

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL VI, No. 24

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

DECEMBER 20, 2007

Christmas worlds apart

Two local families send sons to Iraq

BY STEPHANIE LONG

Dispatch Staff Writer
editor@thedispatch.us

THURMONT, Md. — Conor Tremaine and Daniel McAfee were friends who enjoyed hunting together. They both attended Catoctin High School and graduated in 2006. Then they went their separate ways; Tremaine into the U.S. Marines where he became a lance corporal and McAfee into the U.S. Army where he is a private first class.

Now they share a similar purpose because they have both been shipped to Iraq to serve their country. Tremaine left in August and McAfee followed two months later.

Their absence at holiday gatherings is felt deeply this holiday season, perhaps moreso, because they are in harm's way.

The mothers the servicemen left behind had formed a friendship based on their sons shared experiences. Robin McAfee and Susan Tremaine



TREMAINE



MCAFEE

knew each other because of their sons' friendship as teenagers, but they have seen their own friendship increase in recent months as they've looked to each other for strength and support.

"Robin has been moral support for me," Susan said.

Both women talk often and keep each other updated on their sons and the news, but only to a certain extent. Both women said they follow the news less

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Christmas is reminding local families who have relatives serving in Iraq that their loved ones are far away. Robin McAfee decorated her Christmas tree with a patriotic theme this year in honor of her son Daniel who is serving in the army in Iraq.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN MCAFEE



The Mount offers free shows to Emmitsburg residents

BY JAMES RADA JR.

News Editor
jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Emmitsburg residents can make a New Year's resolution to experience a variety of live entertainment and it won't cost you anything but a few cans of food.

The Town of Emmitsburg and Mount St. Mary's University are partnering to offer residents free admission to concerts, comedy shows, magic shows and speakers in the first three months of 2008.

"This is a really great opportunity (for Mount St. Mary's) to interact with Emmitsburg a little more," said Brooke Donovan, assistant director of campus activities at the Mount. "A lot of times colleges are segregated from their towns."

The program offers two shows each in January, February and March. All of the shows will be in the Knott Auditorium and admission for town residents will be a non-perishable food item.

Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover worked with Donovan and the Mount to put together this program to offer more entertainment options to the community.

"I was looking for a way to do some cost sharing and cost savings," Hoover said. "Originally, I thought it would be an opportunity for the town to have an act do two shows rather than just one."

After some discussion, the university decided simply to allow town residents in for free for

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Town condemns three sewage-damaged houses

BY JAMES RADA JR.

News Editor
jrada@thedispatch.us

THURMONT, Md. — The Town of Thurmont has condemned three of nine houses involved in two multi-million-dollar lawsuits against the town.

"These are two of the properties that were subject to sewage backups in 2003 that resulted in significant monetary judgments against the town," Thurmont Mayor Martin Burns said as he read from a prepared statement during the Dec. 11 town meeting.

The condemned properties are 310 Westview Drive owned by Harold and Paula Furr and 12 Ironmaster Court owned by Wayne and Tina Brown. The commissioners also condemned 11 Ironmaster Court owned by Ron and Kathy Bishop on Dec. 18.

"The town is pursuing acquisition of these properties to protect both the residents who reside at the

properties from future damages and the residents of the town from future judgments," Burns said.

"I guess that's a Merry Christmas to me and my family," Ron Bishop sarcastically told the commissioners during the Dec. 18 town meeting.

Maryland law authorizes a municipality to condemn private property for public use and also to condemn private property for water and sewer systems.

"It wouldn't upset me in the least based on the way we've been treated," Wayne Brown of 12 Ironmaster Court said the following the announcement. He added, "I really don't know what their point would be at this stage of the game."

The condemnation resolutions state, in part, "...the Town of Thurmont has used due diligence and reasonable care in maintaining and repairing its sewer system, but despite these efforts, cannot guarantee that future sewage backups will not occur at the Property and that the Town will

now incur monetary damages as a result thereof..."

Seven Thurmont families sued the town for \$9 million in 2004 for damages from a 2003 sewage backup. The case went to court in May and the families won a judgment against the town that stands at \$2.5 million to date. In September, three families, including one of the families from the first lawsuit, sued the town for \$6 million from a 2004 sewage backup.

"Nobody is asking for anything more than we lost," Brown said. "The number that came out in court was almost identical to what was submitted."

However, Burns points out that one of the families now suing the town for \$2 million originally asked for only \$10,000.

Brown said none of the families are trying to get rich off the incident and that they were only seeking a fair settlement that town never offered before the lawsuit was filed.

"It's the second lawsuit that tells me this will never stop," Burns said later. He added that having to pay for lawsuit after lawsuit while at the same time trying to pay for multi-million-dollar sewer repairs "scares

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The Dispatch Newspapers, LLC.
9 East Main St., 3rd Floor Suite
P.O. Box 358 Emmitsburg, MD 21727
TEL 301-447-3039 FAX 301-447-5990

Publisher
Raymond Buchheister
publisher@thedispatch.us

Managing Editor
Joyce M. Demmitt
editor@thedispatch.us

News Editor
James Rada Jr.
jrada@thedispatch.us

Staff Writer
Stephanie Long
slong@thedispatch.us

Contributing Writers
Susan Allen, Chris Patterson

Column Writers
William Meredith

Advertising & Business Manager
Jennifer Buchheister
jbuchheister@thedispatch.us

Advertising & Subscriptions
Lori Stromberg
advertising@thedispatch.us

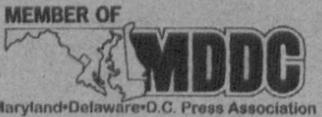
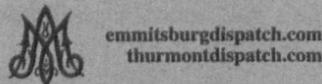
Graphic Design & Layout.....
Stephanie Long

Advertising Design
Heather Bodnar, Toya Warner

Photo Editor
John Urian

Contributing Photographer
Robert A. Rosensteel, Sr.

Webmaster
Wendy M. Shepherd



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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.

**Support local retailers,
buy locally**

Frederick County is blessed with a superb business community; during the upcoming holiday season we encourage you to support our local retail establishments and buy locally. By doing so you help preserve and grow our diverse economy. Frederick County businesses offer a broad range of gifts including home décor items, antiques, jewelry, electronics, recreational and sporting goods, great foods and clothing, along with many other specialized and unique offerings.

For local gift-giving ideas, we encourage you to visit the Frederick County Office of Economic Development's Web site at www.discoverfrederickmd.com. Our "Homegrown Here" and "Buy Local, Buy Fresh" campaigns are exciting and consumer-friendly. The Virtual Farmers' Market link is designed for Frederick County agricultur-

al producers to sell and promote their products online. Additionally, you may want to visit the Tourism Council of Frederick County's website at www.fredericktourism.org for shopping and dining suggestions and to find out about festive holiday events.

After an exhilarating day of shopping from the over 200 retailers/restaurants in downtown Frederick, and from Brunswick to Emmitsburg and Mount Airy to Myersville, we encourage you to dine at some of the many outstanding restaurants in Frederick County.

Thank you for supporting our local economy; we hope you have a wonderful holiday-season and a happy New Year!

Laurie M. Boyer
Executive Director
Frederick County Office of
Economic Development

Thanks for supporting Scholarship

We wish to thank all those who braved the rainy weather and attended the 2nd Annual ILT Rob Seidel Golf Tournament that was held at Maple Run Golf Course in Thurmont, Md.

A special thank you goes out to Dave and Helen Giannini for chairing the event for the second year in a row. Sincerest thanks to all those individuals who helped out that day. Heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors for their wonderful

generosity.

The tournament has been a tremendous success for the second year in a row and as many of you know, the proceeds will be going to the Wounded Soldiers Fund that has been setup in Rob's name with the Community Foundation of Frederick County.

Bob, Sandy & Stephen Seidel
Gettysburg, Pa.

A Word from the Mayor
What Emmitsburg accomplished in 2007

With Christmas and the New Year just a few days away, I find myself thinking of the many things that occurred in 2007. Of course, there's at least one or two things I'd like to forget but, with or without them, I believe the town of Emmitsburg had a very successful year.

The long-awaited South Seton Avenue water and sewer line replacement was completed which improved water quality for residents and businesses and improved fire protection by providing working fire hydrants. While doing the project we also took the time to make a few curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements and electrical conduit was laid for street lights in 2008.

Other projects include the new band stand, walking path and bathrooms in Community Park. We've begun installing a pavilion inside the swimming pool complex which will be available for the 2008 pool season. All of these projects will make our park and our swimming pool more inviting to residents. We've also completed some paving and parking improvements in Community Park and work has begun to design additional walking paths with exercise stations for the southern portion of Community Park.

I also want to highlight the success of the pool parties and the concerts in the park. Both activities always receive favorable recognition and will return again in 2008.

It wasn't a park activity but, how could I not mention the Kelly Miller Circus? I understand the Kelly Miller Circus was the first circus to perform in Emmitsburg for at least 25 years.

I want to thank all of our town staff for the work they do everyday. Working for a small town means the resources are limited and employees have to be flexible and able to adapt to numerous situations that require them to perform many jobs that they were not directly hired to do. It is frustrating at times but, they always come together to complete the assignment as a team. We certainly have a dedicated group of people, and they showed their dedication when they came up with their own food drive for the Emmitsburg Food Bank earlier this year and then adopted a family for Christmas. Most times the town staff is viewed as the "bad guy" because they are the ones expected to enforce the rules of the town government, but their generosity and community outreach shows another side of them, the real side.

I could not end this article without thanking the many town volunteers and supporters. Most of them work behind the scenes, and without them we simply would not be able to do some of the great things that we do. To avoid mistakenly leaving a name of the list and embarrassing myself or others I am not going to try and begin listing names. I hope this is acceptable and I hope all of you accept my sincere appreciation.

Well that is just a few of the good things that took place in 2007; there were many more, enough to fill a whole newspaper.

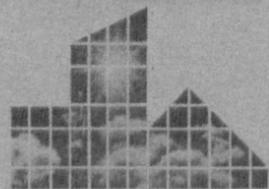
I hope that everyone has a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

James Hoover
Emmitsburg Mayor

CORRECTION

In the Dec. 6 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* in the article "Wormald Development agreement reached for 569 homes," solicitor Wally Davis said, "It would appear that there is enough water underneath this valley that three Wormald developments could go in."

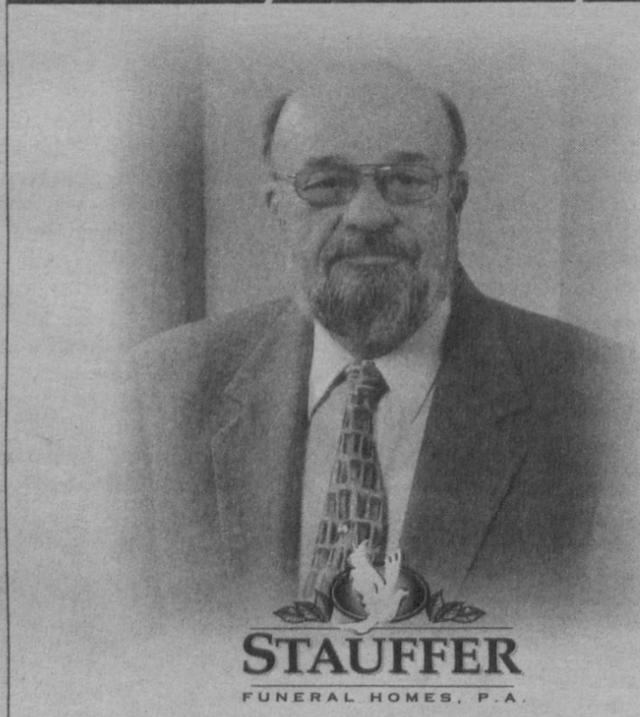
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John has 5 children and 8 grandchildren

My great grandfather started in the business in 1878 in Taneytown.

Even though I really started working with my dad when I was about 12, I wanted to be a CPA. That obviously wasn't for me. I like meeting and helping people. I get to do both now.

Years ago funerals were very formal. Men wore their best suit and tie and women always wore their best dress and hat. Today, funerals are a lot less formal. Cremations were rare 25 years ago. Today, they are quite common. I think my great grandfather would approve.

Mount

-Continued from page 1

a select group of shows in order to evaluate the community interest in those shows. If the program is successful, it could be continued or expanded upon, Hoover said.

For more information, contact the Mount's Office of Campus Activities at (301) 447-5274 or Mayor James Hoover at (240) 629-6300.

If you go...

Black Violin
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Jeff Cohen
Speaking on "An Inside View of Contemporary Media: War, Race and the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr."
Thursday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.

Myq Kaplan
Comedian
Saturday, Feb. 9 at 9 p.m.

Imam Yahya Hendi
Speaking on "Islamic and Catholic Narratives for Justice and Peacebuilding: An American Muslim's Perspective"
Thursday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.

Joshua Seth
Comedy/Hypnosis Show
Friday, Mar. 28 at 9 p.m.

Justin Kredible
Comedy Magic Show
Saturday, Mar. 29 at 9 p.m.

Condemn

-Continued from page 1

the tar out of me and I think it would any mayor."

Though the town has only condemned two of the properties to date, Burns said during the meeting that the town would ultimately be pursuing condemnation of the other properties.

The resolutions passed unanimously. Now the properties will be reappraised by the same person who appraised them for the court case in May.

The town is required to offer the owners a fair market value for the properties. If the owners don't agree with the amount, they can take the case to court. A judge can only

determine the value of the property, though, not whether or not it can be condemned.

"Is that fair market value before the town's crap was in their homes or after the town's crap was in their homes?" Sharon Little, an Ironmaster Court resident, asked during the Dec. 18 meeting.

Burns told her that the backups have made little difference in the property values. A check of the assessment records and the appraisal values of the homes in the first lawsuit show that this is indeed the case.

The town will take ownership of the property, and once any needed repairs are made to them and to the sewer system, resell the houses. "Thus getting some of the money back after the market has regained," Burns said during the meeting.

Brown installed ball valves in his house that he has to manually turn off when it rains, but it keeps the sewage from flooding the house. Even after four years since the original flood, he said that if the town gets two inches, he can turn on the valve and sewage will still come up through his basement sink.

When asked what he would do when he has to move, Brown said, "I might stay in the area, but I won't stay in the town limits."

Depending on how smoothly the proceedings go, it could be anywhere from a month to a year before he will have to move.

"Unfortunately, right now we have to do what's in the best interest of 6,000 people and that's what we're doing," Burns said.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE CONDEMNED PROPERTIES

	12 IRONMASTER CT.	310 WEST VIEW DR.	11 IRONMASTER CT.
YEAR BUILT	1993	2000	1994
SIZE OF HOUSE	1,752 SQ. FT.	1,600 SQ. FT.	1,108 SQ. FT.
CURRENT OWNER PURCHASE PRICE	\$183,900	\$250,000	\$129,690
CURRENT OWNER PURCHASE DATE	7/31/2001	11/8/2002	12/10/1993
VALUE AT TRIAL	\$227,127.50	\$281,464	\$ 316,000
TRIAL AWARD AMOUNT AS OF 8/07	\$333,222.82	\$373,950.29	\$427,221.86

Source: Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxations, Frederick County Circuit Court documents.

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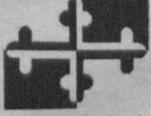
Thurmont Community Ambulance Service, Inc. Co. 30 would like to take this time to thank the residents of Thurmont and the surrounding area for their help and support for the past year.

Watch the Super Bowl on the BIG screen at the ambulance building.
Feb. 3, 2008, 3 p.m., \$25 per person
(Ticket purchase deadline is Jan. 27, 2008. No tickets sold at the door)

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Ticket information: (301) 271-2391 or (301) 748-5359
Other events and news can be found at thurmontambulance.com

We wish everyone a healthy and happy 2008!



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A special thanks to our wonderful neighbors for 2007. May you each have a Blessed Christmas and New Year!



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TOWN NEWS

A Word from a commissioner

Sign ordinance meets the needs of the town

Ouch! Rumbblings from *The Dispatch* and planning commission as editorialized and reported in the Dec. 6 issue aside, I think the Emmitsburg Town Council did a decent job on Nov. 19 reviewing the draft sign ordinance. The planning commission was initially asked to address political signage. However, as the process developed, a number of important issues (including local business concerns) resulted in their complete re-write of the document. This draft ordinance survived its Nov. 19 session with the town's elected officials largely intact and continues to provide a better balance between uniform standards and business and professional requirements - just as the planning commission and the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association intended. That said, two major and a handful of minor changes were made by the town council.

The first major change concerned "legal, non-conforming" signs. These are existing signs that would not be allowed as new installations but are "grandfathered in" since they existed prior to the original sign ordinance years ago. Some examples are larger neon signs or signs lit by internal, fluo-

rescent tubes. Wording allowing these legal, non-conforming signs to be maintained forever was removed. When these signs reach the end of their life cycle or a business using them changes ownership or closes, they must now be removed. In my opinion, everyone should eventually have to play by the same rules. We should not maintain a favored class forever while those who open a new business are required to follow a different set of rules.

The second major change concerned a proposed section allowing "special exceptions." The section stated that someone wishing to install a NEW, non-conforming sign could go to the board of appeals "in cases where the below listed conditions are found to exist." The planning commission was asked to determine those "listed conditions" but never provided any. Therefore, the town council chose to remove all references to special exceptions. This didn't break my heart, since I personally feel that special exceptions would just allow more non-conforming signs to get past the requirements of the revised ordinance.

Some other minor changes clarified the maximum size of

a sign in a parking lot or a neon sign (typically an "Open" sign) displayed in the window of a business in the Village Zone. The town council also exempted some small temporary signs - for example, those advertising church suppers or real estate signs - from the town permit requirement. If you're planning a civic function or selling your house, who wants to have to report to the town office to apply for a permit?

My expectation is that as you are reading this column, you will also see that the ordinance was approved at the town council's Dec. 17 meeting. The elected town council (who the voters can hold accountable) is charged with reviewing and approving ordinances - not the appointed planning commission. The planning commission was asked to assist us in this process and they did a great job producing a completely revised document following months of effort and input. The final say, however, is (as always) with the elected officials.

Christopher Staiger
President, Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners

Water levels falling despite restrictions

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

EMMITSBURG, Md. - Emmitsburg's water situation is getting better but it's not because of actions the citizens are taking.

"We've finally gotten our gross numbers close to where we would like to be," Town Manager Dave Haller told the commissioners on Dec. 3.

With a restriction on outdoor

water usage in town, daily usage is now within 2,500 gallons of where it was last year.

"The interesting way by which we got there is our two biggest institutions have reduced their consumption by about 30,000 gallons a day," Haller said. "Our residential use is still high."

Despite getting water usage more in line with what it should be, the town's water levels continue to drop. Rainbow Lake is 3.1 feet below the spillway, including a drop of

.4 feet in the last month. The town wells are 7.8 feet below average since the summer, though this number is improving.

"Everything is starting to come into line," Haller said at the Dec. 17 town meeting. "We just need time for the aquifer to recover."

Though the time still has outdoor water use restrictions in place, the winter weather is also discouraging outdoor water use. Emmitsburg has had restrictions on water usage since Aug. 5.

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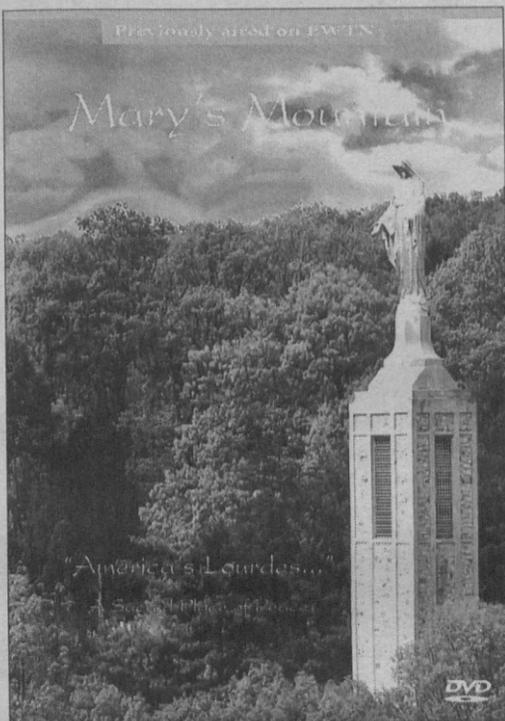
The Daughters of Charity and National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF EMMITSBURG PROVINCE

TOWN NEWS

New DVD features history of the Grotto

EMMITSBURG, Md. — If you're looking for a local Christmas gift for a friend or family member, filmmaker Richard Mauro has produced a DVD called "Mary's Mountain." This documentary features the story of America's oldest grotto honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary. Besides showing beautiful shots of St. Mary's Mountain and the Grotto of Lourdes, the film contains footage of the Mary statue at the grotto being erected and an interview with Monsignor Phillips, who is now deceased. These historical excerpts are not widely available and provide a rare look at the history of the Grotto of Lourdes.



The documentary will also be airing on the EWTN Global Network on February 11, 2008. Sacred Heart Films, a non-profit company that uses its proceeds to serve the poor and for other Christian communications, produced the DVD. It is available locally at St. Peter's and St. Philomena's book stores.

Mauro's next project, scheduled for release next year, is "The Call." This will be a documentary on the hurdles and work of young men who are called to the priesthood and their journey to ordination. The film looks at life at Mount St. Mary's University seminary, one of the oldest Catholic seminaries in the country.

- J. Rada

Emmitsburg approves sign ordinance

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

EMMITSBURG, Md. — After hearing from some Emmitsburg business owners, the Emmitsburg town commissioners gave the town sign ordinance a few more tweaks before approving it to the applause of the business owners.

The town has been reworking the sign ordinance for two years and some businesspeople were frustrated with how long it has taken.

Robert Wilson, owner of State-line Guns, said he's been waiting for a decision so he will know the standards he needs to follow to put a sign on his building. "I get an awful lot of phone calls every day from people, saying, 'Where are you at? We can't find you,'" he said.

Other business owners had

problem with the number and size of internally lit signs. The ordinance allowed for one sign no larger than two square feet.

Susie Glass, with The Ott House, said, "We need to make you understand what keeps us going is the traffic that goes by and what's in the window to say who we are."

Commissioner President Chris Staiger said the restriction is with internally lit signs, but there is no limit to signs that are externally lighted signs. However, Wendy Gray, owner of Main Street Sweets, said she had an externally lighted sign. It didn't work, but when she put up an internally lit sign, people noticed her business.

Dan Reaver with Emmitsburg Glass said he wanted to put an internally lit sign on his business, but a sign that was only two square feet would be lost on a building the size

of Emmitsburg Glass. Staiger said the limitations were for the village zone.

Bob Rosensteel, owner of Rosensteel Studios, said the problem is the sign ordinance isn't user-friendly. It doesn't encourage business and try to help them succeed.

"Ordinances aren't very good when they scare the pants off you," Rosensteel said.

After the public comments, the commissioners reviewed the ordinance and allowed for businesses to have an internally lit sign on each road frontage a business has. However, all non-conforming signs will not be allowed to be replaced when they have finished their useful life.

The compromise seemed satisfactory to the business owners who applauded when the commissioners unanimously approved the ordinance.

No circus in Emmitsburg next year

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Though the Emmitsburg Town Commissioners supported bringing the Kelly Miller Circus back to Emmitsburg this summer, it doesn't look like the circus will return until 2009.

Mayor James Hoover told the commissioners during the Dec. 17 town meeting that the circus was available to play two

shows in town on Wednesday, May 28. While the commissioners supported bringing the circus back, they requested that the shows be on a weekend rather than a weekday. The May 28 date also had a potential conflict with the Mother Seton School annual carnival.

Hoover checked with the circus and said the day after the

meeting, "That's the only date they have and it conflicts with the carnival, so I told them, 'no.'"

He said if the circus gets a cancellation for another town, it is possible it could still come to Emmitsburg, but he isn't planning on it. The town will be added to the circus schedule for 2009, though.

- J. Rada

Calendar projects raise money for worthy causes

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

EMMITSBURG, Md. — With the beginning of the holiday season and the approach of a new year, a couple of local groups have created calendars to raise funds for different causes.

"We are raising money to purchase an ambulance for a hospital in Tanzania," said Father Jack Lombardi with the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes in Emmitsburg.

He led a group that made a pilgrimage to the hospital this summer and they were inspired by the dedication of the people working there to help them.

His group developed two calendars. One features the people that the pilgrimage group met on their journey. The second calendar features pictures of the exotic African animals that were photographed on the pilgrimage.

"We did two because we thought each one might appeal to different people," Lombardi said.

The African calendars cost \$10 and they can be ordered by calling (301) 447-5318 or by sending an e-mail to Lombardi@msmary.edu.

Catoctin High School Senior Samantha Ridenour has created her own calendar featuring the CHS var-

sity football team. All of the proceeds from the sale of her calendars will go to the 1LT Robert A. Seidel III Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Her idea to create the calendar for her senior project came because she had a cousin who was friends with Seidel.

"I thought it would be a good idea because everybody needs a calendar," Ridenour said.

The Catoctin football calendars cost \$15 and can be ordered by calling Kay Ridenour at (301) 447-2886 or by sending an e-mail to samridenour19@aol.com.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Fairfield, Hamiltonban join forces in the name of recreation

BY STEPHANIE LONG
Dispatch Staff Writer
editor@thedispatch.us

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — The Borough of Fairfield and Hamiltonban Township are joining together to form a Joint Recreation Commission to help curb the towns' recreational facility deficit.

Most townships are required to provide a certain amount of recreational space per household in the township, but both Fairfield and Hamiltonban are lacking in recreational space. Thus six months ago, Hamiltonban approached Fairfield with the idea to form the commission, seeking help to reduce their deficit.

After looking at the situ-

ation objectively and taking into consideration that Hamiltonban township surrounds the Borough of Fairfield, the decision was made to form the commission, said Robert Thaeler with the Adams County Planning Office.

"We're already at a deficit in terms of land we need," Thaeler said. "It'll just grow larger if we don't do anything with it."

For the past five months the commission has been working together on acquiring recreational land and creating an ordinance that would require all future homebuilders to either pay a rec fee per house to help fund recreational facilities or dedicate a certain amount of space per house for use as a

recreational facility. In new developments a fee would be paid per house or a park would be built in the development that would be available for public use.

Recently Hamiltonban acquired 10 acres of land to use for a recreational facility, but the commission is still a long way from ending the deficit, as they will ultimately need 45 acres.

The ordinance is still in the process of being created, but Thaeler said he would present the Fairfield Planning Commission with a draft ordinance for discussion at the next Planning Commission Meeting, which once reviewed, could be presented to the board for approval.

Liberty sets 2008 budget

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, Pa. — The Liberty Township supervisors approved a 2008 budget for the township. The \$405,585 general fund is 5.8 percent less than the \$430,560 the supervisors expect to be spend this year. The \$44,021 capital fund is 45 percent larger than projected capital budget of \$30,356 for this year. The tax rate will remain at 3 mills.

- J. Rada

Iraq

-Continued from page 1

and less now that their sons are serving in Iraq.

"I feel the news is distorted, it's opinion," Robin said. "So much is being done...it's just the tip of the iceberg." Robin and Susan both said the media tend to only focus on certain issues in Iraq and can ignore the good, especially the good that the troops are doing in Iraq to help the people.

Amidst the constant reports of troop injuries and casualties, it can be easy to worry about their sons, which both Robin and Susan said they do at times, but ultimately both

have faith that their sons will be okay.

"Yeah I worry, but if God can have his hand on him here he can certainly have his hand on him in Iraq," Robin said.

Both mothers also said their support system of the community, friends, family and their churches helps them cope with the ups and downs of being a military mom, as do the letters, e-mails and occasional phone calls from their sons.

With the holidays quickly approaching, a time families and friends often gather together, Robin and Susan have made sure that their sons have a little bit of Christmas in Iraq. Both sent over packages of

Christmas ornaments, lights and presents to their sons, which both sons already received and were grateful for. Robin also decorated her families Christmas tree with American flags and yellow ribbons, the symbol often used to show support of troops, to show her support.

Both women said if there is anything they've gained since saying goodbye to their sons, it's more perspective.

"I think having a son over there puts it into perspective, what's important," Robin said. "The little things don't bother me now."

"Don't sweat the small stuff," Susan said. "Don't take anything for granted."



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A look back at 2007- top news stories from the past year

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

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Another year is winding down and it's time to look at the top news of the year for 2007. It's kind of fun flipping through this past year's papers to see what was happening in Emmitsburg in 2007. Though Emmitsburg might be a small town, its news certainly isn't small. Here are some of the top news stories of this past year.

Historic maps of town come home

Two pieces of town history are now hanging in the town meeting room because of a donation from Michael Hillman and the Greater Emmitsburg Area Historical Society. A 1797 map of "Emmitsburgh", the oldest-known original map of the town, and a 1908 reproduction of an 1808 map of the town given to the town by the historical society in August. The maps were found behind an old bookcase when the community center building was renovated years ago.

The circus comes to town

The first circus in a generation returned to Emmitsburg in June but not without some controversy. A small group of protesters objected to the Kelly Miller Circus coming to Emmitsburg on the grounds that the circus was cruel to animals. However, the circus performed two 90-minute shows to good crowds.

Water restrictions

An extended drought in the state finally took its toll on Emmitsburg by August. The town commissioners banned mechanical watering systems and then in October, when the falling water levels hadn't begun to return, all outdoor water usage in town. The water ban is still in effect and the town's wells and Rainbow Lake have yet to return to normal levels.

Mount St. Mary's Bicentennial

Mount St. Mary's University kicked off a 14-month-long series of events to celebrate its bicentennial on Aug. 24. Father John Dubois founded the university in 1808 and nurtured it through its first couple of decades.

Casey Bly and Scotty Harbaugh

The area lost two young men whose fights with cancer inspired others to persevere in the face of adversity. Casey Bly, 17, died on Aug. 17. He managed to maintain his positive attitude and graduate from Catoclin High earlier in the year. Scotty Harbaugh, 5, lost his fight with brain cancer on Aug. 29.

National Fire Heritage Center

In September, the Frederick County Commissioners lent their support and some financial incentives to the formation of the National Fire Heritage Center in the old Emmitsburg Am-

balance Company building. The building will house the county fire and rescue museum and a national archive of fire service. Clarence "Chip" Jewell, chairman of the fire museum committee, said, "Logically, for a site, it makes a lot of sense. Emmitsburg is the seat of the nation's fire service."

A new commissioner

Denise Etris became the newest Emmitsburg town commissioner after the Oct. 1 town election. She replaced Bill O'Neil who decided not to run for re-election. Of the 111 ballots cast, Etris received 98. Commissioner Glenn Blanchard also won re-election with 102 votes from the 111 ballots cast. Voter turnout for the election was only 7.4 percent.

President Bush in town

President George Bush came to town on Oct. 7 to speak at the annual National Fallen

Firefighters Memorial Weekend and honor the 91 fallen firefighters from 30 states whose names were added to the monument. It was only the second time since 2001 that the president has come to town.

Sign ordinance approved

After two years of drafting and rewriting, the Emmitsburg town commissioners approved a new sign ordinance for the town on Dec. 17. The new ordinance began as a look at how political signs were regulated or not by the town due to a challenge by the American Civil Liberties Union. It eventually expanded as a look into all signage in town.

A new ambulance building and larger VHC

The Emmitsburg Ambulance Company moved into its new larger facility on Creamery Road at the end of 2007. Meanwhile Vigilant Hose Company neared completion of the addition to its West Main Street station house, which would add to the space available to the fire company.

What will 2008 bring? Only time will tell, but you can rely on *The Dispatch* to be there to make sure you know about what's going on in your community.



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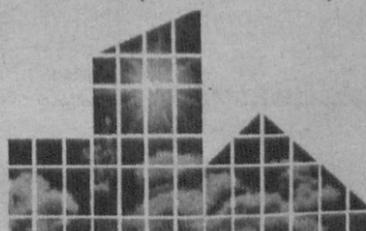
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PUBLIC SAFETY



C

10-43: For Your Information Community deputies serving Emmitsburg

Holiday safety

BY DFC JOHN BARTLETT
 Contributing Writer

Christmas and the New Years holidays are upon us. As we prepare for a time of celebration with family and friends, let's remember to think safety. Preparing for this season finds us out on the roads doing last-minute shopping and party going. Traffic on the roadways tends to pick up during this time of the year. When leaving for get-togethers or shopping, allow enough drive time to account for traffic congestion and snow, slick, or ice-covered roads. As the weather becomes colder - having a safety kit in your vehicle is a must. A kit can include jumper cables, flares/warning triangles, blankets, flashlights, salt or kitty litter for wheel traction, and a first aid kit.

When shopping at stores or the mall keep in mind the following tips:

1. Keep all car doors locked and windows up.
2. Park in a well-lighted area if shopping at night.
3. Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside - even for a few minutes.
4. Do not leave newly purchased items on the seat of your car - this may create a temptation for a thief.
5. If you have the kids with you - teach them to go to a

store clerk if they get lost. Make sure they know their full name, address and telephone number to give to a police officer or security personnel.

6. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with checks or credit/debt cards when possible.

7. If you use an ATM - use one that is in a store or well-lighted area.

8. Be careful if you carry a wallet or purse. They can become prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas.

9. Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have a clear view of your surroundings and freedom of motion to avoid accidents.

10. When returning to your vehicle, be aware of the surroundings. Do not approach your car if there are suspicious people around it. Ask mall security for an escort if you feel uncomfortable.

While at home consider the following safety tips:

1. When you leave your house, lock the doors and windows.
2. Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows.
3. When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday decorations, make sure they do not block passageways.
4. Make sure the Christmas tree is mounted in a sturdy base

and that it is kept watered - this will help keep the needles from drying out.

5. If you use lights on your tree - ensure they are not damaged. Frayed lighting could cause a fire.

6. If you use candles - make sure they are kept away from material that could easily catch on fire. Make sure the candle is completely out before going to bed.

7. Test your home's smoke detectors to ensure they are working.

When attending a party remember to:

1. If attending a party with several friends/family members - have a designated driver if alcohol will be consumed.

2. Have something to eat before consuming alcoholic beverages.

3. Know your safe limit with alcohol. One beer or a glass of wine may put you over the .08 percent for driving a vehicle - alcohol affects people differently.

4. Last but not least - NEVER drink and drive!

Keep in mind these safety tips to ensure a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year's celebration. The Emmitsburg Community Deputies of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office wish each of you a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year.

See you at my new location.

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BUSINESS

EBPA recognizes Bob Hance's community service

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

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Carriage House Inn is known for its fine food and customer service, but its initial prospects for success weren't that great.

"People asked, 'Why do you want to open a restaurant in Emmitsburg?' The banks laughed at us," said Bob Hance, general manager and co-owner of the Carriage House Inn.

Now, 22 years, later, the restaurant is an integral part of the community, not only as a fine-dining establishment, but because of Hance's commitment to community service.

The most-recent example of such service was when the Carriage House Inn closed on Dec. 3 to host the annual "An Evening of Christmas Spirit."

"People say to me, 'Why would you close in December, lose those sales and then give all that stuff away?' I believe what goes out, comes back to you," Hance said.

On Dec. 11 the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association presented Hance and his father Jim their "Extraordinary Service Award."

The only other recipient of this award, emcee Dan Reaver said, "It's always an honor to receive an award, but perhaps when it comes from your peers and hometown businesses, it becomes more personable and meaningful than other recognitions that one may receive." Reaver said.

"Other people wanted to speak tonight," Reaver said, "but it would take days to be able to present all the good Bob has done. Bob has given back

to this community with sincere love. He and his family opened their hearts and their homes and are one of the kindest and most generous people I know. Everyone says they are honored to know him and to be his friend."

Reaver also noted that, "Bob brings with him morals and values not often seen in society today. There are the quiet gifts, like the food donations received three days a week by the Franciscan Friars or the little lady that stops by once a week for a free lunch. She says it's the only good meal she has all week."

Hance looks at his community support as a positive way to network and market his business while at the same time supporting the community.

Reaver acknowledged some of Hance's numerous contributions to the community:

- Past President and current member of the Up County Family Center Board
- Board member of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce
- Board member of the EBPA
- Board member of the National Emergency Training Center Alliance
- Member of the Emmitsburg Lions Club
- Member of the Frederick Tourist Association
- Host of the Emmitsburg Evening of Christmas Spirit which is attended by 800 - 1000 people every year
- Sponsor of the Joanne Hance Memorial Golf tournament benefiting a shelter, Up County Center and Emmitsburg Lions Club
- Active with the Emmits-



— ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL SR. / THE DISPATCH

Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover (left), Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot (2nd from left) and Emmitsburg Glass owner Dan Reaver (right) congratulate Bob Hance, co-owner and general manager of the Carriage House Inn, for receiving the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association's "Extraordinary Service Award" on Dec. 11.

burg food bank

• Participant with the Lions Independence Day celebration, Christmas baskets, chicken dinners and the Mayor's BBQ

• Organizer and host of the Up County Family Center benefit which raised over \$5,000

"If I've missed anything, I'm really sorry, it's just hard to keep up with him," Reaver said.

Hance said he is honored by the award, but he also said the Carriage House Inn staff share in the recognition because they not only help out with events the restaurant sponsors, but they are so good at their jobs that they free up time for Hance to participate in the community activities.

The Carriage House Inn began life in 1877 as the Zimmer-

man and Maxwell Warehouse. At the beginning of the 20th Century, it was a broom factory and later a bus depot. Its first appearance as a restaurant was in 1943 when it was the White House. It was also Bucher's and Gentleman Jim's before it was purchased by the Hance Family in the 1980s and opened as the Carriage House Inn in 1986.

"I truly believe that the number one reason that we're still in Emmitsburg is because of the support of the community," Hance said. "It goes both ways, though. That's the key."

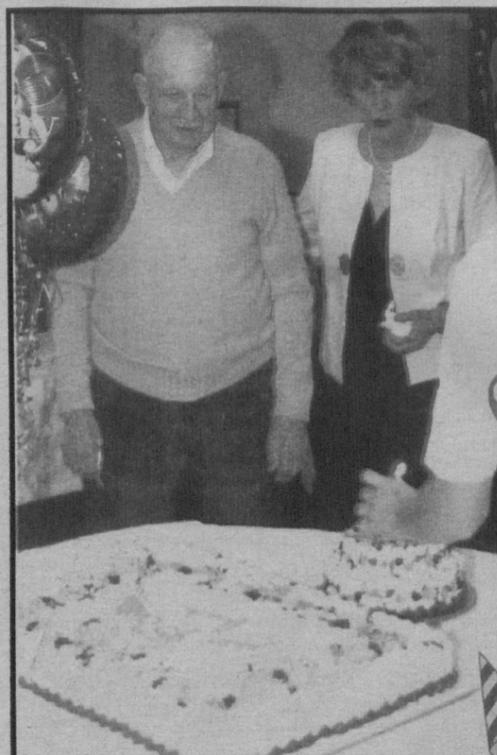
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G. Meade Eyler Celebrates 95th Birthday

Blowing out all of the candles on a birthday cake for a 95 year old can be a daunting task, but George "Meade" Eyler managed it at his 95th birthday party on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007. Pat and Gene Raymond hosted the event at the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont. Eighty-five friends, neighbors and relatives from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio attended.

The room was decorated in autumn colors as a buffet lunch was served. Old friends and acquaintances met others for the first time in years. Herb Michaels, a McDonald's breakfast associate, served as master of ceremonies for the "Toasting, Hosting and Roasting" held in good friendship. The participants in the event were Herb, John Hawk, a nephew and many other friends and family.

George is already looking forward to his 96th birthday.

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The (retired) Ecologist Of Christmases, Past and Present



BY BILL MEREDITH
Dispatch Columnist

When I was four, December was the longest month of the year; days passed, but Christmas seemed to hover somewhere out in the future and get no closer. Over the ensuing 70 years, something happened to time; now it speeds up in December, and as I write this, we are racing toward the year's end at mach speed. Everyone knows the days get shorter until the solstice, but this year the hours are getting shorter too.

On my personal calendar, winter begins with the first snow, and this year it came on December 5. While I was eating breakfast and watching the bird feeder outside the kitchen window, big fluffy flakes started falling, and they kept coming until it was six inches deep. New snow always brings the birds in; I counted 22 species through the window, including a flock of geese that flew over. A young sharp-shinned

hawk screeched to a halt just before hitting the window and perched on top of the feeder, watching in exasperation as the sparrows and juncos disappeared into the shrubbery. The winter birds that had been slow to arrive came all at once... a fox sparrow, pausing for lunch on its way farther south, white-crowned sparrows in their best party feathers, and purple finches that looked like they had been dipped in raspberry juice, just as Roger Tory Peterson said they would. There was a red-breasted nuthatch, so unaccustomed to humans that it pecked calmly at the suet cake while I shoveled the sidewalk three feet from it. The whole scene was like those Christmas cards we used to get where you look through the window at birds of every color against a pure white background, with hints of greenery showing. For a little while the world was clean and peaceful again, and you almost expected to see a horse-drawn sleigh gliding down Lincoln Avenue. In such a setting, even an ecologist could not concentrate on population problems, global warming, pollution and extinction; instead, my mind drifted back to Christmases Past.

There were no artificial trees then, so everyone had a live tree, and you couldn't decorate it more than two weeks before The Day because the needles would fall off if you put it up too early. Decorat-

ing was a ritual. The tree had to be turned around several times until everyone agreed that the best side was showing, and then it had to be set perfectly straight in the corner; the tiniest deviation from vertical was not allowed. Strings of lights were put on first. All of the bulbs had been working the year before, but somehow several of them always seemed to burn out while they were stored in the attic, and it would take an hour or more to find which ones were bad. A reflector made of colored aluminum foil or celluloid was mounted behind each bulb; fingers would get burned while putting the reflectors on, and often a fuse would be blown, so that was all adult work. Next, decorations that had been in the family for generations were taken carefully from ancient cardboard boxes and hung on the tree. Most of them were simple blown-glass balls, but some were in the form of fruits or pine cones; we kids were allowed to hang a few of the less fragile ones, under close supervision. Finally, everyone hung "icicles," thin ribbons of aluminum foil that could not be just tossed on the branches in clumps but had to be placed individually. The whole operation took all day, but there were no TV programs to distract us and no one seemed to be in a hurry.

Each family's decorations were its own tradition. There were always window lights, usually a row

of electric candles or a single candle in a red wreath; we were warned repeatedly to be careful and not knock them over. Grandma Brown had a small tree with only blue lights and silver reflectors, and a small number of very old decorations; her house was old and drafty, and the tree looked as if it were cold. Grandma Meredith had a big tree with red, green and yellow bulbs (no blue ones). Our tree was of medium size, with every color of lights we could find; under it was a railroad track, and a train whose engine had to be wound up (we got a real electric train when I was about 5). Each of the trees had a single white star at the top, and each had a nativity scene of venerable age and varied description. We knew what they all meant, because the stories of the Wise Men, the shepherds, and the birth of Jesus in the stable were read to us over and over at bedtime during Advent, sometimes in storybook fashion and sometimes in King James English.

We lived beside Grandma Brown, and always spent Christmas Eve with her. Once, before I was born, Santa Claus had brought my older sister's presents while she was up at Grandma's, and I always watched our house to see if he would come early again, but he never did. We always had Christmas dinner at Grandma Meredith's, and it was more fun; Santa had already brought our toys, and there were lots of cousins to play with as well. After dinner, everyone sat by the fire in the living room and listened to Dickens' "Christmas Carol" on the radio, with Lionel Barrymore as Scrooge. Everyone would remark what a great actor he was, but I knew the story by heart and he sounded to me like he was acting. But Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim and Marley's Ghost were real enough to make up for it.

Time has passed. I am now the grandparent, the tree is artificial, and Lionel Barrymore has been replaced by "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Miracle on 34th Street." But tradition persists; there will be a fire in the hearth, stockings are still hung, everyone will eat too much, and some of the antique decorations from my parents' tree will grace my children's trees. We adapt.

I value traditions; they remind me of what is important in life, and they provide a sense of order in a hectic, confusing world. One of my own Christmas traditions is to recall the verse from Walt Kelly's "Pogo" comic strip, as I have done before in this column. Life is a journey, and Christmas is one of the stops we make in it each year. Whether you are a Christian, of some other faith, or no faith at all, Christmas cannot be ignored; perhaps that is the one benefit of its commercialization. Whether you journey through life as a doctor, lawyer or Indian chief; an ecologist or an oil baron; a believer or not, your journey must stop at this time for at least one day. So while you pause, let me send you these wishes. May you spend some time thinking of the purpose of the day, remembering that grace can come to you no matter what you believe. May you remember that the whole thing started with the birth of a child, so if there are children around, spend some time helping them build their own traditions. And when you resume your walk through the year not yet begun, may you find some gentle days in it. Merry Christmas.

The gentle journey jars to stop; the drifting dream is done,

And now we'll walk as men have walked through years not yet begun.

For Christmas is a life-long hope, and hope the stuff of years...

The gentle journey wanders on, through laughter, love and tears.

- Walt Kelly

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The National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Recreation Association extends warmest holiday wishes to our staff, students, and to you, the local communities that support us!

A familiar face in a different place...



Jim Kittinger

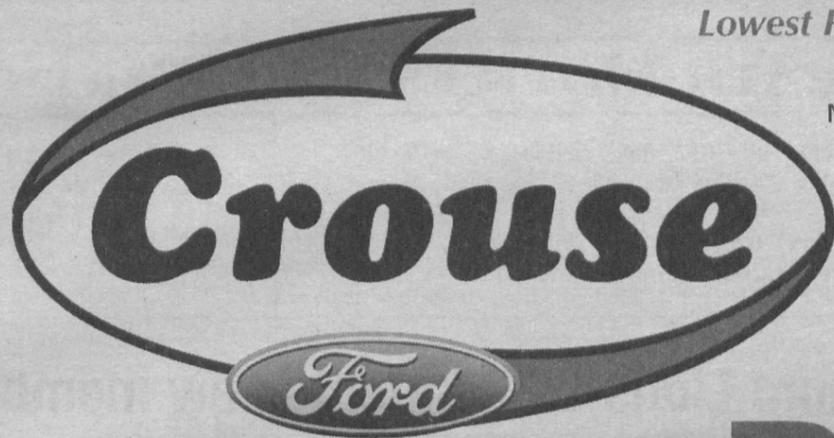
Age 64, plays golf (his game needs a lot of improvement)
Member of Vigilant Hose Company and the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company
Lives near Emmitsburg. Jim has been married to his wife, Polly for 44 years and has two daughters (Karen and Holly) and three grandchildren.

I was working at the local Super Thrift in Fairfield in 1966...

... when Dutch Wilson, the local funeral director asked me to go to work for him. Later, John Skiles and his father bought the funeral home in Emmitsburg and I went to work for them. In this business, you are able to help people when they really need your help. I like that. I like making a difference.

The industry has changed a lot in my 40 plus years: more government regulation, more paperwork, funerals are not as formal and we're doing more cremations. Families today are also seeing the wisdom in pre-arranging funerals. It takes the burden off the family and is very cost effective. Things have changed, for the better.





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COMMUNITY NEWS

From Santa with love



- PHOTO COURTESY OF MOTHER SETON SCHOOL

Mother Seton School's Home-School Association and faculty are helping parents create a commercial-free childhood for their families. St. Nick's Workshop, a Christmas Prayer Partner activity. Gone are the tables of trinkets sent by the Secret Santa vendor, along with the hidden message that Christmas is about shopping, spending and wanting more. Enter a commercial-free zone where younger students partner with older students to create something beautiful and meaningful for family members, wrap it with care, and give it with love. The idea behind St. Nick's Workshop is that Christmas is not about having more, it's about giving love. To learn more, visit the following sites: www.newdream.org/kids, Pbskids.org/dontbuyit and www.commercialexploitation.org.

DEATH NOTICES

Lula M. Bucher, 87, of Fairfield, died December 9, 2007. Born December 27, 1919.

Mary G. "Jerry" Gerstner, 85 of Emmitsburg. Died December 2, 2007. Born March 9, 1922.

BIRTHS

Tami & Ray Brice, Fairfield Pa., a daughter, Nov. 27.

Jenna & Brad Main, Keymar, a son, Nov. 29.

Thurmont Lions Club inducts new members



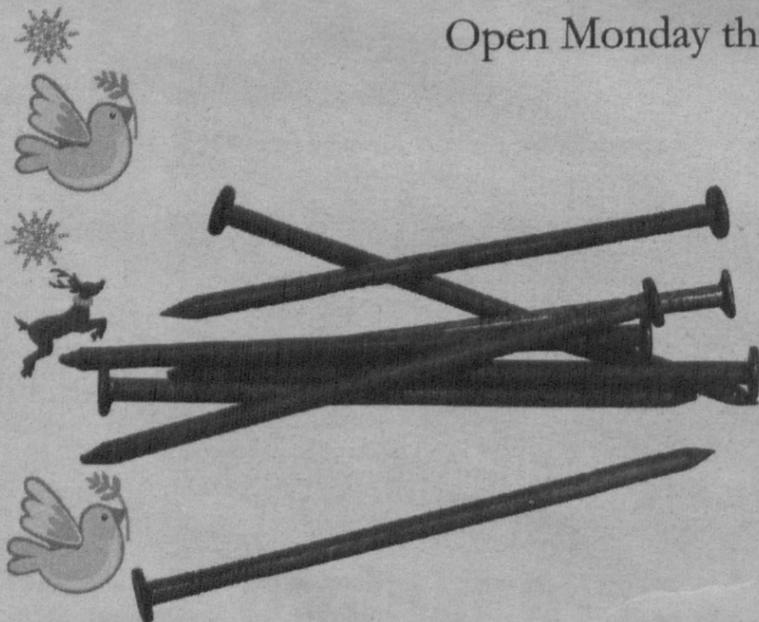
- PHOTO COURTESY OF THE THURMONT LIONS CLUB

Three new members were recently inducted into the Thurmont Lions Club by Vice District Governor Susan Timmons, assisted by Past District Governor Margarito(Och) Ochoa. The new members are Greg and Brenda Eyler and Wendy Candela. If you would like to explore the opportunity of becoming a member of the world's oldest and largest service club, visit www.thurmontlionsclub.com, or telephone the Membership Chairwoman Shirley Long at (301) 898-8515. Pictured above are (l to r) Thurmont Lions Club President Paul Cannada, new member Gregory Eyler, Thurmont Lion Ross Smith, Thurmont Lion Och Ochoa, new member Brenda Eyler and new member Wendy

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Community CALENDAR

December 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 23 & 24 – Christmas Services. You are cordially invited to worship with our family dur-

ing this Christmas Season. Dec. 23, 10:30 a.m.; Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Fellowship Baptist Church, 110 Mount Hope Road in Fairfield, PA. (717) 642-6767, www.fellowshipbaptistpa.org.

December 26 – 21st Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship, Frederick, Maryland. 4 - 9 p.m. Twelve historic houses of worship in Downtown Frederick will open wide their doors and welcome guests. Walk from site to site to enjoy seasonal music, tours, and presentations while exploring the various heritage and holiday customs in the Frederick community. Free. (301) 600-4043.

December 31 - New Years Eve Communion Service at Fellowship Baptist Church, 110 Mount Hope Road in Fairfield, PA. 7 p.m. (717) 642-6767, www.fellowshipbaptistpa.org.

January 2 – Healing Circle at Unity Church in Frederick, 1 W. 9th Street, Frederick, MD. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Free. Everyone welcome. Reiki reduces stress and tension, calms the mind and emotions, reduces pain, lessens feelings of anxiety and fear, releases blocked emotions, and strengthens the immune system. For information call (301) 846-0868, www.unityfrederick.org.

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

January 4 – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's Feast Day. Join us in Celebration of Mass 1:30 p.m. at The Basilica National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 333 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. Light refreshments served after Mass.

January 4 – The Great Bear & the Hunter at Thorpewood. 6 p.m. (rain/snow date: January 5.) James Heilman, a retired planetarium director and astrophotographer, will be here to take us on a tour of the night sky! \$20. (301) 271-2823.

January 4 & 11 – “Where’s the Instruction Manual?” Baby Care Basics class at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick. Advance registration and payment required. \$65 (240) 379-6000.

January 5 – “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.

January 6 – Catholics Retuning Home. St. Joseph’s Church, 100 N. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg will conduct an ongoing series, Catholics Returning Home, on six consecutive Sunday afternoons from 1:15 – 3 p.m. at the Parish Hall on DePaul Street, beginning January 6. These sessions are for nonpracticing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church. For more information, contact Mary Myers (301) 447-2712 or e-mail bensongaragedoors@yahoo.com.

January 6 & 13 – “Sunday Run” Childbirth Education at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick. Advance registration and payment required. \$110 per couple. (240) 379-6000.

January 7 – Clothes Closet at Thurmont United Methodist Church, Long Rd., Thurmont. Free clothing and household items for needy families. Newborn to adult. 6 p.m. 1st Monday of each month.

January 8 – “Becoming a Love & Logic Parent®” Parenting Skills Class at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick. (5-consecutive weekly sessions) Advance registration and payment required. \$75 individual; \$85 couple (in same household). (240) 379-6000.

January 8 – “New Mother Get Together” New mothers and babies (ages 6 weeks - 9 months) at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick. Meet for fun and learning. Advance registration and payment required. \$65. (240) 379-6000.

January 8, 22, and 26 – FMH Birth Place Tours. Guided tour of BirthPlace & Family Center at Frederick Memorial Hospital, 400 W. 7th St., Frederick, MD. Advance registration required. Free of charge. (240) 379-6000.

January 12 – Winter Trails Free Snowshoe Day at Liberty Mountain. This is a great place to try snowshoeing during Winter Trails 2008. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Snowshoeing and cross country skiing both provide exercise. Enjoy a day on snow. For information call (717) 642-828 or www.wintertrails.org.

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 12 – “Small Wonder” Sibling Class (Ages 3 - 5) at Frederick Memorial Hospital, 400 W. 7th St., Frederick. Advance registration and payment required. \$35. (240) 379-6000.

January 16 – “Tours for Twos” siblings at FMH BirthPlace Frederick Memorial Hospital, 400 West 7th Street, Frederick. Advance registration and payment required. \$20. (240) 379-6000.

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 19 – “Comfort Measures Plus” at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick. Natural pain management techniques. Advance registration and payment required. \$30. (240) 379-6000.

January 23 to 25 – Girls Softball signups at the Thurmont Middle School. 6 - 8 p.m. \$70, player’s birth certificate. The Cactoin Recreation Council. 8U, 10U, 12U, 15U. Frederick County Girls’ Softball League. Register by February 15, 2008. For more information contact Bob Marlow (301) 271-7063 or Mike Walters (301) 271-7040.



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Arts & Entertainment

C A L E N D A R

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 Canapes, 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.

Through January 2 – Art Students Exhibit in a juried show in the Mary Condon Hodgson Art Gallery in F Building, Frederick Community College. For more information about the exhibit and art programs at Frederick Community College, call Shane Sellers at (301) 624-2863.

Through January 5 – The Village Theatre of Gettysburg presents Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol by Tom Mula at 241 Steinhilber Ave. Gettysburg, Pa. Instead of following Ebenezer Scrooge, we join his old partner Jacob Marley on his famous ghostly visitation. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Saturday matinees, 2 p.m., Sunday Matinees 3 p.m. Tickets range from \$8 - \$15. www.tvigetgettsburg.com, (800) 570-4590 for tickets and complete schedule.

January 1 to 5 – Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol at Patriot Point Village. (717) 337-0080, www.patriotpoint.us for information.

January 12– Young Artist Piano Competition. The Frederick Symphony Orchestra competition is open to advanced, middle and high school pianists who reside in the state of Maryland. \$35. For more information, www.fredericksymphony.org, (301) 663-8476.

January 23 – Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St. Frederick, Md. 8 p.m. Give the gift of the Weinberg with tickets to 100 Years of Broadway. Award winning composer and lyricist Neil Berg brings the Great White Way to Frederick. Relive the magic and the music of South Pacific, Beauty and the Beast, Rent, The Wiz, and more. \$35, \$30, \$20. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org

January 18 – Cirque Le Masque at the Majestic Theater. 7:30 pm. The awe and spectacle of a three-ring circus-live on stage. For ticket information (717) 337-8200, www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

January 25 – PEAC Talent Show showcases thirty-five homeschooled children in this free, public performance staged by the Par-

ents 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 30 – Little Women – the Broadway Musical at the Majestic Theater. 7:30 p.m. Louisa May Alcott's beloved story is a family favorite. For ticket information (717) 337-8200, www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

February 5 – Beausoleil Avec Michael Ducet at the Majestic Theater. 7:30 p.m. Celebrate "Fat Tuesday" with Grammy-winning Cajun band. For ticket information (717) 337-8200, www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

February 6 – Maryland Arts Day. Conference and statewide advocacy and grassroots campaign organized by Maryland Citizens for the Arts in support of state funding for the arts and for the Maryland State Arts Council. Bus leaves Frederick at 7:30 a.m. for meeting with legislators in Annapolis. Local artists, arts patrons, and other interested individuals can sign up by calling the Frederick Arts Council at (301) 662-4190.

February 7 – Nicaraguan Mural Artist. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Adams County Arts Council's arts learning center, The Imagination Station, 18 Carlisle St, Suite 201, Gettysburg. Internationally recognized Nicaraguan Primitivista mural artist Jose Ignacio Fletes Cruz will offer a painting demonstration. (717) 334-5006.

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Activities

BOULEVARD SINGLES DANCE
December 23 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.

21ST ANNUAL TOUR
December 26, candlelight tour of Historic Houses of Worship, Frederick, Maryland. 4 - 9 p.m. Twelve historic houses of worship in Downtown Frederick will open wide their doors and welcome guests. Walk from site to site to enjoy seasonal music, tours, and presentations while exploring the various heritage and holiday customs in the Frederick community. Free. (301) 600-4043.

HEALING CIRCLE
January 2 at Unity Church in Frederick, 1 W. 9th Street, Frederick, MD. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Free. Everyone welcome. Reiki reduces stress and tension, calms the mind and

emotions, reduces pain, lessens feelings of anxiety and fear, releases blocked emotions, and strengthens the immune system. For information call (301) 846-0868, www.unityfrederick.org.

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Emmitsburg area churches schedule Christmas services

Christmas Eve falls on Monday this year and Emmitsburg-area churches have scheduled a variety of services to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. Please note some changes with usual morning services.

Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

333 South Seton Avenue
Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.
 Christmas Vigil Mass
Dec. 25, 9 a.m.
 Christmas Day Mass
Shrine Sites closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Christmas Novena begins Tuesday, Dec. 27 - 1:30p.m. Mass daily thru Jan. 4.

Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church

100 West North Avenue
Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.
 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Eyler's Valley Chapel

Corner of Eyler's Valley and Hampton Valley Roads
Dec. 21-23, 7 and 8:30 a.m.
Dec. 24, 5, 6:30, 8, 9:30 and 11 p.m.

Incarnation United Church of Christ

124 West Main Street
Dec. 24, 7 p.m.
 Play with original script by Pastor Reg and UCC members.

National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes

Mount St. Mary's University
Dec. 24, 11:30 p.m.
 Christmas carols and vigil, Midnight Christmas Mass

St. Anthony's Shrine Parish

16150 St. Anthony's Road
Dec. 24, 4 and 9:30 p.m.
 Vigil Mass

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

100 North Seton Avenue
Dec. 24, 8:30 a.m.
 Novena Mass
Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.
 Children's Christmas pageant
Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.
 Vigil Mass
Dec. 25, 8 and 10:15 a.m.
 Mass

Tom's Creek United Methodist Church

10926 Simmons Road
Dec. 24, 9:30 a.m.
 Worship with children's program
Dec. 24, 7 p.m.
 Family candlelight service
Dec. 24, 11 p.m.
 Candlelight service with Holy Communion

Trinity United Methodist Church

313 West Main Street
Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.
 Candlelight Service and Happy Birthday Jesus Party for children
Dec. 24, 7 p.m.
 Candlelight Service

FAIRFIELD CHURCHES

Iron Springs Brethren in Christ Church

855 Iron Springs Road
Dec. 23, 9:15 a.m.
 Christmas Cantata "He's Still the King of Kings"
Dec. 24, 6 p.m.
 Christmas and Communion Service

Fellowship Baptist Church

110 Mount Hope Road
Dec. 23, 10:30 a.m.
Dec. 24, 7 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

13 East Main Street
Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m.
 Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24, 9:30 p.m.
 prelude music
Dec. 24, 10 p.m.



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from Thomas H. Powell, president
 on behalf of the entire Mount St. Mary's University community

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January 19, 2008, 9 p.m., Knott Aud.

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 Saturday, March 8, 2008, Knott Auditorium, 3:45-5:45 p.m.

ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

SPEAKER: PROFESSOR PATRICIA HAMPL

Thursday, April 3, 2008, 7 p.m., Knott Aud.

Patricia Hampl first won recognition for *A Romantic Education*, her memoir about her Czech heritage, awarded a Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship in 1981. Hampl's fiction, poems, reviews, essays and travel pieces have appeared in many publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Best American Short Stories* and *Best American Essays*.

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DEDICATION CEREMONY AND

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April 26, 2008, 8 p.m., Knott Arena.

For more information call 301-447-3416.

Visit the Mount's Calendar of Events online at

www.msmary.edu/calendar

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