

# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL VII, No. 16

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

AUGUST 21, 2008

## SCOTTY'S RIDE



- PHOTO COURTESY OF KERRY SHORB

Bikers gather in the parking lot of Jubilee Foods in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scotty's Ride in 2007. Scotty's Ride raises money to help children with serious illnesses. It began in 2006 in an effort to help Scotty Harbaugh, who suffered from a brain tumor, and his family.

## In the name of one child, they ride for many

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

EMMITSBURG, Md. — In the grief of the death of one child, what started out as a way to help a single child has grown into a way to help many. The first Scotty's Ride in 2006 raised money to help Scotty Harbaugh, who had an inoperable brain tumor, and his family. Then last year, five-year-old Scotty died a month before the second Scotty's Ride.

Money raised from that ride went to help three other children.

"We started it for one child and expanded it to help anyone who would

come to us," said Kerry Shorb one of the creators of Scotty's Ride.

To date \$11,000 has been raised from the first two rides. The money has gone to benefit children with serious, even life-threatening, illnesses.

Kerry and Valerie Shorb came up with the idea of a poker run as a way to help Scotty, who was Kerry's grandnephew. With Scotty's death, the Shorbs didn't want to see the good work that had been done end.

"We came up with a motto that describes what we do. 'In the name of one child, we ride for many,'" Kerry said.

Kerry said he's "praying" for 300 bikes to participate in this year's ride

on Saturday, Sept. 27. Last year, 210 bikes participated.

"It's turned out to be a lot more than we ever expected," Kerry said.

He said he's especially thankful of all the volunteers who help make the ride a success.

The 127-mile ride starts at 11 a.m. and by 3 p.m. everyone is at the Shorb house to enjoy food, raffles and live entertainment.

"It's sad Scotty isn't with us, but it's gratifying knowing we're contributing to help others," Kerry said.

For more information on Scotty's Ride, call (301) 447-3260 or send an e-mail to [scottys-ride@hotmail.com](mailto:scottys-ride@hotmail.com).

## An Emmit returns to Emmitsburg

BY JAMES RADA JR.  
News Editor  
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — It's the oldest-known painting of anyone born in Emmitsburg and it just happens to picture William Cole Emmit, the son of the town's founder, William Emmit.

"It's the only portrait of an Emmit in existence and now it will preside over meetings of the town his father and grandfather founded," said Michael Hillman with the Greater Emmitsburg Area Historical Society.

Hillman convinced the portrait's owner to donate it to the town. He picked up the painting the weekend of August 9-10 and turned it over to the town on Aug. 13. The mayor and Emmitsburg town council will officially accept the portrait at a September meeting.

In addition to the portrait, Hillman received two letters — one written in 1908 describing William Cole Emmit and his lineage and the second, a short letter Emmit wrote to his sister in 1855.

The first letter describes Emmit as being "generous, warm hearted, most hospitable and fond of pleasure."

William Cole Emmit was in Emmitsburg in 1800, the son of William Emmit and grandson of Samuel Emmit. William Cole Emmit eventually married Henrietta Stokes, daughter of a North Carolina governor, and lived in Wilkesboro, N.C. After his wife died, Emmit married a Mrs. Taylor and moved to Tennessee where he died in 1863. He had no children by either marriage.

Hillman wanted the town to have the portrait in order to protect it. The mayor and town council have agreed to the same terms as used when Hillman donated two historic maps of Emmitsburg to the town earlier this year.

"By giving it to the town, we're giving it to the people," Hillman said.

■ Michael Hillman

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## Foreclosure rates in Emmitsburg, Thurmont on par with towns

BY STEPHANIE LONG  
Dispatch Staff Writer  
slong@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — With news outlets everyday reporting that the "housing crisis" is a growing problem, an investigation into foreclosure rates in Frederick County and the surrounding areas reveals that Frederick County is on par with surrounding counties in Maryland, through significantly more than its neighbor to the north, Adams County, Pa.

Comparing the number of homes entering or in foreclosure ac-

cording to Realtytrac.com and the number of housing units according to 2006 U.S. Census data, 0.42 percent of homes in Frederick County are in foreclosure. That rate is on par with Carroll County, which has a 0.45-percent foreclosure rate, Montgomery County, which has a 0.43-percent foreclosure rate and Washington County, which has a 0.44-percent foreclosure rate. Overall, Maryland has a 0.46-percent foreclosure rate statewide.

Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover said that there are a lot of reasons for home foreclosures, but he believes much of it has to do with

those types of mortgages.

"A lot of people were put in a situation, given an offer they couldn't refuse," Hoover said. "Immediate satisfaction overwhelmed long-term reality."

Although Hoover said homeowners are not blameless for the

current "crisis", he credits some of the blame to homebuilders and banks who practiced "bad business" and became greedy.

"[Home owners] were blindsided by the greed of others," Hoover

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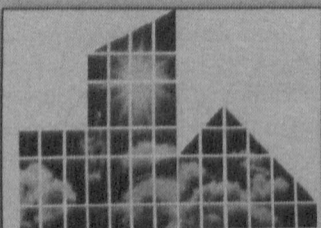


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## Opposition to Gianna is religious prejudice

Recently I watched the movie, "The Long Walk Home," which dealt with racial prejudice. I thought of the people who are so opposed to those faithful who attend Our Lady of Emmitsburg's prayer group. They seem to have a similar attitude of hate and anger, fear (some threat to them or their beliefs) and ignorance of facts, like

they think it is a sin for everyone to believe Gianna, which is false. The problem I see is the anger and fear of the adversaries of Our Lady's prayer group and the discord they have stirred up. It is a sad prejudice to affect our lovely town.

Shirley Steo  
Emmitsburg

## Upset with treatment by town staff

*Editor's Note: This letter to Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller accompanied a \$5 check. It was returned on Aug. 16 with a note that read "The fee at this time is \$20."*

Dear Mr. Haller:

Thank you for your recent letters. I do not agree with your position on this matter and as per my fax to you of August 4, 2008 which is as of this writing unanswered, I intend to act further.

There are definite mitigations.

I returned to my parked vehicle twice during the noon time period and could not move the vehicle due to the Frederick County Police car blocking me. I did return to the Ott House restaurant, have a brief lunch and received a parking summons slightly after 1 p.m. when I returned to my vehicle for the third time. Incidentally, the tractor trailer broke down a second time, as you know.

Initially, I had intended to make a suitable donation to the town park and recreation so that the children of Emmitsburg could benefit, in view of the handling of this matter, now I will NOT make such a donation.

I have been close to the Emmitsburg town for 50 years. Having graduated from Mount St. Mary's College in 1960 and have lived on Main Street as a student.

The handling of this situation makes no sense to me at all nor to the people I met with at the Ott House or the person I was to meet with following the noon meeting. Both are appalled at its treatment and are long standing and prominent members of the Emmitsburg community.

A bank check is enclosed for summons. Your confirmation would be appreciated. Thank you.

Michael P. Meyer  
Camp Hill, Pa.

## 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.

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## A Word from the Mayor Thanks for making the BBQ a success

On Aug. 2, my family and I hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mayor's Bar-B-Que Competition. We believe it was a great success. UpCounty Family Center won 1<sup>st</sup> Place and the title of "Emmitsburg's Grand Griller", Randy Hall from Emmitsburg won second place, and David Fisher of Frederick won third place. Nine other competitors competed in the competition. If you attend the event you know that everyone enjoyed the competition.

My family and I established and hosted the event, but we know that we could not do the event without the support and sponsorships from so many of the local business. Again this year; Jubilee Foods donated the chicken (324 quarters), E+ Copy Center donated posters and certificates, The Dispatch Newspapers donated the newspaper ads, members of the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA) donated door prizes and the band, Life Horse (Joe Topper) donated a moon bounce, Bollinger Construction donated plywood flooring, the list goes on. We are thankful for the so many business and individuals that donated time, money, material and assistance to make this event a success.

I also had three other helpers. Bob Hance from the Carriage House, Jennifer Buchheister from the Dispatch Newspapers and Sister Eleanor Casey were the judges. They each sampled pieces of chicken from each competitor

and selected the winners. With 12 competitors, that's a lot of chicken to sample to pick the best of the best.

I'm sure by now that everyone knows how much I enjoy community events. As mayor, I believe creating and maintaining community spirit and community activities is one of the most important responsibilities of my job. I hope that future mayors and community leaders feel the same as I do.

After all bills are paid, I expect to have approximately \$1,100 left to add to the scholarship fund. Last year a scholarship was established through the Community Foundation of Frederick County. Each year the Foundation will select and award a scholarship to a local resident of the greater Emmitsburg community. Since the scholarship is based on financial need, I decided to not get involved in the selection process and allow the foundation to verify the applicants' information and financial records.

Again I want to thank all of the sponsors and donors for their great support. I look forward to partnering with everyone again next year to make the event an Emmitsburg tradition. I plan to host the event each year on the first Saturday of August. As the event grows, we'll be able to increase the amount of the scholarship.

James Hoover  
Emmitsburg Mayor

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TOWN NEWS

Foreclosure

-Continued from page 1

said. "Now those home owners will suffer and there will be a major impact on the state economy which will be resolved somewhat on the back of taxpayers."

Although Maryland's foreclosure rate is lower than many other states, foreclosure is still a rising concern of many residents and government officials, including local officials.

Emmitsburg's neighbors to the north seem to be fairing better. Carroll Valley, Pa., has no homes in foreclosure according to Realtytrac.com and Adams County, Pa. has a .02 percent foreclosure rate.

"That doesn't surprise me," said Bill Reinke, a Carroll Valley Borough council member who is a former mortgage broker. "Our (Adams County home) values didn't get as out of control so values have held better."

Reinke said the declining market in Frederick County is different than Pennsylvania, where the market

hasn't felt as great of a decline.

"My hypothesis as to the lower [foreclosure] rates is A- the prices weren't out of hand... and B- Since the values tend to hold better here people aren't in an upside down mortgage," Reinke said.

An upside down mortgage means the owner owes more on the loan than the value of the home, which creates a problem when trying to sell of home and get out from under the debt. If Adams County has a lower upside-down mortgage rate, as Reinke believes, homeowners have an easier time of selling their homes or working with their bank. If the home values in Adams County did not get out of hand, as Reinke believes they did in Frederick County, homeowners are not feeling the crash of the market as much as those in Frederick County.

According to the "Property Foreclosures in Maryland- First Quarter 2008" packet from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, mortgage defaults rose 17.3 percent in the first quarter of 2008 compared to the fourth quarter of 2007.

Local Realtor Libby Briggs said many of the homes in foreclosure in Emmitsburg are new homes, mainly in Pembroke and Brookfield, that were purchased in 2005, 2006 and early 2007.

According to Realtytrac.com, as of August 19, there were 10 homes either entering or in foreclosure in Emmitsburg. In comparison with data collected from the U.S. Census, the 2000 census records 880 housing units in Emmitsburg, making the foreclosure rate 1.14 percent in Emmitsburg.

But Emmitsburg is not alone in its plight; Thurmont had a 1.5-percent foreclosure rate. Those rates seem miniscule to surrounding Maryland municipalities; Walkersville had a 5.09-percent foreclosure rate, Brunswick a 3.3-percent foreclosure rate, Myersville a 8.61-percent foreclosure rate and Frederick a 2.96-percent foreclosure rate, but Hoover is still concerned.

"It's a growing problem," Hoover said. "People will and have lost homes. I don't think Emmitsburg is more immune to good or bad more than any place else."

FORECLOSURE RATES IN SELECTED COUNTIES

County	Housing Units In foreclosure*	Housing Units (2006)	Percent of Units in foreclosure
Frederick	353	84,960	0.42%
Carroll	273	61,065	0.45%
Montgomery	1542	359,625	0.43%
Washington	261	59,750	0.44%
Maryland State	10,518	2,300,567	0.46%
Adams Co. (Pa.)	8	39,208	0.02%

Source: www.realtytrac.com, www.census.gov \*Information as of 8/19/08

FORECLOSURE RATES IN SELECTED MUNICIPALITIES

Municipality	Housing Units In foreclosure*	Housing Units (2000)	Percent of Units in foreclosure
Thurmont	33	2194	1.50%
Walkersville	92	1807	5.09%
Brunswick	64	1942	3.30%
Emmitsburg	10	880	1.14%
Myersville	39	453	8.61%
Frederick	655	22106	2.96%
Fairfield (Pa.)	1	245	0.41%
Carroll Valley (Pa.)	0	1261	0.00%

Source: www.realtytrac.com, www.census.gov \*Information as of 8/19/08

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TOWN NEWS

# Will the state cut Emmitsburg's budget?

BY JAMES RADA JR.  
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — While the Emmitsburg budget looks all right now, things could change as the year goes on. Mayor James Hoover warned the town council that as Maryland tightens its budgetary belt, it could also wind up squeezing Emmitsburg's and other municipalities' bud-

gets. He reminded the council that the state had already drastically reduced the amount of dollars it contributed Program Open Space, which counties and municipalities use to acquire and develop parkland.

The next cut could be in the Highway User Fund. This is money the town receives from the state based on the number of miles of roads in the town. The mayor and town council budgeted to receive \$159,200 from this fund, which is money targeted for budget expenses related to roads.

"The rumor is, and it's a pretty good rumor, that it (Highway User Funds) may not come through at all," Hoover told the council.

This would be a fairly easy cut for the state to make because it doesn't directly impact the state, only counties and municipalities. It is also a line item that has been cut during tight budget years in the past.

"I think we're going to see more of it (budget cuts) as the year goes on," Hoover said.

Town Administrator Dave Haller said if the Highway User Fund is cut this year, the impact will most likely be felt next year. "And it's going to hurt," he added.

# Young firefighter struck while running to assist choking victim

EMMITSBURG, Md. — A car struck a 17-year-old member of Vigilant Hose Company's Fire Explorer unit on Aug. 15 while she was attempting to cross West Main Street in Emmitsburg to assist a choking victim.

The young woman was crossing West Main Street to get to the Palms Restaurant. VHC Deputy Chief James Click said the youth appeared to have bolted in front of traffic with-

out looking to see if traffic had stopped.

"Other firefighters yelled for her to stop, but it was too late," Click said. "That split second was all it took."

The youth had head and leg injuries. A medic unit and Maryland State Police Trooper 3 responded. She was airlifted to Washington County General Hospital for treatment. A full recovery is expected.

The choking victim, a 33-year-old male, was treated and transported to Gettysburg Hospital in stable condition.

Units from Vigilant Hose Company, Emmitsburg Ambulance Company, Thurmont Community Ambulance Company, Taneytown Fire Company paramedics, Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services and Maryland State Police Trooper 3 were all on scene.

# Emmitsburg may go a little greener

BY STEPHANIE LONG  
Dispatch Staff Writer  
slong@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Residents of Emmitsburg may soon be able to go a little greener if a new recycling program presented at the most-recent city council meeting is implemented.

At the Aug. 18 meeting, Key Sanitation President Bob Clark and Mount Airy councilwoman Wendi Peters presented an overview of a recycling program Mount Airy has taken part in as an idea for Emmitsburg.

Mount Airy residents have been taking part in a streamlined recycling program. A 65-gallon blue, rolling recycle bin is provided to the residents and can be filled with many

different types of recyclable materials, such as plastic, paper and cardboard, Clark said. In the past residents were provided with a small, 15-gallon bin and were required to separate the material, whereas with the new bins residents can put everything together.

One main reason for the switch to the streamlined program was to reduce tipping fees, which run \$85 per ton in Mount Airy, Peters said. Since May of this year, when the program was implemented, the town has seen an instant decrease of trash being dumped into the landfill and 77.45 tons of recycled materials have been collected, Peters said, saving the town thousands of dollars.

"Fifty-eight tons or less was sent to the landfill in June," Peters said, "that's significant."

As for the cost associated with the streamlined program, Frederick County paid for the bins for Mount Airy and would do the same for Emmitsburg, Peters said. The

only drawback thus far has been a fuel surcharge for the twice a week pickup, Peters said, which in the long run will become a non-issue.

"The bins will pay for themselves at the end of the fiscal year," Peters said. "It's a rare, rare program that's environmentally friendly and has a positive impact on the community."

Currently Emmitsburg participates in a program similar to Mount Airy's old program, but soon Frederick County will be transitioning all of its recycling to streamline, so a switch to the program now may be in the best interest of the town.

The board did not make a decision on the issue and has a few concerns regarding the program. Mainly how apartment buildings, which make up much of Emmitsburg dwelling units, would be involved in the program since they would be ineligible to participate. The council said they would consider the issue and make a decision in the future.

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## Thurmont taxi service expected by Sept. 1

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

THURMONT, Md. — For the first time in a couple decades, Thurmont will soon have its own taxi service. The Thurmont town commissioners approved a new ordinance that amends the town code to allow for a taxi service in Thurmont and City Cab Company of Frederick is expected to create a satellite operation in Thurmont by Sept. 1.

"So its possible within the next 2-3 weeks, we could have a taxi service," Commissioner Robert Lookingbill said during the discussion of the ordinance at the Aug. 11 town meeting.

The commissioners unanimously approved the ordinance, which allows the town to regulate taxi services "to protect the safety, health and general welfare of the city and its residents, citizens and occupants..."

"This does give us the authority to levy a small fee, which we probably will need to pay for processing," said Thurmont Chief Administrative Officer Bill Blakeslee.

Mayor Martin Burns said that the town tried not to excessively

regulate taxi service because that would only mean additional costs would be passed on to the residents who pay for the service.

Blaine Young, one of the partners with City Cab, said that he has two cars already painted with the words "Thurmont, Md." on them. The local service will be called Yellow Cab of Thurmont. Yellow Cab has a local phone number so it won't be a long-distance call to get a cab. By having a local service, customers won't have to pay for the time it takes a Frederick cab to get to Thurmont. The taxicabs will already be in town, which should also mean quicker pick up times.

When Young spoke before the commissioners in September 2007 to start discussion about a local taxi service, he estimated that a Thurmont service would run from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. The cost would be \$2.40 for a pick up and \$1.60 for each mile, which are the City of Frederick rates. However, Frederick's taxicab commission has allowed a temporary surcharge for rates and may allow for permanent increases because of increased fuel costs.

City Cab has been running a similar service in Brunswick for about a year.

"We were really excited to

get City Cab in Brunswick," said Brunswick City Administrator Dave Dunn. "They've been great to work with and they are big supporters of the town. City Cab also fills a void in the city for transportation."

Emmitsburg may also benefit from Thurmont's taxi service. Young said City Cab has gotten calls for rides from students at Mount St. Mary's University and the National Fire Academy among others. A Thurmont taxi service brings the taxicabs closer to Emmitsburg, which makes the trips more affordable.

Emmitsburg officials have also been discussing with City Cab and Thurmont officials the possibility of the three working in cooperation to have a northern Frederick County taxi service.

"It's on the back burner right now," said Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover. "I'd like to have it up here. It hasn't been forgotten. It just needs to be resurrected."

Announcements will be made when Yellow Cab is ready to begin local operations. The dispatch phone number is (301) 271-3340.

"Our goal is to provide immediate transportation service within the entire county, including the northern county."

## Help available for prescription costs

FREDERICK, Md. — Are you having trouble paying for your prescription drugs? If you are and you have Medicare, there is extra help available and you may be eligible. And, if you think you don't qualify, think again.

This extra help — available by applying and qualifying through Social Security — can pay for part of your drug costs, for example monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. Additional help with Medi-

care D premiums and drug costs is based on income and ranges from 100-percent assistance to a percentage of the drug costs.

Many people with limited income and resources qualify for these big savings and they don't even know it. So, be a smart consumer, and don't walk away from this extra help. Medicare D, the federal pharmacy program, offers additional help to individuals whose income is \$15,600 or less per year, and with assets of no more

than \$11,900. Couples may earn up to \$21,000, with assets of no more than \$23,970. Homes and cars are excluded when calculating assets.

For more information or to apply for the low-income subsidy, contact the Senior Health Insurance Program office at the Department of Aging at (301) 600-3522 or e-mail [Slynn@fredco-md.net](mailto:Slynn@fredco-md.net).

Information about this and other department of Aging programs may be accessed at [www.co.frederick.md.us/daa](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/daa).

## Ski Liberty partners with Strawberry Hill for education

CARROLL VALLEY, Pa. — Ski Liberty wants kids to grow up loving nature and the outdoors. For the past six years, the Carroll Valley Ski Resort has contributed funding to Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve to support environmental education for all Fairfield Area Elementary School students.

"We're so grateful to be able to partner with Ski Liberty in this way," said Susan Crosby, executive director of Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. "They've made it possible for us to extend hands-on environmental educational programming to every student at Fairfield Elementary. This is something many school districts can only offer to one grade per year. Fairfield students are very fortunate to have Ski Liberty on their side."

Strawberry Hill is a 609-acre nonprofit environmental education center located three miles outside of Fairfield.

The organization operates as a living classroom for the community, offering educational programming, summer camps, and other special events throughout the year to area school children as well as the public.

"Strawberry Hill is such a great asset to this community," said Ann Weimer, Ski Liberty's marketing coordinator. "We are so pleased to have this opportunity to help all Fairfield Elementary students experience this very special living classroom."

Ski Liberty's \$5,000 annual contribution is made through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program, which provides state tax credits to eligible Pennsylvania businesses that support educational initiatives in Pennsylvania.

To learn more about Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, visit [www.strawberryhill.org](http://www.strawberryhill.org).

## Carroll Valley Walking Trail contract awarded

CARROLL VALLEY, Pa. — Kinsley Construction was awarded the contract to build the North Carroll Valley Walking Trail. The bid amount was \$183,072, though the Borough of Carroll Valley is expected to contribute only \$39,000. The remainder is funded through grants. Construction on the project is expected to begin this year.

- J. Rada



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## Cell tower hearing delayed because of lawsuit threat

CARROLL VALLEY, Pa. — It was the last step needed before the Carroll Valley Borough Council could vote on a cell tower ordinance that the members had been working on since April. Just before the hearing started on Aug. 19, Borough Solicitor Thomas Campbell went into a short closed-door meeting with Council President John Van Volkenburgh, Council Member Daniel Patton and Borough Administrator David Hazlett.

Following that short meeting Volkenburgh called the meeting to order and immediately called for

an unscheduled executive session.

The result of that meeting, Campbell announced when the meeting resumed is that the public hearing on the cell tower ordinance was cancelled. He said an "11<sup>th</sup> hour challenge" had raised some questions about the ordinance to the point that the challenger was willing to file suit against the borough.

"Some of the comments that we received in this letter are well founded and this council needs to take a look at," Campbell said.

Following the meeting Campbell said that comments would

streamline and simplify the 30-page ordinance. The comments also raised some technical issues, but he added that none of them should change the intent and purpose of the council for the ordinance.

However, if the council make substantial changes to the ordinance, it would have had to hold another public hearing on the ordinance. Canceling the public hearing just gave the council time to step back and re-evaluate the comments, which they should do during the Sept. 9 meeting.

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## 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Show is Sept. 5 – 7

THURMONT, Md. — This year marks the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Community Show scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 5 – 7, 2008 at Catocin High School in Thurmont. There is no admission charge to the event, however, a silver offering will be collected.

Over 2,500 farm and garden, household, quilt, livestock, machinery and commercial displays can be seen during the three-day event.

The show opens Friday, Sept. 5 and runs 6 – 10 p.m. At 7 p.m., the program will open in the auditorium with the massing of flags by community civic organizations. The highlight of the program will be the announcement of the 2008-2009 Catocin FFA Ambassador. The Community Show will honor the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mount St. Mary's University and also will honor several area residents associated with the University.

Immediately following the program, (at approximately 8:30 p.m.) an auction of all baked goods exhibited at the show will be held in the auditorium. All grand champion and reserve champion baked goods will be sold at 9 p.m.

On Saturday, the show opens at 9 a.m. and runs to 10 p.m. Activities include a beef, sheep and swine fitting and showing contest from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and a pet show, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in front of the school.

The Acacia Lodge #155, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Thurmont, will be offering a Free Child Identification Program (CHIPS). The tentative times of this program will be 10 a.m. – noon and 2 – 4 p.m. on Saturday and noon – 2 p.m. on Sunday. A picture of your child will be taken, along with a fingerprint and a page of supporting information will be loaded on a compact disc by a computer. A DNA swab will also be collected for safe keeping. This information will be then available should circumstances arise where it will be needed. It must be emphasized that NONE of this information is kept on the computer or by the lodge.

The beef, sheep and swine sale will begin at 7 p.m. in the agriculture shop area, with over 75 head of beef, sheep and swine to be sold. On Saturday evening, at 7 p.m., the Bluegrass Chapel Band will perform in the auditorium.

There will be no admission charge.

Farm machinery will be displayed throughout the event and the famous "Cane and Abel" Brown Swiss cattle will be exhibited at the show. Pat and Norman Sampson will have on display their alpacas and emus will be exhibited by Jim and Peggy Royer. There also will be a petting zoo, pony rides, with various animals for children to pet.

On Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, the show opens at 9 a.m., with the goat show beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the dairy show to begin at 10:00 a.m. The decorated animal contest will begin at noon and \$50 in prize money will be awarded.

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Catocin Mountain Horseshoe Pitching Contest will begin at 1 p.m. and the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Cross Cut Sawing Contest will begin at 1 p.m. At 1:30 p.m., students of the Linda Elower Studio of Dance will perform in the auditorium.

Barnyard Olympics for youth and adults will be held in front of the school at 1:30 p.m. There will also be a Martial Arts demonstration in the old gymnasium at 2 p.m.

The Thurmont Library will again have books for sale in the old gymnasium. Persons wishing to donate books for the library sale can drop them off at the school, while entering exhibits at the show on Thursday night or on Friday morning. Also in the old gymnasium, John Kinnaird will have old pictures of Thurmont and Helen Mackley will have her display of old buttons and emblems. The Community Show will also have on display old photographs and displays of past years in the old gymnasium.

The Thurmont Community Ambulance will be having free blood pressure checkups on Saturday and Sunday.

Come and see the many farm, garden, household, canned goods, flowers, baked products, quilts, sewing exhibits and animals exhibited by the residents of the Catocin High School area. There will be plenty of good food, entertainment, free parking and door prizes, donated by area businesses.

The Community Show is sponsored by the Thurmont Grange, the Catocin FFA Chapter, Catocin FFA Alumni, Maryland Agricultural Fair Board and the Maryland State Grange.

## Safe and Sane kicks off the new school year

THURMONT, Md. – The Catoctin High School (CHS) Class of 2009 Safe and Sane Committee kicked-off its efforts with a successful fund raising event during the annual Thurmont Fireman's Carnival. Special thanks to Kyle Lewis for his generous support to this event. The money raised will be used to defray the expenses associated with hosting the Safe and Sane party that immediately follows graduation on June 3, 2009.

This year, the committee will host a variety of events to raise money and strongly encourages all members of the Catoctin High School community to actively participate. The goal of Safe and Sane

is to provide a safe environment in which the graduates can celebrate their accomplishments together. Anyone seeking additional information, wishing to volunteer, or assisting as an event sponsor is welcome to contact the committee chairs, Lu-Anne Ewing (301) 271-4268, or Ed Schildt (301) 271-2026.

Monthly meetings will be held at CHS in the media center the second Wednesday of every month, with the next meeting scheduled for September 10, 2008 at 7 p.m.

The next fundraiser is a "Basket and Vera Bradley Bingo" to be held at the Thurmont Fireman's Activities Building on Sunday,

October 5, 2008. The doors open at 12:30 p.m. and games begin at 2 p.m. Advance ticket purchases are available for \$15, and regular tickets will be available at the door for \$20. To purchase tickets, please call Lori Brown (301) 271-4064, Dixie Wheeler (301) 271-6970 or Angie Forrest (301) 241-4028.

Future events include dinner dances, golf tournaments and a variety of raffles. Please visit the Safe and Sane booth at the annual Thurmont and Emmitsburg Community Show at CHS, September 5 - 7, to obtain information on the various events. Your support will help to keep the graduates of 2009 safe.

## Frederick County Public Schools start Aug. 25

THURMONT, Md. – The first day of school for the 2008-2009 school year for students of Frederick County Public Schools will be Monday, Aug. 25. Nearly 41,000 students are expected to start school in Frederick County this year.

The Interscholastic Athletic Fee for this year will be \$65 per sport season, which is a \$5 increase. The fees are used to underwrite transportation, coach salaries, officials' fees, equipment and uniforms

for school sports programs.

Breakfast prices remain the same. Elementary students pay \$1.10, middle and high school students pay \$1.35. Lunch prices increased 15 cents. Elementary students pay \$2 and middle and high school students pay \$2.25. When purchased separately, milk costs 40 cents, a five-cent increase.

County school cafeterias will be adding more whole-grain foods in addition to pizza crusts, rolls and

snack items that meet USDA and Maryland nutritional guidelines. Schools will also offer fresh vegetables, fruits and low-fat choices.

A new data-management system will be tracking student attendance this year. More information on the procedures for school absences can be found in the Calendar Handbook.

- J. Rada

## Fairfield schools first day Aug. 26

FAIRFIELD, Pa. – The first day of school for Fairfield Area School Students will be Tuesday, Aug. 26.

To make sure that students have the technology they need to be successful in school, the school district, Microsoft Corporation, IU13 and the Pennsylvania Department of Education entered into an agreement to offer substantial discounts on Microsoft software to teachers, students and staff.

For instance, Microsoft Office 2007 Professional Plus that includes

Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook, Publisher, Communicator and InfoPath retails for \$599, but is available for \$85 under this agreement. For more information or to order, go to [www.JourneyEd.com/Select](http://www.JourneyEd.com/Select).

You can also make sure your

children have lunch money by adding to their account with the Fairfield Area School System's online lunch payment system at [www.fairfieldpaschools.org](http://www.fairfieldpaschools.org).

- J. Rada

## Mother Seton School's first day is Aug. 25

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The first day of classes for students attending Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg will be Monday, Aug. 25. It will be a half day with dismissal at 12:30 p.m.

Parents are reminded that they need to submit the classroom supply fee on or before the first day of school. You should make one payment for all of the children in your family. The fees are as follows:

- Pre-K - \$20
- Kindergarten - \$20
- Grade 1 - \$21
- Grade 2 - \$24
- Grade 3 - \$28 book only and/or recorder only or \$32 recorder and book
- Grade 4 - \$23
- Grade 5 - \$28
- Grade 6-8 - \$31 includes one paperback

- J. Rada

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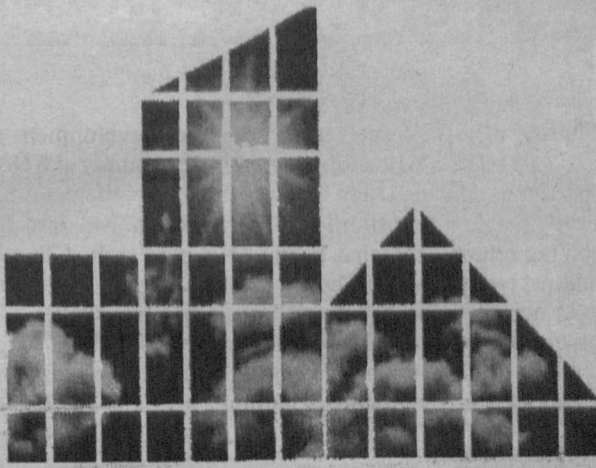


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# Getting down to business in Thurmont

THURMONT, Md. – The re-invigorated Thurmont Main Street and Economic Development Committee has been welcoming a number of new businesses and familiar names to the business community in Thurmont. They recently cut the red ribbons for several new businesses or new business locations on July 12.



**Bollinger's Restaurant**

The Thurmont Main Street and Economic Development Committee welcomed Bollinger's Restaurant with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at restaurant's location at 210 North Church Street in Thurmont. Long a Thurmont landmark, Bollinger's Restaurant recently re-opened in their new location after a four-year break. Owners Donna Bollinger, Joshua Bollinger and Carrie Witmer carry on the family tradition just a few steps from the shopping center where Junie and Momma Bollinger opened the restaurant in 1971. Bollinger's Restaurant is open Tuesday-Saturday 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. and opening soon on Mondays from 6 a.m. – 2 p.m. You can call the restaurant for daily specials at (301) 271-3500.



**Catocin Computers**

The Thurmont Main Street and Economic Development Committee welcomed Catocin Computers with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the store's location at 133 East Main Street in Thurmont. Owner Pete Coe has specialized in computers since 1993 and has been in business in Thurmont since 2003. The new location at 133 East Main Street provides sales and service, including computer system sales, installation, repairs & upgrades, software, internet connectivity support, internet hosting, custom programming, and data loss and antivirus prevention solutions. Service is available both on and off site and is just a phone call away at (301) 271-0712. Catocin Computers is a DELL reseller. Visit them on the web at [www.catocincomputers.com](http://www.catocincomputers.com).



**Tags-N-Titles**

The Thurmont Main Street and Economic Development Committee recognized Tags-N-Titles with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6 North Church Street in Thurmont. Owner Tracy Cullen offers immediate, on-the-spot service including vehicle registration, tags, stickers, renewal, transfers, temporary tags and tag return. Tracy has been in business at the Church Street location for almost two years and Thurmont Main Street/EDC appreciates her investment in our community. Small businesses like Cullen's help make our downtown a vibrant and consumer friendly destination. Tags-N-Titles is open Monday- Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., early or late appointments are available by calling (301) 271-2617.



**Cool Beans**

The Thurmont Main Street and Economic Development Committee welcomed Cool Beans new owners with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4 East Main Street in Thurmont. Owners Connie and Mark Albert offer a tempting menu of coffees, sandwiches, smoothies and other treats at the 4 East Main Street location. Cool Beans also offers wireless internet connectivity as well as live entertainment on select evenings.



**Kevin's Auto Kleening**

The Thurmont Main Street and Economic Development Committee helped celebrate the opening of Kevin's Auto Kleening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2 Miller Avenue in Thurmont. Kevin Troxell has been cleaning and detailing cars, trucks, motorcycles, RV's and other vehicle since 1981. He recently moved to his new location at 2 Miller Avenue in Thurmont, offering the quality service and low prices his customers have long appreciated. Stop by Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or call Troxell at (240) 529-3032 for an appointment.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF EMMITSBURG - ELECTION DAY**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

Election Day for Emmitsburg will be Tuesday, September 30, 2008. Ballots will be cast at 22 East Main Street between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Last day to register to vote at Frederick County is September 2, 2008. Registration applications can be obtained at the Town office located at 300A South Seton Avenue.

Candidates must file written application for candidacy with the Town Clerk no later than close-of-business Friday, August 29, 2008. A write-in candidate must file a certificate of candidacy with the Town Clerk.

There will be one Mayor opening and one Commissioner opening.

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## Emmitsburg Osteopathic improvements approved

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center on West Main Street will soon be getting a facelift that will also improve Emmitsburg's streetscape. The Emmitsburg Planning Commission unanimously approved the second phase of improvements to the building.

The first phase of improvements was the creation of the medical offices at the rear of the building, which has three offices in it. The second phase of the project is the renovation of the original historic building that sits on West Main Street. This building pre-dates the

town's incorporation, though it has been updated over the year.

The project was last before the commission in 2005.

"Since then, there's been additional work added to the project to make it a little better," said Joe Ceci with Fox and Associates.

Among the improvements to be made are enclosing an additional 150 sq. ft. to build a staircase between the buildings, improve the handicapped accessibility to the building, improve the handicapped parking and addressing the differing floor levels in the building.

"It is our intention to smooth

that all out," said Richard Washburn, architect for the project.

Other changes to the building will be cosmetic in nature. The finished project in the original building will include three more offices, a meeting room and a waiting room.

Town Planner Sue Cipperly said the project originally called for two residences in the original building but that would have required more parking spaces than could be created in the rear of the building. Currently there are 20 spaces and the new plans would require only 17 spaces.

## WTHU sponsors Share-A-Thon, fundraiser

THURMONT, Md. — On Saturday, Aug. 23, you can visit, call in or e-mail WTHU Radio at 10 Radio Lane in Thurmont from 8 a.m. — 6 p.m. WTHU 1450 am will have some unexpected and surprising guest interviews,; local musicians performing live on-air, an on-air auction of amazing items; prizes will be given away and you can buy a WTHU memorial brick on behalf of someone special.

Since going to its new format in June, WTHU has been adding original shows, expanding pub-

lic service announcements for churches and services and doing live remotes Maranatha's Family Day, Taneytown's Christian Music Festival, Thurmont's Carnival/Parade

WTHU has been operating at 500 watts, but engineering studies have shown that it can expand to 1000 watts without bumping up against other signals. This is a goal for WTHU management.

For more details about the Share-a-thon or WTHU, visit [www.wthu.org](http://www.wthu.org) or call (301) 271-2188.

## Business offers editing services

CASCADE, Md. — Szul Edits of Cascade offers affordable and professional editing and proofreading services for job hunters looking to improve their resumes. The service also works with small and large businesses, and students.

Andy C. and Anya H. Szul formed the company. They accept material submitted by e-mail and payment is available through PayPal, a popular online payment service.

"With the economy slowing and fewer available jobs, we thought this was the best time to launch an online home-based business to help folks improve their chances of getting noticed," said Andy Szul. He noted that in the digital age the first impression with a potential employer is the resume.

Andy has more than 15 years of public relations, marketing and editing/writing experience, working with government, military, corporate and non-profit clients. Anya H. Szul has extensive experience in the accounting field.

Szul Edits, Inc.'s resume editing packages range from \$14.99 to \$19.99, which also includes editing and proofreading of cover letters. Andy Szul said that well-written cover letters help job hunters "get their foot in the door and get noticed" by employers.

The company also offers services to edit books, articles, Web site content, flyers and posters. The company features a blog at [blog.szuledits.com](http://blog.szuledits.com) where the owners say they can communicate with potential customers.

For more information, visit [www.szuledits.com](http://www.szuledits.com) for more information about the company.



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# A sneak peek at the new Thurmont Police Station

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

THURMONT, Md. — While the grand opening of the new Thurmont Police Station is still a couple weeks away, you can have a sneak peek at what's inside the \$1.8-million building. The station has 8,100 square feet of space, which is immense compared to the 576 square feet that the department had in the town office building.

"This gives us a professional look," said Chief Greg Eyler. "It's given everyone room to breathe and do their jobs."

The new building includes security features such as an armory, evidence room and three holding cells. It also has a conference room, locker rooms and a work-

out room that is stocked with equipment donated by Bobby Crites, the Maryland State Police and the Frederick County Sheriff's Office.

Eyler said since the Thurmont Police Department moved into the new building, he has seen more state troopers and sheriff's deputies stopping into the station to do their paperwork.

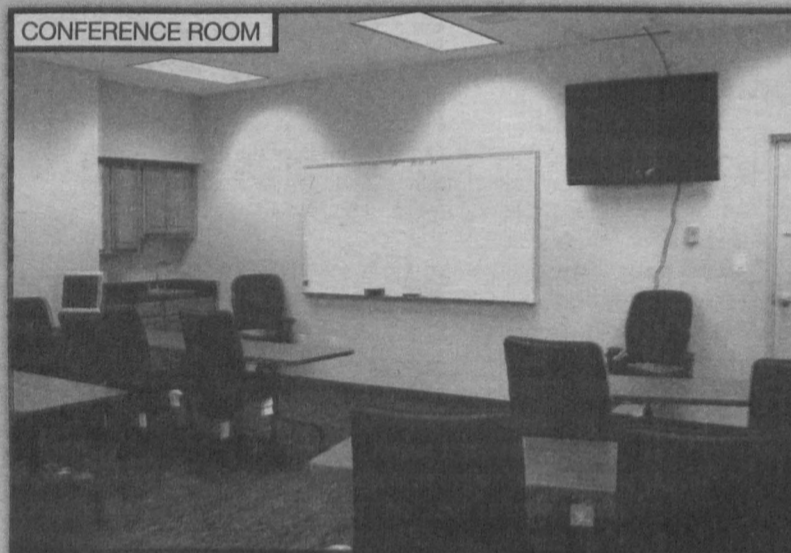
"That's good because it creates more of a police presence in the town," Eyler said.

The grand opening and ribbon cutting event for the new building is Saturday, Sept. 6 at 10 a.m. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., you can enjoy refreshments and tour the new station.

Despite the move, the Thurmont Police phone number remains (301) 271-0905.



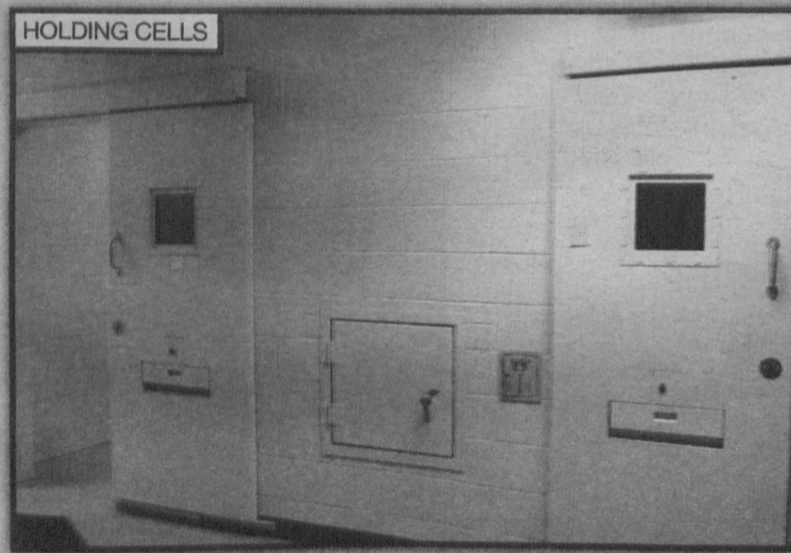
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# A COMMISSIONER IN CAMBODIA

By STEPHANIE LONG  
Dispatch Staff Writer  
slong@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — When Emmitsburg commissioner Glen Blanchard visited Cambodia in July for nearly a month, he experienced a different culture and things that changed his life. One experience in particular stands out his mind.

"I never realized before how much I wanted to practice my own faith," said Blanchard, who is Catholic. During his trip, Blanchard stayed at the Buddhist monastery Wat Damnak for four days and lived as a Monk, participating in daily prayers and meditations with the monks. And while Blanchard enjoyed the time he spent with the monks, he missed attending his own church. When he had the opportunity to attend a service at a Jesuit church, he came to a realization of how much he cherished his faith.

Blanchard said the service was like the ones he's attended in America, but the mix of Eastern culture and Western religion was prevalent in the church. As everywhere in Cambodia, attendees left their shoes at the door and the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was dressed in traditional Cambodian clothing. The service was not presented in English, but Blanchard said it made no difference and the experience was a fascinating and touching one.

## Learning and teaching

A year ago Blanchard, who is

a history teacher, spent some time in Hawaii studying Pearl Harbor. While there, he learned of the East-West Center, whose mission is to help educate and create a dialogue between the Asia Pacific region and the United States. Through the Center, Blanchard took the opportunity as a teacher to immerse himself in Cambodia's culture and history in Cambodia.

The Emmitsburg Lions Club, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion all provided sponsorships for Blanchard, which enabled him to make the trip. He traveled with other teachers, both current and retired, and experienced all that he could. He even had the opportunity to each an English class to children in a jungle village.

"It was something I always wanted to do," Blanchard said, who at one time wanted to join the Peace Corp and teach English. "It was a great experience."

The school was an open-air mud hut in the jungle, with lizards crawling across the white board as he wrote and rain pouring down created a different classroom experience.

"The kids' enthusiasm to learn English was inspiring," Blanchard said. "They know the ability to speak English can bring them success and that's very heartening to me."

Blanchard stayed part of the time with a host family, the family of Dr. Prak Vonn, in Kampong, Chhnang. Before leaving for Cambodia, Emmitsburg mayor James Hoover gave Blanchard a key to the

city and asked him to present it to someone worthy while in Cambodia. And after a few days of staying with Vonn, Blanchard knew Vonn was the perfect recipient.

Blanchard said he was impressed with Vonn's service to his community, as the local doctor he was willing to see anyone who came to him for help, and his kind and welcoming heart.

Blanchard also visited many different historical sites and museums and "impressive and beautiful" temples, but a visit to one of Cambodia's most-notorious former prisons and killing fields changed Blanchard forever.

## Seeing it first hand

The notorious rule of Pol Pot in 1970s Cambodia brought about thousands of executions and murders, and the Khmer Rouge security prison known as S-21 was the site of thousands of those crimes. Blanchard went on a tour of the prison, which has now been turned into a genocide museum. His tour guide was Vann Nath, one of only seven people who survived imprisonment at S-21 by claiming to be a painter.

As Blanchard walked around the prison, which prior to Pot's reign had been a high school, and listened to Nath explain the atrocities that occurred there, he was struck with an overwhelming feeling of horror and emotional numbness. Thousands of photographs of genocide victims

cover the walls, skulls are stacked in one room of the prison and paintings created by Nath depicting the atrocities that happened there hang on the walls.

"It's a horrifying place," Blanchard said. "You enter and no one says anything. Being a father, with two children, it's unspeakably horrifying."

After S-21, the group visited a "killing field" where thousands were killed and buried during Pot's reign.

"There's an eerie feeling there," Blanchard said. "You see the skulls and what it represents in humanity."

But that "horrifying" experience is one Blanchard said was necessary for him in truly understand Cambodia's history.

He hopes to take that experience and bring it into the classroom in a way that teaches and has a real effect on his students.

"I hope the photographs help explain it. The kids (students) un-

derstand Darfur, etc., but I can show them examples of what happened when no one stopped it," Blanchard said. "It will make it more real for the kids."

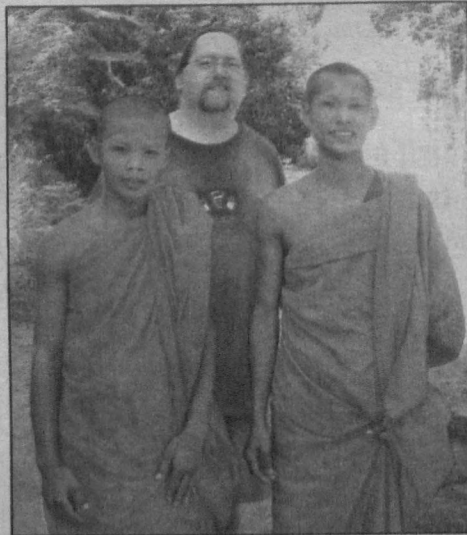
## A spirit about them

But in the face of such a recent bloody past, Blanchard said he saw a spirit in the people of Cambodia that is striking.

"The past was the war, now it's different," Blanchard said. "The young people see opportunity and there's a real sense of optimism in their community. They know how horrific the past was and they're incredibly hardworking."

Blanchard hopes to travel to China or North Korea next year with East-West Center and encourages anyone "to travel if you have a chance and to not be afraid of something different."

He said traveling has had a huge effect on him and he knows that it would on his students as



- PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN BLANCHARD

Top: Glenn Blanchard teaches students in a jungle village. Left: Blanchard presents Dr. Prak Vonn with a key to Emmitsburg. Right: Blanchard stands with two buddist monks at the Wat Damnak monastery.

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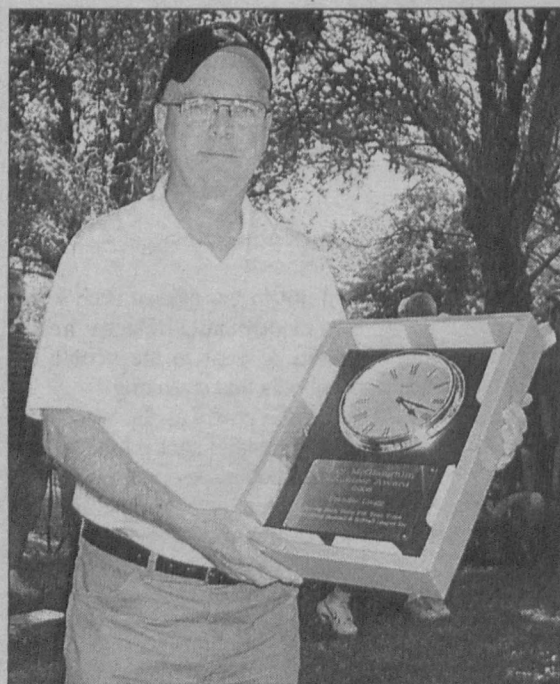
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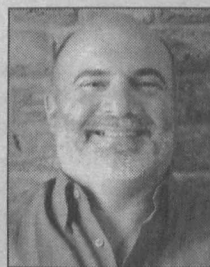
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# Lingg receives Guy McGlaughlin Award



Frannie Lingg, a fixture in Emmitsburg Little League Baseball for more than three decades, was honored at this year's league picnic as the 2008 recipient of the Guy McGlaughlin Award. The Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball League awarded Mr. Lingg the honor for his many years of dedication and service to the league. A life-long resident of Emmitsburg, he coached and managed the Emmitsburg Dodgers for over 30 years and is best known for his love of the game and his fairness and discipline on the field. During his tenure with the Dodgers, he also coached his two sons, Steve and Tom, and his grandson Mark. The Guy McGlaughlin Award, named after the first league president in 1955, was introduced in 2007 as a way to recognize individuals for their efforts on behalf of Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball.

# Outside the Game Wii-itis



BY A.J. RUSSO  
*Dispatch Columnist*

Nintendo doesn't know what to do about the growing publicity surrounding its Wii console. On the one hand, people of all ages have been jumping, pumping, kicking and punching their way to better physical shape, and the Wii is continuing to dominate hardware sales in this console generation, despite being graphically, and technically inferior to rivals PS3 and Xbox 360. On the other hand, it seems a new medical condition is surfacing related to its use.

And Nintendo doesn't know what the effects of recent publicity surrounding the console will have on its sales.

An ad in the recent issue of a sports medicine journal read: Wanted - Sports Therapist, knowledgeable of console based sports injuries and how to prevent and treat them.

An ad in a local newspaper read: Summer Exercise Camp for all ages. Bring your own console, we'll supply the TV.

An ad in a journal for the legal practitioner read: Wanted - recent law graduate, Nintendo/Wii champion. Willing to head Wii Sports Injury Litigation Division.

A recent ad in AARSP (American Association of Retired

Sports People) read: Warning - don't participate in Wii sports unless supervised by a grandson or granddaughter.

It has even been suggested that the Surgeon General issue a warning about the Wii. It might go something like this: Unsupervised and/or overuse of this device may cause Wii-itis

Recently, the first known case of Wii pain, a sports type injury picked up purely by playing the Wii, was reported.

Anthony Williams, an MTA bus driver, was out of work for over a month because he was playing Wii Sports a bit too enthusiastically for long stretches at a time. This led to extreme soreness in his wrists, bad enough to cause him to wake up in pain every night.

He went to see his doctor, who diagnosed Anthony with severe tendonitis, caused by too much time on the Wii.

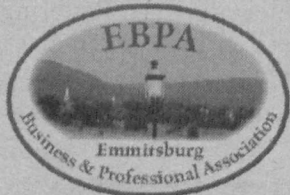
In another case, Julio Bonis, a medical resident in Spain, published a letter in the New England Journal of Medicine writing that he developed acute tendonitis isolated to the right infraspinatus, warning that the popularity of Nintendo's Wii console could make the condition more common.

According to the New England Journal of Medicine letter <content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/356/23/2431>, he had successfully developed a course of treatment for the ailment - ibuprofen for one week and complete abstinence from playing Wii video games.

But his habit got the best of him and he eventually returned to gaming. He was asked if he was still risking "Wii-itis" by returning to his game console?

"I try to use it with moderation," he answered, seeming sheepish at the question's obvious implication.

A friend he talked to had a better solution. "Put the console down and get outside and exercise."



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Tuesday, September 16, 6:30 p.m. Dinner \$20. The Carriage House Restaurant

- Conrad Weaver, Conjo Studios Inc. presenting *The new EBPA website & how it interacts with Emmitsburg and beyond*
- Lori Friedman, Frederick County Chamber of Commerce *How to get involved with 700+ other members*

Wednesday, October 15, 11:30 a.m. Lunch \$15. The Carriage House Restaurant

- Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler *Protecting your business and your community*

Tuesday, November 18, 6:30 p.m. Dinner \$20. The Carriage House Restaurant

- Ed Bearrs, Author and Chief Historian *at the National Park Service*

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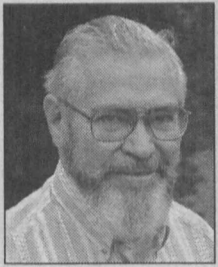
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# Thoughts on Reaching 100



BY BILL  
MEREDITH

Dispatch  
Columnist

"...getting' cards and letters from people I don't even know...." Glenn Campbell, "Rhinestone Cowboy."

"I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend with my life your right to say it."

Voltaire

The year 2008 has been a year of 5x anniversaries. A 75<sup>th</sup> birthday came and went this year. Fifty years ago I had just completed my first year of teaching at Mount St. Mary's; the fact that I survived was a minor miracle. (If we last another couple of weeks, my wife and I will reach our 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary—not a multiple of 5, but a miracle of somewhat larger proportions.) Forty years ago we bought our house here in town. Ten years ago I ended my teaching career and became a retired ecologist instead of a real one; and this issue of the *Dispatch* contains the 100<sup>th</sup> article to appear under my byline.

Like everything else in my life, writing for the *Dispatch* seems to have happened by accident. It was the first week of September, 1995, when someone named Bo Cadle called my office at the college for an appointment. I should have recognized the name, for his father had been our family doctor for many years, but I was very busy with the details of getting the semester started, and I just assumed he was a parent with a problem or a salesman of some kind. It turned out that he was selling something; he was in the process of starting a monthly newspaper that was to be called the *Emmitsburg Dispatch*, and he wanted me to

write a column in it.

I don't know why Bo came to me, for I was not a writer. Like all college professors, I had published a few articles in my field and written a few pieces in college publications over the years; but journalism involves a different kind of writing, and I had never done it. I thought starting a newspaper was a nice idea, though a bit Quixotic, but I was too busy to get involved, so I was evasive; and Bo was persistent. Over the next two years I wrote a few occasional pieces, and when I retired the pressure to start a regular column increased.

Selecting the column's title and topic was easy. I had always admired the definition composed in 1957 by Amyan Macfadyen, an English ecologist (in spite of the Scottish name) who is now nearly 90 and a beloved elder statesman in the field. He wrote:

"An ecologist is something of a chartered libertine. He roams at will over the legitimate preserves of the plant and animal biologist, the taxonomist, the physiologist, the behaviourist, the meteorologist, the geologist, the physicist, the chemist, and even the sociologist; he poaches from all these and from other established and respected disciplines. It is indeed a major problem for the ecologist, in his own interest, to set bounds to his divagations."

This definition sums up why I became an ecologist: I always enjoyed all branches of science, and this field gave me the freedom to dabble in all of them. And who could resist a definition that ended with such a lovely word as "divagations?" It is not even in American dictionaries; it is literally an English word that means "to wander or stray." That is exactly what my mind likes to do best, and writing this column provided the opportunity.

One of the best comments

about writing I have heard was by the syndicated columnist, Roger Rosenblatt, who said, "Writing teaches you what you think." When each month's deadline approaches I decide on a topic, but when the writing is finished the final product invariably turns out to be different than what I had originally planned. Fuzzy ideas, inaccurate facts and bad logic cannot survive a careful writing process; putting words down on paper forces you to think clearly about what you've said and how you said it. (The fact that most politicians do not write their own speeches may account for a lot of the trouble they cause!) But I learned early in my teaching career that even the most logically reasoned facts can be boring, so I consciously adopted the style of storyteller in both teaching and writing. It may be a sneaky way to go about presenting ecology to an audience, but it does hold their attention. And it tempers the arrogance scientists can fall into so easily. As Garrison Keillor said, "You get old and you realize there are no answers, just stories."

Among the themes that keep coming up in this column are the nature of science and the distinction between ecology and environmentalism. Ecology is a branch of science which searches for knowledge and understanding of the environment; to practice it you have to have some background in the other sciences listed in Macfadyen's definition. Environmentalism, on the other hand, is an appreciation of the importance of the environment and the desire to preserve it by private actions and public policy. Being an ecologist does

not automatically make you an environmentalist, and vice versa. Some ecologists have no interest in public policy; and while some environmentalists are well informed about ecology, others are driven more by emotion than knowledge. This distinction is not widely understood by the public, and is regularly exploited by politicians and other policy makers who value economic or other interests above the environment.

Ecologists are bound by the limitations of the Scientific Method. We use data to establish theories and computer models which can predict the probability that something may happen, but we cannot say with certainty if or when it will occur. When ecologists warn that problems exist, the public often responds like a teenager with a new driver's license... "Sure, accidents happen, but not to me." For example, such models predicted years ago that it was almost 100% certain that a major hurricane would hit New Orleans, but they were ignored by policy makers who said the required changes

in levees and building restrictions would be too expensive. Incredibly, even after Katrina, policy makers are encouraging people to move back and rebuild in the same area. Global climate change is an even better example; ecologists were predicting as long ago as 1950 that greenhouse gases would cause polar ice melting, sea level rise and changes in world climate, all of which are occurring now, yet an amazing number of people still believe we should not make policy changes because "scientists aren't certain" and "it would hurt the economy."

Writing to a mixed audience like the readers of a newspaper is the most challenging aspect of this column. Like Glenn Campbell's Rhinestone Cowboy, since starting the column I have received lots of comments. Most are complimentary, even flattering; some are critical, even derogatory, but they are the ones I learn the most from. If I grumble that people whose minds are made up are not easily persuaded by facts and logic, my wife always comes to the rescue and reminds me that I should think of Voltaire and be grateful for them. They have contributed to my continuing education.

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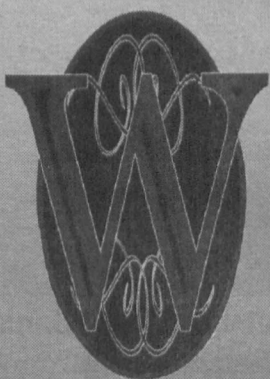
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## Emmitsburg Community Chorus to perform in Thurmont

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The Emmitsburg Community Chorus will close its spring and summer season with a performance at Thurmont Memorial Park on Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. The concert will feature show tunes from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma*, *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music*.

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus has been an Emmitsburg institution for more than 45 years, entertaining audiences with their melodious voices with songs of old and new. In 1975, under the direction of Sr. Jane Marie Perrot, the chorus had the privilege of singing at the canonization of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Rome.

Today the chorus is under the direction of Peggy Burrier, a

graduate of Shepherd College with a degree in vocal music performance. For 20 years she has been the Director of Music at Linganore United Methodist Church. She has directed the adult choir, junior choir and the mixed generations concert band in cantatas, adult and junior musicals and musical fests. She teaches the PK3 class and music at the Visitation Academy in Frederick; and also works with piano, voice and saxophone students in her home studio.

Lisa Mattia from Virginia is the pianist. She received a BA in Music Education and a BS in Business Administration from Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, followed by dual Masters degrees in Business Administration and Arts Administration from

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. She has served as Assistant Musical Director on shows both here and in Europe while working in the offices for the Fort Worth Ballet, the Dallas Opera and the Dallas Symphony Association. Lisa has tutored children on the national tours of *Gypsy* and *Oliver*. She presently oversees the daily operations of Phoenix Productions as on-line general manager.

The chorus will soon begin preparing music for the Christmas season. Members come from all over Maryland as well as neighboring Pennsylvania and Virginia. New talent is always welcome. To join them for the Christmas program, contact any chorus member or call Vickie Novak at (301) 271-2885.



- PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EMMITSBURG COMMUNITY CHORUS

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus will sing show tunes in the final performance of the Thurmont Summer Concert Series on Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. in Thurmont's Memorial Park.

## Jagow wins Melvin Jones Award

THURMONT, Md. – Lions Club International awarded Thurmont Lion Vic Jagow the Progressive Melvin Jones Award in recognition of his commitment and many years of service to the Thurmont community.

Jagow has been a member of the Thurmont Lions Club for 52 years. He has also been a recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellow Award before and is now a life member having served as president, director, and secretary (18 years), as well as Zone Chair and numerous other club and cabinet chair positions.

"After all these years of service, he still participates in our fundraisers providing more hours of volunteer service than anyone I have ever met; not

only with the Thurmont Lions Club, but also the entire Thurmont community... And I hope he continues to do so," said Robin Keeny, Thurmont Lions President during the presentation by District Governor, Susan Timmons.

The Thurmont Lions Club has over 60 members and meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont. They are a group of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs. For more information or to get involved, please contact Sam Miller at [highwaysam@verizon.net](mailto:highwaysam@verizon.net). And for additional information, visit [www.thurmontlionsclub.com](http://www.thurmontlionsclub.com).



- PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY CANDELA

Thurmont Lion Vic Jagow (left) receives the Melvin Jones Award from Thurmont Lions President Robin Keeny (middle) and District Governor Susan Timmons (right).

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August 27  
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Hosted by: Emmitsburg Food Bank

Upcoming dates:  
September 17

**Emmitsburg Food Bank**  
Hours of operation:  
Tue. 7 - 8 p.m., Wed. 7 - 8 p.m.,  
Fri. 1 - 2 p.m., Sat. 10 - 11 a.m.

# A Candlelight vigil for people touched by Alzheimer's disease



The Alzheimer's Association held a candlelight vigil on Sunday, August 17 at Mount St. Mary's University Founders Plaza to increase awareness to the increasing number of people being diagnosed by the disease and offer opportunities to advocate for increased dollars for Alzheimer's research. Current statistics indicate that nearly 4,000 Frederick county residents will be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the year 2010. For more information on Alzheimer's Association programs or educational opportunities, call Cathy Hanson at the Alzheimer's Association at (301) 696-0315 or visit the website at [www.alz.org/maryland](http://www.alz.org/maryland).

- ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL SR. / THE DISPATCH

## Making flowers look better



- STEPHANIE LONG / THE DISPATCH

Linda Mullineaux taught the finer points of flower arranging to 20 sisters and residents of St. Vincent's Care Center in Emmitsburg on Aug. 18. Linda and her husband Tom, who run a small farm in Keymar, sell their homegrown flowers in arrangements at the Emmitsburg Farmers Market. Linda and Tom provided enough Zinnia flowers for 25 participants, and with 20 in attendance, were quite happy with the turnout.

## Auditions for 'Almost, Maine' coming

THURMONT, Md. - Open auditions for men and women in their 20's, 30's and 40's will be held Sunday and Monday evenings starting at 7 p.m. in the downstairs St. John's Lutheran Church Social Hall, 15 North Church Street in Thurmont. Needed are 7-9 men and 7-9 women to perform in The Thurmont Thespians upcoming fall production of "Almost, Maine", the newly acclaimed rural comedy by John Cariani that is gaining in popularity.

The play consists of nine scenes about people living in the tiny mythical town of "Almost" in the far northern corner of Maine. It's not quite in Canada and it's not quite on the map yet...it's just almost. It's the middle of winter on a Friday night and in the lives of nine Maine couples, events stranger than the Northern Lights are about to happen simultaneously. It's almost magical, it's sometimes surre-

al, it's almost sad and it's sometimes glad, but it's never uninteresting as these nine stories of discovery and self-awareness unfold.

Director Spence Watson encourages anyone interested to contact him beforehand at (301) 416-0864 so he can provide a copy of the script to read in advance to know what the play is about. No acting experience is necessary. No Maine "accents" are needed (northern Maine folks don't speak with any accents, unlike the "down-eastern folks" along the coast.) Watson can provide electronic copies of the script by emailing him at [spencer.watson@myactv.net](mailto:spencer.watson@myactv.net). Auditions will only consist of readings from the script. The script has no profanity but kissing occurs in some scenes.

"Almost, Maine" will be performed Fridays thru Sundays, November 7-9 and 14-16 at the Ameri-

can Legion Auditorium, 8 Park Lane in Thurmont. The Friday-Saturday evening performances will begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. There generally will be 1-2 rehearsals per week starting at 7:30 p.m. which will be scheduled at the convenience of the actors insofar as possible. Rehearsals will be in the St. John's Lutheran Church Social Hall until Nov. 2 when they move to the American Legion. Thurmont Thespians is an all-volunteer non-profit community theatre now beginning its twelfth season under Producing Artistic Director Beth Royer Watson.

Interested volunteers are also needed to help operate lighting, sound, video and assist backstage for the production. Call or email Spence Watson. To find out about past and future productions by the Thurmont Thespians, go to [www.thurmonththespians.org](http://www.thurmonththespians.org) for more information.



Scott Harbaugh  
May 24, 2002 - August 29, 2007

We thought of you today but that was nothing new. We thought of you yesterday and the day before that too. We think of you in silence we often speak your name. All we have are memories and pictures in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake which will never part. They say God has you in his keeping we have you in our hearts.

Love you Always!  
Mom, Dad & Courtney  
Me Me and Poppy  
Melissa & Travis

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September 1  
(expected opening date)

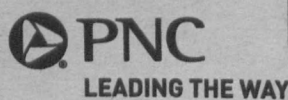
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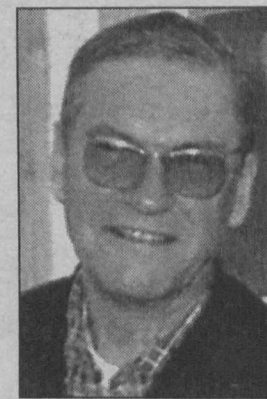
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**Enoch "Skip" Lewis Harlan, Jr.  
September 3, 1928 - August 14, 2008**

Enoch "Skip" Lewis Harlan, Jr. of Taneytown, died, August 14, 2008 at age 79.

He was the beloved husband of Nancy Harlan (nee Andersen), father of Sarah "Sally" H. Cox and her husband Gary, Susan H. Taylor and her husband Loren, Katharine "Kitty" H. Trout and her husband Paul, James F. Harlan and his wife Valerie and the late Enoch Andrew "Drew" Harlan and his wife Sarah Harlan Marusich. Brother of Dorothy Fadrowski and Ann Novak. He is also survived by 39 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren. He was a Loving, Faithful and Godly Husband and Father.

Born in Baltimore, He was an engineer and in sales with the insurance industry, a member of the American Legion Post 297, Emmitsburg, Former Gideon and longtime member of the Walkersville Christian Fellowship.

The family received friends at Eline Funeral Home, 11824 Reisterstown Road (at Franklin Blvd.) on Monday, August 18, 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Interment followed at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens. Services were held at Northwest Baptist Church on Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Online condolences may be emailed at [www.ElineFuneralHome.com](http://www.ElineFuneralHome.com).

Services were arranged by Eline Funeral Home Reisterstown, MD.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Sister Dolores Senner, DC**, of Emmitsburg, died, Tuesday, August 5, 2008.

A Mass of Christian burial was offered at 11 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 7, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton for Sister Dolores Senner, DC.

Sister Dolores was on mission at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore but at the time of her death was receiving care at Villa St. Michael. She was 74 years of age and 55 years of vocation.

Born in Baltimore, she was the youngest of four children of Charles A. and Anna Marie Senner. She graduated from Seton High School in 1952 and entered the community of the Daughters of Charity. She received her bachelor's degree in education from St. Joseph College in Emmitsburg in 1961, and her master's degree in chemistry with a minor in physics in 1970 from The Catholic University of America, Washington (DC).

Predeceased by her parents and two sisters, Anna D. Driscoll and Elizabeth Medtart, she is survived by her sister Catherine A. Schaech and many loving nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Daughters of Charity Support Fund for the Elderly and Infirm Sisters, 333 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.



# Community Calendar

## EVENTS

**Aug. 22 – Family Pool Party.** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Emmitsburg Pool.

**Aug. 23 – Basket and Money Bingo.** Doors open at 4 p.m., games at 6 p.m. Lewistown Volunteer Fire Co. Meal included. Tickets \$25. Call (301) 271-2408 or (301) 898-8292.

**Aug. 23 – Teen Dance.** 7 to 10 p.m. Emmitsburg Ambulance Co., 17701 Creamery Rd. Ages 11-17. \$5. Refreshments and door prizes. Parents must pick up and drop off. No one leaves without a parent. Cost: \$5. Information: (301) 447-6626.

**Aug. 24 – Anniversary of Elizabeth Ann Seton's 234<sup>th</sup> Birthday.** Mass, 1:30 p.m. followed by birthday events in the courtyard. National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg. Refreshments, face painting, games, prizes, music. Rain or shine.

**Aug. 29 – Concert in the Park,** Community Bandstand, Emmitsburg. 7 - 9 p.m. Dan Sherman, Classic Rock.

**Aug. 30 & 31 – Used Book Sale.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church, Thurmont. Sponsored by The Thurmont Thespians. To contribute books or for information: (301) 271-7613.

**Aug. 30 – Chicken and Ham Pot Pie Supper.** 4 p.m. Wolfsville Ruritan Community Park. Adults \$6, Children 6-12 \$3, under 6 free. Take-out available by the quart, \$4. (Bring your own containers.). Proceeds will be used for community activities and park maintenance. Route 70 to Exit 42 to MD 17N. 7 miles to Wolfsville, right on Stottlemeyer Road, left on Brandenburg Hollow Road to the park. Information: (301) 293-2281.

**Aug. 30 – "MSS Spirit Night at the Ballpark."** Arrive by 5:30 p.m. to see Mother Seton School students perform the National Anthem and throw out the first pitch. Harry Grove Stadium, Frederick. Discounted tickets for families and friends, ages 13 and older \$6, youth ages 3-12 \$4, children under 2 are free. Place order with payment no later than Aug. 28. Information: [www.mothersetonschool.org](http://www.mothersetonschool.org) or (301) 447-3161.

**Sept. 1 – Annual Labor Day Festival.** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Thurmont. Family style fried chicken and ham dinner. Live music by Home Comfort Bluegrass Band. Adults \$10, children 6-12 \$5, 5 and under free.

**Sept. 4 – Community Show** entries accepted at CHS gymnasium. 6 - 9 p.m. Free.

**Sept. 5 – Basket Bingo.** Sponsored by Taneytown Ladies Auxiliary, of the Taney Fire Co. activities building. Doors opens at 5:30; games at 7 p.m. Every seat requires a ticket. \$10 advance, \$12 at door. 20 games, raffled, 50/50, extra cards \$5 a strip. Some retired baskets and new baskets. All baskets are filled. Most have liners and protectors. Shrimp platters \$6. Sandwiches and a la carte items. For tickets and information: (410) 756-2969.

**Sept. 5 – Community Show** entries accepted at CHS gymnasium 8 a.m. - noon. Free.

**Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 – Playtime Fridays.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children's Museum of Rose Hill Manor Park, 1611 North Market St. Frederick. \$3 per child. Adults free with child. Information: (301) 600-1650, [www.rosehillmuseum.com](http://www.rosehillmuseum.com).

**Sept. 5 to 7 – Thurmont and Emmitsburg Community Show.** CHS Fri. 6 - 10 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Sept. 6 – Adult BYOB Dance.** 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Emmitsburg Ambulance Building, 17701 Creamery Road. Music by Tommy Can't Count Band, featuring Steve & Mike Myers. \$10. Must be 21. Set-ups provided. EVAC benefit. Information: (301) 447-2073.

**Sept. 6 – Thurmont Grange Buffet.** Turkey and ham dinner. CHS cafeteria, 3 - 7 p.m. \$12. under 12 \$6. under 5 \$5, carry-outs \$13.

**Sept. 6 – Jr. Explorer's Car Show.** Mother Seton School, Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg. 9 a.m. For information (301) 447-6864.

**Sept. 6 – Old-fashioned Fun Show #3.** 9 a.m. Thurmont Riding Club, 14981 Roddy Rd, Thurmont. English, western, gaming. Information: [www.geocites.com/thurmontridingclub](http://www.geocites.com/thurmontridingclub).

**Sept. 7 – Catocin FFA Alumni Chicken Bar-B-Q dinner.** 12 noon. CHS cafeteria. Adults \$8.50, under 12 \$6, carry-out \$9.50.

**Sept. 7 – Thurmont Concert Series,** The Alesia band. Thurmont Memorial Park. 6 p.m. sponsored by Town of Thurmont Park Commission.

**Sept. 7 – RECYCLE.** 47 DePaul St. Emmitsburg. (in front of St. Joseph's Catholic Church Rec-

tory) Support Emmitsburg Boy Scout Troop 727. The first Sunday of every month, 8 a.m. - 12 noon drop off your dry Newspapers and rinsed Aluminum cans. Scouts will be present to assist with unloading. (NO magazines, newspaper ad slicks or metal cans please) For information: (301) 447-3602.

**Sept. 7 – Church Rally Day.** Tom's Creek United Methodist Church located at Simmons Rd. and Tom's Creek Church Rd. Bring a friend to Church. 9:15 a.m. All are welcome.

**Sept. 9 – C. S. Lewis Society of Frederick.** Thurmont Regional Library. Introductory meeting to discuss "Mere Christianity" and "The Screwtape Letters." This will be a year-long, monthly discussion. Information: [www.frederickslewisociety.org](http://www.frederickslewisociety.org).

**Sept. 12 – The Basement Coffee House** returns to Elias Lutheran Church! Beginning Sept. 12. 7 - 9:15 p.m. with one of our favorite bands, "Forgiven" and the return of Emmitsburg's own, "Silver Lining Band" to begin the Fall season. For information: (301) 447-6239, e-mail [eliashuth@peoplepc.com](mailto:eliashuth@peoplepc.com).

**Sept. 12 – Elias Spaghetti Dinner.** Elias Lutheran Church, 100 W. North Ave., Emmitsburg, Md. Fund Raiser to benefit the Ecumenical Mission Trip to Kitale, Kenya in July 2009. Pastor Jon and Community Service workers from Adams County Prison will be preparing the food. 5 - 7:30 p.m. Adults \$7, children \$3, however an offering in any amount is a blessing. Stay for Coffee House. For information: (301) 447-6239, [eliashuth@peoplepc.com](mailto:eliashuth@peoplepc.com).

**Sept. 13 – Annual Fall Festival.** St. Stephen's Church, 25445 Highfield Rd., Cascade, Md. 2 p.m. BBQ dinner, hand cut fires, country ham sandwiches, raffle, auction balloons, live entertainment by David Snader.

**Sept. 28 – James M. Eyler, Jr. Memorial Fund Basket Bingo.** Lewistown Fire Hall, Lewistown, Md. \$15 advanced tickets. \$20 at the door. Doors open at 11 a.m. Bingo at 1 p.m. 20 games, raffles and specials. Food provided by Lewistown VFC. For tickets call (301) 271-5379. Fundraiser is not sponsored by the Longaberger Company.

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# Arts @ Entertainment

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## Cremation Questions



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### CONCERTS

**Aug 24 - 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Renfrew Jazz Festival.** 2 to 4 p.m. Renfrew Museum, 1010 E. Main St., Waynesboro, Pa. Featuring tenor saxophonist Houston Person, vocalist Nancy Reed, Pianist David Leonhardt, bassist Matthew Parrish and drummer Paul Wells. Free. Information: (717) 762-0373.

**Aug. 24 - Westminster Municipal Band's Old-Fashioned Concert.** 6 to 7:15 p.m. Belle Grove Square, corner of Green St. and Bond St., Westminster. Bring chairs and blankets for seating. Information: Sandy Miller (410) 857-0344.

**Aug. 23 through Nov. 9 - "Jack and the Beanstalk."** Way Off Broadway, 5 Willowdale Drive, Frederick. Jack's musical adventure with a jolly, songwriting giant and his temperamental wife, along with a singing harp and talking hen that lays golden eggs. (301) 662-6600, www.wayoffbroadway.com.

**Aug. 29 - Concert in the Park with Dan Sherman.** 7 to 9 p.m. Classic rock at the new Emmitsburg Community Park bandstand.

**Sept. 5 through Nov. 8 - "Thoroughly Modern Millie."** The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, Frederick, Md. Taking place in New York City in 1922, Millie tells the story of Millie Dillmount, who just moved to the city in search of a new life in a New York full of intrigue and jazz. It's a time when women were entering the workforce and the rules of love and social behavior were changing forever. Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. Friday tickets \$42, Saturday tickets \$44, and Sunday matinee \$40. Information: (301) 662-6600. www.wayoffbroadway.com.

### STAGE

**Aug 23 and 24 - 57th Semi-Annual Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival.** Bluegrass and traditional country musicians. Concerts and workshops. 3340 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, Pa. Information: 1-800-642-TENT, (717) 642-8749 www.gettysburgbluegrass.com.

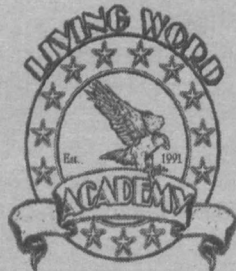
**Aug. 24 - 14th Annual Civil War Music Muster.** All day. National Park Visitor Center and Museum, 1195 Baltimore Pike Gettysburg Brass bands, fife and drum and parlor music, followed by a concert at the Pennsylvania Memorial in the early evening. Free. Information: (717) 334-1124 ext. 2031, or www.nps.gov/gett.

**Sept. 7 and 8 - Open auditions** for men and women in their 20s, 30s and 40s for The Thurmont Thespians' upcoming fall production of "Almost, Maine", the newly acclaimed rural comedy by John Cirianni. Auditions begin at 7 p.m. in the downstairs St. John's Lutheran Church Social Hall, 15 North Church Street, Thurmont. Needed: 7-9 guys and 7-9 gals. The play contains nine scenes about people living in the tiny mythical town of "Almost" in the far northern corner of Maine. It's not quite in Canada and it's not quite on the map yet...it's just almost.

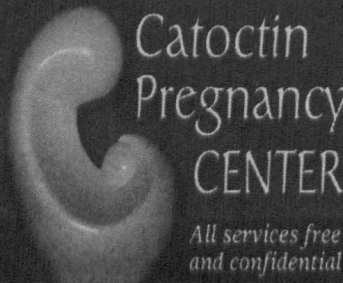
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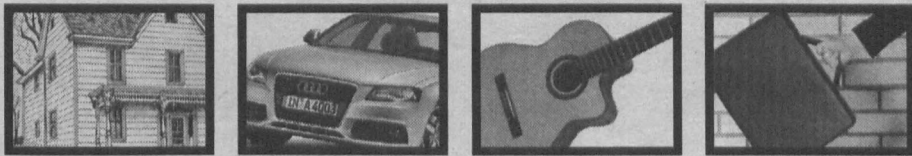
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271-0860 or e-mail [brent@brentpro.com](mailto:brent@brentpro.com).

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Ambulance Co., 17701 Creamery Rd. Ages 11-17. \$5. Refreshments and door prizes. Parents must pick up and drop off. No one leaves without a parent. Cost: \$5. Information: (301) 447-6626.

Sherman, Classic Rock.

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**Activities**

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**August 29 - Concert in the Park.** Community Bandstand, Emmitsburg. 7 - 9 p.m. Dan

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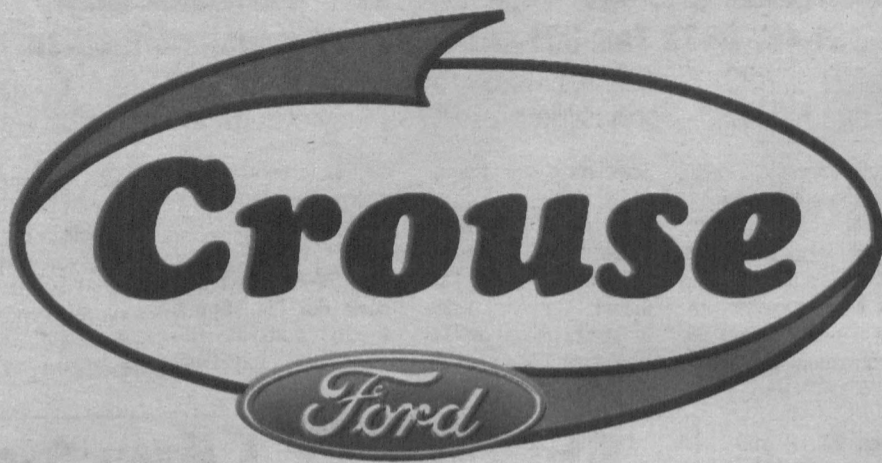
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