

# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

Vol IX, No.9

news and opinion in the service of truth

September 2002



—PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STAR-LEDGER

*Fr. Pehrsson's nephew.* A few days after his honeymoon, Albert Nastasi was praying as he looked across the Hudson River at the smoldering ruins of the World Trade Center. His church had lost 24 parishioners in the 9-11 catastrophe. There, in New Jersey's Liberty State park, someone had placed a flag and votive candles. He saw a sobbing elderly man, a stranger, and went to him. The man fell into his arms and remained a while. Then he nodded his gratitude and walked away. Mr. Nastasi is the nephew of Rev. Alfred Pehrsson, C.M., former pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Emmitsburg. The picture filled the front page of the Newark, NJ, Star Ledger.

## Annexation to close another open space, unless...

Staff Report

Two men decided on Aug. 29, for more than 2,000 Emmitsburgians, that their Town should annex another open space at the request of a developer. Commissioners Ted Brennan and Cliff Sweeney passed a resolution to annex property mostly owned by fellow Commissioner Patrick Boyle so that Buckeye Development can build houses there. The resolution requires the Town to pay about \$200,000, which is half the cost, to replace a water main needed by the development.

Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel voted against it. Earlier she had made a motion that the Town reject the petition, saying the Town ought to give the project more consideration. The motion was not seconded.

Mayor James Hoover is now exercising his right to ponder the resolution for 10 days before signing his approval or veto. He told The Emmitsburg Dispatch that he remains open to input from everyone interested, but tends to favor the resolution partly because the developer, not the

Town, would provide water for his development from his own wells.

The Town, however, calculated the water needed for the development based on 200 gallons per day (GPD) per dwelling, whereas the MD Dept. of Environment (MDE) uses 250 GPD to estimate water requirements, and the American Water Works Assn. 270 GPD. The Town somehow failed to use the recommended the larger number of gallons per day.

Citizens have the right to obtain and submit, by October 8, signatures from 20 percent of registered voters, and petition the mayor to hold a referendum so that citizens themselves can vote for or against the resolution. Without a referendum the resolution becomes effective, and the developer can install black pavement and concrete sidewalks for 130 dwelling units on what is now a farmed field. Some 50 of those dwellings would be row houses.

The two-to-one vote occurred during the second session of a hearing begun Aug. 5. The first session

—Continued on page 3

## Vigilant Hose Co. to help us remember

By Bill Steo  
Editor

With other stations across the country Emmitsburg's Vigilant Hose Fire Company plans to conduct its 9-11 remembrance service at the exact moments that the World Trade Center events occurred.

Fire stations throughout the United States will hold simultaneous services on the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) called for, and outlined, a voluntary ceremony for all to use at the same time on Wednesday, September 11. By these ceremonies fire departments will help the entire nation remember the civilians, rescuers, and others who lost their lives,

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Emmitsburg 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 to be used for verification. The Dispatch reserves the right to edit for content and space. Deadline for letters is the 15th of each month.

### Annexation: no one-time price tag

What will annexation and rapid development do for Emmitsburg? You're already catching glimpses of it, for instance, the rush hour backups on West Main St. and South Seton Ave. Insufficient and restricted water supplies. Increased traffic and noise. Beautiful farms and historic houses giving way to subdivisions.

How will it be to have close to a thousand more people living here, and several hundred more cars riding around Emmitsburg every day of the week? More people. More pollution. More noise. More deterioration. More pressures on Emmitsburg... for wider roads and more repairs, for more water sup-

plies, for more equipment and more services, for higher expenditures and higher taxes.

This is literally a life-and-death decision that should take years, not weeks, to make, for it has the potential to forever ruin the unique character of this historic town. Development is not a one-time event with a one-time price tag. It has reverberations that increase over time. One subdivision leads to another and another. Countrysides go from picturesque to just plain ugly. Please don't let this happen to Emmitsburg. It is a treasure. And I can only hope that the Commissioners will vote to protect it.

— Lisa Elder

### Positives from annexation

I have grown up and lived in this area for most of my life and with my brothers and we have built successful businesses here. I would hate to see Emmitsburg turn out to be another Frederick city, Olney or Germantown. But I do not think that Emmitsburg's charm and small town historic nature would be compromised if the town population would double "gradually" over the next 5-10 years.

I see a lot of positives that could come from this annexation and other annexations that most likely will follow, if the town has available water and sewer capacity. The businesses that are currently here could continue to grow. And if the population increases, this may encourage some new businesses to locate here.

The new taxes and fees that would come from annexation could help the town with the repairs and upgrades that are needed. The increased population may attract more businesses to locate here which in turn would pay

more taxes. This would help to keep tax, water and sewer fees down.

A comment was made that Emmitsburg is growing too fast. I disagree. The population has only increased by 500 people in the last 20-25 years. The more people that move to the town, the more children, which could perhaps help with the return of our lost middle school.

Also I feel that with a larger population, the town and surrounding area would have more political clout in Frederick County. If the library renovation project for Emmitsburg does move forward, we will get the old furniture that was removed from the library in Frederick City. Possibly one day Emmitsburg could be home to the new Northern Frederick County Recreation Center or Up-county Recreation Center.

On the issue of increased traffic. Most comes from the Fairfield and Waynesboro areas. With all this new development that "will" be coming, I believe it may be time to revisit the Bypass options. Now is the time to begin to set aside the right of ways for the northern bypass before all of the properties on the north side of town are annexed and developed. Make the developers and builders pay for this by requiring them to place funds into an escrow account. With one or two new bypasses this would keep a lot of the traffic out of downtown as well as get most of the large trucks and noise off of our streets.

— Dan Reaver  
President,

Emmitsburg Glass Company

To the Emmitsburg Community:

After much thought and reluctance, our schedules mandated that after many years, we discontinue our involvement in the operation of the Palm's Restaurant. We wish Doug Long and Terry Ryder the best, as they have become the new owners of the business. We would like to thank all of our friends, family and customers for your support and patronage over the past few years at the Palm's.

— Frank & Julie Davis

## Appeal for memories of Doc Cadle

Dr. William Rodman Cadle served the Emmitsburg Community as physician from 1925 until his retirement. He was a presence in the community. He treated many of the readers of this paper for an assortment of "complaints." Over the years we have heard many recollections of him as the country doctor attending families in times of crisis, of having birthed many babies, of being involved in many community activities.

We have been urged to put together a life story of Dr. Cadle before memories slip away, and to include his story in the book being produced by the Greater Emmitsburg Historical Society.

His family can provide some infor-

mation but we feel the true story of Dr. Cadle lies in the collective memory of the people and community he served. If you have any memories or little stories you would like to share and contribute to this project we urge you to do so. We are very fortunate that long-time friend Ruth Richards will collect and organize the material.

You may write a note, or record a story on a cassette tape. Some of you may wish to submit your story by e-mail.

— Bo and Jean Cadle

10635 Harney Road,  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727  
301-447-6275,  
e-mail: bojean@erols.com:

## Why ruin a masterpiece?

My husband and I use to live in Baltimore County. We got tired of the congestion, noise, pollution, crime, and all the developments going up. We wanted to live in a healthier, less congested, more beautiful environment.

We picked Emmitsburg due to its beauty, charm, friendly people, quietness, non-congestedness and not development after development. We were

lucky enough to find a house near town and we do a lot of business in town.

I have never seen any kind of development that looks charming and beautifully historic. Developments don't fit or belong in Emmitsburg. I see Emmitsburg as a beautiful, scenic painting, a masterpiece, so why ruin the masterpiece!

— Brook Little-McGee

## Thanks for gravesite service

A big "thank you and a job well-done" to the organizations which assisted the VFW in placing flags on the gravesites of our deceased veterans in the Emmitsburg area on Memorial Day, 2002, and retrieving same: At the Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery, Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company 26. At the new St. Joseph's

Cemetery, Girl Scout Troop 91 of Fairfield, Pa. At St. Anthony's, Elias Lutheran Church, and the old St. Joseph's Church cemeteries, Civil Air Patrol Cadets, Emmitsburg detachment.

— Bob Dinterman, Sr.  
Commander, VFW Post 6658

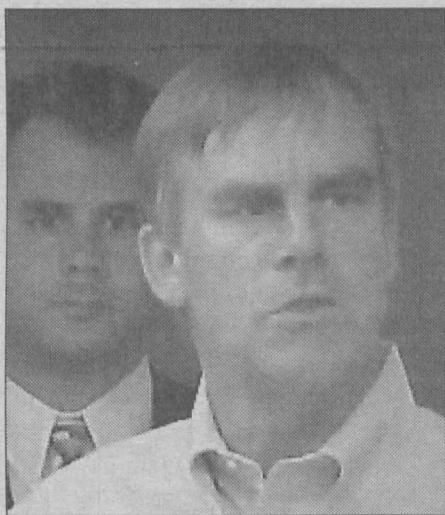
## Editing Letters.

This newspaper exists to present "news and opinion in the service of truth," which is our motto and printed on the front page — mostly news, and a little opinion, yours and ours. To achieve this we must sell space to advertisers in order to obtain the money to pay the heavy costs of a real newspaper. Providing news is our main business. To conserve space for news, we edit letters to the editor as well as features and news articles. For the same reason, to save space, we might not print all letters on any issue, but only well-written letters that best represent the viewpoints they express. On our editorial pages we conscientiously try to present as

many viewpoints as possible — if there are more than one — and if the letters meet other criteria, such as lack of vulgarity. For those who want to be sure that their ideas are expressed in print exactly in their own words, there is an efficient way, present them in a paid advertisement.

**Correction.** If you're still looking for the continuation of the annexation story in The Emmitsburg Dispatch for August, it would be fun to say it escaped and was last seen marching toward the Town office. Actually, it was on page 7. That glitch, and some others we hope you didn't notice, resulted from red-eye editing. Work till the sun rises is what has moved us to advertise for reporters, writers, editors.





—photos by The Emmitsburg Dispatch  
Scott Miller, Ed Smaryga

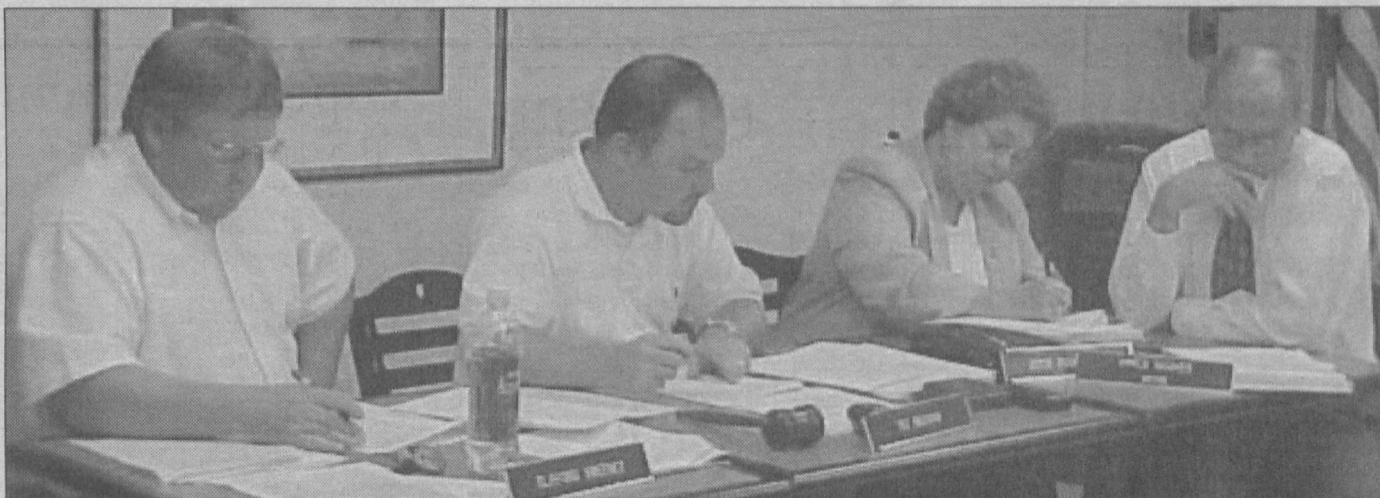
## Annexation

—Continued from page 1

adjourned at the request of the developer, Ed Smaryga, who then continued his rebuttal on Aug. 29. The rules allowed the mayor them to ask questions of the petitioner and to discuss the proposal among themselves, but they asked and said relatively little. Citizens were not permitted to speak.

The hearing, first session. The Town scheduled the annexation hearing at the Sleep Inn in Emmitsburg, in anticipation of a large attendance. It was not a mistake. On Aug. 5 the room was filled with citizens, legal representatives, reporters, out-of-towners, and a State delegate, Louise Snodgrass.

Of the 63 who signed in, 18 asked to speak. After the Town meeting, the chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Patrick Boyle, stepped down and left the room before the hearing because of a possible conflict of interest. He and his family own most of the property in the annexation



L-R commissioners Sweeney, Brennan, Rosensteel, and Mayor Hoover.

—photos by The Emmitsburg Dispatch

proposal. Other Boyle family members and their legal representative remained.

The Commissioners then elected Ted Brennan as temporary chair. He explained the rules and called Town manager David Haller to present the Town's report which he had prepared over two months at the Town's expense. It was devoted entirely to showing the potentially favorable outcomes of the annexation. The mayor and commissioners had not asked him to consider whether there might be potentially harmful effects.

After talks by the developer and his attorney, Scott Miller, Brennan called citizens to speak. All 18 who signed up, spoke. At a hearing liable to arouse emotions, speakers obeyed the chair's gavel exactly, even stopping in mid-sentence. The temporary stenographer, Sandy Baker, said afterwards that this hearing was among the best controlled of any she has recorded.

Nearly all speakers opposed the annexation. One is a resident of Silver Spring with an apparent affection for

Emmitsburg. Two teachers referred to the probability that already near-capacity schools will be overcrowded before new ones are built, if ever. At the second session Miller attempted to respond on this issue.

Other speakers were concerned about increased traffic, noise, air pollution, demand for services, drain on water resources, especially if the drought continues, lack of familiarity, and the diminishment of the not-easily-defined quality of life in Emmitsburg. It was suggested that the annexation would undermine the very reason why people move to Emmitsburg, or continue to live here.

A few rose to speak in favor of the proposal. One, a businesswoman, said she was not opposed as long as the annexation was managed properly. Another, a business owner, approved the general idea of growth, especially an increase of businesses. He said he would like to see another restaurant in Emmitsburg, which has 10

The process. For months citizens have been embroiled in a debate on the possible effects of the annexation. Meanwhile, a dramatic conflict has been going on among Town officials and the developer over a last-minute condition set by the Town. Scott Miller strode out grimly and in silence when he learned of it.

The housing development would make it necessary for the Town to install a new 10-inch water line -- from the center of Emmitsburg up N. Seton Ave. to the Town boundary. The Town set the condition that Buckeye pay the cost, about \$400,000, saying, in effect: If you want to connect to the N. Seton main, pay to make it possible. Would Smaryga be willing to pay?

Last Thursday the two-to-one vote revealed how the drama played out. Commissioners Brennan and Sweeney accepted the developer's offer to pay only 50 percent of its cost, and 50 percent of the cost to design a main on DePaul St. Mayor Hoover has identified four water mains that need to be

overhauled, the one on N. Seton Ave. having the lowest priority.

Four housing projects currently in progress are bringing 236 new houses into Emmitsburg. Tap fees from these dwellings, collected when building permits are issued, will produce nearly \$2 million, enough to pay for all the water main projects without the annexation approved on Aug. 29. Mayor Hoover agreed these houses would be completed in one to seven years.

The fundamental problem. The Town's demand exposed the problem that moved Town officials to deal with this proposal as they have. The entire aged infrastructure of Emmitsburg needs extensive upgrading -- some date to the 1930s. Several water mains in Emmitsburg need repair, not just on N. Seton Ave. This old fact underlies the vote for annexation and is part of the real news -- unknown to most Emmitsburgians and deeply important.

Another part is that Emmitsburg Town officials failed for decades to put money aside for improvements and repairs. Now the Town is burdened with an 18 percent debt ratio and projects it can't pay to get done. The condition imposed on Buckeye was a way current Town officials chose to get a fraction of the repair money needed.

Why not issue municipal bonds, which are very-low interest loans? Mayor Hoover told The Emmitsburg Dispatch he would rather not issue them; they would increase payments for interest. The Town recently raised the tax rate for the first time in at least 10 years. "What about another tax increase?" we asked. "Unrealistic," he answered.

The Maryland State code is another old fact behind this annexation news. But that's another story.

—William Steo,  
Christine O'Connor, and  
Raymond Buchheister  
contributed to this report.



—photos by The Emmitsburg Dispatch  
Boyle family members, Patrick Boyle in the foreground.



## EDITORIAL

### A new newspaper

The Emmitsburg Dispatch which began publication in June 2002 has a new publisher, a new editor, and a new vision of what a newspaper should be. It is a new newspaper and has been given a new nameplate to reflect the change. Also, for the first time in the history of Emmitsburg, the town's newspaper used color on some pages, in the August edition.

This newspaper exists to present "news and opinion in the service of truth," which is our motto and printed on the front page — mostly news, and a little opinion, yours and ours. Many of my reflections on the role of a newspaper, I found, have been expressed by the essayist, G.K. Chesterton. Here are excerpts from his *Orthodoxy*:

"An almost unnatural vigilance is really required of the citizen" and this newspaper, "because of the horrible rapidity with which human institutions

grow old."

"We have trusted the newspapers as organs of public opinion. They are obviously nothing of the kind. They are the hobbies of a few rich men," who are more interested in profit than truth.

"We do not need a censorship of the press. We have a censorship by the press," which leaves out what is opposes and includes what it wants to promote, like abortion. "The chieftain chosen to be the friend of the people becomes the enemy of the people; the newspaper started to tell the truth now exists to prevent the truth being told." This may be true of some newspapers. It will not be true of this one.

Instead the press "must always be on the look out for every privilege being abused, for every working right becoming a wrong. In this matter I am entirely on the side of the revolution-

ists. They are really right to be always suspecting human institutions; they are right not to put their trust in princes" nor, I would add, any public official. In this, I felt with Chesterton that I'm really "on the side of the revolutionary. And then I caught my breath for I remembered that" I'm on the side of democracy.

The new editor since the June issue has been William Steo, an Emmitsburg resident for eight years. He has significant editorial experience, including: managing editor of The Enquirer Gazette, Upper Marlborough, MD, and The Tamiami News, Miami, FL. He was a movie and drama reviewer for The Miami Daily News, writer-editor for *American Druggist*, New York, NY, a columnist for the Olney, MD, Gazette, and the founding editor of *Customs Today*, the professional magazine of the U.S. Customs Service, Washington, DC.

Our editor's definition of "news" governs all his decisions concerning the editorial content of this newspaper. News is an event previously unknown, important, and interesting to most

readers. Unless a story has all three characteristics in some degree — unknown to most readers, important for most readers, interesting to most readers — it is not news and does not belong in this newspaper.

The meaning of "most readers" keeps changing. In many small towns the number of residents keeps growing, year after year, without being noticed. Then comes a day when it is no longer true that almost everyone knows everyone else. That sad day has happened in the area served by The Emmitsburg Dispatch.

This newspaper's readership is now more than 3,000 and growing, so it must now limit the amount of space given to personal events which do not have the characteristics of news. This does not mean that individuals and organizations should stop submitting information about their events. We are, in fact, personally very interested in them all, and the editor searches them scrupulously for anything that might make them news.

— Raymond Buchheister  
Publisher

#### The Emmitsburg Dispatch

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#### Advertising and copy deadline September 15

Neither the publisher nor the editors will be liable for misinformation, misprinting, or typographical errors. The publishers reserve the right to edit any submitted material.

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### The Commentary:

A dozen people have asked us who wrote the commentary about annexation printed in the August issue. To each we had to give the only correct answer for an editorial: "The Emmitsburg Dispatch." Throughout its pages this newspaper tries to present news factually and without bias. But, like most newspapers, it reserves an "editorial" section where it publishes opinions that are, by definition, biased. Here it publishes the opinion of the public under the heading, "Letters to the Editor."

But the newspaper itself — its publisher, editor, staff — is also a member of the community in its own way, and has something to say. So, in the same section as letters from the public, it publishes its own letters, "editorials," that express the common opinions of all or most of the newspaper's management.

For this reason it would be misleading to name the person (or persons) who actually writes an editorial — the writer could be anyone named in the masthead, or an unnamed person assigned to the task. An editorial is not presented as the opinion of the writer but of the newspaper as a whole.

The editorial pages of a good newspaper are one of the most striking illustrations of American democracy. A newspaper prints its own views there, but it also actually pays to print opinions radically opposed to its own or to the policies of the government. In its news columns a good newspaper

publishes articles written with the least possible influence from anyone's opinion — its own, or the readers', or the government's. This does not happen in perhaps two-thirds of the countries on this planet, where newspapers are not free and citizens cannot be heard.

### The Dispatch on-line:

The Emmitsburg Dispatch can be read online at [www.emmitsburgdispatch.com](http://www.emmitsburgdispatch.com), where the current edition is published at the same time as the printed one. The web site also provides news as we learn it, even before the next printed edition, along with other information that complements what appears in print. Archives of past issues can also be read on the newspaper's internet site. The Emmitsburg

Dispatch web site was designed and is managed by webmaster Wendy Shepherd.

### New e-mail addresses:

The Emmitsburg Dispatch prefers to receive all submissions electronically and has new email addresses. They can be found listed in the masthead on this page.

### New drop location:

The Emmitsburg Dispatch now has a drop location at the Emmitsburg library located in Silo Hill. This is for the convenience of anyone who wishes to communicate with The Emmitsburg Dispatch, but cannot do so via e-mail. Please hand your regular article or possible news item to a librarian; do not leave it without notifying a librarian.

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## Town Manager' Report For July, 2002

Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller's July report is excerpted and summarized here.

**Code Enforcement.** 90 tickets, 7 zoning violation notices were issued. Funds, fines collected totaled \$1,868.91

**Parks.** Tennis court is again functional. Bath house and pool have been repaired.

**Streets.** W. Main Street was patched from Welty Ave. to the PA line.

2. Removed (took down) Tourism & Police' signs on South Seton Ave.

Trash. Pickup days for Sep. 1 through 7 will be Tuesday (3rd) and Sat. (7th). Thereafter pickup days remain Monday and Friday.

**Wastewater.** The waste-water treatment plant is sometimes over taxed

by 'wild water' infiltration which amounts to nearly half of the water flowing into the sewer system.

**Water.** Arro Consultants, the engineers who designed the new water plant have determined that a contact tank is needed, and have sent plans to the Johnston Construction Co. for a bid to install it. The tank will have to be manufactured and will not be available until October or November.

The Fire Academy's July water consumption has increased to 99 percent of its pre-water-ban consumption.

The Provincial House water consumption situation is beginning to improve. Consumption has been reduced by 4.5 percent below June.

Town's water consumption increased by 2.5 percent over June and since the water ban has been modified

**Zoning.** This month 26 permits were issued this month, including for 15 new homes (Ryan Homes purchased these for the Pembroke Subdivision).

## From Mayor Hoover

## Report on the Town water wells

The current water ban in effect in Emmitsburg is in place due to the statewide mandate and as a good management practice by the Town. Although the town staff and town officials believe that Emmitsburg's water is not dangerously low, we do believe that, as much as possible, everyone should always conserve water and not waste it.

Emmitsburg receives its water from a reservoir (Rainbow Lake) and wells located on the town watershed property. The wells on the watershed property are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Recently we drilled well number 7 in Emmitt Gardens. The town has not yet received the final approval for the use of well nu. 7, but in its preliminary approval the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) stated that the town will receive a permit for the town to pump 83,000 gallons of water per day from it. This is equal to 57.5 gallons of water per minute. At this time well nu. 7 is not connected to the Town water system, and there has been no formal cost estimate for connecting it. However, the town has received several preliminary estimates that range from as little as \$50,000 to as much as \$250,000.

Well nu. 1 and well nu. 2 have a joint permit that allows for a maximum of 168,000 Gallons of water Per Day (GPD) to be pumped out if these wells. Currently the Town's Water Superintendent is pumping 100,000 GPD from these wells. Well nu. 1 normally has water in the shaft up to 42 feet; currently the water is down to 56 feet. Well nu. 2 normally has water in the shaft at 8 feet; currently the water

is at 28 feet.

Well nu. 3 and well nu. 5 have a joint permit that allows for a maximum of 87,000 GPD to be pumped out of these wells. Currently the town's Water Superintendent is pumping 72,000 GPD from these wells. Well nu. 3 normally has water in the shaft at 37 feet; currently that water is down to 146 feet. Well nu. 5 normally has water at 9 feet; currently the water is at 132 feet.

Well nu. 4 has an allocation permit for 40,000 GPD. This well is not currently connected to the town water system. It was drilled two years ago and currently remains in reserve for future growth. To connect this well to the town's system would cost approximately \$50,000. No additional treatment facility would be needed for this well. It will be connected in to the same line as well nu. 3 and well nu. 5 and the reservoir prior to entering the water treatment plant.

As a precaution the town constructed a permanent connection from the town's service to Mt. St. Mary's College service. The Town holds a 20-year contract with Mt. St. Mary's that the town may purchase up to 100,000 gallons of water per day if we feel we need more water. The town does not purchase water from Mt. St. Mary's on a regular basis. But, we have exercised this option several times while the town's water plant had to be shut down for short periods to test the new plant.

Well nu. 6 is located above the reservoir and is permitted to pump 7 gallons per minute. This well has not been in use for several years. When it was, the water from it was pumped

into Rainbow Lake. This well has no permanent connection to the town water system and the town is considering abandoning it in order to receive a higher water allocation on one of the other wells that has a permanent connection to the town's water system.

Rainbow Lake has a maximum allocation permit for 168,000 GPD to be pumped out if it. Currently the Town's Water Superintendent is pumping out 125,000 GPD. Rainbow Lake is approximately 18 feet deep (at its deepest point) and its water is currently 2 feet below the spillway.

The above information gives the maximum amount of water each of the town wells and Rainbow Lake may provide, and it shows the amount of water that our Water Superintendent feels comfortable with pumping from each during our worse time of year. The information also shows that well nu. 3 and nu. 5 are below their normal levels. These two wells have held steady at their current depth for approximately six weeks.

Our Water Superintendent monitors our wells and Rainbow Lake daily. The Town does not pump the maximum amount of water on a regular basis from any well or Rainbow Lake. As a good manager the Water Superintendent alternates the amount of water pumped from the wells to help prevent any well from getting too low.

Emmitsburg is currently using an average of 295,000 GPD (or 205 gallons per minute). Due to additional outside water use this time of year is our highest demand period. We must use our highest demand period to calculate our actual water needs. During cooler months of the year water consumption is as much as 25 percent lower.



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## The Early Bird Saves Money on Heating Fuel

S. Paxton-Daily  
Staff Writer

If you want to pay less for heating fuel, now is the time to top off your tanks. When the demand for oil and kerosene rises, so do the prices, reports John Glass of Mason Dixon Oil Company. His company recently moved to Waynesboro Pike after operating three years in downtown Emmitsburg.

Lower summer prices hold true for propane as well, according to Ed Draper of Penn Fuel Propane. While prices for traditional fossil fuels rise with the onset of winter, the price of wood, coal and electricity stays the same.

According to the Department of Energy, natural gas and electricity remain the most cost-efficient way to heat homes. However, newer oil burning systems are very efficient, as are modern wood stoves. Coal stoves, while not as efficient as wood, can cost less to operate as coal prices are slightly lower.

An average home using coal heat will cost its residents about \$270 in coal. It will cost \$300 or more to heat the same home with wood. Many people use wood or coal burning stoves as a supplement to their electric heat pump, according to Laurie Brady of American Hearth. While not cost-effective for use in a

furnace system, kerosene is burned in stoves as a supplemental heat source as well.

Natural gas remains the cleanest heat source available. Electricity, natural gas and propane are listed as alternative fuels under the Clean Air Act of 1990. Allegheny Power provides electricity produced primarily by coal-driven turbines, and while compliant with the Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines, this does result in some air pollution. They also have a small number of turbines fueled by water, propane and natural gas.

Modern wood and coal stoves are now equipped with a secondary combustion system that burns off the exhaust making them cleaner heat sources than in the past. Some stoves are equipped with catalytic converters to clean up the exhaust, but the converters can be costly to replace.

Wind, water and solar energies, while environmentally friendly, are rarely used for residential heating in our area.

Irrespective of the type of heat source, heating costs can be lowered by making sure the home is winterized. Air-tight windows and properly insulated floors, walls, and attics help reduce heating bills. Deciduous trees planted near the home help keep a house cool in summer and warmer in winter as sun can reach the home when the leaves are shed. Evergreens will block out the sun's warmth in winter.

### First-time house buyers can get 5 percent rate

First-time home buyers can get a better mortgage deal because of three changes, just announced, in the Maryland Mortgage Program (MMP). One change is an increase of the limits on buyers' income and on the purchase price of a house. Buyers can make more and pay more. The program also now allows buyers and sellers to negotiate the required payment of two points at closing. A third change is a decrease in the MMP mortgage rate to five percent. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development manage the program. Information: Pat Sylvester at 410-514-7530, or [www.dhcd.state.md.us](http://www.dhcd.state.md.us).

## Firefighter memorial services to be in DC

Fallen firefighters will be honored this year in the MCI Center in Washington, DC, instead of at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg. The location of the 21st annual service was changed because of the large number of career and volunteer firefighters, 445, killed in 2001.

At the World Trade Center alone 347 were killed because of the terrorist attacks. Another 98 died in other places in the United States, including two in Maryland: Clarence Kreitzer, Bowie Volunteer FD, Co. 19, and Gilmore W. Stitley, III, Citizens Truck

Company, Frederick.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation expects many thousands of people to attend the memorial ceremonies and to require many hundreds of rooms for several nights — too many to accommodate at the Fire Academy or in local hotels.

The Foundation will commemorate the fallen firefighters on the weekend of October 5-6 and offer counseling programs to their families.

More firefighters died at the World Trade Center than during any single incident in the past. Congress created the non-profit NFF Foundation in 1992 to honor firefighters who have died in the line of duty, and to help their survivors.

## West Nile virus scare

From news reports

A dead crow found at Fort Detrick had the West Nile virus (WNV), a disease that was unknown in North America until 1999. No one knows how the virus came here. Another infected crow was found more recently in Emmitsburg south of the Post Office on S. Seton Ave.

The virus lives in mosquitoes that transmit it to animals and humans. Drought may help spread the infection by causing birds to drink from pools and puddles where mosquitoes breed.

So far, no virus has been found in Frederick County mosquitoes, and, at this writing, there have been no con-

firmed human cases of the virus in the county.

Extremely few people bitten by mosquitoes get the virus, and most who do have either no symptoms, or milder ones, similar to the flu, with fever. People who contract WNV seem to be made immune to it. The virus is not contagious and cannot be spread by normal human contact.

A severe infection, however, can cause life-threatening encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). Farmers, hunters, fishers, and everyone who spends much time where mosquitoes bite, are urged to use insect repellent containing DEET.

### A word for Labor Day

## Congress raised its pay 5 times but not workers' minimum wage

By Bill Steo  
Editor

The U.S. Congress has not raised the minimum wage of ordinary workers for six years. With its packed schedule it may fail to raise it before adjourning on October 5 to campaign. Yet, in five of these years the Senate and the House of Representatives have voted its members a cost-of-living raise. On July 24 this year Congress increased its own income by 3.3 percent, which equals about \$5,000 more annually, or about \$2.40 more per hour — if senators and representative worked 40 hours per week 52 weeks a year, which they do not.

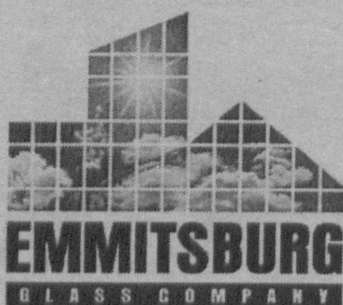
For ordinary workers the cost of living has caused the current minimum wage, \$5.15 per hour, to be worth only \$4.46 in buying power. A

worker earning only the minimum wage for a family of three receives \$206 a week or \$10,712 yearly. That is \$4,000 less than the poverty level.

President Bush has said he would sign a bill raising the minimum wage if it allowed states to waive part of the increase. Congressional Democrats refuse to give states that power. Under the current law states may set the minimum wage higher than federal law mandates. Alaska recently made the minimum wage \$7.15 an hour.

At present Democrats Sen. Ted Kennedy (MA) and Rep. David Bonior (MA) have a bill, S2538, which would raise the minimum wage in three steps from \$5.15 to \$6.65 per hour by January 2004. In late August neither the House nor the Senate had acted on any minimum wage bill.

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### Emmitsburg remembers with worship services

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Rev. Wade Martin

## Emmitsburg-Thurmont 46th Community Show

The annual Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show is scheduled for Friday, Sep. 6 through Sunday, Sep. 8 at Catoctin High School in Thurmont. It will begin with a flag ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Animals – barnyard and pets – will be in the spotlight on Saturday with entertainment at 7 p.m. A decorated animal contest is planned for Sunday, and a K-9 dog show, log sawing, martial arts, and other contests.

This, the 46th annual Community Show, will honor individuals who helped organize the Emmitsburg Show 50 years ago and who also have contributed in this year's show.

## Vigilant

—Continued from page 1

and all who displayed exceptional courage at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

The Vigilant Hose ceremonies will begin with a motionless display of fire-fighting apparatus. A few moments before 10:05 a.m. fire department personnel in dress uniform will assemble, and stand at attention and in silence. There will be two series of bell chimes, one for each of the towers which fell at 10:05 and 10:28 a.m. EDT one year ago.

After the first bells chime and sirens sound, there will come another minute of complete silence, and the station flag will be lowered to half mast. From then until 10:28 a.m. the station will host a short service to honor and remember both those who died and the living firefighters, police and others, who continue their dangerous service to their communities.

Rev. Bill Warehime, pastor of Tom's Creek United Methodist Church, will conduct the service which, he says, "will be a time for reflection and prayer." Also, Mayor Jim Hoover is scheduled to speak. At the end Pastor Warehime intends to recite the Firefighters Prayer, which can be found on the IAFC website: [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

The station bells will ring again marking the time of the collapse of the second tower, and another minute of silence will follow.

Afterwards Vigilant Hose will hold a reception for the community.

### A word from a commissioner

## Defending the Homeland

The deliberate and cowardly attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in September have forever changed the way Americans think about their security. Before the attacks, terrorism was something that happened on television in other countries and to people we do not know. But things are different now.

Terrorism can strike anywhere and anytime, and it has struck us here. The vast oceans which once shielded the United States no longer provide protection from those who wish us dead. We now must rethink our strategy to defend our nation and our way of life.

As daily newscasts report on our aggressive campaign against terror in Afghanistan and elsewhere in South Asia, Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups are seeking new ways to strike America. Small terror units, known as cells, continue to raise money and conduct terror training in South America. Some say that terrorists are planning their next deadly attacks from within our own communities.

It is no longer unimaginable that a terrorist bomb could explode on Main Street or any other street in America. To combat this possibility, President Bush is rightly leading the

effort to provide appropriate protection of our homeland from terror attacks.

One of the lessons we learned from the September 11 attacks was that our federal security and intelligence agencies do not work well together. In June the President sent to Congress legislation which may solve this problem. Known as the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the bill would establish the department of Homeland Security.

Like the department of Defense and the department of State, the department of Homeland Security would be headed by a secretary who would also serve as a key member of the President's cabinet. Although the final authorities of this new department have not yet been decided by Congress, its mission will be to coordinate the functions of the various federal agencies which now have domestic security responsibilities. By focusing the resources of these now separate agencies, the Department of Homeland Security would be able to develop and implement a more cohesive and comprehensive battle plan to fight terror at home.

For instance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the

Immigration and Naturalization Service, Customs, Transportation Security Agency and other federal agencies with security functions would be placed under the jurisdiction of the department of Homeland Security. This would allow the secretary of Homeland Security to place these vital agencies under one roof, allowing him or her to more easily direct the efforts of these agencies. While the department of Defense would remain responsible for fighting wars, it would be the department of Homeland Security which would secure our borders, protect our vital infrastructure and prevent terrorists from operating within our communities.

While our troops are fighting in Afghanistan and possibly in Iraq in the months to come, it is imperative that the United States develop and execute a more coordinated effort to protect our communities from the terrorists. I believe that establishment of a department of Homeland Security is key to our domestic security and peace of mind. As we pass through this time of unease, we must keep the candle of liberty burning brightly. We must do what we can to keep our own neighborhoods safe, so that our children and grandchildren can live in freedom and peace.

— Ted Brennan  
Commissioner,  
Town of Emmitsburg

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## A word from the pulpit Finding God

By Rev. Ted Haas  
Incarnation United Church of Christ

Do you believe in God? I do. Do you know something about God? I do. Yet perhaps you are like me in not always encountering God in personal experience. There are times when God seems so far away, and other times when doubts about His existence arise.

Job in the Old Testament had a strong faith in God, but when tragedy struck his family and he began to suffer, he cried out desperately, "Oh that I knew where I might find Him!" (23:3)

The American theologian Paul Schilling wrote in *God Incognito*, "We need not search for God as though He were somewhere else. In our daily experiences we are already in His presence." Indeed, it is in daily living where most divine-human encounters happen, often realized later upon serious reflection.

One of my seminary classmates fought in Europe in World War II. He was caught in an ambush while on a sortie with his company one afternoon. He lay in a foxhole until night came, then crawled back to American lines. There he discovered a bullet had gone through his helmet and lodged in his foot! Why, he asked, was he spared while his buddies were killed? He

believed God had a great purpose for his life and that led him into the ministry!

The doctor who delivered our son told us that often in the birth experience he felt close to God — more so than he did in church. Beethoven loved to walk in the woods; he wrote that "every tree seems to say, 'Holy, Holy, Holy.'" This spiritual experience in nature came through in some of his music. I remember being filled with the awe of God's presence at the Grand Canyon or on a clear starry night brilliant with constellations.

You may find God in church as Isaiah did: "I saw the Lord, high and lifted up!" You may find God in an experience of Jesus: "He who has seen

me has seen the Father." You may find God in scriptures as Augustine did, his life changed by God's Word. You may find God in earnest prayer, as the Pennsylvania trapped miners did. You may find God in love.

God is a Spirit who cannot be seen physically. God is God, whom we cannot command to come to us. But God is Love and comes to us wondrously in many of life's experiences. The person was wise who said, "If God seems far away, guess who's moved?" Ah, yes. Therefore, like Job, let us continue to seek God, to come closer to Him, to be open to Him. As we do, God will find us where we are, teaching us, blessing us, restoring our faith.

## Farewell to Fr. Kiernan

A farewell celebration for Rev. James Kiernan, C.M., former pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, was held at St. Joseph's Parish Hall on August 4. Fr. Kiernan has been appointed Director of the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal in Philadelphia, PA.

In addition to many parishioners, representatives from area Catholic and Protestant churches were in attendance, including Auxiliary Bishop W. Francis Malooly of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Daughters of Charity from St. Joseph's Provincial House, St. Joseph's Parish Council, the Emmitsburg Council of Churches, and members of Fr. Kiernan's family who traveled from Philadelphia for this occasion.

After lunch provided by the parishioners and an introduction of guests by master of ceremonies Denny Ebaugh, Bishop Malooly presented the Archdiocesan Medal of Honor to Fr.



James Kiernan C.M.

Kiernan. The former pastor also received gifts from parish societies and the Emmitsburg Council of Churches. The farewell event ended with a "roast" of Fr. Kiernan provided by the church choir. Father said he was delighted with the festivities and deeply moved.

## Featured speaker is character in a Dispatch writer's book

One of the main characters in a book written by Dispatch writer Marion Lee Levandowski is real and will speak at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Sep. 30. He is the scheduled feature guest at a fundraiser that evening for St. Joseph's sister parish in Nicaragua, Our Lady of Pilar. His name is Fr. Jacques LaPointe, O.F.M.

## Night of music features the Gospel Travelers

night of music begins at 7 p.m. Sep. 29 at Trinity United Methodist Church at 313 West Main Street, Emmitsburg. Three different groups will provide the music: the Praise Team from Evangelical Bible Church, Thurmont, The Gospel Travelers of Frederick, MD, and the congregation which will sing out some favorite old hymns.

The Gospel Travelers are a southern style singing quartet with musical

The church will hold a reception, with refreshment, after the regular 7:30 p.m. Monday Mass. Fr. LaPointe will share some of his experiences that are narrated in the book, *Of Moose and Miracles*. The book will be offered for sale and all proceeds will be given to Our Lady of Pilar. Marion Lee, a member of St. Joseph's, will autograph her book. The event is open to all.

accompaniment. Their songs range from old time gospel hymns to gospel songs written within the past five years. They travel around the area and bring the Good News through song.

The EBC Praise Team brings a contemporary style of music, presenting the old hymns in a new way.

Refreshments will be served after the music. There is no charge to attend, however a free will offering will be taken. Information: Rachel Wivell, 301-447-3766.

# Emmitsburg Area Churches

## Incarnation United Church of Christ

Founded in 1758 as a German Reformed Congregation. In 1860's the church moved into town. The current brick building was rebuilt after a fire in 1950. The current congregation is now UCC.

124 West Main St.

Sunday service: 10 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ted Haas  
301-447-2270

## St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

St. Joseph's Parish dates its beginning to 1786. Rev. Matthew Ryan was the first resident Pastor. The Parish has been administered by the Vincentian Community since 1852. The present church was completed in 1842.

100 N. Seton Avenue

Weekly services: Monday - 7:30 p.m. (with the Miraculous Medal

Novena); Tuesday through Saturday - 8:30 a.m.; Saturday Evening - 4:30 p.m.; Sundays - 8:00, 10:15, 12:00 noon.

Pastor: Rev. James O. Kiernan, C.M.  
301-447-2326

## St. Anthony Shrine

St. Anthony's roots intertwine with the old St. Mary's on the Hill and date back to the 1700s. Our present church, St. Anthony Shrine, opened its doors on October 26, 1897.

16150 St. Anthony's Road

Mass schedule: Saturday, 4:00 p.m., Sunday, 7:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. James W. Hannon

## Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity United Methodist Church was founded in 1833. The present sanctuary was built in 1807. Trinity has been a religious presence in Emmitsburg for 168 years.

313 West Main St.

Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Wade A. Martin

## Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church

Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church has been a part of the Emmitsburg Community since before the American Revolution. The original meeting house stood about a mile north of Emmitsburg along the Gettysburg Rd. The grave of Samuel Emmitt, founder of Emmitsburg, is located in the old cemetery.

415 West Main St.

Service 11:00 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. R. Benjamin Jones

## Tom's Creek United Methodist Church

10926 Simmons Road

Sunday Services at 8:15 and 10:30

Pastor: Rev. Bill Warehime

301-447-2693

Elias Evangelical Lutheran

## Church

In 1797 the Lutheran and Reformed congregations built a sanctuary in Emmitsburg after they outgrew their shared church at Tom's Creek. The Reformed congregation constructed a new church in 1869 on West Main Street while the Lutherans remained in the stone church where they continue to worship today.

100 West North Avenue

Sunday School, 9 a.m.

Worship Service

(Holy Communion) 10:30 a.m.

Interim Pastor: David S. Knodel

301-447-6239

Area churches are invited to include their information in this column.



# Obituaries

## Margaret Christina Boni

Mrs. Margaret Christina (Jordan) Boni, beloved wife of the late Frederick D. Boni, loving daughter of the late John A. and Mary C. (Althoff) Jordan, beloved sister of Rita C. Jordan, Dorothy L. Robinson, the late Ann Slamovitz, John W. Jordan, James E. Jordan and George R. Jordan, died on July 4, 2002. A funeral liturgy was held at St. Ursula's Catholic Church, Parkville. Interment at St. Anthony Shrine Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

## Marian Boyle

Mrs. Marian Elizabeth Humerick Boyle, 81, of Boyle Road, Fairfield, PA, died Friday August 16, at St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg. She was the wife of Joseph Benedict Boyle, who died Oct. 17, 1998.

Born May 2, 1921, in Altoona, PA, she was a daughter of the late Andrew Jackson and Annie Catherine Taylor Humerick. Mrs. Boyle was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, and the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was also a charter member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6658, Emmitsburg.

Surviving are four daughters, Shannon Boyle, Carolyn Barber, Kathleen Campbell, and Jennine Kielke, five grandchildren, Jessica Barber, Doug Barber and Marian Barber, and Joe Campbell and David Campbell one brother, Jack Humerick of Emmitsburg; and two sisters, Dorothy Seiss of Emmitsburg, and Hilda Mahoney.

A memorial mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Emmitsburg. Interment was held in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg. Arrangements were made by Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg.

## Sister Lucille Cramblitt, DC

Sister Lucille Cramblitt, DC, 86, died Thursday, August 15, of congestive heart failure at Villa St. Michael, Emmitsburg, where she had been a resident since 1980. Born Elizabeth Cecilia Cramblitt in Baltimore, she was a daughter of the late William Francis and Myrtle Elizabeth Cramblitt. She graduated from Seton High School, Baltimore, in 1935. She entered the Daughters of Charity in 1942 and received her bachelor's degree from St. Joseph College in Emmitsburg. She is survived by one sister, Doris Harvey; a nephew, William Harvey; a niece, Doris M. Dove; and several grandnieces and grandnephews, all of Baltimore.

A Mass of Christian Burial was

celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg. Memorial contributions may be made to the Daughters of Charity Support Fund for the Elderly and Infirm Sisters, 333 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Md 21727.

## Cody Plank

Mr. Cody M. Plank, 17, of East Berlin, PA died Thursday, August 15, in Gettysburg, PA. Born Aug. 22, 1984, in York, PA, he was a son of Gregory W. Plank of Emmitsburg, and Sharon King Shaffer of East Berlin. Mr. Plank was a 2002 graduate of Bermudian Springs High School and was to have attended Shippensburg University in the fall.

Surviving in addition to his parents are his stepfather, Barry Shaffer of East Berlin; his stepmother, Christy Plank of Emmitsburg; maternal grandparents, Ronald and Shirley McCauslin of Dillsburg, PA, paternal grandmother, Virgie Baker of Gettysburg; paternal grandfather, Kenneth Plank of Poconos, PA; three stepbrothers, Barry Shaffer Jr. of Chambers Hill, PA, Anthony Shaffer of Hershey, PA, and Nicholas Combs of Emmitsburg; one stepsister Marie E. Shaffer of New Cumberland, PA; and one half-sister, Kary Plank of Emmitsburg.

Friends remembered him at Monahan Funeral Home, Gettysburg. Interment was in Sunnyside Cemetery, York Springs, PA

## Christopher A. Polvinale

Mr. Christopher Anthony Polvinale died On August 11, 2002. He was the beloved husband of Sandy (nee Leonard), the dear son of Patricia Polvinale (nee O'Dea) and the late Carl Albert Polvinale Sr., the dear brother of Carl Albert Polvinale, Jr., Timothy Patrick Polvinale, Helen Marie Polvinale, Carol A DeNardis, Elizabeth Ann Drury, John Steven Polvinale, Vincent Francis Polvinale, and Mary Angela Polvinale.

A vigil service was held at the family-owned Ruck Towson Funeral Home, Inc, 1050 York Rd., Baltimore. Funeral services were held at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Church, Fairfield, PA. Interment was in the church's Cemetery.

## Clarence Rodgers, Jr.

Mr. Clarence John "Peck" Rodgers Jr., 80, of Emmitsburg, died Sunday, July 28, at his home. He was the husband of Lillian Anna Barrick Rodgers, who died July 31, 1990. He was born

in Frederick.

Mr. Rodgers served in World War II in the U.S. Army. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon, The Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon. He was a member of Taneytown American Legion 120 and Veterans of Foreign Wars 6918.

Surviving are two children, Alice Rhoades and husband Barry of Littlestown, PA., and William J. Rodgers and wife Iris of Emmitsburg; three grandchildren, one step granddaughter, and one brother, LeRoy Rodgers of Frederick.

Funeral Services were held at the Robert E. Dailey & Son Funeral Home, Thurmont, with the Rev. Jeff Walters, pastor of Eyler's Valley Chapel, officiating. Interment was in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick.

## Daniel Stiles

Mr. Daniel Stiles, 53, of Emmitsburg, died Tuesday, July 30, at Greater Baltimore Medical Center. He was the husband of Donna Comuzzi Stiles. Born Aug. 14, 1948, in Little Rock, AK, he was a son of Lucille Freeman Stiles of Little Rock, and the late Dale Stiles. Surviving in addition to his wife and mother are five children, Kimberly, Kelly, Kasey, Nicholas and Angela Stiles; mother and father in law, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Comuzzi of Bradenton, FL, and brother and sister in law, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Blundell of Thurmont.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg. Interment was in the church cemetery. Stauffer Funeral Home, Thurmont, handled the arrangements.

## Helen Umbel

Mrs. Helen Cecelia Eyler Umbel, 85, of Emmitsburg, died Friday, July 26, at her residence. She was the wife of Wilbur Thomas Umbel, who died Dec. 10, 1995. Born in Emmitsburg, she was a member of Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg. She had been under the care of Frederick County Hospice.

Mrs. Umbel is survived by nine children, Beatrice Umbel of Emmitsburg, William H. Umbel of Redding, PA, Ruth L. Clarke of New Cumberland, PA, John C. Umbel of New Bedford, David T. Umbel of Emmitsburg, James L. Umbel of Taneytown, Clarence W. Umbel of Harrisburg, PA, Austin E. Umbel of Emmitsburg, and Carolyn A. Clarke of Thurmont; 23 grandchildren; 59 great-grandchildren; 7 great-great grandchildren; and one brother, Lloyd Eyler of Baltimore.

Friends called at Skiles Funeral

Home, Emmitsburg. Funeral Services were held at Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg, with her pastor Rev. David Knodel, and grandson, Dr. W. Thomas Umbel, officiating. Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

## Catherine Wantz

Mrs. Catherine M. Riordan Wantz, 85, of Taneytown, died Friday, August 9, at St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg. She was the wife of Robert F. Wantz. Born May 17, 1917, in Libertytown, she was a daughter of the late William J. and Johanna Morrissey Riordan. She was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church and Sodality, Taneytown. She was also a member of Ladies Auxiliary of Hesson-Snyder Post 120, American Legion, Taneytown.

Surviving in addition to her husband are two stepsons, Robert Douglas Wantz and wife Joanne, and Randall B. Wantz, one step-granddaughter, Carley Wantz, one brother, Edward J. Riordan, three sisters, Margaret Adams, Mildred Smith, and Joan Boyd, and a brother-in-law, Joseph L. Wantz.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Taneytown. Interment was held at the convenience of the family. Skiles Funeral Home, Taneytown, made the arrangements.

## One-day retreat

Evangelical Bible Church Women's Ministry will present a one-day retreat entitled "A Day Away With Jesus" with Rev. Bunny Jett of Yes, Lord, Ministries, Sep. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Evangelical Bible Church, Thurmont, Md. Information: 301-271-5073, or 301-447-2283

## A word about pre-arrangements and pre-financing



The funeral serves a wide range of purposes, with religious, psychological, and physical significance. There are many aspects and details to the meaningful funeral that are arranged with the assistance of the professional funeral director, usually at the time of need. However, some people prefer counseling prior to need.

We offer complete information on pre-arrangements and pre-financing, available without cost or obligation of any kind.

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# Emmitsburg's VFW has distinguished past

By Susan Allen  
Staff Writer

The dark-red brick building on the northwest corner of the Emmitsburg Town Square houses one Emmitsburg's most distinguished organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Post 6658. A modest neon sign points to the entrance. Below it a bronze plaque declares: "Dedicated to the memory of the men from Emmitsburg and vicinity who gave their lives in the service of our country." Twenty names, nine from World War I, and 11 from World War II, are listed there.

The Emmitsburg VFW post was founded in 1946. The veterans purchased the building in the following year. According to Jim Pryor, the long-time post quartermaster, the purchase price was \$18,000, "a huge amount of money for those days. Several of the more affluent members guaranteed the note." It was paid off in two years.

Membership in the VFW is limited to U.S. citizens who are armed forces veterans. Their service must include an overseas campaign or expeditionary medal. Congress has defined the location and dates of eligible service.

Following World War II and the Korean conflict, membership in the Emmitsburg post grew quickly. "Before most Emmitsburg families had television in their homes, the VFW had a set" they could watch, Mr. Pryor related.

The "hall," a large first-floor room at the end of a dim hallway, was the site for many club and community activities. Meetings, dances, bingo parties, wedding receptions, and wakes were held there. The space was available to individuals (including non-members) and organizations for no charge other than a deposit. The deposit was refunded if the room was left clean and in good order. This policy continues in effect today. "Four or five" groups, far fewer than in the past, now use it regularly for their

meetings, says Mr. Pryor.

The VFW's social commitment extends in several directions. Locally, they serve their own members and their families, and the town in which they live. Until the 1960's Post 6658 owned and operated the Town ambulance, at no cost to its users. "It was the only VFW in the continental United States that provided free ambulance service. The Emmitsburg Ambulance Association took over the operation, but the VFW still owned the vehicle until the mid-'80's," according to Pryor. Post 6658 continues to support the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Association, and has received an award from the National VFW for this work.

In the 1970's another National VFW award recognized the post's contribution to the construction of the town's swimming pool. It provided one-third of the funds — \$40,000 in all — needed to build the pool and its facilities.

Emmitsburg's VFW post also developed Kump's Dam Park. The six-acre recreation area was originally owned by Dr. William R. "Doc" Cadle. He gave the use of the park to the VFW in return for their maintenance of the grounds and trash removal. This arrangement continued until shortly before his death.

"He really wanted us to have the land," says Jim Pryor. "But he went through the process of having it appraised, and our officers would counter with an offer...several times. It was probably entertainment for him. Then one night he called our people over to his house. He asked them if they thought \$10,000 was a fair price. Everyone's jaws dropped. They wrote him out a check on the spot!"

Today Kump's Dam can be reserved by VFW members and non-members alike for a refundable security deposit.

Beyond Emmitsburg, Post 6658 supports both veterans and troops on active duty. Their dedication to Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals is both financial and personal. Members







VFW Auxiliary Officers 2002-2003. L-R Dolores Henke, Secretary (Charter member), Rita Byard, Treasurer, Dixie Vivaldi, Jr., Vice President, Mary Topper, President, Evelyn Ott, Conductress, Gloria Bauerline, Chaplain (Charter member), Lois Hartdagen, Sr, Vice President The Ladies Auxiliary to Emmitsburg Memorial Post 6658 recently celebrated the 55th Anniversary of the organization.

## VFW

—Continued from page 10

of the Ladies Auxiliary have made regular visits (now bi-monthly) to patients at the Martinsburg VA Center for many years.

Post 6658 Commander Bob Dinterman, Sr., provided details on two current projects that benefit active-duty soldiers. One is Operation Uplink. The VFW purchases long-distance minutes and distributes the time as phone cards. "Just last month we gave 50 cards to an MP (military police) company at Fort Detrick, and we have 100 more to give to troops assigned at Site R."

The post has also "adopted" an armored platoon, part of Alpha Company, 1/13 Armor, stationed in Kuwait. "I have thank-you letters from the commander, platoon sergeant, and six soldiers so far" for the care packages sent to their unit, said Mr. Dinterman.

Financing these many services has changed over the years. There are membership dues and appeals for extra donations. But the bulk of the VFW's funds came through operation of their canteen and the forms of gambling which were

allowed to nonprofit clubs by Maryland and the Internal Revenue Service. Their bookkeeping became increasingly complicated, especially for the IRS.

Several years ago, the canteen business was turned over to a separate corporation, the Canteen Club. The Canteen Club, whose 700 members need not be veterans of foreign wars, pays rent to the VFW.

The VFW maintains their level of community and national commitment despite dwindling membership. In the 1970s the Post's enrollment was between 300 and 400. Now, Jim Pryor says, of the current 213 members, 20-25 actively participate in meetings.

"We've had a lot of wakes in the last few years" as members from the World War II era pass away. For younger veterans, "the club-type thing may not be as appealing as it was in the '50's." At the same time, "when the organization was formed they expected and hoped that it would eventually die — that the U.S. would not be involved in another overseas war. Now, realistically, it seems we will be involved again at some point. And the VFW will be here."

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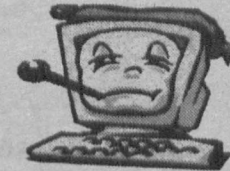
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## Visionary claims Mary has a new message for the public

By Raymond Buchheister  
Publisher

On August 5, Gianna Talone-Sullivan claims, the Blessed Virgin Mary gave her another public message for the world, the first in two years. Until September, 2000, for approximately seven years, Mrs. Sullivan says, Mary had appeared to her at St. Joseph's Catholic church in Emmitsburg. Every Thursday night during a prayer service, Mary dictated a message to her which was read to the congregation and widely distributed in print and via e-mail. The event drew crowds of 600 to 1000 each week.

On September 8, 2000, Cardinal William Keeler, the archbishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore ordered St.

Joseph's pastor to halt the Thursday services. The services, according to his spokesman, were a platform for promoting Sullivan's apparitions in a setting which suggested Church approval of both their authenticity and theological content. St. Joseph's pastor and Mrs. Sullivan obeyed the mandate.

Ten months later, on June 11, 2001, the archdiocese set up a commission, still active, to investigate the authenticity of the alleged supernatural experiences. In Mrs. Sullivan's case the commission could find that she is mentally or emotionally ill, deceived by an external force, lying, or possibly describing an actual event. It has no access to her mind or spirit, so, in the end, the commission cannot

say whether she sees the Blessed Virgin Mary. It can say it does not find anything wrong with her and that the messages do not contain anything contrary to faith and morals. The prayer services and distribution of the messages from St. Joseph's could not resume, however, unless Cardinal Keeler declares that he does not object.

Up to the end of August, the archdiocese had no comment about the progress of the investigation, when it would be concluded, or on the new message of August 5. According to Stephen Kearney, Communications Director for the archdiocese, "Pending the outcome of the archdiocese's investigation, the prohibition concerning the prayer group remains in effect."

According to a statement issued by Tom Fitzsimmons, Information Director for the Sullivans, the August 5 message represents the resumption of messages for the public. Mrs. Sullivan says that Mary, who identifies herself as "Our Lady of Emmitsburg," had withheld public messages since the prayer services were stopped, but has continued to appear to her privately nearly every day except Fridays.

The August 5 public message says that overcoming darkness and silencing evil can only be accomplished

through love. "Peace can exist, but it can only exist through the love of neighbor... You are called to love one another even though you may not like someone." Jesus "loves each one of you and He desires you to live in a world of peace and unity."

According to Mrs. Sullivan, Our Lady of Emmitsburg instructed her to release this new message because of events in the nation, the world, and in the Church over this past year. Mary did not indicate how often she would issue public messages, but stated simply, "others may follow."

In a private apparition on July 30, Mrs. Sullivan says, Mary reaffirmed her presence as Our Lady of Emmitsburg and the unique role the Emmitsburg area has in God's plan of salvation. On March 9, 1995, she had said, "This place (the Emmitsburg area) is a haven of life because it is the center of my immaculate heart where all children seek refuge. It will withstand the attacks from evil because I am here with my child Jesus."

In a series of six messages between March and May 2000, Sullivan says, Mary spoke specifically to the residents in the Emmitsburg area. Since the archdiocese ended the prayer service, few have learned their content. A story with excerpts may be published in a future issue of The Emmitsburg Dispatch.

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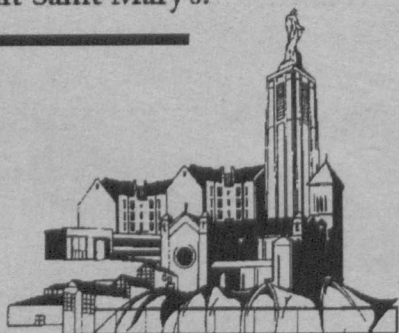
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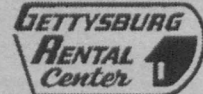
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*The (retired) Ecologist's Corner***In Praise of Weeds**

By Bill Meredith  
Dispatch Writer

*Charlie Brown:* "We had a good time in school today. We went on a field trip and we saw this field, and we stood there and looked at it."

*Lucy:* "Do you think you'll go on any more field trips?"

*Charlie Brown:* "I doubt it. When you've seen one field, you've seen them all."

When I was still teaching, I sometimes thought of my drive to work as a field trip because there was a field that I watched every day as I went by. In September most of the field looked tired; it had worked all summer to produce yet another crop of corn or wheat or soybeans, and then had been compacted by harvesting machines that seemed to get bigger every year. But in the corner nearest the road, it was too wet to plow in the spring and too tight a space for the big machines to maneuver in the fall, and there the field looked alive.

There were weeds there, and they were what I watched. Through the end of August they were undistinguished shades of green and brown, but early

in September there would come a morning when they were transformed into a mass of yellow flowers so bright that it seemed a piece of the sun must have fallen into the field and shattered into a million fragments. It happened every year, and it was worth looking forward to; the sight of those flowers gleaming in the morning sun stayed with me throughout the whole day. Even now, several years into retirement, I go to that field each September to see them. They are *Bidens bipinnata*, the Spanish Needle, and when I see them time stops, reverses itself, and goes back 65 years.

The image that comes into focus then is my great-uncle Enoch; I remember him from when I was three or four years old. He would come to visit my grandmother two or three times a year, walking all the way from Catawba, a distance of four or five miles. I guess he felt some responsibility as her older brother to look in and see if there were any "men's jobs" that needed doing. He would always sharpen her knives, sickle and hoe on the old grindstone that stood under the grape arbor behind the house. I especially liked that job, because I got to

help by dripping water on the grindstone as he turned it with the foot treadle.

He was a big man, or at least seemed so to me, and he led an active outdoor life; he kept a pack of hounds, hunted foxes, coons and possums at night, and always had plenty of hunting stories to tell. He wore bib overalls in the summer, but when he came in the fall he wore riding breeches with leather leggings; and the breeches would be covered with Spanish needles, picked up when he left the road to take a shortcut through a field. After the odd jobs were done, he would sit in Grandma's living room, eat apple pie, and tell stories while I picked the Spanish needles out of his trousers and arranged them neatly in the pie pan.

In those days, at the height of the Great Depression, there was no money to squander on toys, but I was not deprived. I could spend hours playing with Spanish needles, making designs and pictures by sticking them into an old dishcloth. When the barbs finally wore out, Grandma was always watching to make sure I threw them into the stove; she didn't want them thrown out where they might get into her garden. That made sense to me, since they were weeds; but then one day I made the wondrous discovery that they came from the yellow flowers that grew in the field and looked just like

the Cosmos in the flowerbed. I begged to be allowed to plant some, but Grandma was adamant.

Weeds, she said, were reminders of evil. In the beginning, she said, there were no weeds in the Garden of Eden; they were put on earth to remind us of our sinful nature, and they were not going to be allowed in *her* garden. Years later my botanprofessor explained that weeds play an essential role in what ecologists call "succession." When the natural vegetation is stripped away from an area by some disturbance such as a forest fire, or by human activities such as plowing, weeds colonize the area and stabilize the soil, preventing erosion and setting the stage for the growth of a more permanent plant community, eventually leading to a forest. I passed that version of the story on to my own students for over 40 years; but each September I am prompted to wonder if either Grandma or the professor had the whole truth.

Weeds, I have decided, have other purposes on earth. For a few weeks each fall, they can lift our spirits at the beginning of the day; and they can make us remember.

*Note:* The Retired Ecologist is on vacation. This article was originally printed in the *Dispatch* in September, 1995.

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## Building Healthy Families

# Grief and September 11

By Bill Derbyshire  
CASS Coordinator

Sep. 11 is a day when everyone in the U.S. and perhaps throughout the world will remember and mourn the loss of so many people who died one year ago.

So many changes have occurred since Sep. 11, 2001. Not only did this country and other countries lose close to 3000 people (this does not include soldiers killed since Sep. 11, 2001), but Americans also experienced for the first time since the Civil War vulnerability on their own soil.

America also redefined the word "hero." Politicians, athletes and corporate leaders took a back seat to the men and women firefighters, police,

and emergency medical technicians. An outburst of volunteerism occurred as a result of Sep. 11. People from coast to coast and from other countries donated money and supplies to the survivors of the victims. Americans ignited a spirit of patriotism not seen since World War II, a collective sense that "we" are all in this together.

The terrorist attacks on Sep. 11 will perhaps be remembered more than the assassination of President J.F. Kennedy. Clearly, the events on Sep. 11 have a profound and lasting effect on American citizens and on citizens from other countries that lost a loved-one one year ago.

A one-year anniversary of the loss or death of a loved one is filled with many emotions — sadness, anger, dis-

belief, rage, helplessness depression, anxiety, acceptance and even denial. Individuals who lost a relative on Sep. 11 may experience symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which is normal and a part of the grieving process. In the case of PTSD it is crucial to recognize these symptoms and if needed to seek assistance from a mental health provider or counselor.

Obviously, many people who did not lose a relative will still mourn the loss of a certain level of security. These emotions are real and will not go away; thus managing them is an important task. There are many healthy ways to do this and each is correct — there is no secret formula for grieving.

Grieving is an individual activity that is unique to a person or group. A few examples of healthy ways to manage grief are: creating a moment of silence, calling a friend and talking about your feelings, praying, collecting goods for the needy, creating a group activity for any group no matter what its focus. I believe it is helpful for parents to give permission to children to talk about and remember the events, and to look at what we have learned since we experienced this tragic event.

An important use of grieving over Sep. 11 is to take something with us, to change something, or to look at events in a different light with the hope that this change can create a greater sense of connection to others and a greater sense of responsibility to

assist others. One example of this comes from Andy Hargreaves of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education who spoke at a conference I attended this summer. It is his wish through his efforts as an educator to have more people apply for passports and fewer people apply for gun registrations. That is a large-scale task.

It is my wish that the people of the Catoctin area never forget their volunteer efforts in response to the attacks. There was an outburst of donations to the Emmitsburg Fire Department. Classrooms from every school in the Catoctin area donated money to the Red Cross, and many people became more aware of their loved ones and counted their blessings for not losing a relative. This sense of being helpful to others is one that I hope does not fade away.

So, on Sep. 11, 2002, take a moment to think or pray about those who suffered so much last year and take some time this coming year to go out of your way to assist another family, person or child who is in need. Let us also pray that the leaders of the world will do everything possible to avoid further death in the fight against terrorism.

In next month's column look for an article about treatment for men who are guilty of domestic violence. A reminder, the Catoctin CASS office is temporarily housed at Catoctin high school until the renovation of the Emmitsburg Community Center is completed. Information about CASS services, call me at 240-236-8081.

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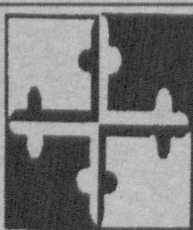
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*A word from the doctor***Cold sores and their treatment**

Many people in time of stress will develop small, painful, bumpy lesions on their lips, or just under the nose or around the mouth or develop severely chapped lips. In the mouth the sores may be fleshy or may be shallow ulcers that are painful. The triggering stress could be a cold or other acute illness, a job or family stress, a sunburn, exhaustion, another illness such as cancer or diabetes, to mention a few. These "cold sores" show up at the most inconvenient times: a wedding, an important job interview, the arrival of the grandchildren for a few days. The heat of summer seems to allow cold sores to bloom and bloom.

Cold sores are really a Herpes Simplex virus. It is not a sexually transmitted disease as such, but it is contagious. The word, "Herpes," comes for the Greek meaning "to creep," describing how the lesions would spread on the body. Kissing another person, especially when there are lesions visible, places that loved one at risk for picking up the virus. A kiss on the lips to express our devotion could mean a new case of Herpes! The infection takes place locally, on or about the mouth or even in the mouth. You may hear the doctor call the infection "stomatitis": inflammation of the mouth.

When a child, elderly person, or immune-compromised person gets a

first-time infection, the illness can become very intense. Sometimes it is important that the patient be hospitalized and given intravenous (IV) fluids and IV antiviral medicine such as acyclovir. Sometimes the infection can cause meningitis and encephalitis. A child may seem confused or walk off balance.

Most of the time the illness just runs its course and even the mild meningitis quickly resolves. However, for a few it can be a very serious disease. The mouth sores may become so painful that an affected child or adult could become dehydrated and very weak. Topical pain medicines such as teething gels or viscous lidocaine may help. Starting antiviral medicine early can help block a serious turn of the illness. The same medicine used to treat genital herpes (you have seen the ads on TV) will help in this Type I Herpes: Acyclovir, Valtrex, and Famvir. There are topical medicines for symptoms of mild recurring disease. These require many applications: Zovirax and Denavir are examples.

Kissing on the cheek or pretend kissing (without actual contact) helps reduce the transfer of the virus. A good hug could substitute for a kiss. When a person is congested, even a hug may increase risk of sharing an illness. One major caveat: the tempta-

tion to touch one's cold sore often seems impossible to resist. Resist. If the cold sore is touched, then washing the hands with soap and water and drying with a paper towel instead of a family bathroom towel will help control sharing the infection. Routine washing of shared surfaces (tables, desks, telephones and computer keyboards) is also an aid in controlling all infections.

Refrain from sharing drinking containers and from eating off of another's plate or using their utensils. Never borrow another's used toothbrush. During a flare-up change the pillowcase every couple of days to reduce spread of the virus. Avoid getting a sunburn. If a child has had recent vaccinations against viral illnesses, including chicken pox which is a herpes virus, it may be wise to avoid time in the sun for several days so there will be fewer skin reactions and less toxicity. Do not use aspirin during a herpetic illness. Until the age of 22 it is advised there be no use of aspirin for fever care, to reduce the risk of the rare but very serious Reyes Syndrome.

Cold sores are usually mild, irksome, recurring uncomfortable inconveniences. Occasionally this Herpes virus can cause some serious illness. Good general hygiene can minimize the risk of spread. There are medicines that can help. We work together towards Health.

— Bonita J. Portier, D.O.

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## Hunters gear up for safe shooting

By Jack Deatherage  
Dispatch writer

September. School is formally in session but, more importantly, the new hunting season has arrived! Conscientious hunters have begun preparing their tools for the season. Hunters are out sighting in their firearms and relearning to shoot their bows. Rifles and shotguns have been checked to make sure they work. Bows are inspected for cracked limbs and worn strings, arrows for straightness and loose, worn or missing fletches, broadheads are resharpened. Many hunters are buying new equipment, seeking new places to hunt, and touching bases with landlords that granted hunting privileges last year. Some are attending hunting workshops and hunter safety classes.

I eagerly participated in the hunting seasons from 1972 until I moved into Emmitsburg in 1979. While I'd had no formal training in hunting, I managed to avoid harming anyone, either on purpose or by accident. Ben Kelkye, a director and hunter safety instructor with the Frederick chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) says, "There are no accidents with hunting equipment. Only acts of stupidity!"

Ignorance might once have been an acceptable excuse for hunting accidents, but safety classes are required in Maryland for all new hunters, and exempt hunters (those

legally hunting before the laws were changed, myself included) are foolish for not thinking about attending a safety class. A quick check with the Department of Natural Resources can provide a list of organizations that hold hunter safety classes. Contact: 1-877-620-8367, or: [www.dnr.state.md.-us/index.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.-us/index.asp). The IWLA Frederick chapter appears to have more classes scheduled throughout the year than any other organization in the area.

Frederick's IWLA chapter has a youth program, an extension of the Maryland Hunter Safety Program. Children are taught safety first, foremost and last! They are encouraged to participate in the Youth Challenge held every June. The Challenge rewards them for their understanding of safety as well as for a variety of hunting skills — game identification, handling rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders, at archery shooting, orienteering and hunting ethics and, generally, to avoid, not so much accidents with firearms but acts of stupidity. Information about hunter safety classes: Ben Kelkye, 301-473-7210.

Persons who attend safety classes at the Izaak Walton League of America in Frederick can join up at the same time. The group is involved in all aspects of conservation. Its web address is [www.iwla.greater-good.com](http://www.iwla.greater-good.com). Companies which make sales through this web page donate up to 15 percent the price to IWLA.

## Two fires raged in woods near Emmitsburg in August

Staff report

Two large fires broke out near Emmitsburg on Sunday, Aug. 11. The first, in Adams Co., PA, required resources from the Vigilant Hose Co. (VHC) and some 15 other area fire and ambulance companies for more than two days. Some 30 units, including two from Emmitsburg with 10 firefighters, battled to contain it. The battle was halted because it was thought the fire would die out by morning and to avoid very dangerous nighttime operations.

Simultaneously other VHC members were struggling with a different, more challenging fire in Frederick Co. about 2-1/2 miles west of the Mt. St. Mary's College. Initially it took a MD State Police helicopter to help locate

the second fire, its extent, and possible access points. VHC personnel found a tree recently hit by lightning which may have started the fire.

On Monday morning winds caused the raging fire to jump the fire line in an area so rugged that even forestry bulldozers could not access it after two days of trying. Deputy VHC Chief Jim Click commanded the firefighters, who shoveled, raked, and dug another fire break by hand around the fire which then covered an area of about three acres. They labored on the fire line more than eight hours in near 100-degree temperatures while VHC auxiliary members were scrambling to keep cold water, sandwiches, sodas, and ice coming to them non-stop.

At one point every source of bottled



Amateur radio operators (left) Ron Gates (call sign N3EFC) and Bill Clark (K3MHZ) work together to communicate using continuous wave (Morse code) on field day.

## Amateur radio operators practice for disasters

By Edward Buchheit  
Special to the Dispatch

Two miles north of Emmitsburg, on June 22, a group of 10 amateur radio operators built several radio stations for operations across North America to simulate disaster communications. They were taking part in the American Radio Relay League annual field day contest.

Each year on the fourth weekend of June, radio operators across the continent participate in the contest to test their operating skills. Their skills

include field construction of radio stations and operating them without commercial power for 24 hours.

The group started construction of the stations at 10 a.m., built and raised two 38-foot towers at the site, and erected several shelters to protect both operators and equipment from the elements. Using a portable generator they put together a complete power system, and used solar power for one radio station. The operators made their first contacts at 2 p.m.

For most of the year amateur radio is a hobby with many facets — satellite, digital, amateur TV and short wave. When a disaster strikes, natural or man-made, amateur radio hobbyists make all forms of communication available to the community.

The organizations that provide this service are: A.R.E.S. (amateur radio emergency services), R.A.C.E.S. (radio amateur civil emergency services), and M.A.R.S. (military affiliate radio services).

Those participating were Bill Clark (call sign K3MHZ) Silver Spring, MD, Charlie Gallagher (N3EAF) Hagerstown, MD, Ron Gates (N3EFC) Fairfield, PA, Seth Glass (N3JFW) Rockville, MD, Dave Hixon (N3EJT) College Park, MD, Dave Robinson (KA3HGB) Chevy Chase, MD, John Sichert (KA3LAO) Carroll Valley, PA, Tom Stimson (N3TUI) Mt. Airy, MD, Todd Sweeney (KB3CGS) Taneytown, MD, and Ed Buchheit (AA3ZR) Fairfield, PA.

water in Emmitsburg had been exhausted and they had to seek more from Thurmont and elsewhere. Other area residents brought food and water and four-wheel-drive vehicles to help shuttle personnel, tools, radios, and refreshments up the small, high trails to the firefighters.

In the second fire, nine firefighters suffered various minor injuries including a dislocated shoulder, heat exhaustion, an eye injury, and bee stings, while others from the first fire became infected with poison ivy.

A serious fire burned for 10 days in the same area in early September 2001. It took 200 fire personnel from 5 counties and more than 50 vehicles to extinguish that one. Since then VHC fire chief Frank Davis has been fearing that the drought was making the area more of a tinderbox each month.

— Susan Allen, Wayne Powell, and Bill Steo contributed to this article.





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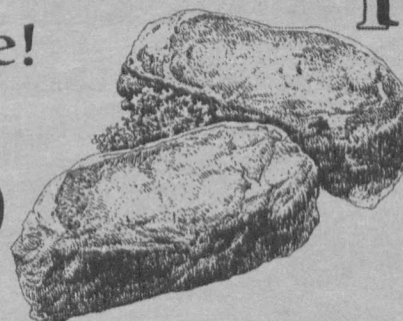
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## Rocky Ridge

# Bible school was a circus!

By Lisa Reed  
Dispatch Writer

The Rocky Ridge Church of the Brethren held Vacation Bible School the week of August 5. This year's theme was Godzwerkus Circus School. Children were greeted each night at the Ticket Booth and given a ticket for the festivities to be held on Friday night. They also earned tickets at each of the classes that they had.

The children learned more about David and Goliath and Debra, who became a judge. On Wednesday night the children learned about the Fiery Furnace and had a special visit from the Rocky Ridge Fire Department.

Recreation was literally a 3-ring circus with different activities each night, in three different circles. The children walked a tight rope and even walked in real stilts. In Arts and Crafts they made circus stilts, clown shoes, headbands, and Tic Tac Toe boards using stones, just like David did when he faced Goliath. Music class had us singing "With God All Things are Possible"!

On Friday night the children presented a program about what they learned and what was their favorite. After a potluck dinner Ringmaster Alice Eyler had all kinds of games and activities for the children to use their tickets on that they had earned all week.

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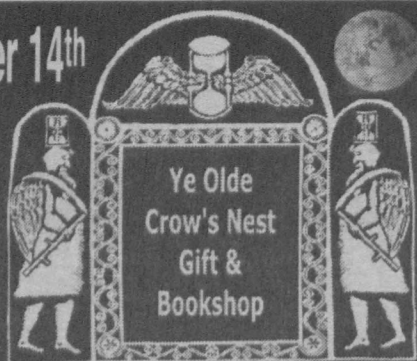
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## Quilters



# Get organized today, not tomorrow

By Mary Ellen Cummings  
Dispatch Writer

This summer I decided to heed my doctor's advice and stay indoors where it is cool. This seemed like the perfect time to organize my quilts and supplies. Forgotten patterns were found; also, fabrics huddled together as if waiting for a pattern; a box of old scissors that won't cut anything and fabric that could belong to my daughter — or not.

Among the paper stash was a pattern for holly-and-bows for quilting a Christmas quilt. It was a page torn from the Christmas special issue of *Quilt World Omnibook*, 1982. On the reverse side was an article written by Kathy Munkelwitz entitled "Let's Get Organized." She advised quilters to "...get organized — not tomorrow — today!" The first thing to do was to "...start by dragging out every piece of fabric — all of it."

Well, I had already done that. My dining room table, chairs, serving table and hutch were silently suffering under an avalanche of quilt "stuff.." And boxes in closets hadn't been touched yet. The boxes of fabric in the garage glare at me like monsters every time I take the car out.

So, I referred to Ms. Munkelwitz article for more advice. She said to get rid of fabric you really don't like and will not use. This advice fell on deaf ears since my ancestry is Scottish, and heredity rules. It really bothers me to throw anything away.

It's not frugal, besides I like the challenge of making pretty quilts from impossible fabric.

Last year, I bought several plastic storage units to put work-in-progress in. Didn't make a dent in the backlog of my quilts, my daughter's, and those in transition from Mt. Tabor Quilts to the owners.

Ms. Munkelwitz offered some very good advice for storing quilting supplies other than fabric. Most quilters have worked out ways to identify and group fabric bought for specific projects, but did you ever think of putting labels on your stash? Something to think about when you have time.

Time — an intangible that frustrates all my efforts for organization. Remember my dining room is stacked. On July 15 and 29 a friend brought cucumbers for me to make pickles — over two bushels total. That's OK; pickles are made in the kitchen, not the dining room. Fabric can stay where it is.

August 14 — a phone call from a family member who lives in distant state. This was great. Family is always welcome but, they'll be here the 15th around noon. Too hot for a picnic lunch. Only one thing to do — stuff all of the quilt fabric back in the closet so the dining room can be used for lunch.

Organization complete — all fabric is out of sight, stacked on shelves, and behind doors.



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## Looking Ahead

**Sep. 3-22. Hunter's safety course.** The Taneytown Rod & Gun Club and the Department of Natural Resources Police is sponsoring a Hunters Safety Course Sep. 3, 6-9 p.m., Sep. 5, 6-9 p.m., Sep. 10, 6-9 p.m., Sep. 22, 9 a.m. till finished. Pre-registration by phone is a must: 410-751-1685, 5-9. Ask for Florence or Godfrey. You must attend all four classes and pass a test to receive a card to be able to purchase a hunting license.

**Sep. 5. Blood drive.** At Ambulance Co. 26, 2-8 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Information: 301-447-2465, or -6626

**Sep. 7. Crab feast.** The Taneytown Rod & Gun Club will have a crab feed Sep. 7, 1-4 p.m. All you can eat, \$22 each. Tickets: Godfrey or Florence at 410-751-1685.

**Sep. 7. Sportsman drawing.** V.F.W. Post 6918 is sponsoring a Sportsman Drawing Sep. 7, 1-5 p.m.; 43 prizes. Get tickets at Post Home, 5801 Conover Road, Harney-Taneytown.

**Sep. 10 Catoctin High School.** Safe and Sane Meeting. Thurmont Pizza Hut at 7pm.

+++

**Sep. 11. Remembrance services** are planned by several Emmitsburg area organizations. For those lost in the catastrophe one year ago, St. Anthony's/Our Lady of Mt. Carmel will offer prayers during or after the regular 8 a.m. Mass in Thurmont. The Vigilant Hose Fire Co. will present a sequence of silences and services, as described elsewhere in this newspaper. Trinity United Methodist church will hold a community worship service at 7 p.m.; see Religion page.

+++

**Sep. 12. Family Fun Night.** Emmitsburg Elementary School presents Family Fun Night Sep. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Music, and games, meet the teach-

ers, and bring a picnic. All students must be accompanied by an adult.

**Sep. 14. Chicken BBQ and yard sale.** The Emmitsburg Lions Club will host a chicken BBQ on Sep. 14, across from the Getty service station on S. Seton Ave. Dinners will be served (take out only) from 11 a.m. until sold out. Anyone wishing to set up a yard sale at this site may do so. The Emmitsburg Lions Club holds a lease on this property and invites citizens of Emmitsburg to use this site. Information: Lion Herb Gingell, 301-447-6236, or Lion Mark Zurgable, 301-447-2020.

**Sep. 14. Family fun festival.** The Catoctin United Methodist Church will sponsor a Family Fun Festival in honor of the church's 125th anniversary, on Sep. 14, 3-8 p.m. at the church. Everyone is welcome. The church is located at 7009 Kelly Store Road, in Thurmont, MD. Information: 301-898-7143.

**Sep. 14. Peach Festival.** St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville will sponsor a Peach Festival Sep. 14 from 9 until ? Eat in or carry out; baked goods table and yard sale (vendors welcome) will be available. Information: 301-241-3287 or [www.stmarkssabillasville.org](http://www.stmarkssabillasville.org).

**Sep. 15. Country breakfast.** The Taneytown Rod & Gun Club at 12380 Shoemaker Road will have an old country breakfast Sep. 15, 7-11 a.m. Information: 410-751-1686 Godfrey or Florence.

**Oct. 9. Little League election.** The League will elect a president of the Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball League (Little League) Oct. 9 at its meeting, 7 p.m. in the Press Box at the ball fields. This meeting is open to all and anyone interested in the youth of the community may apply for the office. For information about what the job entails call Lisa Krom 301-447-6844.

at the Northgate Homeowners' Association's annual meeting Aug. 15. The Board of Directors, comprised of Paula Compton, Bill Rapp, Wayne Guss, and Peter Gunyala, agreed to find out what the town can do about the situation and encouraged citizens to call the town with their concerns. The residents elected Caroline Pelfley to the Board to fill a vacancy, and re-elected Mr. Gunyala. The Board provided information about the Boyle farm annexation proposal and on recent improvements to the Tot Lot.

The fifth annual Joann Hance Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Monday August 19th at Carroll Valley. This years Ladies Champions were Terese Topper, Margie Warthen, Sharon Hance, and Dottie Phelan. The Hance family would like to thank tournament sponsors and participants.

## Take Note

**Art exhibition.** The Spirit Art Gallery in Frederick will exhibit works by Regina Pleno, a painter and poet, from Sep. 6 to Oct. 6.

**Candidate forum.** Each candidate for the Frederick County Boards of Commissioners and of Education will have an opportunity on Sep. 4 to present his or her reasons for running for office and what he or she expects to achieve in office. The Committee for Frederick County is sponsoring it last of three candidate forums of the 2002 primary election season at Urbana High School from 7-9 p.m. The presentations will be followed by a "meet

and greet" social with light refreshments.

**Free medical exams.** For women under age 65, working, with insurance that does not cover the exams offered, the Frederick Memorial Hospital gives free, confidential pelvic exams, pap smears, breast exams, mammograms (if age appropriate). Exams are made by a female certified nurse practitioner. If women need follow-up service, the hospital refers them to a provider they choose from among participating providers in Frederick County. The hospital offers printed educational materials in both English and Spanish. Information: Kelly Toms, 240 379-6013

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## Around Town

**Cub Scouts Pack 270** has received the 2001-2002 "Pack unit of the year" award from the Cub Scouts' Francis Scott Key District. Boys can begin with the Cubs when they're in first grade. Information: Denise Thompson at 301-271-4096.

**Line dancing.** Tuesday evening modern line dancing classes start Sep. 10 at the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company and continue every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. The music is favorites of all styles from rock to country. Classes are for beginners and advanced dancers of all ages. Families welcome. \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 12 and under. Information: 301-447-6626.

**Northgate HOA and speeding.** Residents expressed concern about cars speeding through their community

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**Bag Sale:** \$5.00 for all you can stuff in a grocery bag (provided), Sep. 24-28, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., at the Seton Center Thrift Shop, 16840 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Information: 301-447-6102

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