

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL VIII, No. 6

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

MARCH 20, 2008

County downzones properties

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

FREDERICK, Md. — The Frederick County Commissioners took action on Mar. 17 that would lead in the down-zoning of properties adjacent to the municipal boundaries of Emmitsburg.

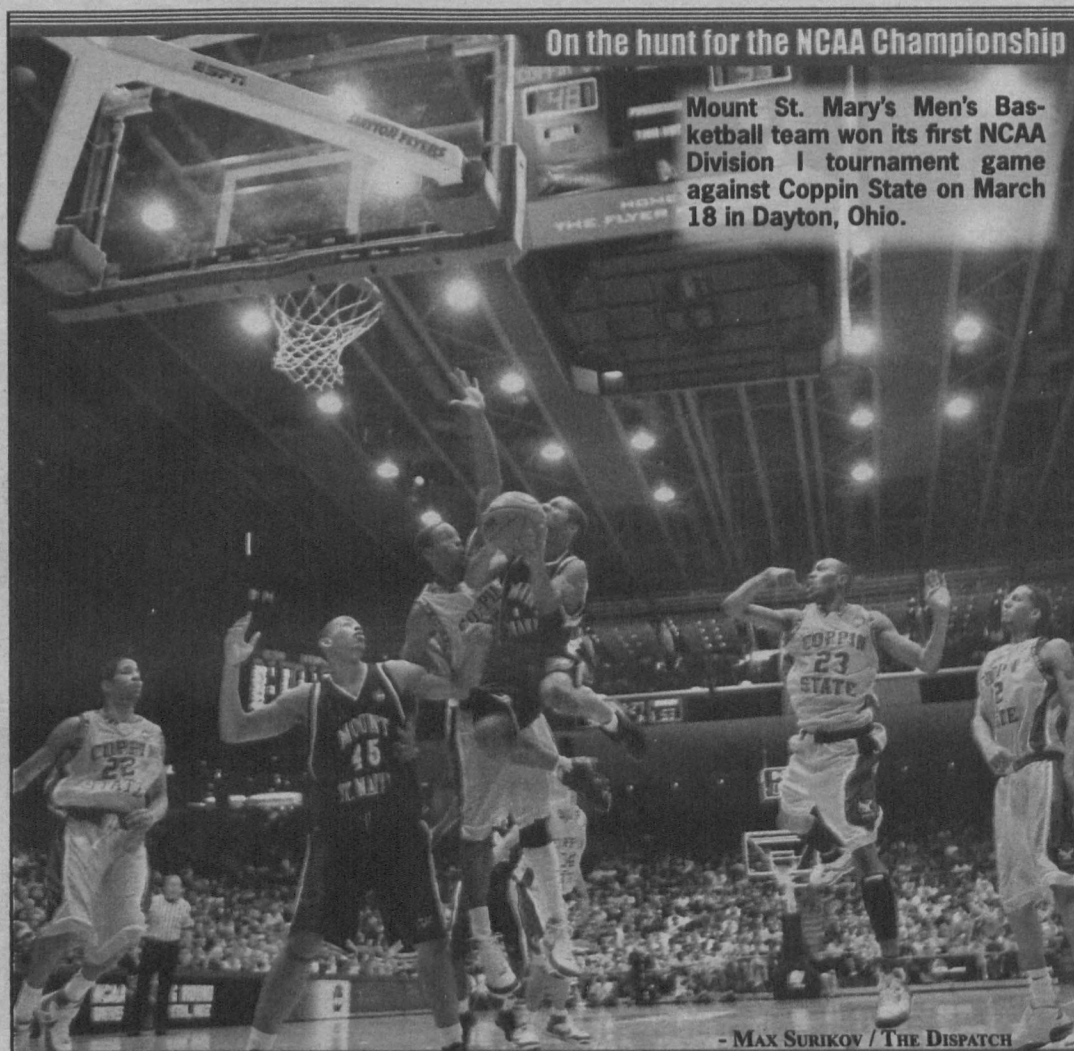
"In the broad scheme of things, I don't want anything sitting outside of the town's borders that is zoned and planned for development," Commissioner Lennie Thompson said during a commissioners workshop.

Parcel by parcel, he began proposing that properties adjacent to Emmitsburg be down-zoned from their residential designations to agricultural land use designations, which would lead to a zoning change to agricultural as well.

Thompson said that in doing so, it "removes the gun cocked at Emmitsburg's head to annex."

He believes that if the county designates land for any

-See **Downzone** on page 3



On the hunt for the NCAA Championship

Mount St. Mary's Men's Basketball team won its first NCAA Division I tournament game against Coppin State on March 18 in Dayton, Ohio.

- MAX SURIKOV / THE DISPATCH

Mountaineers advance in NCAA tournament

BY JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — Mount St. Mary's men's basketball team won its first Division I NCAA tournament game with a 69-60 win over Coppin State on Mar. 18.

Coppin State was ahead the first half of the game, but the Mount took control during the second half. Jeremy Goode, a 5-foot 9-inch sophomore guard, scored 21 points—including four three throws in the final 27 seconds—to lead the Mountaineers to victory. When Coppin State went five minutes without scoring, the

Mountaineers took on a decisive lead at the end.

With the win in Dayton, Ohio, the Mount advances to face North Carolina, the top-seed team in the tournament, for the first-round game. That game will be in Raleigh, N.C. on Mar. 21. If the Mountaineers can win that game, they will make history. A 16th seed team has never beaten a No. 1 seed team, according to the Associated Press.

This is the third time that the team has played in the NCAA tournament since becoming a Division I school in 1988-89 and the first under Coach Milan Brown. In its previous appearances in 1995 and 1999, the team lost its first

-See **Basketball** on page 11

Emmitsburg may be looking to expand its family

BY ELIZABETH M. PIAZZA
Contributing Writer

EMMITSBURG, Md. — During a recent visit to Emmitsburg, City of Frederick Alderman Alan Imhoff met with the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners to give a basic introduction about the Frederick Sister Cities Association.

Invited by Joyce A. Rosensteel, treasurer of the board, Imhoff spoke at length about Frederick City's program which belongs to an international non-profit network known as Sister Cities International. Frederick City currently has three sister cities, Schifferstadt and Moerzheim, Germany and Aquiraz, Brazil, which was added in 2006.

Sister Cities International, headquartered in D.C., helps partner communities in the U.S. with similar communities around the world. The mission of Sister Cities International is to promote peace and strengthen partnerships between communities. According to the mission statement, Sister Cities International "promotes sustainable development, youth involvement, cultural understanding and humanitarian assistance".

The commissioners and mayor remain interested in the program but agree that more information is needed before committing.

"Conceptually, it's a great outreach program and cultural learning opportunity," said Mayor Jim Hoover. He remains concerned that it could be a cost burden for Emmitsburg and recognizes that he needs to learn more about the benefits for the town before moving forward.

"I don't want to just hang a sign and have it be only a conceptual program. How do we truly get the cultural advantages and experiences in an affordable way?" Hoover said.

"The municipality is the overseer of the program but not involved on a financial level," Imhoff said. A group of volunteers would raise funds to support the program.

Chris Staiger, president of the board, is supportive of finding a "match" for Emmitsburg although he has concerns

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Mount student dies in fall
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DNA results on remains
pending

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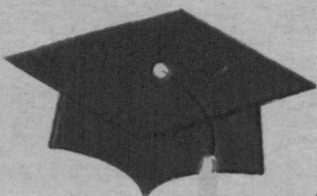
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Crime on the increase

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A Word from the Mayor

Training to be better

Over the past several months we have been working on creating training seminars for Emmitsburg staff, elected and appointed officials. Staff and elected officials have several opportunities to attend all types of seminars through the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and in the past, many of us have taken the opportunity to attend them when possible. However, most of those seminars are scheduled to take place during the summer and fall conferences which makes it impossible for everyone to attend the seminars at the same time and those seminars are more generic because they have so many other municipalities attending the same seminars. So, by scheduling and or creating our own seminars we can have seminars that are more specific to our needs and can be scheduled to allow more attendance by our staff and elected officials and now we can extend an invitation to our appointed committee members to many of the seminars.

Training is very important in every organization no matter how large or small it may be. Although the Town of Emmitsburg is a small town, we are no different. With less than 3000 residents, we must follow the same county, state and federal regulations as the larger communities and we have many of the same challenges as the larger communities.

Recently we just offered a training course for town staff on "respectful communication" and another course for staff, elected officials and committee members on "how to run an effective public meeting". In the

near future I expect to offer several other seminars to have staff, elected and appointed officials to be better prepared to serve the community. A particular course that I'd like to see created is some form of an orientation for committee members to help them better understand their roles and responsibilities. Our committee members are very dedicated individuals but, they are not offered much information on what is expected of them once they become a member of a committee.

I view seminars as a tool, if you provide the right tools for each job, you'll get a better job and more people who want to be apart of the job. Many seminars will be repeated at least annually to give new members a chance to attend the seminars and for others to be able to brush-up on their skills as needed.

In other news, I want to congratulate Mount Saint Mary's basketball team for getting in to the NCAA tournament and wish them luck on bringing home the championship.

And, don't forget, there are only two programs left from the Powerful Partnership between the Town of Emmitsburg and Mount Saint Mary's. Both programs are comedy shows, one is on Friday night Mar. 28 at 9 p.m. and the other is on Saturday night Mar. 29 at 9 p.m. Both programs are in Knott Auditorium and are free to Emmitsburg residents, we only ask that you bring a food item for the food bank collection.

James Hoover
Emmitsburg Mayor

EDITORIAL

WARNING! Mount show NOT for children!

"Full of blood, violence, incest, rape and interspecies sex." This is the description given by various Web sites about *Bat Boy- The Musical*, Mount St. Mary's University Department of Visual and Performing Arts spring production.

Is something described this way what you want to see at a place "built on the four pillars of faith, discovery, leadership, and community"?

The musical is based on the "Weekly World News" story of a half-boy, half-bat creature found in a cave. It follows themes of acceptance, hatred, and jealousy and ends with the ensemble engaging the audience with the lesson of the play, "Don't deny your beast inside." The Mount describes the show as a "biting social commentary coupled with musical comedy." One such musical comedy number is "Children, Children". In this particular number, the forest god Pan urges the animals of the forest to show Bat Boy and his love interest,

Shelley, how to love and they break into song that is about an interspecies sex free-for-all.

What faith does this musical build? What kind of discovery does it lead us to? Is producing shows of poor taste leadership? Is this the type of show the community would like to see?

While the musical may have won awards and critical acclaim, should that be the standard upon which the Mount judges their performing arts? If so, then could we expect other award-winning art, such as "Piss Christ," which depicts a crucifix in the artist's urine? We hope not, but *Bat Boy: The Musical* sends the Mount down that slippery slope where expressing your First Amendment right of free speech overrides your good judgment.

We expect more from a university grounded in solid Christian values. Unfortunately, *Bat Boy: The Musical* sends the university flying off in the wrong direction.

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.

An apology to Dr. Curley

A couple of issues ago, I wrote a letter to *The Dispatch* displaying my discontent with Dr. Curley concerning the increase in her fees as well as calling her crooked as a dog's hind leg. I recently read the response that Angela Reckley wrote on Dr. Curley's behalf. Angela's letter is absolutely correct, and I was absolutely out of line. What I did was act on impulse and frustration, not to mention carelessness. I gave no thought to Dr. Curley's position in this matter, worse yet, I gave no thought to the person, and the friend that I would be hurting by blowing off the way that

I did. I have known Dr. Curley for 17 years, she is kind, caring and professional in every way. There is nothing crooked about her. Doctor Curley and I have discussed this issue in detail as well as the letter that I wrote. This letter is to serve as an official apology to Doctor Curley, her Staff and to anyone else that may have been offended. Being the professional that she is, Doctor Curley remains my physician but more importantly, she remains my friend.

Robert Hankey
Gettysburg, Pa.

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Downzone

-Continued from page 1

type of development, a developer could tell a municipality that if the municipality doesn't annex the property under terms favorable to the developer, the developer will develop the land under that county low-density designation.

Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover said after the meeting that he doesn't buy this reasoning. "If it was possible to do, Silver Fancy would have been developed long ago." The owners want to develop the property but it has been rejected for annexation and it still remains undeveloped.

He said the properties can't develop outside of town because there are no water and sewer resources to use. The town will be limited in how fast it develops as well because the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is requiring future growth to be in balance with available water

resources.

"Our threat is Pennsylvania more so than unincorporated parts of the county that surround us," Hoover said. "This is truly nothing more than a smoke screen by Lennie [Thompson]."

However, this move runs counter to county policy which

The full intent of this proposal is to say bye-bye to development.

James Hoover
Emmitsburg Mayor

says that if a municipality designates land for future growth, the county does not give it conflicting zoning.

With conflicting zoning between the county and municipality, the county has the ability to delay any development through annexation by five years by not granting a waiver of inconsistency. This is part of what happened to Myers

Farm annexation in Thurmont last year.

"The full intent of this proposal is to say bye-bye to development," Hoover said.

By the time, the commissioners had rezoned most of the properties around the town, Commission President Jan Gardner discovered a possible problem with what they had done.

"We probably should have left a lot of this as LDR [low-density residential] and then changed the zoning to ag," Gardner said.

She said the commissioners would probably have to go back and change many of their votes to reflect this. Hoover said he wouldn't have a problem with this change so much because it still designates the planned land use for some type of residential development.

The commissioners plan to meet with municipal officials on Apr. 24 to discuss their concerns with the plan. Then the draft plan will have a public hearing on May 13.

Sister Cities

-Continued from page 1

over who would manage the program.

"I would want to truly focus on it and find volunteers willing to take ownership in order to give it the support and attention it would need," Staiger said.

"The great thing about the program is that each partnership sets up the program how they want to set it up, whether it is based on cultural, economic and humanitarian exchanges," Imhoff said. "It is up to each city to decide that."

In 2007, the city of Frederick celebrated its 25th anniversary of partnership with Schifferstadt, Germany. The partnership between Schifferstadt and Frederick focuses on the historical and cultural aspects. Frederick City was founded 250 years ago by immigrants from an area near Schifferstadt. The partnership with Aquiraz

has more of an economic and humanitarian base. Recently an ambulance was donated to the program and volunteers are in the process of shipping it to Aquiraz, Imhoff said. There are cultural exchanges as well. The Frederick-Aquiraz partnership recently kicked off a Youth Ambassador Program at the annual Frederick Chocolate Gala, a fundraising event for the sister city program. The gala raised approximately \$15,000.

Affiliations between communities in the United States and international communities began shortly after WWII and in 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a people-to-people program. Sister Cities International grew from this initiative and became a separate, non-profit corporation in 1967. The program represents more than 2,500 communities in 134 countries around the world. For more information about Sister Cities International visit www.sister-cities.org.



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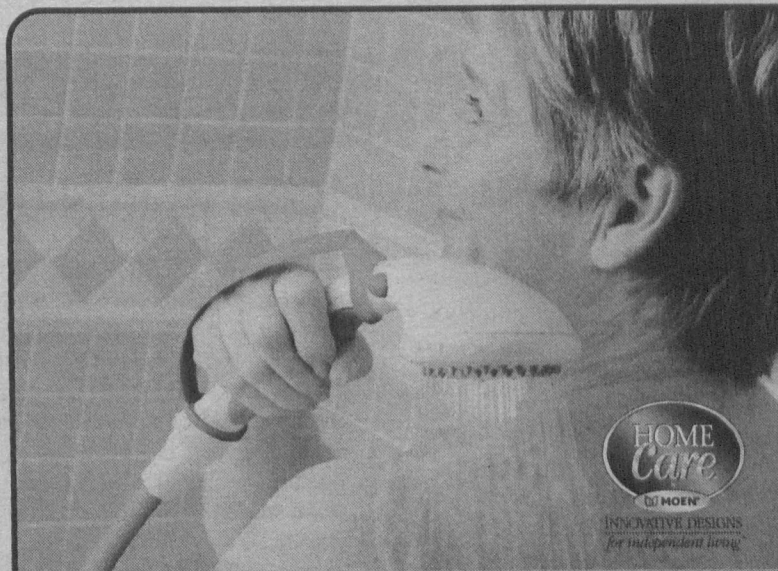


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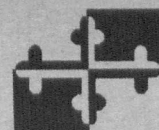
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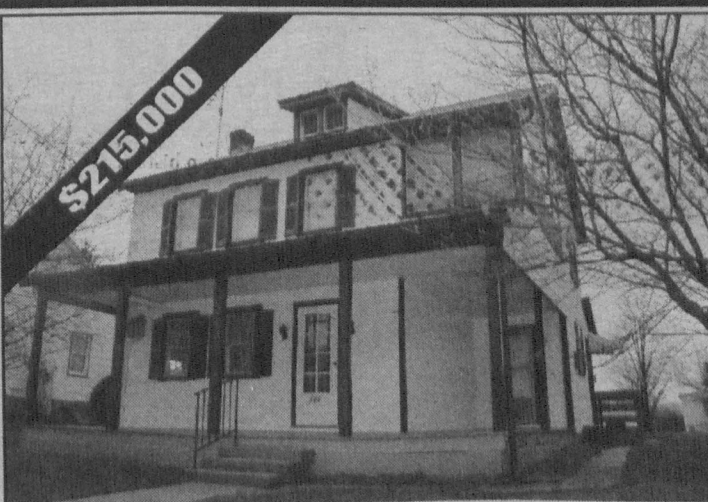
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TOWN NEWS

Mount student dies in fall

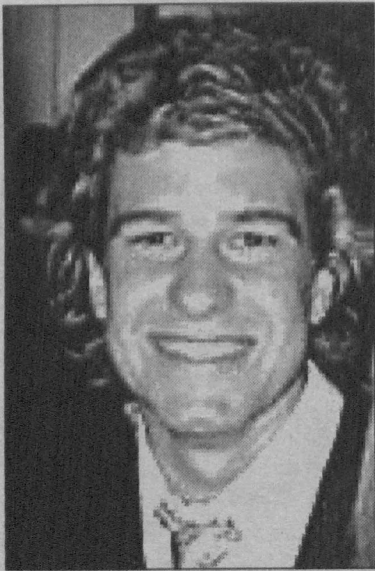
BY JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — Mount St. Mary's University senior Dustin Bauer died just after midnight on March 13 after he fell in his campus apartment complex on March 9.

"We now believe that Dustin was needed for a much greater reason, to be an angel. He was always an angel to my parents but somehow I know that he was needed to help guide and look over so many others. He truly was, is, and will remain the greatest angel in our lives," Dustin's brother Dewitt wrote on a blog about his brother.

Bauer fell over the railing in Apartment Tower A about 1 a.m. on Mar. 9, according to reports. Though alcohol may have been involved, Mount Director of Communications Linda Sherman said that the investigation is still ongoing.

Following the fall, a Maryland State Police helicopter flew Bauer to R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore. Surgeons operated on him for head injuries and placed him on life support.



DUSTIN BAUER

Bauer's funeral was on Monday, Mar. 17 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Towson. In lieu of flowers etc. we are creating a memorial fund for Dustin: Dustin Bauer Memorial Fund, PO Box 42654, Towson MD 21284.

"The students are going on spring break this week," Sherman said. "I think the time off will help the students heal."

Mount St. Mary's is also planning a memorial service for Dustin. It is tentatively planned for Mar. 28, but it could change.

Exact ID of human remains unknown, investigators awaiting DNA results

BY STEPHANIE LONG
Dispatch Staff Writer
slong@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Although the exact identity of skeletal remains found in Emmitsburg is still unknown as investigators await DNA results, an autopsy of the remains has concluded several facts about the victim.

According to the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, the autopsy conducted by Maryland's Chief Medical Examiner concluded that the remains are "that of a petite Hispanic female, approximately 25 years of age, with long dark hair" who was "approximately 5'2 tall and weighed between 125 to 140 pounds."

Initially, Detective Jeff Norris received up to 25 phone

calls in reference to missing person cases and the remains, said Corporal Jennifer Bailey, but with the autopsy results in, the number has fallen and the Sheriff's Office is "weeding through" all of the cases. Norris said that the pool of cases has pretty much been narrowed down to one, though he did not identify the case.

Norris added that there are no active leads on the case, but that they're waiting on DNA results on the victim, which could take a up to a few months to receive.

"We're hoping sooner or later to have something, but we're waiting on the results," Norris said.

Widespread speculation has been that the remains could be that of Deysi Benitez, of Frederick, who was last seen

on March 18, 2007 and has not been seen since. Benitez's husband and four children were found deceased in their home on March 26, 2007, and it has been determined that three of the children died due to suffocation and one from blunt force trauma to the head. It was also determined that Benitez's husband had hung himself.

According to a missing person report on the Federal Bureau of Investigations website, Benitez was 25 years old, 5'2", weighed 140 pounds and had black, shoulder length hair at the time of her disappearance.

Norris said he is not discounting the possibility that the remains are that of Benitez.

"There are a lot of similarities there," Norris said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

100 ringers to participate in Handbell Festival

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Over 100 handbell ringers will perform together in the Second Annual Bell and History Days Handbell Festival on Apr. 6 at 5:30 p.m. The festival is the finale to Bell and History Days, a countywide event that kicks off the opening weekend of the local museum season, and will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St.

Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Eight local handbell ensembles will play en masse and with solo selections for this year's festival. Joche Wilmot, Director of Music for Calvary United Methodist Church in Frederick, and John A. Widmann, Director of Music and Organist for the Frederick Presbyterian Church, will direct the mass selections.

In addition to the mass selections, each participating group will play a solo selection. A diverse repertoire will be presented, including secular, patriotic and sacred music. Choirs from the following churches will participate: All Saints' Episcopal Church, Calvary United Methodist Church, Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, Frederick Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church of Frederick, Glade United Church of Christ (Walkersville), and Evangelical Lutheran Church - Zion (Middletown).

For more information, call the Frederick County Visitor Center at (301) 600-4047 or visit www.fredericktourism.org.

- J. Rada

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REGIONAL

Crime increased in Carroll Valley and Fairfield last year

BY STEPHANIE LONG
Dispatch Staff Writer
slong@thedispatch.us

CARROLL VALLEY, Pa. — Crime is on the increase in Carroll Valley and Fairfield. However, both town remain relatively low-crime areas compared to state averages, according to a recent report of crime statistics for 2007.

Chief of Police Richard L. Hileman II reported at the March Carroll Valley Council Meeting that while the area saw a 20-percent increase in calls for service in 2007 versus 2006, the crime rate was 32-percent less than the state-wide rural crime rate for Part 1 offenses, which are homi-

cides, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and arson.

Hileman said that some of the higher crime rate could be attributed in part to ski thefts at Liberty Mountain Resort. Those cases are often hard to close, Hileman said, given the fact that victims are mostly from out of town, and on average 54 percent are cleared.

Part 2 crime rates, which include traffic violations and other offenses not included in Part 1, increased 86 percent, which represent the highest level to date, Hileman said. He did note that although offenses increased, they still remained 26-percent lower overall than similar rural areas in the state.

In 2007, local police stepped up their efforts to combat drunk driving, participating in several roving patrols and checkpoint setups, which were funded by grants. These patrols and driving-under-the-influence checkpoints led to an additional 14 DUI arrests and several drug seizures, Hileman said.

The Carroll Valley Police Department, which consist of three officers, one civilian administrative assistant and Hileman, provides 24-hour police service to Carroll Valley and Fairfield, serves 4,500 people and an estimated 250,000 visitors of Liberty Mountain Resort.

Grace United Learning Center visited by 'Cat in the Hat'



Dr. Seuss' "Cat in the Hat" made a surprise visit to Grace United Learning Center, a member of the Taneytown Chamber of Commerce, to read the "Cat in the Hat" story. The children made hats in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday and they were given a book to take home with them.

Town Meetings

Board of Appeals

March 26, 7:30 p.m.
Special exception request for a 1-chair barber shop in residential district.

Planning Commission

March 31, 7:30 p.m.

Town Meeting

April 7, 7:30 p.m.

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

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REGIONAL

Bell and History Days open the 2008 museum season

FREDERICK, Md. — From the Mason-Dixon line to points as far south as Brunswick, Maryland, Museums and historic sites all over Frederick County celebrate the opening of the 2008 museum season with the Bell and History Days on Saturday, April 6, 2008. This year's Bell and History Day activities give special focus to Emmitsburg and the Catoctin Furnace Community, where landmark anniversaries are commemorated, including

the 200th anniversary of Mount St. Mary's University and the approaching bicentennial of the arrival of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in 1809. Bell and History Days programs are free and open to the general public.

Event goers are encouraged to participate in the Passport to History, which is an incentive program to promote museum visits during Bell and History Days. To participate, visitors collect stamps from at least four Bell and History

Days program sites, one of which must be located in the City of Frederick. Completed passports are to be deposited with a participating museum before 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 6. All who complete a passport will be rewarded with a 2008 Bell and History Days souvenir bell.

Some Bell and History Days sites in northern Frederick County are:

- Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont

- Olive Green Cabin, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in Thurmont
- Catoctin Furnace Community near Thurmont
- National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes in Emmitsburg
- Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg
- National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park in Emmitsburg
- Emmitsburg Branch Library in Emmitsburg
- Frederick County Fire and Rescue Museum in

Emmitsburg

- National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg

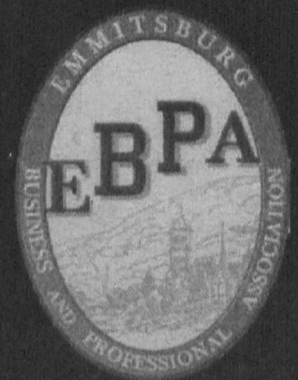
The Passport to History program guide for Bell and History Days is available at the Frederick Visitor Center, participating museums and the Mason-Dixon Discovery Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. For more information, Call the Visitor Center at (301) 600-4047 or visit www.frederick-tourism.org.

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Emmitsburg Business and Professionals Association Meeting

April 15, 2008

Carriage House Inn
Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Juliana Albowitz, from Senator Barbara Mikulski's staff, will speak to the group following lunch.

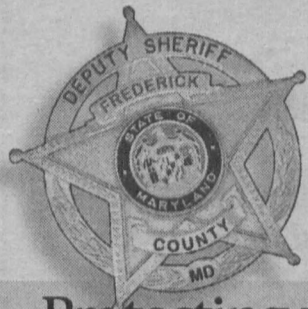


Thurmont Economic Development Meeting

April 16, 2008

Cozy Restaurant & Inn
Dinner available at 6 p.m.
Meeting at 7 p.m.
Guest Speakers: Andy Bowling of Group Benefits Solutions specializing in small business health care will be speaking.

PUBLIC SAFETY



C 10-43: For Your Information Community deputies serving Emmitsburg

Protecting yourself against aggressive driving

BY DFC JOHN BARTLETT
Contributing Writer

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration defines aggressive driving as “the operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger persons or property.” Aggressive driving is somewhat different than “road rage.” Road rage is driving in a way where a criminal act happens. An incident of road rage may be when another driver swerves at you with his vehicle, which also can be classified as an assault. Statistics gathered by NHTSA and American Automobile Association indicate that nearly 13,000 people have been injured or killed in crashes caused by aggressive driving since 1990.

According to State Farm Insurance, the number of drivers on the road is increasing. They stated that one-third of the commuters in larger cities spend over 40 hours a year in traffic jams. Large cities are not the only areas affected by this. A short time of watching traffic come into Emmitsburg from Main Street or Seton Avenue supports the rise of traffic on the roads. An estimated 8,000 vehicles come through Emmitsburg in a day. Because of this, and the layout of the roads in town, congestion is on the rise. When people are running late for work or other important destinations, frustration can easily build. How people feel before starting the vehicle has a lot to do with how stressed they may become while driving.

I'm sure that each of you who read this has experienced an

aggressive driver and may have even been one yourself during the past month. Some behaviors that usually are associated with aggressive driving are: exceeding the posted speed limit, following too closely (tailgating), erratic or unsafe lane changes, failure to obey traffic control devices (stop signs, traffic signals, etc.).

If you encounter an aggressive driver, you should: remain calm, keep your distance, do not pass unless you have to, change lanes once it is safe, and if you cannot change lanes, stay where you are and maintain the speed limit until you can get over. If you find yourself becoming agitated with the aggressive driver, remember to never: use obscene gestures at other drivers, use deliberate eye contact to show your frustration, use your horn to express your anger, or flash your headlights at another vehicle. These actions may irritate another driver and lead to a road rage incident that may become dangerous.

If the aggressive driver starts to become focused on you and you feel that it may become physical, call the police. Try to give a description of the vehicle, such as; make, model, color,

and license number. Try to get a look at the driver and provide that information to the police. If the incident starts to get out of control look for a place, such as an open business, to pull into.

If you witness aggressive driving and want the police to get involved, many people do not know that a police officer cannot issue a traffic citation if he/she did not witness the incident. However, citations for traffic infractions can be issued based on a witness providing information to the police officer about the incident and making a positive I.D. of the driver. The witness needs to understand that they will have to be willing to come to court if the driver chooses to fight the citation. A judge will need to hear testimony from a witness who actually saw the infraction before considering the verdict.

As we approach warmer weather, more vehicles will appear on the roads. Always think safety when operating a vehicle and try to never get drawn into a road rage incident. Aggressive driving is on the rise, so let's all remember to be considerate and responsible drivers. Driving a vehicle is a privilege.

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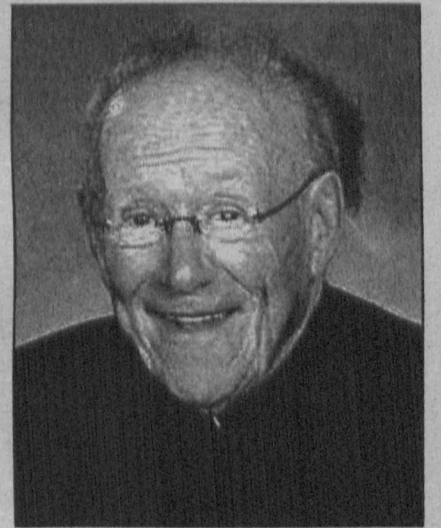
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★ Making a Difference

Faith and Music: Rev. Dr. David W. Shaum

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Contributing Writer

EMMITSBURG, Md. – A native of Taneytown, Rev. Dr. David W. Shaum could be placed in the category of “local boy makes good.” Others might say that he “does good,” as priest, teacher, musician, and author of two books of memoirs of his years at Mount St. Mary’s University and growing up in pre-World War II Taneytown. Whatever the work, he approaches it with an individual flair, a perfectionist impulse and personal warmth.



REV. DR. DAVID W. SHAUM

Beginning in 1938 when he came to the Mount as a student, Shaum’s life has been tied to the institution and to Emmitsburg. A year after graduation from the seminary, he returned to teach there, and was asked to form a men’s chorus at the college. For decades Shaum and his Glee Club were musical ambassadors for Mount St. Mary’s. James Martin of Hagerstown sang with the Glee Club in the late 1960’s. Jane Hollabaugh, now peer tutor coordinator at the Mount, sang as one of “The Belles of Mount St. Mary’s” during the 1972-73 school year. Both agree that “he always expected us to be professionals...he was demanding [because] our concert schedule was demanding.”

When Shaum retired in 1992, some of his former choris-

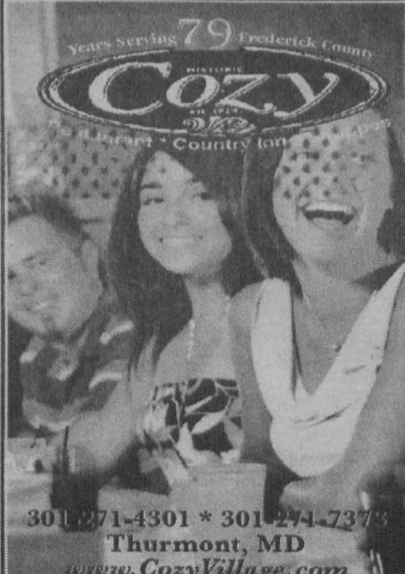
ters returned to sing in the farewell concert. Martin “still knew the words” to the two songs the alumni were invited to sing.

While Shaum may be retired from full-time teaching, he is scarcely retired. He stays very busy in nearby parishes as needed, and regularly holds mass at St. Catherine’s Nursing Center. In 1993 he started an adult mixed chorus (“I missed the teaching,” he says), first dubbed the DePaul Street Singers, now The Vincent-Ayres, which rehearses January-April and performs benefit concerts at St. Vincent’s High School in Hanover and other venues. This year an Emmitsburg performance will support Habitat for Humanity’s homebuilding projects in the town. It is set for Apr. 6 at 3 p.m. at Incarnation United Church of Christ.

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To All Our Allegheny Power Customers:

You have spoken and we have heard your concerns and those of the legislators and the Public Service Commission regarding the implementation of our *Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb (CFL) Program*, which includes the distribution of the energy efficient light bulbs. We acknowledge that we have caused a great deal of concern and confusion, and should have done a better job of clearly informing you, our customers, about the cost of the program. **For this, Allegheny Power accepts full responsibility for any confusion and delivery issues. We are truly sorry and offer you our sincere apologies.**

In an effort to address your concerns, Allegheny Power met with the Maryland Public Service Commission on January 16 and offered these steps with which the Commission agreed:

- Stop the *Energy Conservation Surcharge* for the CFL Program as of January 16
- Refund or credit all *Energy Conservation Surcharge* monies collected since the surcharge began on October 3, 2007
- Suspend the distribution of the bulbs, and once the Commission approves our plan, get bulbs to all customers who want them and did not receive them
- Work with the Public Service Commission, the Maryland Energy Administration, and other interested state and local agencies and groups on developing a compact fluorescent disposal plan. In the meantime, you can dispose of CFLs in your normal household trash, according to Maryland Department of the Environment and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines
- Further inform our customers of these actions in bill inserts

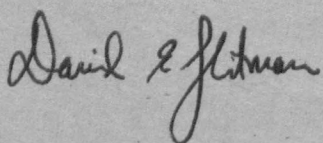
We encourage you to use the bulbs. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) have revolutionized lighting—they use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. We are hopeful that the two CFLs* will encourage people to adopt a more energy efficient lifestyle. Together, the two bulbs can save you about \$1 per month over the life expectancy of the bulbs.**

If you haven't received the bulbs and would like a set, please contact the Customer Service Center at the toll-free number below by April 30, 2008. The bulbs will be sent to you free of charge.

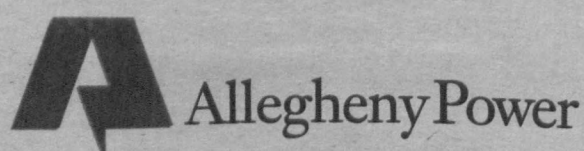
If you don't want the bulbs you already have received, please consider donating them to a friend, neighbor or charity.

Allegheny remains committed to providing our customers with important information and services for making informed energy-related decisions so they can save energy and money, while making Maryland a cleaner, greener place to live.

Please contact Allegheny's Customer Service Center at 1-800-255-3443 with any questions.



David E. Flitman
President
Allegheny Power



* The bulbs come with a Limited Warranty. Based on reasonable usage consistent with package directions, if a bulb does not last two years from the date it was received, send the bulb to: Niagara Conservation, 45 Horsehill Road, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927 for a replacement. The warranty on the box states that the sales receipt is needed, since you don't have a receipt, none is required. Please state that the bulb was received through Allegheny Power's Maryland CFL Program.

**The Earth Bright bulb has an expected life of 10,000 hours or 9 years, based on 3 hours average usage per day.

EDUCATION

CHS graduation info

THURMONT, Md. – The Senior Awards Ceremony will be held in the Catoctin High School gym on Monday, June 2, 2008, at 7 p.m. Before the ceremony, a reception hosted by the junior class will be held at 5:45 p.m. Graduation will be held at the Knott Arena on the campus of Mt. St. Mary's University on Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at 7 p.m.

Each graduate will receive eight tickets. Graduates who do not need all eight of their tickets are asked to return the extras to be used by fellow grads. Extra ticket request forms will be handed out when the receive their caps and gowns. Extra tickets will be sold for \$5 a piece. Seats will be on a first-come basis. Doors to the arena will be locked until a set time that evening. A videographer will be on hand to capture moments of the graduates lining up before the ceremony and of them congratulating one another following the ceremony. It is of professional quality and will be a nice keepsake of the event.

Caps and Gowns: Caps and Gowns will be distributed during lunch periods once these materials come in. Additional information concerning graduation exercises will also be distributed at this time.

Graduation Practices: Attendance is required at ALL of these functions for any senior planning to march in the graduation ceremony. Any senior who does not attend all required activities will not participate in the graduation ceremony.

- May 30 Practice at CHS: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- June 2 Senior Awards Ceremony at CHS: 7 p.m.
- June 3 Practice at CHS: 8 a.m. - Senior Picnic to follow (TBA)
- June 4 Graduation at Mt. St. Mary's: 7 p.m.



NEWS IN BRIEF

BOE seeks student member

FREDERICK, Md. – Catoctin High School sophomores and juniors may apply to serve as the 2008-09 student member of the Board of Education. The nomination deadline is April 18, 2008, for the term beginning in July 2008.

Student member bring a student viewpoint on educational issues to Frederick County Board of Education meetings, generally held two evenings per month. Interested sophomores and juniors should contact their high school principal or student government advisor for a nomination packet. Students may also access the application packet at www.fcpteach.org. In addition, principals and student government advisors may nominate a student. Completed applications are due Apr. 18 by 4 p.m. to FCPS Social Studies Curriculum Specialist Michael Bunitsky, 7630 Hayward Road, Frederick, MD 21702.

CHS SkillsUSA regional results

THURMONT, Md. – Several Catoctin High School students won awards in the recent SkillsUSA Regional Competition held at the Frederick County Career and Technology Center:

Saturday, February 2, 2008
 • Advertising Design – Honorable Mention - Jennifer Clark

• Residential Wiring – Honorable Mention – Seth Sweeney
 • Teamworks – 1st Place – Dan Hobbs

Tuesday, February 5, 2008
 • Nail Care – Honorable Mention – Lindsey Frederick

- J. Rada

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The (retired) Ecologist

The ecology of illegal aliens



BY BILL MEREDITH
Dispatch Columnist

"When the colonists came to the Americas, they brought their diseases with them." ...probably first said by Jared Diamond in *Guns, Germs and Steel*; plagiarized by many other sources on the internet.

There was something romantic and heroic about history as it was taught when I was in school. We learned about Columbus discovering America, brave colonists surviving winter hardships in New England and fending off savage Indians at Jamestown, and small bands of conquistadors conquering the mighty Aztec and Incan empires in Mexico and Peru. It was my favorite topic; my teacher was a good storyteller, and it made a great story. The trouble was that large amounts of the truth were left out.

The real story of the treatment of Native Americans by English and Spanish colonists began to reach the public through movies and television in the 1960s. Atrocities make good visual drama, and incidents like Wounded Knee began to get equal time with Custer's Last Stand. But it was not until the late '80s that it began to be widely known that the greatest weapon the Europeans had in their battle to win this continent was the array of diseases they brought with them. Smallpox, scarlet fever, measles, typhus, syphilis, and cholera killed many times more Indians than bullets and whiskey.

Given the state of medical knowledge in the 16th and

17th centuries, it should come as no surprise that the Europeans brought diseases to the New World. And it is not just humans that transport diseases when they move; it is a common observation in ecology that animals bring their diseases with them when they immigrate into a new area. You don't have to go far to see examples. For the past several years, as I watched house finches eating sunflower seeds from the feeder outside my kitchen window, it was not unusual to see individuals whose eyelids were encrusted with a wart-like material. Birds with this condition are easy to spot even if you can't see the eye; they are lethargic, their feathers are not well groomed, and they are less alert when cats or hawks are around. Mercifully, most of them are killed by predators before they become completely blind and starve.

House finches are native to Central America; the first one I ever saw was when I was studying at Arizona State University in the summer of 1962. They are like English sparrows in size and behavior, roosting, nesting and feeding in flocks. The females are brown and drab, but the males have an attractive reddish orange on their head and back. They can carry a tune much better than English sparrows; their song is a varied, melodious warble that goes up in pitch at the end as if it were followed by a question mark. It was this coloring and song that got them in trouble; people used to catch them and sell them as caged birds. Then, in the 1940s a law was passed which made it illegal to sell wild birds. The finches that are now one of our most-com-

mon local birds are believed to be the descendants of a small number that were released from a pet shop in Tennessee in 1944, so they really are illegal aliens.

I was playing golf with John Richards at Carroll Valley some time around 1980 when we heard an unusual bird song. John knew birds much better than I, and he was the one who recognized it as a house finch. In the following years there was a population explosion of house finches throughout the mid-Atlantic states, and they became one of our most-abundant songbirds. Then in the mid '90s, people began to notice specimens with eye infections, and over the next few years the finch population declined rapidly. The cause was found to be a micro-organism with the awe-inspiring name of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*. The mycoplasmas are a group of very small bacteria-like organisms; they do not have cell walls like the true bacteria, so they resemble tiny blobs of protoplasm. This one was known to cause respiratory infections in chickens and eye infections in turkeys; its species name comes from the Latin "gallus," which is the scientific name of the chicken, and "sepsis," which means infection. It is not known whether this organism jumped from domestic poultry to finches or if the finches already had it when they arrived here. Whatever the origin, the dense populations of finches and their habit of communal feeding made it easy to transfer the infection. Lab studies suggest that the eye infection itself is not fatal; house finches in captivity have been known to recover from it. But in nature, infected birds have little chance of surviving. I haven't heard of humans being infected, but no one should

take the risk of handling sick or dead birds.

This winter there have been unusual numbers of purple finches at my feeder. The purple finch is a northern species which migrates south as far as the Gulf States each winter; this year a lot of them stopped in Emmitsburg, and they have been in my yard every day. Superficially they look like house finches, but the males are colored more magenta than orange and the females have a distinctive white stripe through the eye. About a month ago I noticed that a few of the purple finches had contracted the eye infections; apparently the mycoplasma organism has jumped across species lines again, this time from the alien to a native species.

The spread of new diseases among both humans and animals has become a familiar occurrence over the past few decades. Overcrowded populations and genocidal conflicts are forcing people to move into previously unoccupied areas in Africa, South America and Southeast Asia, where they are coming down with new diseases from organisms that previously infected only animals. AIDS is probably the best-known example, but swine flu caused an epidemic several years ago, and avian flu from migratory birds threatens to be the next big pandemic. And history's biggest killer, the "Spanish flu" pandemic of 1918-20, is believed to have been a virus that jumped from birds to pigs before infecting humans.

Increased international travel for globalized business and vacations, smuggling alien birds and animals for pets, and growing poultry and meat animals in crowded spaces are all forces that make us more vulnerable to new diseases. These alien pathogens are a far greater threat than the people who slip across our borders looking for work; but I haven't heard any of the current political candidates talking about them.

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Basketball


-Continued from page 1

round game. However, as a Division II school, the Mount won a national championship in 1962 under Coach Jim Phelan.

The Mount earned its place in the competition when the team beat Sacred Heart 68-55 to win the Northeast Conference Championship on March 12. The win over Coppin State gives the Mount a 19-14 record this season, including a streak of six wins so far.

Sixty-four teams compete

in the first-round of the NCAA tournament, but 65 teams actually earn spots in the competition. Two teams from smaller conferences—this year it was the Mount and Coppin State—play a preliminary game to win the 64th spot in the NCAA competition.



What's next:

MSM vs. North Carolina

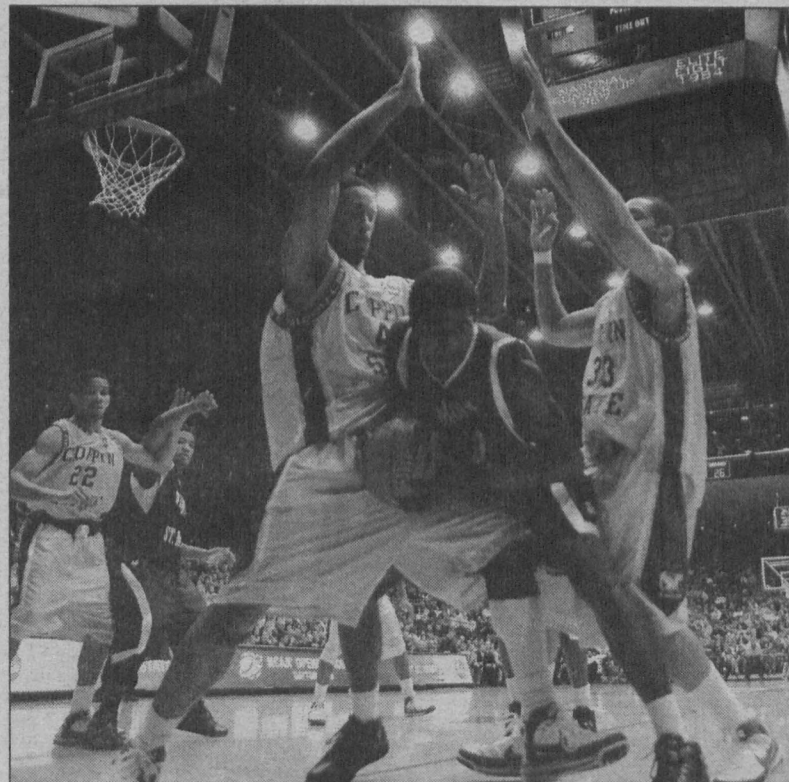
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Raleigh, North Carolina

NCAA East Region
Round 1 Tournament



- PHOTOS BY MAX SURIKOV / THE DISPATCH

An ESPN reporter interviews MSM Basketball Coach Milan Brown after the men's basketball team won their first NCAA Division I game against Coppin State on March 18.



MSM Forward Shawn Atupem tries to get clear of players from Coppin State during the NCAA tournament game in Dayton, Ohio on March. 18.

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- Second Prize:** \$75 per player
- Third Prize:** \$50 per player

My name is Nathaniel Usilton. I'm a senior at Catoclin High School. I am holding a Charity Golf Tournament for my Graduation Project. The proceeds will go to the **Tay-Sachs Foundation**. Tay-Sachs is a disease that kills children before the age of six.

Registration forms are available at *Mason Dixon Oil Company*, Emmitsburg, MD. Mon. - Sat. open to close

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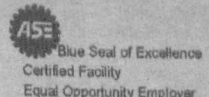
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BIRTHS & OBITUARIES

Della P. Rasmussen
February 20, 1913 –
February 21, 2008

Della Pauline Riley Rasmussen, age 95 of Westminster, died Thursday February 21, 2008 at Carroll Lutheran Village Healthcare Center. She was born February 20, 1913 in Adams County, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the late Norman E. and M. Alice Martin Riley. She was the wife of the late CW04, Robert L. Rasmussen, Ret'd, who she married on April 25, 1953.

She graduated from Emmitsburg High School in 1932 and from University of Maryland, School of Nursing, 1936, as a registered nurse. She was a lifetime member of the Church of the Incarnation, United Church of Christ, Emmitsburg.

Upon graduation, she worked at the University of Maryland Hospital and entered service as a Red Cross

Nurse. She was called to active duty in the Army Nurse Corps, April 1941 at Fort George G. Meade. In 1943 she was assigned to the 26th Field Hospital, Persian Gulf Command, Abadan, Iran for two years and for seven months in France. During her service in World War II, she received the European Africa Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the American Defense Service medal. Upon her return to the United States in 1945, she was assigned to the 48th General Hospital, followed by assignments to Walter Reed Hospital, European Command, Bremerhaven, Germany, 98th General Hospital, Fort Bragg, and Fort George G. Meade. She was honorably discharged from the Army Nurse Corps in 1953 and later retired after thirty years of service in the Army Reserve with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

She is survived by her sister-in-law Lalia S. Riley of Sykesville;

her nephew and his wife, Arthur and Vickie Riley of Westminster; nieces and their spouses Janet and Allen Colburn of New Windsor, Marjorie and Fredric Lohnes and Donna R. Riley of Westminster; her brothers, Ray David Riley and infant Ernest Martin Riley predeceased her.

A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, from Carroll Lutheran Village, Krug Chapel with Rev. Jimmie L. Schwartz, Chaplain officiating. Interment with full military honors followed at Arlington National Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service at the Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Carroll Lutheran Village Chapel Fund, c/o Carroll Lutheran Village, 205 St. Mark's Way, Westminster, MD 21158. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.myers-durborawfh.com.

family received friends at the church following the service.

Memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 3535, Fairfield, PA 17325. Arrangements were made by The Monahan Funeral Home, Fairfield.

Mr. Marion Franklin Stull, of Keymar, died Thursday, March 6, 2008

The family received friends Tue., March 11, 2 - 4 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m., at the Stauffer Funeral Home, 1621 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick. Services were held Wed. March 12 at 11 a.m. Rev. Officiate was Lloyd Fuss. Interment followed in St. Matthews Lutheran Church Cemetery, Frederick.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions should be made to the New Midway Volunteer Fire Co., in c/o Joseph C. Lenhart, 12019 Woodsboro Pike, New Midway, MD 21775.

Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.staufferfuneral-home.com.

Dr. Joseph Edward "Ed" Rall, MD Ph.D., died Thursday, February 28, 2008.

Interment will be private.

Mr. Donald Eugene Carbaugh, of Emmitsburg, died February 10, 2008.

Funeral services will be at the discretion of the family.

Clayton C. Lenhart, of Keymar, passed away on Monday, February 11, 2008.

The family received friends from 2 - 4 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m. on Thurs., Feb. 14. Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Fri., Feb. 15, at the funeral home with Pastor Charlotte Mayne and Rev. Tim May officiating. Interment followed in Resthaven Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 153, Woodsboro, MD 21798 or to the New Midway Volunteer Fire Department, 12045 Woodsboro Pike, New Midway, MD 21758. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.staufferfuneral-home.com at the Stauffer Funeral Home, 1621 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick.

BIRTHS

Vickie Sword and Kenneth Ride-nour, Rocky Ridge, a son, March 5.

Heather and Andrew Mathias, Rocky Ridge, a son, March 3.

Christine Brandenburg and Blaine Deremer, Keymar, a daughter, Feb. 14.

Tara and David Viers, Emmitsburg, a daughter, Feb. 19.

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DEATH NOTICES

Terry Lee Mauk, of Carroll Valley, Pa., died Monday, March 10, 2008

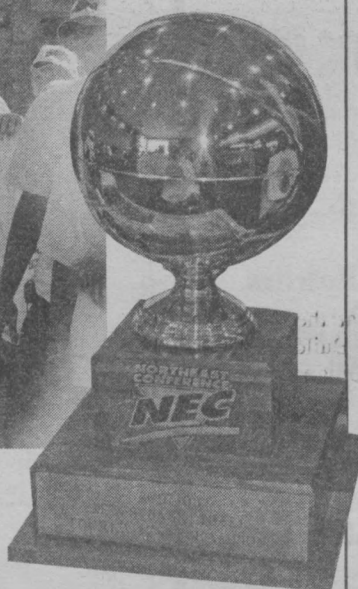
A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Fri., March 14 from St. John Lutheran Church, Main St., Fairfield, Pa., with Rev. Christopher Frye officiating. Interment followed in Fairfield Union Cemetery. The

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Community

CALENDAR

March 20 - Maundy Thursday, around the table service, with soup at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville, Md. (301) 241-3287.

March 21 - Friday Nights Lenten Fish Bakes at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church parish hall, Thurmont. 5 - 7:30 p.m. Adults \$9, children 4 - 12 \$5, 3 and under free. For more information, please call (301) 271-4439.

March 21 - Good Friday Service of Shadows at St. John's, Sabillasville, Md. (301) 241-3287.

March 20 & 21 - Annual Seafood Bonanza sponsored by The Vigilant Hose Company, Emmitsburg, Md., 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. For information or to place an order, call (301) 447-2728.

March 22 - Baked Goods and Plant Sale hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church at the CVS Shopping Center, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Baked goods, homemade Easter candies and potted Easter plants.

March 22 - Free Computer Training at Saint John's Lutheran Church, Thurmont, next to the fire hall. "From On to E-mail" Wed. nights, April 2, 9, 16 & 23. 7 - 8:15 p.m. Instructors Kurt Johnson and Brian Getz have years of computer experience. Join them for a step-by-step guide to computer basics. Microsoft's latest Windows Vista software. Materials and computer access provided. Class size limited. Pre-register by March 22. Call (301) 271-7877.

March 22 - All You-Can-Eat Breakfast hosted by Thurmont AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 7 - 11 a.m. Adults \$6, children 5 - 10 \$3, 5 and under free. Benefit ACS Relay for Life 2008 and FMH Cancer Patient Assistance Program.

March 22 - Bunny Bonanza at Catoctin Rec. Center 408 E. Main St. Thurmont. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bring your favorite stuffed bunny to this one-day program. Egg hunt, make bunny ears. Ages 3 - 5. \$10.

March 23 - Emmitsburg Community Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Emmitsburg Community Park ball field behind the pool. 1 p.m. ages 10 and under.

March 23 - Easter Egg Hunt at Thurmont Community Park sponsored by Thurmont Lions Club. 2 p.m. children ages 12 and under. Rain or shine.

March 23 - Easter Service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville, Md. 6:30 a.m.

March 23 - Easter Sunrise Ecumenical Service at the Grotto, Emmitsburg. 6:30 a.m.

March 25 - Girls Softball Training Clinic at Catoctin Recreation Center, 408 E Main St., Thurmont.

5:30 - 7 p.m. Softball season is just around the corner. Come inside and train with our indoor equipment. Great for veteran or rookie players. Participants are required to bring their own glove. Program meets for 4-consecutive days. Ages 10 - 14 years. \$27. To pre-register call (301) 600-2936.

March 26 - Outreach in Emmitsburg at Catoctin Area CASS office in the Emmitsburg Community Center, 300 S. Seton Ave. for help with the following programs. Applications and Recertifications accepted. DSS Programs 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. (301) 600-2450: Energy Assistance, Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Purchase of Care, Housing Assistance. FCAA Programs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call Valerie Nozzi at (301) 600-1506 or (240) 409-9152.

March 26 - Bible Study at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville, Md. 7 p.m. (301) 241-3287.

March 26 - Spring Clay Creations at Catoctin Rec. Center 408 East Main St. Thurmont. 6 - 7 p.m. Learn to use this clay-like material called "fimo" and create your own springtime magnet. Whether it is a bee, flower, bird, or other object, you and your child will have fun while making a great spring craft for the refrigerator. Ages 3 - 5 years. \$10 for parent child pair. To pre-register call (301) 600-2936.

March 27 - Senior Lunch, pot luck and games at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville, Md. 11:30 a.m.

March 28 - Thurmont's Business Expo at Catoctin High School. 6 - 8:30 p.m. This year's theme, Americana.

March 28 - Basket Bingo at the Thurmont Fireman's Activities Building, Thurmont. The Star's of Hope Relay for Life Team are sponsoring a Longaberger Basket Bingo. 5:30 p.m. games begin at 7 p.m. For tickets \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Call Jennifer Harbaugh at (301) 271-3129. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

March 28 - Friday Nights Lenten Fish Bakes at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church parish hall, Thurmont. 5 - 7:30 p.m. Fish dinners include a variety of fish; cod, haddock, catfish, tilapia and salmon cakes, a variety of vegetables, drinks and desserts. Adults \$9, children 4 - 12 \$5, 3 and under free. Proceeds go to our Knights of Columbus charitable projects. For more information, please call (301) 271-4439.

March 28 & 29 - Turkey and Oyster Supper at Graceham Moravian Church, 8231-A Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont, Md. Friday, 3 - 7 p.m. and Saturday, 1 - 6 p.m. Adults \$13, children 5 - 10 \$7, 5 and

under free. For more information, please call (301) 271-2379.

March 28 - Basket / TY Beanie Babies Bingo at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Taneytown, Md. (featuring: Longaberger baskets) Advance tickets \$15, at door \$20. 6 p.m. Bingo at 7 p.m. For tickets call (410) 756-6758 or (410)-756-2500.

March 29 - 2nd Annual Spring Fund Raising Dinner at ThorpeWood to benefit our Seasons of Growth partnership with the Department of Juvenile Services in Frederick. Area chefs, will present an elegant five course meal, served in the Chestnut Room of ThorpeWood's timber frame lodge. \$100 per person. Call (301) 271-2823 or visit www.thorpewood.org.

March 29 - Rummage/Soup/Bake Sale at The Greenmount Fire Company 3095 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. A wide variety of donated rummage sale items, homemade soups by the quart and a selection of homemade desserts, sandwiches, soup bowls and beverages.

March 29 - 25th Annual Emmitsburg Lions Club Health Screening at Mother Seton School, 100 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg, Md. 7:30 - 10 a.m. These services are available by Gettysburg Hospital, MBS \$30, PSA \$15, TSH \$10, Vitamin B12 deficiency \$20, HbA1c (diabetics only) \$15. Free vision acuity tests. Registration is required. Call WellSpan HealthSource at (800) 840-5905, Mon. thru Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information call Lion Joe at (301) 447-2939 or e-mail Lion.joe@verizon.net.

March 29 & 30 Used Book Sale. The Thurmont Thespians semi-annual used book sale at St. John's Lutheran Church, 15 N Church Street (beside the firehouse) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Stock up for your spring and summer reading at rock bottom prices! For book contributions or questions call (301) 271-7613.

April 3 - Bicentennial Academic Symposium at Mount St. Mary's University Marion Burk Knott Auditorium. Patricia Hampl, Regents Professor at University of Minnesota is an acclaimed memoirist and essayist. Tell Me True: Memoir as Spiritual History. 7 p.m.

April 4 to 6 - Revival Services at The Catoctin United Methodist Church 7009 Kelly Store Rd., Thurmont. Fri. and Sat. services at 7 p.m. Sunday morning service 10:45 a.m. Refreshments will be offered after the services. For more information, please call (301) 271-7217.

April 5 - Bingo at the Thurmont Firemen's Activity Building. Doors open at 4 p.m., bingo at 6 p.m. advanced tickets \$15, at door \$20. (301) 696-0527.

April 5 - Turkey and Oyster Supper at Tom's Creek United Methodist Church, Tom's Creek Church Rd. off Rt. 140 between Taneytown and Emmitsburg. 12 - 5 p.m. Adults \$13, children 5 - 10 \$5, under 5 free. Carry-outs \$14. Group tickets need to be purchased together, seating by ticket number. (301) 447-2403.



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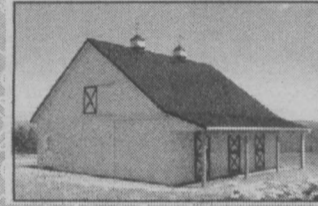
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Arts & Entertainment

C A L E N D A R

March 21 & 22 – Ghost Walks are Deadly by Gettysburg Theatre in the Village Theatre at Gettysburg. An interactive murder mystery. For ticket information call (800) 570-4590 ext 2 or (717) 337-0080.

March 22 – Wine Appreciation Class. Wine education, wine tasting, delicious food and fun. 6 - 8 p.m. at Adams County Winery's farm winery. Reservations required. Admission fee. For information call (717) 334-6831 or www.adamscountywinery.com.

March 25 – Faculty Recital at Paul Recital Hall of Gettysburg College features Kathleen Sasnett, soprano. 8 p.m. For information call (717) 337-6815 or visit www.gettysburg.edu/sunderman_conservatory.

March 27 – Lake Meade Choristers at the Nicarry Meetinghouse, Cross Keys Village-The Brethren Home Community. 7 p.m. Directed by Kathy Schwar. For information call Frank Buhrman at (717) 624-5203.

March 27 – Ain't Misbehavin' at the Majestic Theater. 7:30 p.m. Tony award winning musical is a swinging salute to Fats Waller. For ticket

information call (717) 337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

March 28 – Joshua Seth Comedy/Hypnosis Show at Mount St. Mary's Knott Auditorium, Emmitsburg. 9 p.m. For more information call (301) 447-5274 or Mayor James Hoover at (240) 629-6300.

March 28 & 29 – Ghost Walks are Deadly in the Village Theatre at Gettysburg. An interactive murder mystery. For ticket information call (800) 570-4590 ext 2 or (717) 337-0080.

March 29 – Spring Fundraising Dinner at ThorpeWood. 6 - 10 p.m. Area chefs led by Canapes chef/owner M.L. Carroll will team to create a 5-course meal served at ThorpeWood's timber-frame lodge. Proceeds support ThorpeWood's programs for teenage girls. Includes music and a silent auction (girls' art). \$100 per plate. (301) 271-2823 or www.thorpewood.org.

March 29 & 30 – 1st Annual Gettysburg Bike Show and Expo at the Allstar Events Complex. Vendors, fashion shows, contests, cash prizes. Call (717) 334-8803 or www.gettysburgbikeshow@yahoo.com.

March 29 – Justin Kredible Comedy Magic Show at Mount St. Mary's Knott Auditorium, Emmitsburg. 9 p.m. For more information call (301) 447-6274 or contact Mayor Hoover at (240) 629-6300.

April 4 to 6 – Meet Me at the Lightner, a participatory murder mystery for 9-16 persons. Four meals plus entertainment. This mystery can be scheduled for a group any weekend by contacting the Lightner Farmhouse B&B at (717) 337-9508. www.lightnerfarmhouse.com.

April 4 to 19 – "The Oldest Profession" 8 p.m. at the Keefauver Center, 157 Lefever Street, Gettysburg, two blocks off Baltimore Street. A bittersweet comedy by Paula Vogel. A tale of five aging workers in "the oldest profession" face a dwindling clientele for their services, increased competition and aching joints. All weekend performances. Tickets \$12. www.gettysburgstage.org, (866) 859-5192.

April 4 to 30 – Vanities presented by Get Theatre in the Village Theatre of Gettysburg. For ticket information call (800) 570-4590 ext 2 or (717) 337-0080 or visit www.thevilagedinnertheatre.com.

April 5 – Chatham Baroque presented by the Gettysburg Community Concert Association at the Riegler Auditorium of Gettysburg Middle School. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$15 or season ticket holder. A trio of period instruments, "Chatham Baroque" is one of the most spectacularly gifted and innovative of all the groups in this American wave of talent. For ticket information call (717) 334-3788.

April 5 – Stage Door Dinner held in conjunction with the Gettysburg High School production of "Anything Goes" will be held at the Gettysburg High School to benefit Gettysburg Area Dollars for Scholars. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. For tickets contact a board member or (717) 337-3620.

April 5 – Capitol Steps at the Majestic Theater at 3 and 8 p.m. A fundraising event presented by the Gettysburg Rotary Club. Political satire at its funniest. For ticket information call (717) 337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

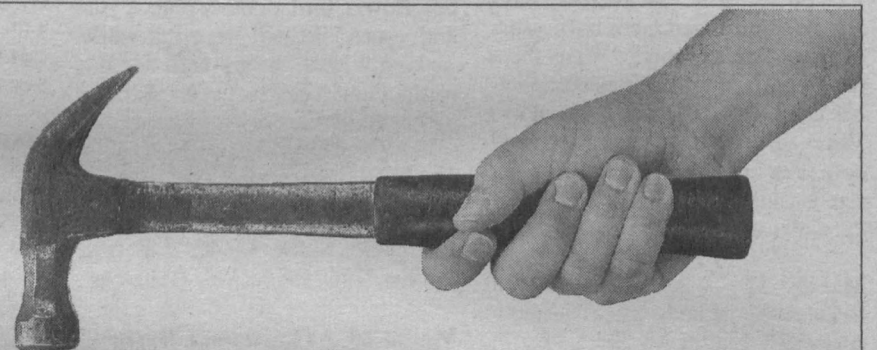
April 5 – Remembering Mary Jemison event will be held 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, 1095 Church Rd., Orrtanna. Sponsored by Biglerville Historical Society, exhibits, lectures, performers, vendors and food sales reflecting Mary Jemison's three cultures (Irish, Colonial and Native American) will be featured here and at the Buchanan Valley Fire Co Community Hall. For more information on Mary Jemison visit www.gettysburghistories.com or www.gettysburg.com/maryjemison.

gettysburghistories.com or www.gettysburg.com/maryjemison.

April 18 to June 29 – The Sound of Music at Way Off Broadway, Frederick. The final collaboration between Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein was destined to become the world's most beloved musical and this summer, the von Trapp family returns to WOB. In this heartwarming story, when a postulant proves too high-spirited for the religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain, leading to one of the most inspirational and endearing musical theatre endings of all time. (301) 662-6600, www.wayoffbroadway.com.

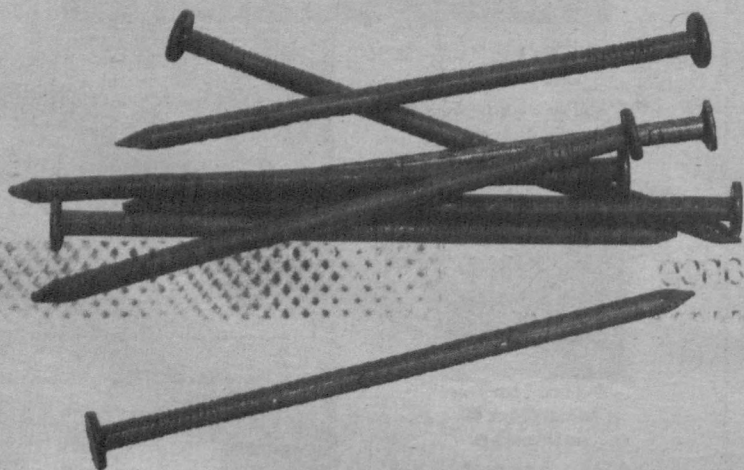
April 26 – June 28 Sleeping Beauty at Way Off Broadway, Childrens Theater, Frederick. This classic musical tale tells the story of the Princess who is enchanted by an evil fairy so that on her 16th birthday she pricks her finger on a spindle and falls into a deep sleep. Three good fairies join to become one hilarious fairy to help watch over Sleeping Beauty and help the Prince rescue her. The audience helps to make the years pass and the evil fairy's spell is broken at the end. (301) 662-6600, www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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Activities

EMMITSBURG EGG HUNT

March 23 at Emmittsburg Community Park ball field behind the pool. 1 p.m. ages 10 and under.

EASTER EGG HUNT

March 23 at Thurmont Community Park sponsored by Thurmont Lions Club. 2 p.m. Children ages 12 and under. Rain or shine.

EASTER SERVICE

March 23 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville, Md. 6:30 a.m.

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March 23 at the Grotto, Emmittsburg. 6:30 a.m.

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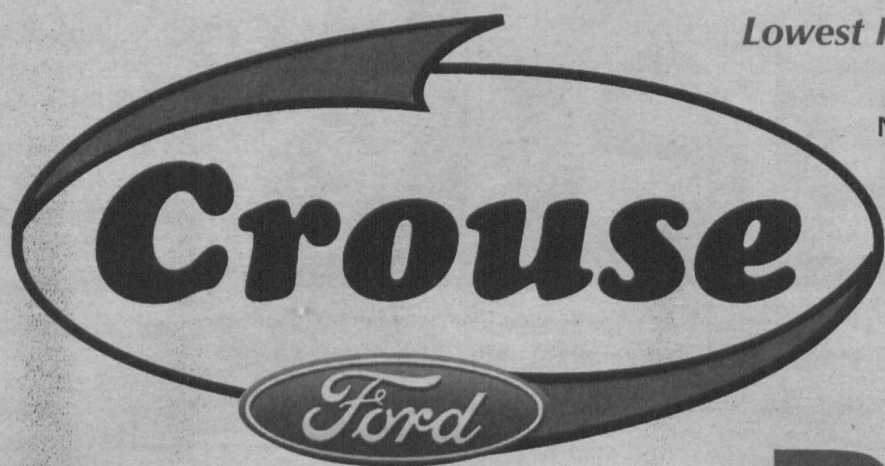
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Our Town

life in emmitsburg □ march 2008



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■ antiques folly makes
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coming
page 6

Emmitsburg helps Plaquemines Parish

■ By Dianne L. Walbrecker

If you were in Emmitsburg during the fall of 2005, you couldn't help but see the "Fill-the-Boot" campaign in the streets and in front of the station or walk past the fire truck parked outside Jubilee. In a short time, \$10,000 was raised due to generous contributions from the citizens, businesses, and civic organizations in Emmitsburg. NES Unlimited, Inc., a construction company in Fairfield, Pa. offered to match what was raised in three nights.

All too often, we donate money toward a cause without knowing what happened later. This is the story of how those funds helped the fire departments, and therefore the citizens, of Plaquemines Parish.

As Hurricane Katrina blasted through New Orleans in the summer of 2005, a wisp of land south of the city was pounded hard. Plaquemines Parish, at 2,000 square miles and 65 miles long, is surrounded by water and the hurricane waves and the wind showed no mercy.

Jane Stoner, Vigilant Hose Company member, heard about the devastation to fire departments in Louisiana from a friend and sprang into action. "We wanted to

■ see Plaquemine on page 3

Our Town

life in emmitsburg

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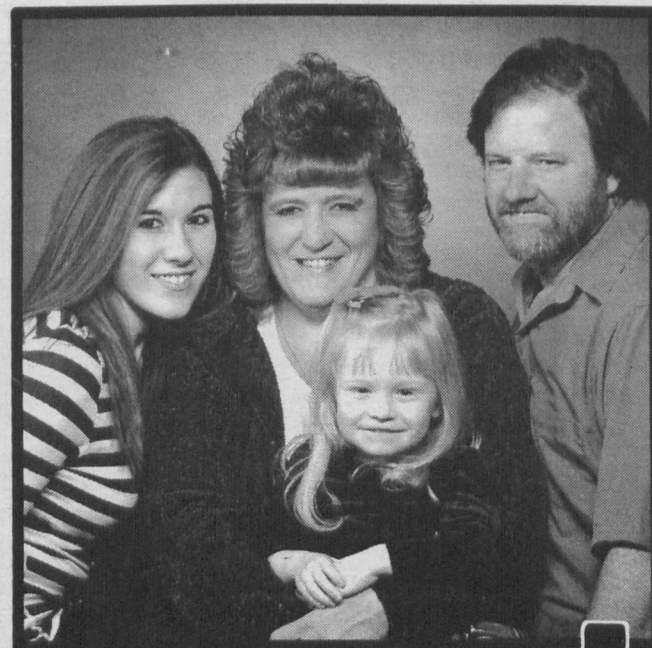
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Why Emmitsburg is "Our Town"

We love living in Emmitsburg because it is a small, but yet growing community and because our roots are here. When Tommy and I were first married 17 years ago, we never wondered where we would live, but where in Emmitsburg we would live. Our grandparents have lived here since at least 1919. They raised our parents here in this town, and our parents raised us here. Now we are raising our family here in Emmitsburg. In my public job at Jubilee, I have the opportunity to see many people. People, who like our family, have been here for generations and new people who are coming into our town. Emmitsburg has been our family's town for almost 100 years. It is wonderful to see new families coming to this special place and beginning to establish those roots for their children.

■ Michele Orndorff



Michele and Tommy Orndorff and their daughters Jaime and Mackenzie.

Cover: Horse and buggy wait in front of the Annan Brothers House (circa 1880).

Looking Back on Emmitsburg

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

100
years ago
March 1908

PROFESSIONALS BREAK IN STATION AT ROCKY RIDGE

Sometime after nine o'clock, Wednesday night, burglars entered the passenger station at Rocky Ridge and stole twenty-six cents in pennies. The thieves, evidently professionals, got into the building through a window. The cash drawer contained the small sum mentioned, this the burglars took with them. When Mr. Renner, the station master, opened the office on Thursday morning he found the supply drawer and ticket case broken open and the drawer lying on the floor. It is supposed from the fact that nothing whatever was done to cover their tracks, that the robbery was committed by professionals. Had it not been for the carefulness of Mr. Renner, the courteous and efficient stationmaster, who never leaves large sums of money in the building, the thieves might have been rewarded more for their trouble.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT EARLY TIMES

An interesting narrative told by Mr. Nathaniel Rowe, a descendant of Veterans of the Revolutionary War, and one of our oldest inhabitants relates how he was sixteen when he came to Emmitsburg to live. "The town didn't look very different then from what it does now. It was built up about the square but with an indifferent class of improvements. There were then many log houses in town. They were warmed with big open fire places and wood stoves. We knew nothing about coal. We lived well and comfortably, however. Locks on the doors were unknown - we had no thieves. There were no butchers nor bakers. We eat pork more than any other kind of meat. Once in a while a farmer would kill a calf and divide it up amongst the neighbors, each taking his turn at butchering. We wore homespun clothing. Everybody had his own patch of flax. The women spun the flax by the big fire place in the long winter evenings then it was taken to the country weavers to be made into linen cloth. That made the fine shirts. "We raised our own sheep and, of course, had our own wool. There were lots of little woolen mills

around the country driven by water power. I remember three that were near Emmitsburg. The cloth was mostly of three shades, gray, brown and black. The town tailor made our clothes for us and if they were not stylish they were, at least, warm and comfortable. As for shoes, the farmers would buy a side of sold leather at the tannery and take it home until the traveling shoemaker, who went around the country with his bench on his back, should arrive. When he came he would make shoes for the farmer and his family. They weren't very comfortable and they didn't keep the water out but we had to get along with them the best we could."

50
years ago
January 1958

DEAN RECORD HOP THURSDAY

Indications are that a large turnout will be on hand for the Buddy Dean Record Hop being sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 6658. The committee in charge reports a spirited advance sale of ticket to the affair which is a community welfare project in the interest of local teenagers.

The dance will take place on Thursday evening, March 13 in the VFW annex, starting at 8 p.m. Members of the Auxiliary will act as chaperones during the evening.

Dean is a well-known television emcee in this area, maintaining a show over a Baltimore station, and will be present for the occasion. Mrs. George Danner is general chairman of the committee in charge and is being assisted by the following: Mrs. Guy A. Baker, Jr., Mrs. Bruce Flowers, Mrs. Helen Sanders, Mrs. Norma Nusbaum and Mrs. James Adelsburger. Admission to the dance is 75c and the general public is invited.

FUTURE FARMS ARE BUSY GROUP

The Emmitsburg High School FFA members have been very busy during the last semester. On February 22, the club sent a team of four members to the Frederick Fair Grounds, to judge pigs at the annual Hampshire hog sale.

The club recently initiated sev-

eral members into the club. After the students were put through several stunts, the officers of the club gave the official ceremonies of belonging to the club. The degrees that were given were the "Green Hand" and "Chapter Farmers," following in order as to their importance. The Green Hands, Marshall Sharrer, Randy Valentine, Bill Naill, Bob Beale, Charles Jones, Bob Wagerman and Carrol Fisher, had to wear dress clothes on a school day, complete with white shirt and tie. They had to make a paddle, which was used and wear a green hand glove a short time. The Chapter Farmers, Norman Shriver, Morris Zentz, Paul Beale, Robert Keilholtz, Frank Tyler, Tom Plunkett, and Dick Swomley, did not have to go through as much as the green hands did, this being a more advanced degree. Refreshments were served following the ceremonies.

In Agricultural class we are studying the soil and its uses. Besides testing milk and also the soil, we have seen several movies on soils and machinery which we think are very educational. The year has been very enjoyable and profitable which we owe to our Ag. Teacher, Mr. H.E. Reily.

Continued from page one

Plaquemine

give our donations to a volunteer fire department that needed the most help," she said.

"My friend suggested I call Roy Robichaux, Chief of the Belle Chasse Volunteer Fire Department. It was sad to hear Roy discuss everything that these guys went through after Katrina. Most firefighters in Plaquemines Parish had water and wind damage to their own homes as well as the stations in which they served. Bridges and roads were damaged, so firefighters could sometimes see fires that they couldn't reach to fight. By the same token, no one could get over to help on their side. After the hurricane, several stations were unreachable for several days so no one knew their status," said Stoner.

The Belle Chasse fire station, in northern Plaquemines Parish, lost its roof and was significantly damaged. However, its members continued to respond while the volunteer fire departments to the south lost nearly everything and were unable to operate for weeks. Today, those stations are still operating out of temporary structures such as sheds and FEMA trailers.

Robichaux described the devastation. "Even two-and-a-half years after Katrina, we still have buildings, many infested by rats, that are scheduled to be demolished but haven't been yet. We have many people living in trailers," he said.

In fact, the trailers themselves create additional fire and carbon monoxide dangers to which his firefighters respond. "We used the tremendous donation from Emmitsburg to outfit our second rescue truck. We equipped it with monitoring equipment for carbon monoxide (CO), salvage equipment, and ventilations fans. We also purchased self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs)," said Robichaux.

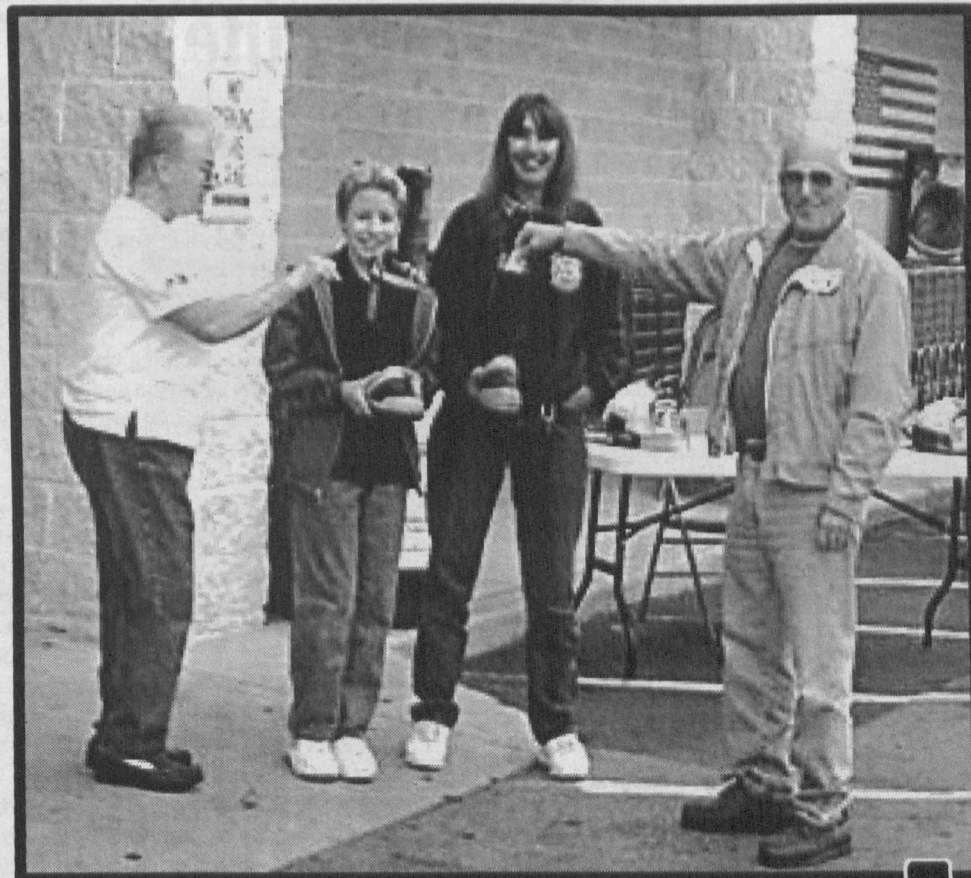
He described the problems with CO. Since there is little space in the trailers, people start expanding outside the trailers, blocking exhaust from the heaters. This keeps the CO from being vented, creating fire hazards and health dangers for people. CO poisoning begins with headache and fatigue that many people do not associate with the gas. Further exposure creates nausea, confusion, convulsions and even death.

Wayne Powell, VHC member, recently took the opportunity afforded by a business trip to travel to Belle Chasse and Plaquemines Parish. Robichaux showed him the devastation in the area and discussed what had happened with the donation from Emmitsburg.

"It became very clear to me that the story of destruction in Plaquemines Parish and the resilience of those who call it home has been so overshadowed by New Orleans that most elsewhere know little or nothing about the struggles of those who came back and those who still hope to return to the parish. The biggest thing that hit me was that there are those who are still waiting for someone to make them whole while many others simply picked themselves up and slowly but surely have kept at the process of cleaning and rebuilding," said Powell.

"I want to make sure that everyone involved in your fund-raising efforts knows that we really appreciate it and that the equipment purchased with it has saved lives. The CO monitors by themselves save lives. Everything that went in that rescue truck allows us to do our jobs and help the people here," said Robichaux.

"We just wanted to try to help those who were trying to help everybody else. Everybody was supportive and helpful throughout town and at the station," said Stoner.



Vigilant Hose Company sponsored a "fill the boots" campaign in the fall of 2005 in front of the fire station and Jubilee supermarket to raise money to help out firefighters in hurricane-ravaged Louisiana.



Photos courtesy of Dianne Walbrecker

Hurricane Katrina left the fire station in Plaquemines Parish, La. badly damaged, but contributions from Emmitsburg residents helped the firefighters in Louisiana purchase new equipment and begin making repairs so they could continue their work in the community.

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Having cute feet

By Ruth O. Richards

I am 90 years old. I don't look it I'm told. I don't do anything special to try to look younger. What you see is what you get. I tell you this because it is important to the story I'm going to tell.

I was sitting in a doctor's waiting room recently. You know what that's like. You lean on one elbow and then the other. You cross and uncross your legs. You sigh. You pick up a dog-eared magazine and the coupons have been torn out.

On this particular day there was another elderly woman across the room from me. She was staring at me. I know that, because I had been staring at her.

I had on a pair of high-top black lace-up shoes and heavy socks. I had bought them this year to keep my feet warm and in that waiting room I was glad I had them on.

After a short while this woman across from me said, "You have the cutest feet."

"Well that's a new one," I said to myself. To her I said, "Well, thank you. I've never had that said about my feet before."

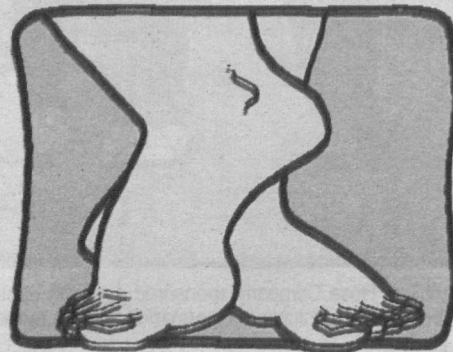
I thought the exchange was over, but

when I looked up she was still staring at me. "Hmm," I said to myself, "She wants to know how old I am." She sat a while; then she had it all figured out.

"I bet I'm a lot older than you." She sure didn't look a lot older than I.

"On the contrary," I said. "I'm 90 years old."

She started to say something else and then retreated. She was surprised and said so, and our exchange was over. My turn to see the doctor came and I left the waiting room. On my way out she was still sitting there. I stopped and thanked her for telling me she had found my feet "cute".



Annan Brothers House

By Mike Hillman

After every historical society meeting, a group of us regularly retire to the Ott House. We can always be found musing about Emmitsburg of old under the photo of the Ott House when it was known as the Isaac S. Annan & Brother Store. When I step outside the pub at the end of the evening, I often find myself stopping and reflecting on what I would have seen and heard had I been lucky enough to have lived in Emmitsburg at the turn of the 19th century.

On more than one occasion, I've crossed the street and mounted the stairs to the Annan brothers' houses where I allow my mind to be carried back to a simpler time where one could

lean upon its banister, and undisturbed by the sound of trucks and cars, reflect upon the day's events to the sound of falling water from the fountain that once stood in the square.

Oh, the stories the Annan brothers' houses could tell if they could talk. Prominently occupying one of the four corners of the square, the houses were once the grandest houses that ever graced Emmitsburg. From their balconies, the owners bore witness to the coming and going of travelers near and far and events that would shape Emmitsburg as we know it today.

Lot number 9, on which the mirror-image houses sit, was sold by the town's founder, William Emmitt in 1786 to James Hughes, who built a brick house, within which he set

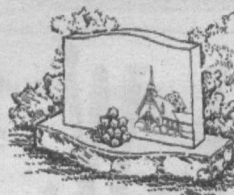
aside a large room as a chapel where Catholics convened for devotions before the founding of St. Joseph's Parish. The Hughes' house eventually became the property of Dr. William Patterson, who had the unfortunate bad luck of being its owner when it was among the first to burn in the great fire of June 15, 1863. The fire, which started across the street behind the present American Legion Building, consumed nearly a third of the town. Choosing not to rebuild, Dr. Patterson sold the lot to Dr. Robert Annan and his brother Isaac S. Annan.

Local folklore recounts that both brothers were doctors, but only Robert was a doctor. There were at one time two Annan brothers who

■ see brothers on page 7



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Meet the Sanders



Lots of folks recognized the couple in the picture in the February *Our Town*. They are none other than James Clarence Sanders and Mary Catherine (Rider) Sanders. You might know their granddaughter, Mary Jo Botham. She works in the town office. The couple lived in the house at 309 North Seton Avenue, but they are standing in front of 311 North Seton.

Antiques Folly takes shopping off the least-favorite list



Libby Briggs

On the list of my 300 favorite things to do, shopping occupies the number 300 position. That word "shopping" brings a shudder and interior dread of large box stores, isles of concrete floors, a maze of stuff accompanied by unfriendly faces. I usually carry a paper bag with me in case of breathing difficulties. We have a big family, not by Wivell, Reaver or Topper standards, but all the same, we only have 11 days in

August without birthdays and February is not much different. I like gifts to be something different. This in itself is a challenge, much less the dreaded shopping thing.

Since we live in Emmitsburg, that can mean getting in the car to go shopping, but most days find me traveling throughout several counties on appointments and getting back in the car is less than appealing. So on foot I start north on South Seton, then east on Main Street to 20 East Main Street, the bright yellow building on the right, the sign says Antique Follies with an inviting lighted "Open" sign now.

As I opened the door an antique bell sounded. A delightful aroma is present and my eyes meet a wonderful assortment of the unusual. Dora Mae (Dee) Connolly calls out a joyful, "Hello!" and so

starts the shopping expedition. At first it is difficult to take everything in, but Dee, an expert in antiques and the unusual, is the perfect guide. There's fine glass and china, Dresden and Wedgewood, memorabilia of all sorts and dates, contemporary and historic needlework, wonderful framed pictures, lamps, ceramic made outside of Paris in 1880, historical Emmitsburg letters, books, jewelry and so much more. The more-serious collector sat in the back room studying an item and going over the research.

My selections are made in under 20 minutes. Everything is wrapped and placed in carrying bags. I met Dee's husband Bob who, being a gourmet chef, was responsible for the wonderful aroma.

The gifts are a great success, Grandma loved the 1950 Japanese box because that's when



Among the fine glass and china in Antiques Folly, you'll also find collectibles like Star Wars buttons and political buttons.

Photos by Stephanie Long / The Dispatch

she lived there, my niece thinks the Dresden is so pretty and of course my granddaughter thinks the bird plates are the most-special thing in the world. Delighted as I am that the gifts are enjoyed, I thought to myself what a great

experience this shopping trip had been; reduced my carbon imprint, selected all grandly "recycled" sustainable items and got to know my neighbors. I wonder what could be better than living in Emmitsburg because I love it!



At Antiques Folly, you can find Emmitsburg items, such as old letters, pictures and programs (above). Owner Dee Connolly also offers reproductions posters and signs (below).





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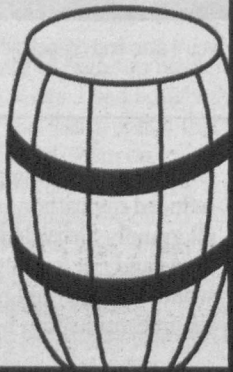
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Market promises to be bigger and better this year!

Learn more about living green in Emmitsburg

You can learn more about how to properly use rain barrels and bayscaping your yard at the next Green Living Forum on Wednesday, March 26, beginning at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association, the forum will be held in the Emmitsburg Town Office, 300 South Seton Avenue.



Mary Jo Botham

In today's world we seem to gravitate toward what has been upgraded and oversized.

But in the scheme of things is bigger always better? As plans are being made for the 2008 Farmer's Market in Emmitsburg, I reflect upon the fact that there are many huge markets/flea markets in this area where can lose ourselves among strangers while looking at and purchasing things we don't necessarily want or really even need.

As the cold winter months progress, I find myself yearning for fresh produce! Somehow going to the grocery store and picking out vegetables and fruit that hasn't

seen a tree or a bush since it was green doesn't grant me as much enjoyment as wandering through the stalls of a farmers market on a warm summer day passing neighbors and friends and stopping to chat. I think longingly of the smell of a fresh tomato, the sweet taste of a juicy red strawberry... Ahhh, the vegetarian in me seems to be coming out!!

This year the Emmitsburg Farmers Market will open on June 20 (hours are 3 - 6:30 p.m.) and extends through Oct. 17. It will host a variety of goodies such as; eggs, cheeses, meats, vegetables and fruits.

As an added bonus, for our vendors, the set-up fee will be waived for the 2008 season!! Anyone wishing to sell their wares at the Emmitsburg Farmers Market 2008 will still need to fill out a vendor application form available at



Dispatch file photo

You'll be able to get the freshest local produce around at the Emmitsburg Farmer's Market when it opens on June 20. It will be open on Fridays through Oct. 17 from 3 - 6:30 p.m.

the town office. The town is also hoping to encourage new vendors who would like to sell their new home-made country crafts. For more information, please call Amy Nail at (301) 600-6303.



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Here comes Peter Cottontail



Photo courtesy of Libby Briggs

For the past 19 years Bob and Dana Hance had brought the Easter Bunny to St. Catherine's Nursing Center to bring some Easter spirit to the residents and students from Mother Seton School. Pictured above are the Easter Bunny, Kathleen Shorb and children from Mother Seton School.

Continued from page four

brothers

were doctors, but they were Robert and Isaac's grandfather Robert and his brother Samuel. The elder Robert practiced in Emmitsburg, while his brother Samuel moved west with the expanding American frontier.

The junior Robert Annan followed his father and grandfather's footsteps and entered the medical field, and at the time of his death in 1907, was considered the town's pre-eminent physician. His brother Isaac was one of the leading merchants of Emmitsburg. Besides owning a dry goods store, he was also part owner of the Annan-Horner Bank, the Emmitsburg Water Company, and the Emmitsburg Railroad.

Because of their prominence and wealth, the Annans could afford to build the very best, and they did. Upon purchasing the lot from Dr. Patterson, the two brothers split the lot in two and built adjoining, mirror-image, three-story brick mansions. Robert Annan owned the eastern mansion; Isaac owned the western portion.

The most-prominent feature of the two houses is their staircases which rise to a common balcony and the adjoining front doors. From within these twin houses, adorned with magnificent trees, and creeping vines, the Annan Brothers led Emmitsburg into its most prosperous and memorable time period.

In 1907 Robert died, followed two

years later by his brother Isaac. Following their deaths, the ownership of the houses passed through several hands. During this time, the once-stately mansions were divided into stores and apartments.

In 1939, Ed and Agnes Houck purchased Robert Annan's house from Brooke Boyle. Over the years it had housed a farm implements store, C. F. Shuff's Bicycle Shop, a small shooting gallery, and a restaurant. Upon purchasing the building, Ed opened a ladies' store on the first floor.

Charles Mort bought Isaac Annan's mansion, and out of it was run the Maryland Restaurant. The restaurant also served as bus station where a bus from Gettysburg stopped to pick up passengers who were going to Washington.

Following the death of Charles Mort, Ed Houck purchased Isaac Annan's mansion, and with the purchase, the two houses were once again under the control of one family. Following the purchase, Ed put in a new front on the bottom floor, added large show windows and moved Ed's Place, his menswear department store, into it, making the ground floor of the two mansions one large store known as The Emmitsburg Quality Shop, or just Houck's Store. Under Ed's ownership, the buildings were painted Jersey cream with

the strip painted seal brown.

Many individuals worked in Houck's store, the names of whom bring fond memories to those who knew them: Cecil Rotering, Ernie Rosensteel and Mamie Kelly to name just a few. Following the passing of his father, Ed Houck Jr. took over management of the store and ably ran it until it closed in 1962. In between running the store and raising a family, Ed also managed to get himself elected mayor. The mansions remained Jersey cream in color until recently when they were given a coat of gray.

So next time you're sitting at the light waiting for traffic to clear, take a few moments and take a good long look at the building on the northeast corner of the

square. Let your mind wander back to the time when the pace of life in Emmitsburg was slower, when people could stop and water their horse in the fountain; pass a lazy afternoon with friends and neighbors undisturbed by noise; or walk down wide tree-shaded dirt streets that reverberated with the sounds of kids playing ball - and when you do, remember to thank Isaac and Robert Annan - the Annan brothers - for making those dreams come true for those lucky enough to have lived in Emmitsburg of old.

If you're interesting in learning more about the history of Emmitsburg, please drop by the library on the third Monday of every month as the historical society reminisces about Emmitsburg of old.

Local celebs go to jail for charity

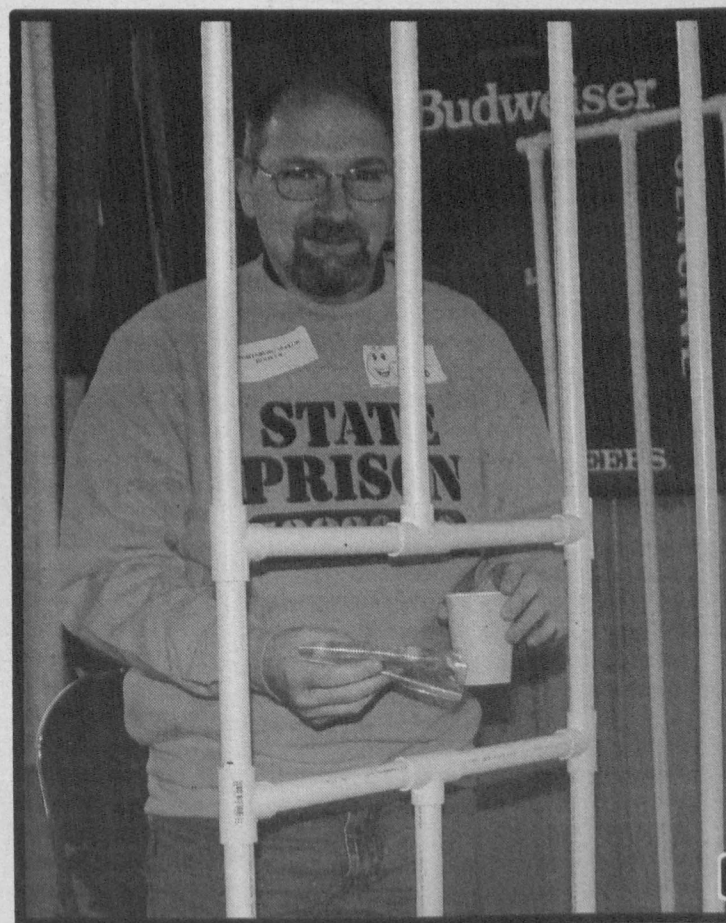


Photo courtesy Patty Adams

The Ladies Auxiliary of Francis X. Elder American Legion Post 121 raised \$6,000 during their first annual Community Celebrity Bartending Day on March 1. Celebrity bartenders, such as Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover, also had to spend some time in "jail" to raise money for bail. The Ladies Auxiliary will present \$2,000 checks to the Emmitsburg Food Bank and the Emmitsburg Lions Club 4th of July fireworks celebration. Auxiliary members will also shop for St. Catherine's Nursing Home for something to add to the residents' activities, such as a Wii game or television. The money was raised through pledges, tips, jail time at \$1 a minute plus other miscellaneous items.



Stephanie Long / The Dispatch

The Annan brothers, Robert and Isaac, may not have been twins but their houses on the northeast corner of the downtown square could be considered Siamese twins. The mirror-image mansions are connected by a common interior wall and exterior staircase.

Where am I?



Do you know where and what the picture shows? If you do, e-mail your guess along with your name and phone number to editor@thedispatch.us. One of the correct guessers will receive a gift certificat for dinner for two at the Carriage House Inn. All guesses need to be received by April 8 and the winner will be drawn from the correct entries.



A couple of people recognized the horse hitching post in front of 320 West Main Street. John Hollinger was selected from the people who guessed correctly and he will receive the \$10 video rental care from Emmitsburg TV video.

What I was

Come visit the National Shrine of *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*



Did you know...
you live close to the home of the first native born canonized saint?

Come visit the shrine of a woman who lived in Emmitsburg nearly 200 years ago!

- A magnificent basilica where Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's remains are entombed beneath her altar
- One of the finest museums in Frederick County
- A theater where a video of her life is shown
- Two historical houses built in the late 1700s and early 1800s

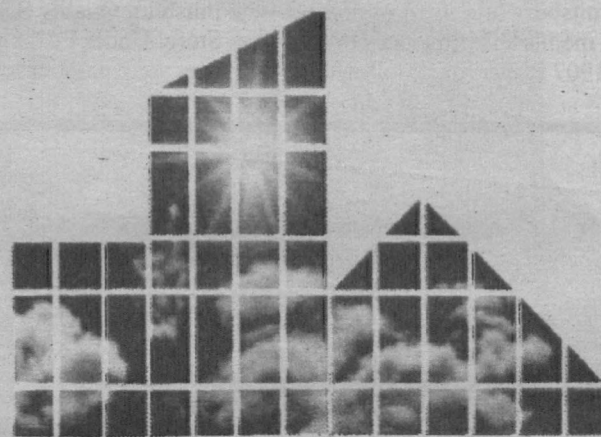
www.setonshrine.org

Save the Date
The Bell & History Days

Sunday, April 6, 2008, 5:30 p.m.
Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Featuring a hand bell festival concert, comprised of nearly 100 ringers from eight local hand bell choirs. This event is free and all are welcome.

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