanine; \$23 rear orchestra; \$11 balcony; groups of 20+ \$2/\$1 off. Friday 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m.

December 8 – Design a Holiday Card Watercolor Workshop. 12 - 4 p.m. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. Register via secure web site www.wcmfa.org; registration required. (301) 739-5727. TDD (301) 739-5764.

December 9 – Boulevard Singles Dance at Boulevard & Beyond Caterers (formerly Wilhelm’s) 1011 Baltimore Blvd. (Rt 140) Westminster, MD. Every second and fourth Sunday. 7 - 10:30 p.m., 7 p.m. dance lessons. \$8. Full Bar, snacks provided. (410) 876-6810.

Through December 11 – Landscapes in Acrylic. Tuesdays 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. Register via secure web site www.wcmfa.org; registration required. (301) 739-5727. TDD (301) 739-5764.

December 13 – Charles Dickens’ holiday classic brought to life at the Weinberg Center, Frederick, Md. \$6 Home and Private Schools, \$5 Frederick County Public Schools. 10 a.m.

Through December 13 – Mixed Media Studio. Thursdays 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown instructor Mike Gouker. Register via our secure web site www.wcmfa.org; registration required. (301) 739-5727. TDD (301) 739-5764.

Through December 14 – Young at Art. Fridays 1 - 2 p.m., ages 4-6. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. Register via secure web site www.wcmfa.org; registration required. (301) 739-5727. TDD (301) 739-5764.

December 14 to 16 – A Christmas Carol. Charles Dickens’ holiday classic brought to life at the Weinberg Center, 20 West Patrick St., Frederick, Md. \$20 orchestra and mezzanine, \$18 rear orchestra, \$10 balcony. Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday

2 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

December 15 – Evergreen Walk at Thorpewood. 2 – 4 p.m. \$8. In the wintertime some trees go to sleep while others are still lush and vibrant. Make your own Christmas wreath to bring home and decorate! Dress warm!

December 16 – 97th Annual Carol Sing at Emmanuel United Church of Christ, 124 Broadway, Hanover, Pa. Celebrate a Christmas tradition which dates back to 1911 when Rev. Dr. Abner S. DeChant started carol sings held on each of the 10 days before Christmas. Community orchestra accompaniment and participation is open to any interested member of the community. Players are asked to meet for a brief rehearsal at 6 p.m. prior to the Carol Sing at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Cathy El-kiss (717) 632-8281.

Through December 18 – Exploring Watercolor Studio. Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. Register via secure web site www.wcmfa.org; registration required. (301) 739-5727. TDD (301) 739-5764.

December 18 – 13th Annual Messiah Sing-Along at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St. Frederick, Md, 8 p.m. The tradition lives on! Join Conductor Judy DuBose as she leads the Frederick Chamber Singers, orchestra, professional soloists, in G. F. Handel’s beloved classic. \$12, \$10. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

Through December 19 – Exploring Watercolor Studio. Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. Register via secure web site www.wcmfa.org; registration required. (301) 739-5727. TDD (301) 739-5764.

Through December 19 – Introduction to Portraiture for All Media. Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. Register via secure web site www.wcmfa.org; registration required. (301) 739-5727. TDD (301) 739-5764.

Through December 20 – Hand Building with Clay. Thursdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. Register via our secure web site www.wcmfa.org; Registration required. (301) 739-5727. TDD (301) 739-5764.

December 20 – Storytime at Thorpewood. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. \$2. Join us for a morning of stories, crafts and activities. Space is limited.

December 21 & 22 – Frederick Symphony Orchestra will perform Friday 8 p.m. and Saturday 3 p.m. General seating tickets \$18 adults; \$10 students and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased at the JBK Theater box office the evening of the performance. (301) 663-8476.

December 22 – White Christmas (1954) at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St. Frederick, Md. 2 and 8 p.m. A holiday must-see, starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, and Irving Berlin’s wonderful music. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors, students, children. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

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OBITUARIES

Mr. Robert Routier

Mr. Robert G. Routier, 51, of Fairfield, Pa., passed unexpectedly at his home on November 11, 2007. He was the husband of Myrna Ulloa, his wife of 24 years. Born March 31, 1956 in Augusta, Colo., he was the son of Joseph L. and Marian Routier, of Columbus, Ga. In addition to his wife and his parents, he is survived by six children, Yenda, Pablo, Rafael, Gizelle, Fernando and Omar; two brothers, Sonny and Steve; a sister, Cheryl; eight grandchildren; nephews; nieces and many other relatives.

Committal services were held Nov. 15 in the Chapel Mausoleum at Resthaven Memorial Gardens, Frederick. Interment followed in the Garden of Solomon with Rabbi Morris Kosman officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Beth Shalom Community Center, 1101 N. Market St., Frederick, MD 21701.

Frank J. Webb

Frank J. Webb, 93, formerly of Emmitsburg, died Friday, November 16, 2007 in Jacksonville, FL. He was born March 5, 1914,

in Baltimore, Md., to Thomas Leon Webb and Matilda Ison Webb. He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Irma Knight Webb.

Surviving are three daughters, Frances Cunzeman, Carolyn Goggin and Terree Hays; five grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to: Community Hospice of N. E. Florida, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, Fla. 32257, or Hodges Boulevard Presbyterian Church 4140 Hodges Boulevard Jacksonville, Fla. 32224.

Mrs. Mary Louise Fales

Mary Louise Fales, 70, of Bourbon Trail Fairfield, Pa., formerly of Smithsburg, died at home Wednesday November 21, 2007.

Born July 11, 1937 in Syracuse, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Lawrence Arthur and Dorothy Elizabeth (Tollerton) DeLong.

She is survived by her husband Russell F. Fales; daughter, Cynthia J. Shultz; sons, Anthony and David Fales; sister, Anne Simon; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she

was preceded in death by brothers Bruce and Ronald DeLong.

There will be no viewing. Services will be announced at a later date and time.

Mr. Bernard Welty

Bernard M. Welty, 84, of Emmitsburg died Monday, November 26, 2007 at York Hospital. He was born October 15, 1923 in Fairfield, Pa. the son of the late Tyson J. and M. Dula McNair Welty. He was the husband of Ann T. Hobbs Welty, for 46 years.

In addition to his wife he is survived by his children David Welty; Catherine Welty Miller and son, Kevin Welty; five grandchildren, brothers, Joseph N. Welty and James T. Welty; sister, Barbara W. Martin; also numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his sister, Margaret Baker.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 30, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Emmitsburg with Rev. Steven P. Trzeciecki C.M. as celebrant. Interment followed in the new St. Joseph's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Dr. Bonita D. Portier, Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center, P.O. Box 1219, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

Online condolences may be expressed to the Welty family at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

BIRTHS

Rebekah & Jason Shoobridge, Emmitsburg, a son, Nov. 6

Jennifer Rippeon & Christopher Stahley, Emmitsburg, a son, Nov. 9

Laura & Bruce Fisher, Emmitsburg, a son, Nov. 10

Kim & John Miller, Emmitsburg, twins; a son & a daughter, Nov. 13

Christina Hansen & Steven Topper, Emmitsburg, a son, Nov. 19

Brandy Stambaugh & Thomas Zebroski, Rocky Ridge, a daughter, Nov. 21

Amanda Sweeney & Joshua Miller, Emmitsburg, a son, Nov. 23

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Blueberry
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Banana Nut
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Apple Caramel
Gingerbread (Seasonal)
Pistachio

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Red Velvet
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Caramel
Cream Cheese
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- 21788 - Thurmont

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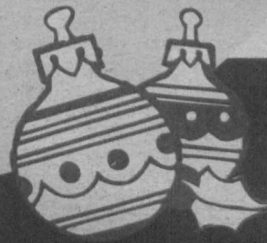
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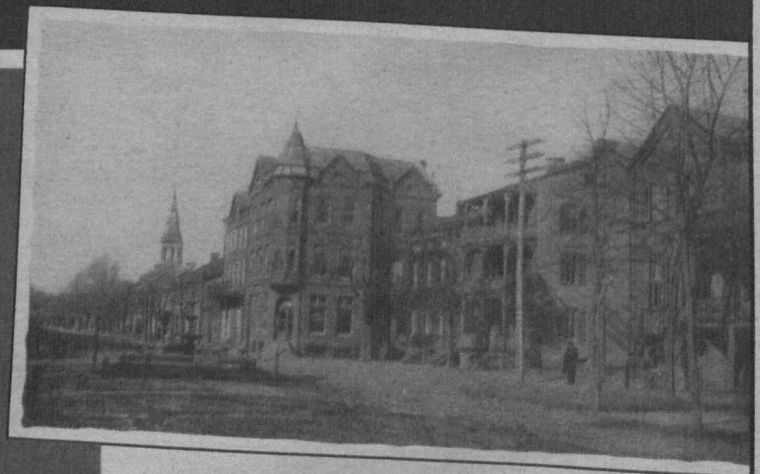


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Things are changing at Jubilee. We're still locally owned and operated, and carry the finest and freshest food ... the changes are in our stores interior appearance. Working closely with the Emmitsburg Area Historical Society we have decorated the store with historical photos depicting scenes from Emmitsburg's past. Over the next year we'll use this space to tell you a bit about each of the photos that now grace our walls starting with the banner over the cash register bearing the title 'Annan-Horner Bank.'



Banking House of Annan-Horner
find it in a banner above the cash registers

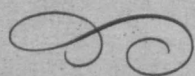
The beginning of the 20th century marked the promising and prosperous period in Emmitsburg's history. This high watermark owes thanks to two families: the Annans and the Horners, whose names and good work, including the founding of the Emmitsburg Water Company, and obtaining the fountain that once stood proudly in the town's square, have all but been forgotten.

In 1882, Andrew Annan, with his sons Isaac and James and son-in-law, Major Oliver Horner, organized the Annan-Horner Bank. The bank was located on the North West Corner of the Square (now home to the VFW). For 40 years, through diligent loans and investments, the bank brought prosperity to the community.

During WWI, the bank, out of sense of patriotism, invested heavily in Government backed Liberty Bonds. Following the end of the war, the value of the bonds dropped dramatically, at the same time the Emmitsburg area entered into a three year drought that devastated crops, forcing farmers to draw down their savings. The resulting liquidity crisis at the bank fed rumors of embezzlement and fraud.

In 1922 the bank failed and its directors were arrested and put on trial. Unfortunately the finding that they were innocent of the charges came too late to save their personal possessions and homes from auction. With reputations ruined, the families left town and with them went the memories of all the good they had done for it.

It is the hope of Jubilee that placing the banner for the Annan-Horner Bank will in some small way help to restore the Annan-Horne family to their rightful honorable place in Emmitsburg's History.



Wintertime

A Mason-Dixon Guide
to Activities, Services
and Events

Winter 2007



**Eat at a
tavern as old
as the U.S.**

- see page 3

**Give the gift
of luxury**

- see page 4

**The story of the
Christmas tree
and where to
find them**

- see page 8

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Wintertime 2007

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Welcome to WINTERTIME, a Mason-Dixon area guide to activities, services and events for winter 2007, brought to you by *The Dispatch Newspapers*, Emmitsburg, Md., its advertisers and sponsors.

With the cold weather setting in, it's time for winter sports for the outdoor lovers. There are also house tours for the holidays, tubing on the mountain, and stage productions to enjoy. In these pages you'll find articles, directories and regional business advertisements featuring winter specials.

Our advertisers have highlighted a variety of activities and services they provide. With more than enough to fill your calendar, our guide will help you and your family throughout the winter, focusing on what's going on in our area, helping you plan day, evening or weekend fun.

WINTERTIME is free to you, compliments of *The Dispatch Community Newspapers*.

Currently we publish two newspapers, *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* and *The Thurmont Dispatch*. Both newspapers are distributed on the first and third Thursday of every month and mailed to every home and business in each paper's circulation area - more than 15,000 copies total, and 100 percent market saturation for advertisers.

The papers are filled with local and regional news from our award-winning writers, columns by local writers, community events, sports and recreation and regional entertainment listings. We are not a wire-service publication, preferring to include local news that directly concerns you.

We hope you find this guide useful as you make your winter plans in the Mason-Dixon area, and welcome your comments. We thank the advertisers who have joined us this time around, and look forward to our next regional guide, SPRINGTIME, due out in March.

Jennifer Buchheister
Advertising Sales
jbuchheister@thedispatch.us

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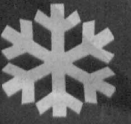


table of contents

- Dobbin House is as old as the United States 3
- Relaxing in a spa can be the perfect gift 4
- Tour Woodsboro's historic homes 5
- Snow tubing - The perfect wintertime activity for anyone 6
- O, Tannenbaum 8
- Arts & Entertainment Calendar 10

Acknowledgements: Copy was written by Dispatch staff James Rada, Jr. and Stephanie Long. Long also provided the graphic design and layout for this issue of *Wintertime*. Cover photo by James Rada, Jr.



advertisement index

- Adkins Auto Repair 10
- Amber Hill Physical Therapy, Inc. 7
- Bollinger Homes, LLC 11
- Carroll Valley Resort 5
- Central MD Sunroom 8
- CRS Insurance, Inc. 4
- Dance Dynamics 10
- East Park Automotive 11
- Freestyle Too 7
- L&S Furniture Sales 3
- Mount Saint Mary's Athletics 9
- Majestic 12
- Mason-Dixon Oil Company 9
- NAPA Auto Parts 3
- Pioneer Lines Scenic Railway 9
- Rhonda Carbaugh - Affordable Health Ins. 4
- Sewell's Farm 6
- Shear Elegance Alpacas 10
- T&M Crane Rentals, Inc. 11
- Totem Pole Playhouse 6
- Trinity United Church of Christ 5
- Weinberg Center for the Arts 6

"A stop on The Journey Through Hallowed Ground"

Dobbin House is as old as the United States

By JAMES RADA, JR.



- PHOTO BY JAMES RADA JR.

The Dobbin House, located in Gettysburg, was once a Civil War hospital and stop on the Underground Railroad.

Editor's Note: This is the sixth in a series of features on sites in the Mason-Dixon Region along "The Journey Through Hallowed Ground," the 175-mile area along the U.S. Route 15 corridor that reaches from Gettysburg, Pa. to Charlottesville, Va.

While the Founding Fathers were working to build a nation in Philadelphia in 1776, in south-central Pennsylvania (Adams County wasn't created until 1800), Rev. Alexander Dobbin and his parishioners were building a house that, just like the United States, is still standing 231 years later.

Though now surrounded by houses, businesses, hotels and monuments in Gettysburg, when the house was built, it was a 300-acre farm.

"Dobbins was the second-largest landholder in the area behind James Gettys," said Rick Beamer, general manager for the Dobbin House Tavern.

The original stone structure was home to Dobbin's wife, 10 children and 9 stepchildren. The house also served as a classical school, which was a combined seminary and liberal arts college. "Dobbin's school was the first of its kind in America west of the Susquehanna River, an academy which enjoyed an excellent reputation for educating many professional men of renown," according to the Dobbin House brochure.

The house passed out of the Dobbin family

in 1834 and began being passed through a series of owners. Conrad Snyder owned the house during the Civil War.

During the Battle of Gettysburg, Beamer said, "There was substantial fighting nearby. It was amazing that it didn't take a cannonball hit."

The house was also used as an Underground Railroad stop. Slaves were hidden in a crawl space between the first and second floors behind a false wall. The space can still be seen today when touring the house.

The house served as a private residence or apartments until the 1950's. From the 1950's until 1975, the building was a museum, gift shop and housed a diorama on the second floor.

The current owners purchased the house in 1975 and opened the Springhouse Tavern in May 1978. That evolved over the years growing into a complex that includes the tavern, a fine-dining restaurant in the actual Dobbin House, a banquet room, gift shop and bed and breakfast. Dobbin House serves more than 200,000 guests each year.

"We strive to serve quality food and offer gracious service," Beamer said.

It's all done in the setting of an authentic colonial tavern that offers recipes that have been featured in "Bon Appetit" and "Cuisine" magazines.

For more information, visit the Dobbin House web site at www.dobbinhouse.com or call (717) 334-2100.

Where to stop on the Journey Through Hallowed Ground

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground follows the U.S. Route 15 and Route 20 corridor for 175 miles from Gettysburg, through Frederick County and ending in Charlottesville, Va. It was designated as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by The National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2005. Here are the Hallowed Ground sites in the Mason-Dixon Region:

Southern Adams County, Pa.

- Adams County Courthouse (a historic structure in Gettysburg)
- David Wills House (site of the final edits of "The Gettysburg Address")
- Dobbin House (Civil War hospital and Underground Railroad stop)
- Eisenhower National Historic Site (President Eisenhower's weekend retreat)
- Gettysburg College (Civil War field hospital and command post)
- Gettysburg National Military Park (Civil War battlefield)
- Lincoln Cemetery (burial site of Gettysburg's African-American citizens and Civil War veterans)
- Lincoln Railroad Station (Civil War railroad station)
- Lutheran Theological Seminary (Lutheran seminary)
- Sachs Covered Bridge (covered bridge near Gettysburg)
- Soldiers National Cemetery (site of Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address")

Northern Frederick County, Md.

- Catoctin Furnace (standing remains of Catoctin Furnace Stack #2)
 - Emmitsburg Historic District (largely intact antebellum neighborhood)
 - Fourpoints Bridge (1876 steel bridge)
 - Graceham Moravian Church and Parsonage (18th century church)
 - Loy's Station Covered Bridge (covered bridge near Thurmont)
 - Mother Seton Shrine and St. Joseph's College (shrine to Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton)
- For more information, visit www.hallowedground.org.

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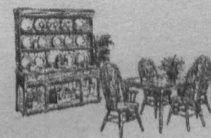


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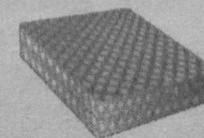
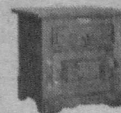
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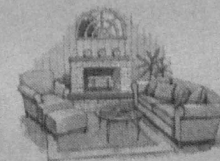
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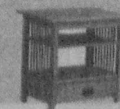


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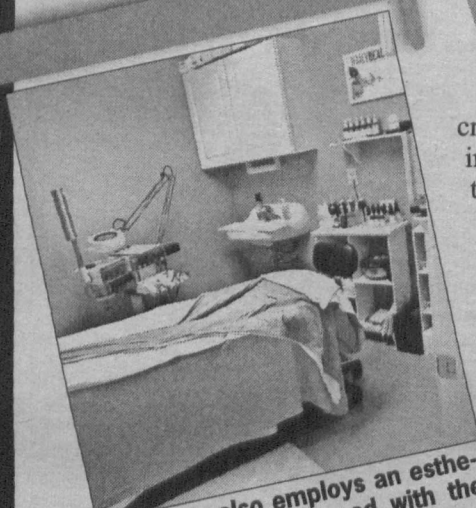
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Relaxing in a spa can be the perfect gift

By STEPHANIE LONG

Wintertime 2007



Freestyle also employs an esthetician who is equipped with the latest skin care technology.

With the holiday season quickly approaching, many are heading out to crowded stores or furiously clicking their way through cyberspace trying to find the perfect present for that special someone, while the answer may be right down the road at Freestyle Too Hair & Body Spa.

Located in the Fairfield Town Center, Freestyle is a full-service spa that caters to the needs of both women and men, offering first-rate services geared towards any lifestyle. The wide range of services offered at Freestyle and the availability of gift cards, which are available in any dol-

lar amount or for any service, could bring an end to the shopping woes of some.

"There is something for everybody," said Megan Ecker, a hair designer at Freestyle.

Freestyle offers typical hair and nail services and several different spa packages, which range from packages geared towards those looking for a full day of beauty pampering to those looking for a more relaxing experience; there are even spa packages geared specifically to men.

In addition to offering spa services, such as massages and manicures, Freestyle employs an esthetician and is a Redken salon, which according to owner Joan Graen, means the hair designers are more educated and on the cutting edge of

their field.

"We're an above average salon... we're a spa," Graen said.

In addition to keeping up on the latest trends and techniques, the employees at Freestyle have one more thing to offer clients, passion.

"We're passionate about what we do," Ecker said. "You don't just get a haircut. We look at everything, every aspect. We want them to feel good."

That passion and the Freestyle motto that "the client is the most important thing," means that the simple days of going to the barber for a quick cut are days of the past.

"You're really getting your money's worth, with the atmosphere and quality," said Danielle Hanfam, an esthetician and hair designer at Freestyle.



- PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE LONG

Freestyle Too Hair & Body Spa opened in Fairfield just over a month ago and offers first-rate spa services.

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By JAMES RADA, JR.

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For tickets or more information, call Sue Kreh at (240) 285-4949.

Step back in time as you browse the historical homes and churches of Woodsboro, Md. The Woodsboro Historical Society is sponsoring their Third Annual Holiday Homes Tour on Dec. 8 and 9.

"We've focused on old houses of Woodsboro that have been refurbished and decorated for the holidays," said Sue Kreh with the Woodsboro Historical Society. "The owners have taken the houses and fixed them up painted and restored them to the shape they were in their prime.

The tour includes four historical homes and three churches in town. The historical society works to

include a different mix of houses each year so visitors aren't always seeing the same houses year after year. The cost of the tour is \$15 and it serves as a fundraiser for the historical society.

"The first one was a great success," Kreh said. "Last year, we didn't have as many people."

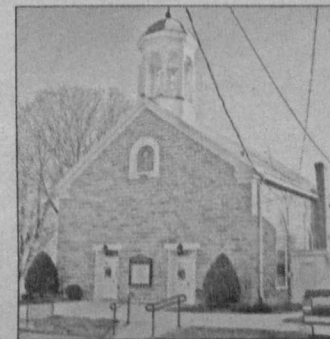
The funds go to help the historical society in their restoration work of the old Pennsylvania Railroad Station.

"We're doing it on our own with our own manpower," Kreh said.

Tour hours will be from 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8 and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9.



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- PHOTOS BY ROBERT ROSENSTEEL, SR.

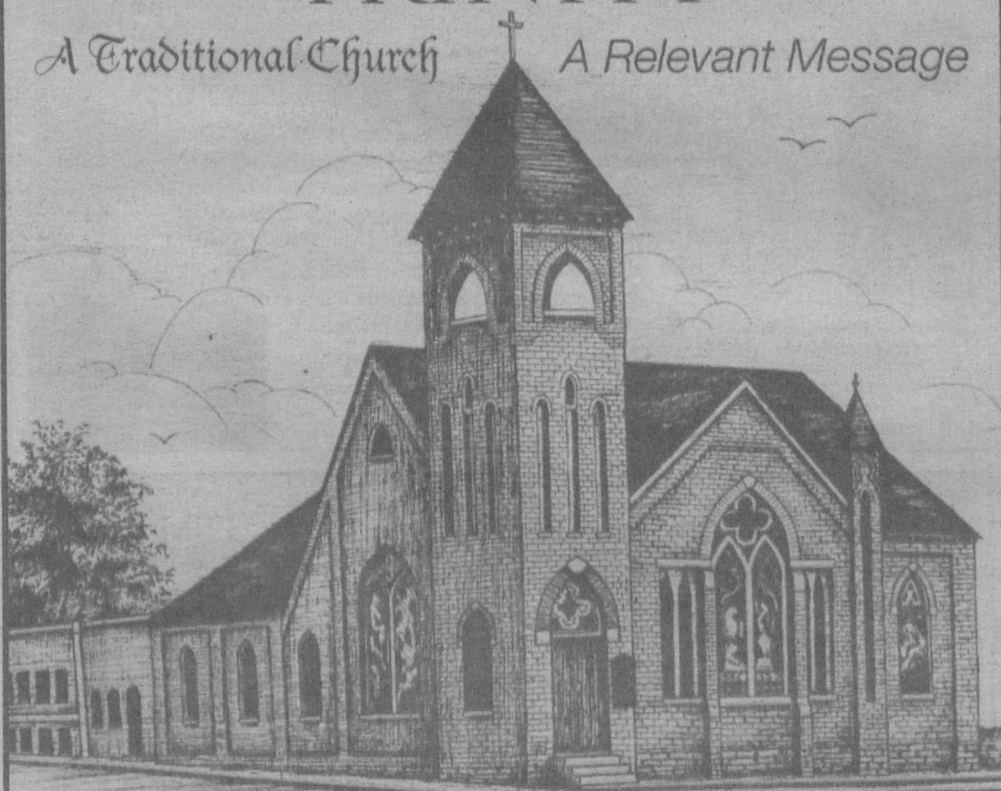


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Wintertime 2007

Snow tubing The perfect wintertime activity for anyone

BY STEPHANIE LONG

Looking for that perfect outdoor wintertime activity, an activity full of snow, thrills, adrenaline and fun that anyone can enjoy? Then perhaps snow tubing at Ski Liberty is the perfect answer.

"Anybody can do it," said Eric Flynn, general manager of Ski Liberty. "Grandparents come with their grandkids... it's for everyone."

A very popular activity at Ski Liberty, tubing is a bit different than skiing and snowboarding, as it can be enjoyed regardless of one's ability and talent, Flynn said.

"It's a lot like sledding," he said. "It's very simple and doesn't take skill."

Ski Liberty has two different tubing sites, Boulder Ridge for those five and older and Pebble Ridge Kiddie Tubing, for those aged two to four. Boulder Ridge



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boasts a 100-foot drop and 700-800-foot long lanes, on which "you really get cooking" Flynn said.

Because of the lack of natural snow seen over the past years, the tubing lanes are typically covered in man-made snow, but that shouldn't be a cause for concern for anyone, Flynn said.

"It's every bit as much fun, it's a real thrill," he said.

Four-hundred tubes are handed out per session, which start at the top of every hour. Tickets can be purchased for one- or two-

hour sessions, which include the use of the moving carpet that transports riders and their tubes up the hill, making the whole experience a bit less tiresome.

Off-peak times are anytime early or late in the day, especially during the mid-week, according to Flynn. Although the exact opening date of Ski Liberty is unknown, Flynn said he hoped that by Dec. 14 the mountain would be open to visitors.

For more information on the cost of tickets and operation times, visit www.ski-liberty.com.



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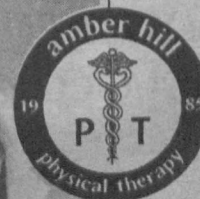
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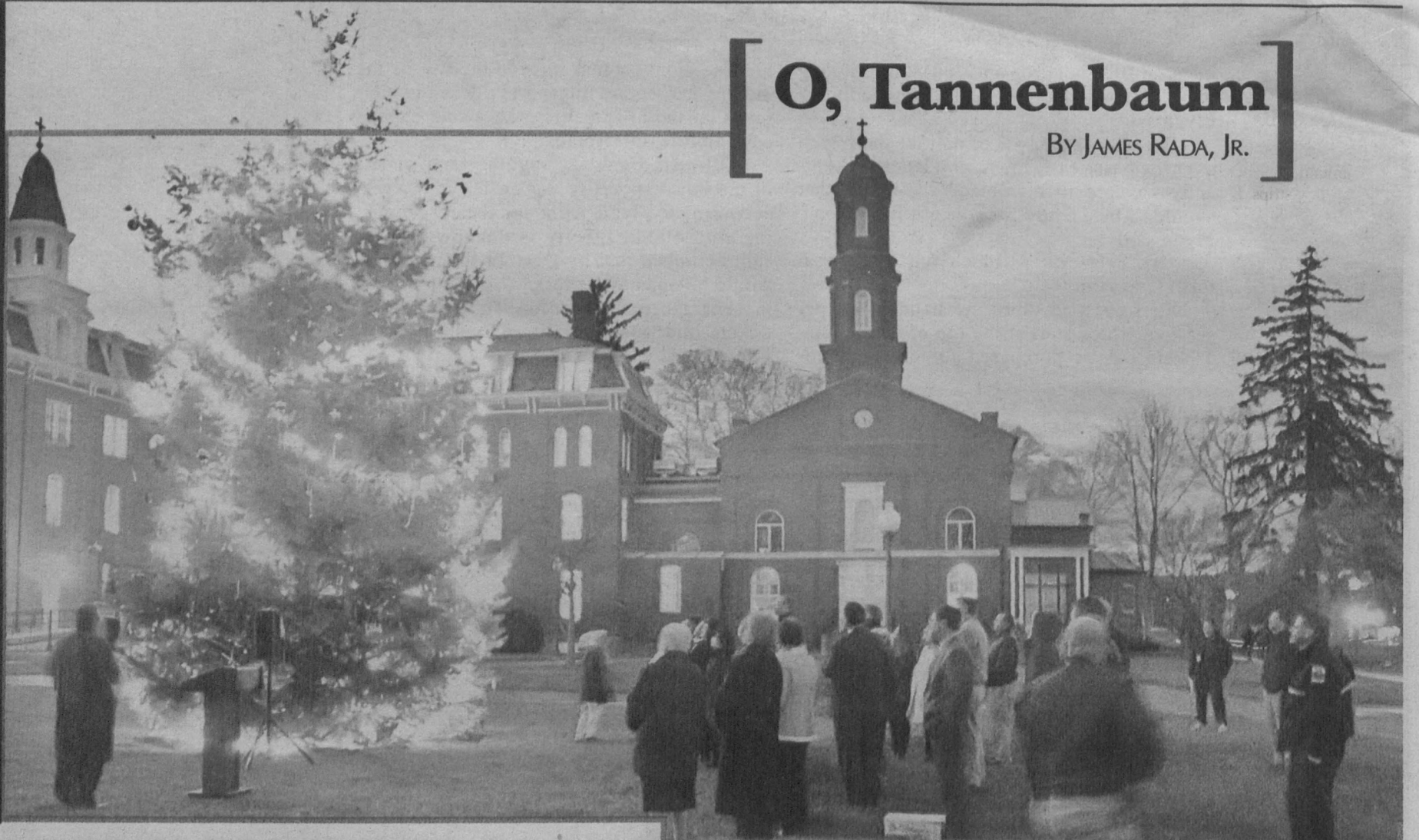
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[O, Tannenbaum]

BY JAMES RADA, JR.



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Linus: *I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all really. Maybe it just needs a little love.*

(The Peanuts Gang uses the decorations from Snoopy's dog house to decorate Charlie Brown's scrawny little tree.)

Lucy: *Charlie Brown is a blockhead, but he did get a nice tree.*

(The gang begins singing. Charlie Brown comes back.)

Charlie Brown: *What's going on here?*

(The gang backs away to show him the decorated tree.)

Gang: *Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!*

- From "A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)"

Christmas trees are the center of most family's Christmas traditions, but Christmas trees began long before there was a Christmas.

It's commonly believed that the Christmas tree evolved from a Pagan tradition. Some believe the connections might be as far back as the Egyptians or the ancient Romans. Druids are more-commonly cited as the source of many of the traditions.

"The Norse pagans and Celtic Druids revered evergreens as manifestations of deity because they did not 'die' from year to year but stayed green and alive when other plants appeared dead and bare. The trees represented everlasting life and hope for the return of spring," Cheri Sicard wrote in her article "History of Christmas Trees."

The Druids are said to have even decorated their trees with fruit, coins charms and Scandinavian Pagans were

the first to bring it indoors.

Fir trees have been associated with Christianity since the time of the Druids thanks to St. Boniface, who converted the Germans to Christianity. About 1,000 years ago, he is said to have come across a group of Pagans worshipping an oak tree.

"In anger, St Boniface is said to have cut down the oak tree and to his amazement a young fir tree sprung up from the roots of the oak tree. St Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith. But it was not until the 16th century that fir trees were brought indoors at Christmas time," according to the website "Captain Jack's Christmas Tree Farm Network."

Christian began using the Christmas tree in the 1500's. Some historians trace Christian involvement with Christmas trees to Martin Luther. "Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was

awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles," according to the History Channel website.

Tinsel was invented in Germany around 1610 using real silver pulled into the thin strips. It was used up until the mid-20th Century.

Christmas trees came to America with German immigrants. It is even suggested that a Christmas tree might have helped Colonial soldiers win the Revolutionary War.

"Did a celebration around a Christmas tree on a bitter cold Christmas Eve at Trenton, New Jersey, turn the tide for Colonial forces in 1776? According to legend, Hessian mercenaries were so reminded of home by a candlelit evergreen tree that they abandoned their guardposts to eat, drink and be merry. Washington attacked that night and defeated them," according to David Robson, Extension Educator, Horticulture; Springfield (Iowa) Extension

Center, wrote in his article "Christmas Tree History."

However, it wasn't until the 1830's that American Christmas trees first began showing up in Pennsylvania immigrant households.

"It seems a local church erected the tree as a fundraising effort. Christmas trees were generally not thought kindly of in early America, as many people saw them as Pagan symbols, which is in fact, their origin. By the 1890's, however, Christmas ornaments were being imported from Germany and Christmas trees were in high fashion," wrote Sicard.

German-born Prince Albert of England and husband of Queen Victoria is credited with bringing the first Christmas tree to England, according to Sicard.

Christmas balls and artificial lights were introduced in the late 1800's.

Since then, the Christmas tree traditions have evolved very little, but the Christmas tree remains a very integral part of Christmas despite its non-Christian beginnings.



Customers have begun flocking to Sewell's Farm in Taneytown in search of the perfect Christmas tree for their homes. Sewell's is one of the places in the region where you can choose and cut your own tree.



- PHOTOS BY ROBERT ROSENSTEEL SR.



Wintertime 2007

where to go to cut your own christmas tree

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Mount St. Mary's Men's Basketball 2007-08 Home Game Schedule

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Tue, Dec 18	Winthrop	7 p.m.
Fri, Dec 21	Lafayette	7 p.m.
Sat, Jan 05	Fairleigh Dickinson	2 p.m.
Wed, Jan 16	Saint Francis (Pa.)	9 p.m.
Sat, Jan 19	Sacred Heart	7 p.m.
Thu, Jan 31	St. Francis (N.Y.)	7 p.m.
Sat, Feb 02	Robert Morris	7 p.m.
Thu, Feb 07	Wagner	7 p.m.
Sat, Feb 16	Quinnipiac	7 p.m.
Sat, Mar 01	Monmouth	7 p.m.

Mount St. Mary's Women's Basketball 2007-08 Home Game Schedule

Sun, Dec 16	Long Island	1 p.m.
Wed, Dec 19	Bowling Green	5 p.m.
Sat, Jan 05	Fairleigh Dickinson	7 p.m.
Sat, Jan 19	Sacred Heart	3 p.m.
Mon, Jan 21	Saint Francis (Pa.)	7 p.m.
Sat, Feb 02	Robert Morris	3 p.m.
Mon, Feb 04	St. Francis (N.Y.)	7 p.m.
Mon, Feb 11	Wagner	7 p.m.
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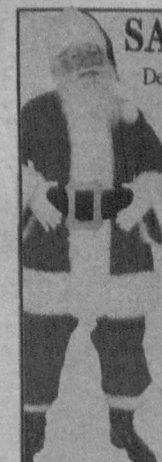
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ADULTS - \$16.00
4-12 - \$11
3 & UNDER - \$2

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RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!





A&E calendar



Wintertime 2007

December 9 – Boulevard Singles Dance at Boulevard & Beyond Caterers (formerly Wilhelm's) 1011 Baltimore Blvd. (Rt 140) Westminster, MD. Every second and fourth Sunday, 7 - 10:30 p.m., 7 p.m. dance lessons. \$8. Full Bar, snacks provided. (410) 876-6810.

December 13 – Charles Dickens' holiday classic brought to life at the Weinberg Center, Frederick, Md. \$6 Home and Private Schools, \$5 Frederick County Public Schools. 10 a.m.

December 14 to 16 – A Christmas Carol. Charles Dickens' holiday classic brought to life at the Weinberg Center, 20 West Patrick St., Frederick, Md. \$20 orchestra and mezzanine, \$18 rear orchestra, \$10 balcony. Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 2 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

December 15 – Evergreen Walk at ThorpeWood. 2 – 4 p.m. \$8. In the wintertime some trees go to sleep while others are still lush and vibrant. Make your own Christmas wreath to bring home and decorate! Dress warm!

December 18 – 13th Annual Messiah Sing-Along at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St. Frederick, Md, 8 p.m. The tradition lives on! Join Conductor Judy DuBose as she leads the Frederick Chamber Singers, orchestra, professional soloists, in G. F. Handel's beloved classic. \$12, \$10. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

December 20 – Storytime at ThorpeWood. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. \$2. Join us for a morning of stories, crafts and activities. Space is limited.

December 21 & 22 – Frederick Symphony Orchestra will perform Friday 8 p.m. and Saturday 3 p.m. General seating tickets \$18 adults; \$10 students and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased at the JBK Theater box office the evening of the performance. (301) 663-8476.

December 22 – White Christmas (1954) at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St. Frederick, Md. 2 and 8 p.m. A holiday must-see, starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, and Irving Berlin's wonderful music. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors, students, children. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

December 28 – Dark Star Orchestra at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St. Frederick, Md, 8 p.m. Hailed as the best Grateful Dead tribute band on the planet. \$29, \$27, \$25. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

December 31 - New Year's Eve Gala at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St. Frederick, Md. 8 p.m. The Weinberg's premier black tie party includes all the glamour of old Hollywood with dancing to a nationally known 10-piece band, hors d'oeuvres and desserts by Canape's, open bar, champagne toast, and much more. \$150 per person. Limousine and hotel package \$500 per couple (includes tickets) (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

January 4 – PA Learn to Ski or Board Day at Liberty Mountain Resort. (717) 642-8282, www.skiliberty.com.

January 12 – Wine Appreciation Class at Adams County Winery's farm winery. Wine education, wine tasting, delicious food and fun. 6 - 8 p.m. Reservations are required. Admission fee. For information (717) 334-4631, www.adamscountywinery.com.

January 19 – Home Wine-Making Class. Learn how to make wine at Adams County Winery from John, the Vintner. 1-3 p.m. Reservations required. Admission fee. (717) 334-4631, www.adamscountywinery.com.

January 25 – PEAC Talent Show showcases thirty-five homeschooled children in this free, public performance staged by the Parents Educators of Adams County. Held at Cross Keys Village-The Brethren Home Community at 6:30 p.m. Call (717) 624-5203.

January 25 to 27 – Innkeeper's Civil War Grand Ball and Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Gettysburg Hotel. Dance class on Saturday in preparation for the dinner dance with music provided by Music Americana. Period dress encouraged. (717) 337-1334.

January 26 – Wine Appreciation Class at Adams County Winery's farm winery. Wine education, wine tasting, delicious food and fun. 6 - 8 p.m. Reservations required. Admission fee. (717) 334-4631, www.adamscountywinery.com.

February 9 – Wine Appreciation Class at Adams County Winery's farm winery. Wine education, wine tasting, delicious food and fun. 6 - 8

p.m. Reservations required. Admission fee. For information call (717) 334-4631, www.adamscountywinery.com.

February 9 – Valentine's Weekend Ghost Tour sponsored by Ghostly Images of Gettysburg. Tour departs from the Jennie Wade House, 548 Baltimore Street. 7 p.m. For ticket information (717) 334-6296, www.gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com.

February 16 – President's Weekend Ghost Tour departs from the Jennie Wade House. 7 pm. For information (717) 334-6296, www.gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com.

February 22 – 24 – Lincoln at Gettysburg. Roy Frampton will guide us through downtown Gettysburg and the National Cemetery in the footsteps of President Lincoln. Saturday evening enjoy dinner at the Historic Cashtown Inn with President Lincoln himself. Music by Tom Jolin. (717) 334-8804.

February 22 – 23 – The Cryptogram, a stark drama/mystery performed by the Gettysburg Stage Theatre Ensemble. 8 p.m. at Keefauver Center, 157 Lefever Street. This chilling, emotionally charged picture of a 1950s childhood drips with foreboding as its mystery slowly unfolds. Tickets \$12; Seniors and students \$10. For reservations call (866) 859-5192.

February 23 – Optimist Club Oyster Feed at the Gettysburg Fire Hall. All you can eat Oysters. Noon – 3 p.m. For tickets call Mark Grazulewicz at (717) 337-3620.

February 23 – Wine Appreciation Class. Wine education, wine tasting, delicious food and fun. 6-8 pm at Adams County Winery's farm winery. Reservations are required. Admission fee. (717) 334-4631, www.adamscountywinery.com.

February 23 – Kick the Winter Blues Ghost Tour. Tour departs from the Jennie Wade House. 7 pm. (717) 334-6296, www.gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com.

February 29 – The Cryptogram, a stark drama/mystery performed by the Gettysburg Stage Theatre Ensemble. Performance is at 8 pm at Keefauver Center, 157 Lefever Street. This chilling, emotionally charged picture of a 1950s childhood drips with foreboding as its mystery slowly unfolds. Tickets are \$12; seniors and students \$10. (866) 859-5192.

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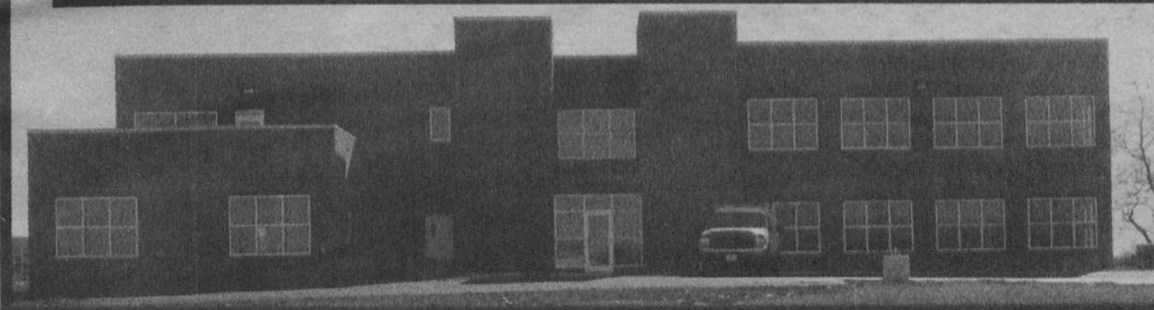
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M J E S T I C

at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center



Jim Brickman
Monday, December 10
8:00 p.m.

**The Blind Boys of Alabama
Go Tell It
on the Mountain**
Tuesday, December 11
7:30 p.m.



**Tomaseen Foley's
A Celtic Christmas**
Thursday, December 20
7:30 p.m.

**New Year's Eve
The War Bonds: Songs and
Letters of WW2**
Monday, December 31
7:00 p.m.



Cirque Le Masque
Friday, January 18
7:30 p.m.

**Little Women
The Broadway Musical**
Wednesday, January 30
7:30 p.m.

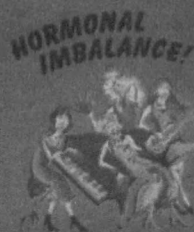


**Beau Soleil avec
Michael Ducet**
Tuesday, February 5
7:30 p.m.



Trinity Irish Dance
Tuesday, February 12
7:30 p.m.

**The Lettermen
Sing Broadway**
Saturday, February 23
8:00 p.m.



Hormonal Imbalance
Friday, March 7
7:30 p.m.
*Sponsored by Gettysburg
Hospital and Wellspan*

**Dirty Sock
Funtime Band**
Sunday, March 16
3:00 p.m.



**St. Petersburg
Ballet Theatre
Giselle**
Wednesday, March 19
7:30 p.m.



Ain't Misbehavin'
Thursday, March 27
7:30 p.m.

Capitol Steps
Saturday, April 5
3:00 & 8:00 p.m.
*Fundraising event presented by
the Gettysburg Rotary Club*



**Angèle Dubeau
and La Pieta**
Tuesday, April 1
7:30 p.m.

Taylor 2
Wednesday, April 23
7:30 p.m.
*Funded by PA Council
for the Arts*



**Vicki Lawrence and Mama:
A Two-Woman Show**
Wednesday, April 30
7:30 p.m.
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