

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

Vol II, No.7

news and opinion in the service of truth

July 2003

Local builder petitions Town to annex 20 acres

By Raymond Buchheister
Publisher

A local landowner submitted an application in June to have the Town annex a bit more than 20 acres that have been zoned for residential use.

The property is part of a parcel containing nearly 9 more acres already within the Town of Emmitsburg. The parcel is surrounded by the existing housing developments, Brookfield and Emmitt Ridge.

Josh Bollinger, who has a framing business and owns South Seton Auto Repair and T&M Crane in Emmitsburg, plans to put a total of 48 units of senior housing on the 9 in-Town acres. He would put up 4 buildings each having 12 units from 1200 to 1500 sq. ft. in size.

The senior living buildings would be handicap-accessible and equipped with elevators, he said. The 9 acres are situated along North Ave and extend back to Little Run creek.

The 20 acre portion extends from the creek in a gentle rise up the hill to the Irishtown Rd. The current land use is agricultural and provides a scenic backdrop for Elias Lutheran Church. The Bollingers have owned the property since 1921 when it was purchased by Josh's great-grandfather Theodore Bollinger.

—Continued on page 3



—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Community Day

Emmitsburg Lion's Club members, (L) Dale Shields and Jim Hahn, prepare for the water melon eating contest as prospective contestants intently size up the task at hand.

Each year around July 4th, the Emmitsburg Lion's Club sponsors a day of games and entertainment to bring the community together for some fun and to celebrate the birth of our country. The program is centered on a theme, this year, **Support Our Troops, Freedom For All.** Past president of Mount St. Mary's College, Dr. George Houston was honored. This 21st annual celebration was held on July 5th. See p. 10-11 for excerpts of Houston's speech, Community Day winners, and more photos.

Still time for kids to enjoy Summer Fun Camp in Town

By Bill Steo
Editor

Some elementary age children are already splashing and playing in the Emmitsburg Summer Fun Camp around the pavilion in the Town park. The day program includes swimming, games, sports, arts, crafts, field trips,

and the like.

Parents can register their children for one week, or every week of the program.

The camp lasts from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents who need to, can bring children as early as 7 a.m. and retrieve them as late as 6 p.m.

Cyclists ride across country stopping in Emmitsburg to help 'brake the cycle' of poverty

By Bill Steo
Editor

The 2-month campaign started in San Francisco on June 1. A core team of 23 bicycle riders set out on a 3,820-mile journey to help Americans understand and break the cycle of poverty in the United States. The cyclists are scheduled to stop in Emmitsburg on July 30.

The cyclists have been stopping in one community after another across the center of the country, giving talks about poverty and discussing possible permanent solutions to this little-appreciated problem. A guiding principle is that

many solutions should be local.

Poverty is cyclical. The children of the poor generally have inferior health, receive less education, and grow up to become another generation of poor.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) arranged the journey. The CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of U.S. Catholic bishops.

Churches in Catholic dioceses along the way are hosting the team.

Other cyclists joined the team as it progressed across the country so that it had 40 members at the end of June. On July 30, after a welcome at Mount St.

—Continued on page 2

The camp can accommodate 25-30 children, but fewer than a dozen were enjoying it in the last week of June.

Last year an average of 25 children participated every week, and parents made very favorable comments about the camp.

The cost is \$80 per week per child — but several agencies may pay part of the cost for families who cannot afford the whole amount — the Town of Emmitsburg, Catocin Community Agency School Services (CASS), Frederick County Parks and Recreation, and Emmitsburg Elementary School which makes its gym available on rainy days.

Each week the camp activities revolve around a "spirit" theme, such as: Environmental Spirit, Native American, Holiday, Olympic, Scientific, International.

Weekly field trips include: Ice Skating, Fountain Rock Nature Park, Land of Little Horses, Catocin Zoo, Thunderhead Bowling, Family Recreation Park.

Businesses, civic organizations and individuals donated more than \$3,000 last year for the partial payments. Donors this year can send or bring a check made out to "Town of Emmitsburg" to the Town Office on Main St.

Parents can register their children by calling Frederick County Parks and Recreation, 301-696-2936.

Inside

Letters to the editor	-----2
Editorial	-----4
Town News	-----5
Religion	-----8
Obituaries	-----9
Education	-----12
The Retired Ecologist	---14
Health	-----16
Quilters	-----18
Looking Ahead	-----19
Classified Ads	-----20

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.

Praise for Ted Brennan

Hats off to Ted Brennan. It would have been so easy for Mr. Brennan, after losing his commissioner seat to discontinue his involvement with the Emmitsburg Coalition to Prevent Drug Abuse, but he did not. Under his leadership, the organization held a second open forum in June and has another

scheduled for July 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ambulance Hall.

As a resident of Emmitsburg and a business owner who is here 24/7, I really appreciate his efforts.

—Don Briggs
Emmitsburg

Cyclists

—Continued from page 1

Mary's, they will receive a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. given by St. Joseph's Church.

At about the same time a children's bicycle parade will announce their presence and remind citizens they are invited to St. Joseph's Hall on DePaul St. Team members will offer an educational program about poverty at 7:30. Coffee,

dessert and conversation will follow at 8:30.

The cyclists will depart the next morning at 8 a.m. on the next-to-last leg of the journey, to Baltimore. The last leg will be to the District of Columbia where the campaign will end on Aug. 1.

The bicycle campaign has been named "Brake the Cycle of Poverty." Any cyclist who wants to accompany them to Baltimore may call Tracy, 410-261-2651.

Criticism, and suggestion for better communication

In response to your editorial on "Hoover on communication of Town Office with citizens," I think I have a couple of responses about why the citizens of Emmitsburg don't "speak up" on Town issues, and don't go to Town meetings.

First, one reason is: when "we," the citizens and taxpayers go to the Town Office to complain or ask "why" something is being done this way? or "why nothing is being done about this?" the Town people (I'm speaking about the first ones that talk to the public, not the mayor himself), tell you very firm and simply "that's the way it is!" in other words, "we don't care about what you're saying, or what you want done." This is what "we" — who are we? — have decided and that's the law. Try doing that several times and see how you feel after a while.

About citizens not attending the Town Meetings..., try working an hour

or two away from home, then come home late and have to go to a meeting in which nobody is going to do or hear anything you have to say. The bottom line will be "always" what the Town officials decide!

Now, about something that can be done to keep the citizens of Emmitsburg informed, it could be, and in my belief, should be via mail. The same way the Town Office is so prompt to send you water and sewer bills, etc., that same way they should be prompt to communicate with the community.

It would be nice to be better welcomed when you go to the Town Office for anything and not with the faces of "now what do you want," and maybe people will be more willing to express their concerns to the mayor so he could do a better job for us all.

—Mrs. Euri Everett
Emmitsburg

Public Service Commission should make phone rates competitive

Since the overwhelming passage by Congress of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, states have been making significant progress in introducing competition into local telephone markets. The result is that consumers are now benefiting from this competition.

In recent months more than half-a-dozen state regulatory commissions have reduced wholesale prices of local phone service, putting consumers in the position to reap the benefits of local phone competition.

Maryland consumers have not been so lucky.

According to the National Regulatory Research Institute, Maryland has some of the least competitive rates in the country. Verizon's charge for leasing its internal switches in Maryland is among the highest in the U.S.

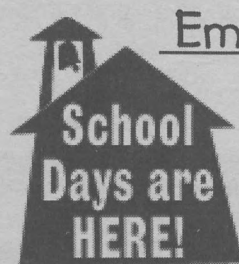
Robust commercial and federal competition in telecommunications results in lower prices, better services, increased innovation, and superior quality for all American consumers.

While Verizon is still the dominant local carrier in Maryland, this hasn't stopped AT & T from moving forward to offer local service and competition.

The Federal Communications Commission has said that individual states are best suited to tailor rates to regional environments and set the different rates to meet different local conditions.

It is time for Maryland's Public Service Commission to join the parade to competition.

—Christopher B. Summers
President,
Maryland Public Policy Institute



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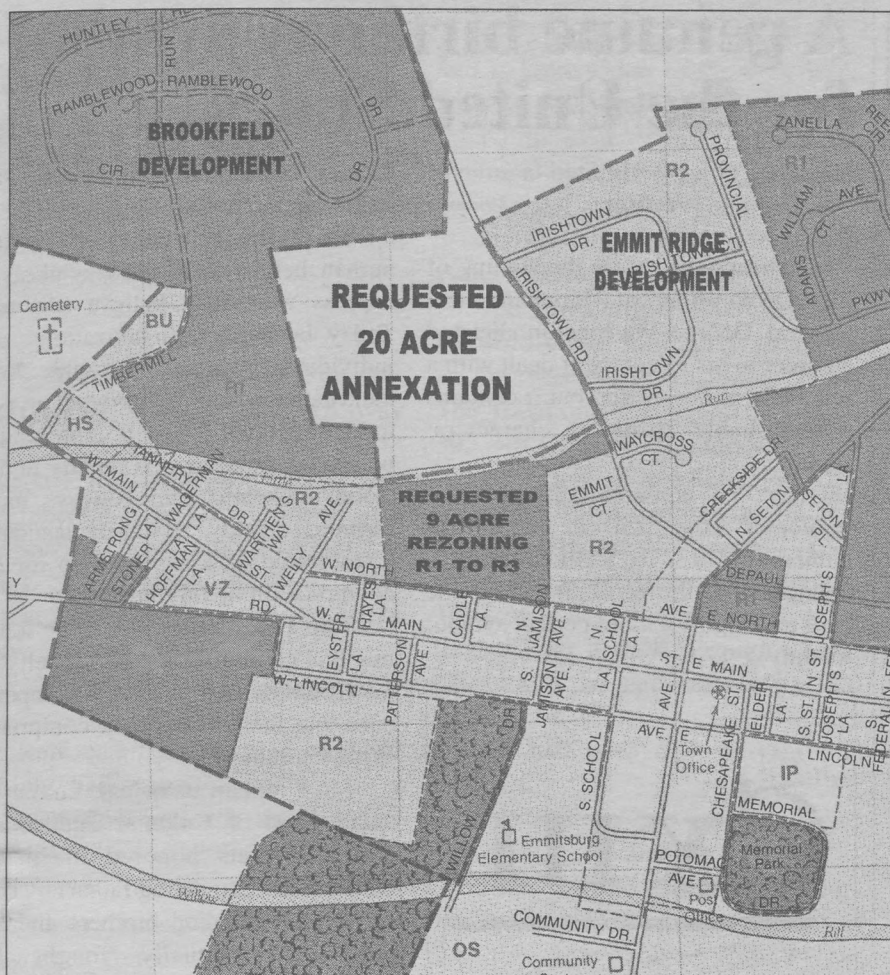
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Annex

—Continued from page 1

Bollinger owns the property with his mother Rosemary Bollinger and his aunt Harriet Gigeous. He told The Emmitsburg Dispatch that they're open to options for the land use but are considering developing it with housing.

The 20 acres currently has county zoning of R3 - single family residential, with a minimum lot size of 12,000 sq. ft. and no more than 3 units per acre.

Bollinger has not yet said what he would put on the acreage, but appears ready to develop and build on it. With the request to annex the 20 acres into the Town, he is asking that it be rezoned as R2. This would allow single

family houses and a minimum lot size of 8,000 sq. ft., or 5 houses per acre.

Bollinger estimates that they could build between 40 and 50 houses on the site. He said, "If homes are built we want to keep them consistent with the neighboring community of Brookfield."

The houses would be built by his company Bollinger Homes, a business he started 5 years ago. It has constructed about 25 houses, mostly in the Carroll Valley area.

The petitioners will make a formal presentation to the Planning and Zoning Commission on July 28. This will be followed by several meetings with the Town Council, dates not yet set. If given preliminary approval, the petition will be voted upon at an open Town Council meeting later.

Final Olympics weightlifting trials to be held at Mount at end of June '04

By Raymond Buchheister
Publisher

Between June 30 and July 6 next year, Mount St. Mary's College will host the last of the weightlifting trials for the 2004 Summer Olympics. The dates for the 4-day event have not been set, however, Frederick County Commissioner Michael Cady said at the Emmitsburg Town meeting in July.

This event will be the last where an athlete can qualify to perform in the Athens games and will bring 300 coaches and athletes from 70 countries to Emmitsburg. The event is expected to bring \$500,000 in revenue to this area.

Cady is the Vice President of the U.S. Olympic National Governing Board and a U.S. Senior International Olympic Coach. He traveled to Turkey to make the bid for the Championships before he became a Frederick County Commissioner last year. Cady said he chose the Mount because, next to the University of Maryland, it has the best complex and accommodations, and he wants to keep the event in Frederick County.

To host such an event, Cady said, an institution must be able to provide accommodations, cultural cuisine, and security, manage competition and drug testing, and provide cultural experiences unique to the area. Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary has hosted international events in the past, such as the International Commission for

Theological Dialogue between the
Catholic and Orthodox Churches in
2000.

The environment of Frederick County is one familiar to many traveling here. At the same time, it's in close proximity to urban areas such as Washington D.C. for those who want to make the trip. Cady said the Gettysburg reenactments and events, and the Emmitsburg Lions Club Community Day, which fall on different days during the time of the trials, will provide local cultural experiences.

Cady gave the news at the Emmitsburg Town meeting, which is the second he attended since becoming commissioner. He said his presence was in part to fulfill his campaign promise to do his best to visit all 12 Frederick County municipalities a minimum of 3 times during his term.

Cady also gave an update on the renovations of the Emmitsburg Community Center. The projected completion date was October 2003. The County had to extend that time by 67 days due to snow and other unforeseen circumstances. Cady reported that the renovations are 75 percent complete and work is ahead of the revised December schedule. He said if things go well, the project might be completed shortly after Thanksgiving this year.

The budget for the renovations was \$3,154,258, but Cady estimated the renovators are under budget by \$100,000.

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EDITORIAL

In the richest nation in world 33 million live in poverty

The number in the headline includes only those who have been counted. An unknown number, some too poor to have a telephone or a regular address, have incomes below the official poverty line.

If it were a state, the State of Poverty, U.S.A., would be the second largest in America. It has, by official count only, more people than the combined populations of Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, and Nevada!

\$10,000 short. The U.S. government says if a family of 4 has an income of more than \$18,250 a year, it does not live in poverty. But most researchers agree that a basic family budget for a 2-child family is nearly \$10,000 more. Depending on where they live, the family needs from \$27,005 a year to \$52,114.

By keeping the poverty level so low, legislators can cut back on programs that help the poor — and justify reducing taxes for people making more than \$1 million a year. Listen for the buzzword, “entitlements.” The term covers nearly all programs benefiting the poor.

Calumny. A misleading use of anecdotes has helped perpetrate a lie about the poor. As in every segment of the population, some are dishonest. Politicians, at least from the time of Ronald Reagan, have told little true stories about people cheating the government. They never point how exceedingly few they are, or how small a percentage of the poor population.

Politicians who oppose programs

for the poor use anecdotes about the dishonest few to slander 33 million Americans, suggesting they are cheats who do not want to work. Abundant statistics prove the opposite.

They want work. Nearly every poor family wants work — if their disabilities would let them... if there is public transportation to work... if working does not switch on some government trap like canceling food stamps... or forbidding a father to live at home... or denying payments for child support. Some conditions imposed by our compassionate government encourage poor people to avoid work. But few do.

No mere handouts. Another lie some politicians spread is that the solution everyone wants is a mere handout for the poor, which they boldly oppose. But no one, the poor least of all — for the sake of their dignity — wants to give money to the poor *without some reason* besides the fact they are poor.

There can be no single solution to poverty in the United States. “The poor” does not refer to a single glob of humanity without multifarious qualities and interests and needs. What helps the poor in one region or town, won’t help the poor somewhere else.

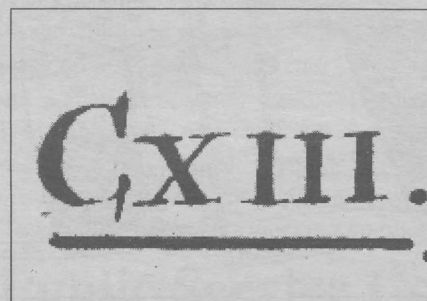
Every reader should know what to do for the poor — not only by contributions and helping, but by voting. But not even this will be done without an appreciation for what Pastor Wade Martin calls the “grace of money and giving.” See his “Word from the Pulpit” on p. 8.

A genuine birthday symbol for the United States

By Bill Steo
Editor

Sixteen days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, General George Washington dictated an order to his secretary. It dealt with a relatively minor matter, but it contains a remarkable string of characters: “Cxiii.”

The “C” apparently stands for “Colonies”; the “xiii” is the Roman numeral for “13,” so Cxiii can be pronounced: “C-thirteen.” It would be hard to imagine a more perfect symbol for July 4, 1776.



Cxiii reminds us of the original 13 Colonies that declared their freedom. It recalls the ordinary people who fought the American Revolution. It was created by the Commander in Chief of the Revolutionary army, and was very likely being used on the very day accounted as the birthday of the United States!

Perfect July 4th symbol. Anyone set out to find a rich symbol for the 4th of July could stop here. Actually, in 1976, a federal commission hired a New York advertising agency to invent a logo for the Bicentennial of the United States. It designed one which the bureaucrats adopted. Does anyone remember what it looks like?

Washington provided, possibly created, Cxiii because he needed to discourage the pilfering of tools. Workers fortifying American positions throughout the Colonies went home with some of the shovels, picks and other implements. On June 18, 1776, Washington issued a general order that reads in part:

“To prevent the embezzlement of the public tools, the Quarter-Master General shall cause all the Tools, of every kind, belonging to the United Colonies, or at any time purchased for

them, to be marked, with the following brand or stamp. Cxiii.”

Since the beginning of history, human beings have used symbols to express what they believe and feel. Today businesses, organizations, and individuals use a kind of graphic shorthand called a “logo” (from “logotype”) to identify what they sell, represent, or believe. A good logo is readily understood, authentic, and conveys much meaning quickly. By these standards Cxiii would be a superb logo for our country’s 4th of July birthday.

The 13 Colonies. First, the letter-numeral combination easily recalls the 13 Colonies that declared independence and the citizens they comprised. Who were they?

Most remain nameless, unlike the small band of Colonial intellectuals and aristocrats honored in history books as our “founding fathers.” They were our “founding brothers and sisters” who actually fought the Revolution that won the freedom we still have, and they deserve remembrance along with Jefferson, Hamilton, Franklin, and the rest.

Craftsmen and farmers, shopkeepers and merchants, many were poor and needed hammers and shovels to survive. Cxiii reminds us of those ordinary early Americans who helped give birth to the United States.

Created by Washington. Second, a junior officer, Washington’s secretary, first inscribed the symbol it on paper, but the man who ordered Cxiii branded into our history is, conceivably, the one who invented it.

No one could have better credentials. George Washington was not a bureaucrat nor a 20th-Century Madison Avenue artist. This extraordinary man was a leading instigator of the American Revolution. Besides signing the Declaration of Independence, he commanded the American forces, won the Revolutionary War, and became the first president of the United States. In the words of eminent historians, “Washington was more than a general: he was the embodiment of all that was noblest and best in the American people.”

—Continued on page 6

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

TOWN NEWS

Town Manager's Report June 2003

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

Streets

Staff repaired streetlights on several streets, replaced the "All Way Stop" sign at Jamison and North Avenues, installed new "Stop" and "Pembroke Court" signs in Pembroke, and placed American flags on the street lights on Main Street in preparation for the Fourth of July.

Water

Replaced the pump at well #2 which had been operating at a reduced flow rate for the last few months

Due to operational difficulties related to "roughing filters" at the new water treatment plant, the Town purchased some water from Mt. Saint Mary's.

Water production and consumption for the month: avg. production, 292,916 GPD; avg. water purchased from Mt. St. Mary's, 13,024 GPD; avg. total consumption, 305,940 GPD.

Wastewater

Staff reports that Emmitsburg is again this month in violation of the BOD(s) count in the treated wastewater being released from the treatment plant. They believe this prob-

lem is largely due to the very large volumes of water they have been forced to treat, which reduces the treatment time and therefore leaves the released water oxygen-deprived.

Staff rebuilt 2 chlorine regulators at the wastewater treatment plant.

The Town is still suffering due to the wild water infiltration problems at the wastewater treatment plant. The Town only consumed an avg. of 305,940 GPD of drinking water but treated an avg. of 836,786 GPD. This means the Town was treating on avg. 530,846 GPD of wild water — 63% of all the water treated this month. We had 6 days this month that we treated over a million gallons (avg. capacity of the plant is only 800,000 GPD.

We had over 6.5" of rain this month.

Zoning

There were 33 permits issued during June, including 5 for fences, and 24 for new houses — 14 in Pembroke, 5 in Brookfield, and 5 in Flat Run.

Code Enforcement

There were 88 tickets issued by the Code Enforcer during the month, including 84 for overtime parking at meters.

Total money collected was \$1,808.80, including \$1,454.80 from parking meters.

During June there were four (4) zoning violation notices, one for an abandoned vehicle, and 3 for grass and weeds.

A word from the Mayor Explanation of proposed budget

At the June Town meeting the commissioners approved the proposed budget for the 2004 fiscal year (July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004). This year there was a major change in the development process to provide for more involvement from the Commissioners and Town Clerk. This allows the mayor to achieve the maximum input before providing the council and the residents with an effective budget proposal for adoption.

Important changes were made also in how the Town identifies expenditures. With no tax increase or additional debt acquired, several capital projects were funded. In the Streets Department, \$100,000 was allocated to resurface 4 streets (Mt. View Road, Chesapeake Ave., Potomac Street, and School Lane.).

In addition to the resurface money, \$20,000 was allocated for sidewalk improvements. In the Public Safety Department an additional \$30,000 was allocated for additional police coverage. In the Parks Department \$128,000 was allocated to projects in the Community Park (\$15,000 to construct a 2- stall bathroom, \$25,000 to construct a multi-use field, \$68,000 to construct a concession stand with restroom, and \$20,000 towards the design and construction of a walking path). Of the \$128,000 — \$60,000 is approved state grant money. With the exception of the 2-stall bathroom, the remaining 3 parks projects are multi-year projects and expected to be completed within 24 to 36 months.

Also this year, the Town has estab-

lished the Sewer and Water departments as an enterprise fund, separating them from the general fund. Separating the Sewer and Water departments from the general fund, requires these departments to be self-sufficient and not use tax dollars to subsidize their operation. The total operational cost (salaries, upgrades, repairs, equipment, new sewer and water lines, debt service, etc.) needed to supply the Town with sewer and water will be funded solely through the revenues received from the sewer and water billings and tap fees.

In a proactive attempt to manage the town's growth, we will be adding an experienced planner to the town staff. Once the right person has been awarded the new position, he/she will be responsible for the oversight of the town's Planning and Zoning Commission. His/her duties will include subdivision and commercial construction plan review, reviewing existing zoning regulations and making recommendations for text amendments, working with the town Planning and Zoning Commission and the county planner to update the Town's comprehensive plan, enforcement of zoning codes, supply the Town council and Planning Commission with staff reports as needed for text amendments and annexations. The new planner will report directly to the mayor.

If you wish to know more about the town budget or any other town matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

— Jim Hoover
Mayor of Emmitsburg

Heroin is most abused drug in Emmitsburg, says Deputy

The most abused drug in the Emmitsburg area is heroin, a highly addictive narcotic. Deputy Milton Frech of the Frederick County Sheriff's Department pointed this out at a June 17 meeting of the Coalition to Prevent Drug Abuse.

Used at first for its relaxing effect, heroin soon becomes a slave master, used not for enjoyment, but to prevent the agony of withdrawal.

Deputy Frech spoke of other abused drugs and briefed the few persons in attendance on the common symptoms of drug abuse. He explained that Emmitsburg's proximity to Baltimore was a reason for the

abundance of heroin in town.

The Coalition was created to raise the awareness of residence of drug and alcohol abuse in Emmitsburg and to develop strategies to combat its effects on the Town. "We cannot allow our town to decay from within," declared former Town commissioner Ted Brennan who helped organize the Coalition.

The next meeting of the Coalition will be July 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company. Topics of discussion will be incorporation and election of officers.

—Staff writer Peter Mannix
contributed to this article

About heroin

Heroin is a narcotic derivative of the opium poppy plant. It is known as an effective painkiller and is used in many prescription medicines. Most heroin is distributed in powder form.

Heroin has traditionally been used by intravenous injection (IV). It can also be smoked or snorted into the nasal passages.

Users experience a sedative, euphoric drowsy, warm and content feeling. Heroin is known to produce severe dependency very quickly. Once addicted, the user must take heroin to avoid the acute pains of withdrawal.

During withdrawal a user will experience vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, cramping, muscle and bone pain, cold flashes, severe shaking and kicking movements. Many addicts don't realize their "sickness" is actually withdrawal because the symptoms are flu-like.

Addicts often have marks of injection on various parts of their bodies,

sometimes in a series or "track" on their arms.

—Staff writer Michele Cuseo
helped prepare this report

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Build-it-yourself housing has begun for 17 families at Flat Run

Staff Report

On June 24 government officials and citizens raised a wall in the Flat Run subdivision at Silo Hill, Emmitsburg. It was like a barn raising still practiced in rural areas. The event was part of a "Work Day" on which Interfaith Housing of Western Maryland marked the opening of its latest affordable-housing site.

Home ownership has increased greatly in the United States in the last few decades, and in June the country celebrated National Homeownership Month.

But fewer and fewer families can afford to buy a house. Despite declining interest rates, they lack the down payments, income, credit or other requirements to buy one. Home ownership is a very common American dream and a number of private agencies have been trying to help people with insufficient resources.

One is Interfaith Housing of Western Maryland. It has a Self-Help Housing Program which requires participants to work 30 hours per week actually constructing their houses.

The planned Flat Run community is its most recent project under this program.

Build-it-yourself. The families do basic construction work, not the sort that requires technical knowledge and training, like electrical, heating and air conditioning, etc. They do at least 60 percent of the work, thus earning "sweat equity" in their houses. It reduces the cost of their mortgages by

about 15 percent.

Interfaith sees another major benefit of this procedure. By building their own houses, working on neighbors' houses, and not moving in until all the houses are completed, the families can become a close-knit community.

In Flat Run 17 houses will be built. Three teams of 5 families or members work together to build each others' houses. In the end they will have built their own neighborhood.

Habitat for Humanity. For 2 of the 17 houses Habitat for Humanity will act as a general contractor, as stipulated by the donor of the land. It has built 19 houses since formed by church women in 1993. Although it uses volunteer labor by partner families, and donated materials, it spends about \$100,000 for each house.

Habitat for Humanity, well known because President Jimmy Carter was pictured doing manual labor for it, has 1,700 affiliates in all the States and 82 countries. Each affiliate tithes 10 percent of any income to help provide housing in other parts of the world.

Primary funders and supporters of the Interfaith project in Silo Hill



Earning "Sweat Equity", owners of the 5 first homes in Flat Run do framing work on the home of Brenda Tom's and her fiancé Bill Stottlemeyer. All the home owners work as a team to construct each others homes. The work is done in the evenings Wed. through Fri., and 9 hours each day on Sat. and Sun. Assistant Construction Superintendent John Boyles who oversees the crew says none of the homeowners will be able to move in until all the homes are complete. Boyle said the crew is working hard and they hope to be in their homes by Christmas. Other home owners are Donna Eyler, single mom with 1 child; Aaron and Debbie Ford, 3 children; Kathy Shirbach; and Richard and Christina Toms, 2 children. All these new home owners currently rent or live with family members and could not otherwise afford to own a home if it wasn't for a housing program.



RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Thomas Dorr, an Under Secretary for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), addresses About 80 homebuilders and visitors at Flat Run subdivision. The occasion was a Work Day sponsored by Interfaith Housing of Western Maryland to inaugurate a new build-it-yourself project in Silo Hill. Behind him, left, is James Upchurch, President of Interfaith, Patrick Boyle, Chairman of the Emmitsburg Town Council of Commissioners, and Marlene Elliott of the USDA.

include, among others, the USDA, the Town of Emmitsburg; and Marvin Ausherman who contributed land.

A number of government officials participated in the Work Day, some with hard hats and construction tools. One was Thomas Dorr, an Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The USDA chose to visit the development in Emmitsburg along with several throughout the country that it judges good examples of promoting home ownership by low-income families.

Interfaith Housing of Western Maryland is the largest nonprofit housing developer in Western Maryland. Religious and lay leaders

created it in 1990 to help obtain housing for low-income families, individuals, and seniors. Its build-it-yourself housing program is one of many that it runs. It also engages in advocacy, education and other activities to reduce poverty.

Like its other housing programs this one relies on funding by the government and business sponsors, but it is unique in requiring construction work by prospective homeowners. Interfaith has 39 major projects going in Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, and Washington counties. So far it has completed more than 600 houses. Information: 800/836-6088, or 301/662-4225, www.interfaithhousing.org.

Symbol

Who could be a more authentic creator of a symbol of our country's birthday than the man acclaimed as its father?

Used on July 4th, '76. Cxiii has a third stunning qualification to be our July Fourth logo — the time of its creation. Washington's order, dated June 18, 1776, was probably being carried out 14 days later, on Tuesday, July 2. That was the day when the Second Continental Congress voted to adopt the motion declaring: "These United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free and Independent States."

Two days after the vote, workers were most likely still carrying out the order — on the very day we call our national birthday, Thursday, July 4, 1776. They may even have been in the act of imprinting Washington's symbol on tools at the very moment when members of the Congress were signing the Declaration of Independence!

Can any symbolic memorial of our Independence Day be more timely?

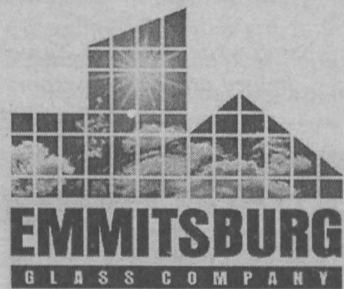
Cxiii has unparalleled power to evoke the birth of the United States. This simple antique design gives the number of original Colonies and reminds us of our founding brothers and sisters, and of the General who won the Revolution and became our first president, and even of the instant when our founding fathers proclaimed our freedom.

Cxiii was one of the first graphic symbols of the United States (possibly the very first) ever used. Like the Revolution, however, it had a finite life. On March 13, 1777, Washington ordered that it be discontinued and tools be imprinted with "U.S."

With such a constellation of historical meanings, Cxiii is a perfect Independence Day logo. If the Stars and Stripes represent what the United States is, a "C-Thirteen" flag could represent how it came to be, on July 4, 1776.

Note. Editor Bill Steo recently discovered he was baptized on the 4th of July

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Getting down to business Employment, traffic, tourism, as parts of business scene here

By Don Briggs
President
Emmitsburg Business and
Professional Association (EPBA)

There are many ingredients that go into running a business, and keeping one eye on the future is one of them. Though we often hear that "the future is now," it's not. It is not a seamless relationship, what we do or not do will influence what happens tomorrow.

Two years ago the EBPA invited Betsy Day, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Frederick County, to be a guest speaker at an EPBA luncheon, and as a result 2 new college funds were established for area students, one of which was sponsored by the EPBA. This spring Hope Stouter, a graduating senior from Catocin High School, became the first student to receive assistance from the EPBA fund. Annually EBPA members put aside funds specifically

for this fund.

Also important is not to forget the past. As G. K. Chesterton said "tradition is democracy for the dead". As we have seen in the recent founding date debate, Emmitsburg is very democratically inclined. One of our heirlooms, Crouse's Store on the Square, is now in the middle of its going-out-of-business sale. Crouse's opened its doors on April 2, 1946 and, as our editor mused, "If that soda fountain could only talk!" Now the laurel of being the oldest business in the area rests with Zurgable Bros. Hardware. Zurgable's opened for business on November 1, 1947.

Other ingredients:

Employment: Like many Frederick County residents, many of us commute to work. But Emmitsburg has some rather sizable employers here: Mount St. Mary's employs 460 people, St. Joseph's Provincial House employs about 300, Emmitsburg Glass

over 50, and the National Emergency Training Center employs about 500 government and contract people.

Also, at the Fire Academy, 15,000 fire fighters (not including law enforcement personnel and volunteers) annually come here for instruction. At any one time there are between 250-500 students here for from one day to 2 weeks, in one or as many as 18 classes that may be going on at any one time.

Traffic in our Town — how much? The Maryland Department of Transportation:

Average Daily Traffic Counts (ADT). From 1996 to 2001, traffic changed:

— on W. Main St. from 6775 to 9925 (up 46 percent)

— on E Main St. from 6375 to 9425 (up 48 percent);

— on S. Seton from 7875 to 7725 (down 2 percent), and

— on N. Seton from 2675 to 3750 (up 40 percent).

When Pembroke Woods (70 homes) and Brookfield (141 homes) are built out and connected to Irishtown Road, we may need a "back door" solution to get the increased

traffic to the Town's main shopping area. Maybe the answer will be to complete Silo Hill Road to N. Seton Ave. This and other growth issues will be addressed in the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update that is now gearing up. Our input is not only needed, but is essential.

Tourism: From the County Tourism Council: The average tourist household consists of 2 people, stays in Frederick County 2.3 days, and spends \$190. Visitors: 53 percent come from MD, PA, and VA; 68 percent come here for pleasure; 82 percent come by car.

Emmitsburg now has its own hotel, the Sleep Inn, so that visitors do not have to stay elsewhere. Instead of stopping for only one meal, now they can stay for several meals and shop at, say, Callie's Collectables, Flowers for You and Gifts Too, or the Emmitsburg Antique Mall.

On the way: The contract for the traffic light at Silo Hill Rd and 140 is (finally) out for bid and the light should be up in 6-8 weeks. The \$6 million State Welcome Center is now before the Public Works Commission for approval.

Town to borrow \$600k for repairs, will set up Town site on internet

By Raymond Buchheister
Publisher

At Emmitsburg Town meeting July 7 the 3 Commissioners in attendance (Ms. Rosensteel was absent) unanimously agreed that the Town should borrow approximately \$600,000 from the MD Dept. of Environment (MDE) at an interest rate of 1.1 percent.

Repairs. Of this amount \$350,000 would be spent for the Mountain View Rd. Water Line Replacement project, and \$250,000 for the North Sanitary Sewer Trunk Line Rehabilitation project. This line is the sewer that runs parallel to Little Run creek from behind the former Rutter's store to N. Seton Ave. The Town has determined that breaks in it are the major source of wild water that is overloading the treatment plant.

Mayor Jim Hoover told The Emmitsburg Dispatch that, because of this approval, the Town will now solicit bids for the sewer rehabilitation project.

Mountain View Rd. The decision to begin this water line replacement rests with the 28 property owners who live outside Town limits on Mountain View Rd. The Town sent them a ballot by certified mail to vote for, or against, the Town's plan to move the project forward.

In a separate hearing after the

Town meeting, the Board of Commissioners voted 2-1 (Art Elder voting against) to require those residents to pay 25 percent of the estimated \$350,000 cost. The property owners would help pay for repair for 20 years with monthly payments not exceeding \$16.67. The Town also will give them the option to make a one time payment estimated at \$3000.

Another requirement is for Elwood and Vera Eiker to abandon their well as a drinking supply and hook up to Town water. The Eiker's house is the only one with Town sewer and not water.

Commissioner Cliff Sweeney said that houses serviced by the Town should have to purchase both sewer and water. The Town no longer offers the services individually as it once did.

Art Elder told The Emmitsburg Dispatch that the only reason he voted against the Town's proposal was because he thought something should have been worked out to let the Eikers, who are senior citizens, stay on the well for as long as they reside there.

The process to update the water lines, which the Town ranks as the highest on the list of infrastructure in need of repair, began in 2001. At that time the Town was seeking a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and told property owners they would have to bear 50 percent of the

project's costs. The grant was denied.

If residents decide not to accept the current proposal financed by MDE, then, Town officials say, the project will fall to the bottom of the list and "will not receive any preferential scheduling treatment, as related to other water and sewer improvement projects."

The proposal requires that not less than 51 percent of the votes approve the decision in order for the Town to act.

The USDA has offered the Town a \$414,000 loan at 4.5 percent, which the Town still has the right to accept.

Zoning change. By another 3-0 vote the Commissioners agreed to a text amendment, requested by Ryan Homes, that would allow houses in Brookfield to be built 10 feet closer to the rear property line. This would enable the builder to erect larger houses on the lots.

Hoover commented that, although the change may be acceptable, it should not be made until the Commissioners first address all zoning

boundaries. A zoning change should not be made to benefit only one builder.

He said that he intends to veto the measure for the reason he gave.

Web site. In another action the 3 Commissioners agreed (3-0) that the Town establish its own web site. At present some information about the Town is posted on www.emmitsburg.net

Mayor Hoover said afterwards that the Town will begin looking for someone to contract to run the website. It is already in the process of purchasing the site name, "emmitsburg.gov."

Fissel promoted. The Town also promoted Dan Fissel to the newly created position, Water and Sewer Superintendent, at pay level step 5.

The mayor appointed several volunteers to Town committees with full support of the commissioners: Dot Davis to the Streets Committee and Steven May to the Parks and Recreation Committee. He said that the volunteers responded to his column in The Emmitsburg Dispatch.

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RELIGION

A word from the pulpit

The grace of money and giving

By Rev. Wade Martin
Trinity United Methodist
church

Money and giving, 2 topics most "church people" do not want to talk about. However, Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians (8: 7-15) tells the churches to send some of their money to their fellow Christians who are in need. He says that he is not commanding them to do this, only suggesting that they send a gift to their less fortunate sisters and brothers in Christ out of love. Paul was encouraging them to give a portion of what they have been given by God to others.

In preaching to the Corinthians about money, Paul initiates a head-on collision with some of this society's most widely held and deeply cherished values. He is speaking of life, and all that we have as a part

of our life, is really a gift, a gift from God. You and I aren't conditioned to think like this.

We live in a society, ruled by something called The Constitution, in which our lives and all that we accumulate are seen as entitlements, rather than as gifts. And as we celebrate our country's birth this month the idea of having a life of rights shines all the brighter.

We claim that people are born with certain "inalienable rights." And our lives consist of a lifetime of exercising these rights. The function of our government is to give us the freedom to exercise our inalienable rights as we see fit within a certain moral framework. In this sort of society, there is not much room for gifting. Many have the attitude that if you give me my rights, you really have not given me

anything. My rights are my entitlement. I don't feel gratitude because you have only given me what I already deserve.

So for Paul to invoke the gift of Jesus, for him to remind the Corinthians of the giftedness of all that they have sounds strange. And perhaps the idea of gifting sounds strange to us as well. I know some pastors who will not mention money or giving from the pulpit, out of fear or embarrassment. They feel money is a personal matter not to be discussed in public venues. The truth is, few of us pastors mention money as often as the Bible mentions it. But Jesus is not bashful in his mention of money. Throughout scripture Jesus makes repeated, and deeply penetrating statements about finances. "Where your money is, your heart is," he

said. That's a strong statement. And some would say if you want to look into the quality of a person's soul, look at that person's checkbook register.

One of the biggest problems we have in this country is personal debt. Many relationships are strained or terminated over the issue of money. Many are living well beyond their means, often-times out of want, not out of need. Getting a handle on money and understanding how money is a gift from God, a gift that is to be used responsibly and shared, is of paramount importance as we look at trying to live joyful and content lives.

I think it's safe to say that to Jesus, money is a very big issue. Therefore, the church should discuss the issue of money, and how we are to use this special gift, without shame or embarrassment. If Jesus and the Apostle Paul thought the issue of money was important enough to mention time and time again, it seems to me the church should.

Caring Hands names board of directors

Caring Hands of Emmitsburg, Inc., has named 7 individuals to its board of directors.

Caring Hands is an interfaith ministry that works to improve the access and delivery of health care to those in need in the Emmitsburg area. Its board of directors now consists of:

Rev. Wade Martin, Chair, Ms. Audrey Glass, Vice Chair, Mr. Joe

Lydon, Secretary, Rev. Bill Warehime, Co-Treasurer, Ms. Shirley Dillon, Co-Treasurer, Ms. Linda Umbel, and Ms. Jodee Rudy.

The organization is a partnership between the local religious community, St. Catherine's Nursing Center, The Provincial House, Seton Center, and the Frederick County Health Department.

Vacation Bible School is a ZoomZone

This year's Vacation Bible School will held Sunday, Aug. 3 through Friday, Aug. 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Elias Lutheran Church.

Director Johanna Schmersal says children aged 3 through 12 will travel through "ZoomZone" visiting wonderful people like Mary, Martha, and Zaccheaus to learn about Jesus' unending love.

The program, which needs teachers and helpers, is sponsored by The Emmitsburg Council of Churches.

To volunteer, register a child, or for information, call Johanna Schmersal at 301-447-3523.

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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: 9 a.m.

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

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic

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. William O'Brien, 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

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

10926 Simmons Road

Sunday Services at 8:15 and 10:30

Pastor: Rev. Bill Warehime

301-447-2693

Elias Evangelical Lutheran

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

Summer 6/8-8/31 Worship

Schedule

Worship with Holy Communion - 9AM

Sunday School: Adult class - 8 AM

Children's classes will resume in Sept.

Interim Pastor: David S. Knodel

301-447-6239

OBITUARIES

Sister Mary Lindner, DC

Sister Mary Florence Lindner, DC, 90, died Wednesday, June 25, at Villa St. Michael, Emmitsburg. Born in Cumberland, she entered the Daughters of Charity in 1933 and pronounced her vows in 1938. She graduated from Seton High School, Baltimore, and earned a bachelor's degree from St. Joseph College in Emmitsburg. She worked for 23 years in child care, 27 years in education and 13 years in pastoral care. In 1998, at the age of 87, she retired from active duty and moved to Villa St. Michael.

Surviving are 3 sisters, Sr. Regina Lindner, DC, Sr. Mary John Lindner, DC, and Loretta Lippold, and one brother, Philip Lindner. A Mass of Christian burial was offered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St.

Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.

Jacob Poulsen

Jacob Johann Poulsen, 79, of Emmitsburg, died Saturday June 14 at Gettysburg Hospital.

Born on Faroe Islands, Mr. Poulsen is survived by one son, Jeffrey T. Poulsen, 2 daughters, Jacqueline Poulsen-Larrive, and Liv Poulsen-Jacobsen; and 4 sisters, Dagny, Hansine, Mina and Laura. Funeral services were held at a funeral home. Interment will be in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

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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Thurmont Riding Club President

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George Houston urges Americans to treat each other as neighbors

The evening program of the Lions' July 4th Community Day celebration included a talk by George Houston who recently stepped down as president of Mt. St. Mary's College and Seminary. Houston's message was that Americans see each other as neighbors and make a commitment to the common good of all.

Quoting a sociologist who claims Americans value tolerance most, he belittled mere tolerance, which means, for many: Do what you want so long as you let me do what I want.

"Our democracy requires more than tolerance," Houston said. "Democracy requires mutual cooperation, mutual responsibility, and... civic friendship." He noted that in the McCarthy era, "many loyal Americans who called traitors simply for exercising their freedom of speech.... We must be careful in balancing our sacred American freedoms with our homeland security. We must avoid another McCarthy era."

Houston wove several other quotations into his talk. One was by Alexis de Tocqueville, who traveled throughout our country in the 1800s. Houston quoted the Frenchman's trenchant observation: "If America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Earlier Houston quoted St. Cyprian, who lived between A.D. 200 and 258.

"It is a bad world," Cyprian wrote, "an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and good people who have learned the great secret of life. They have found a

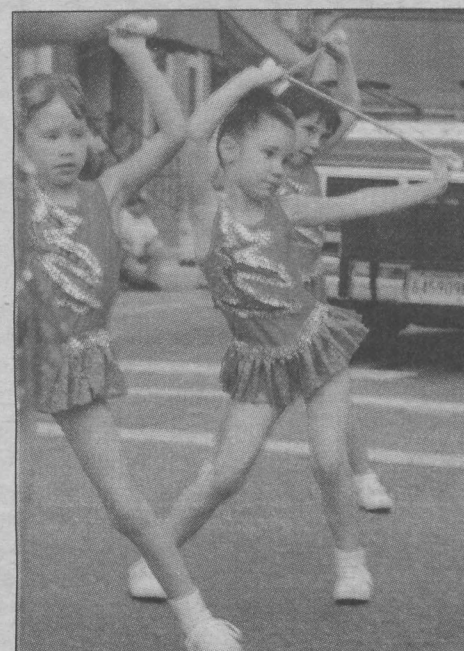
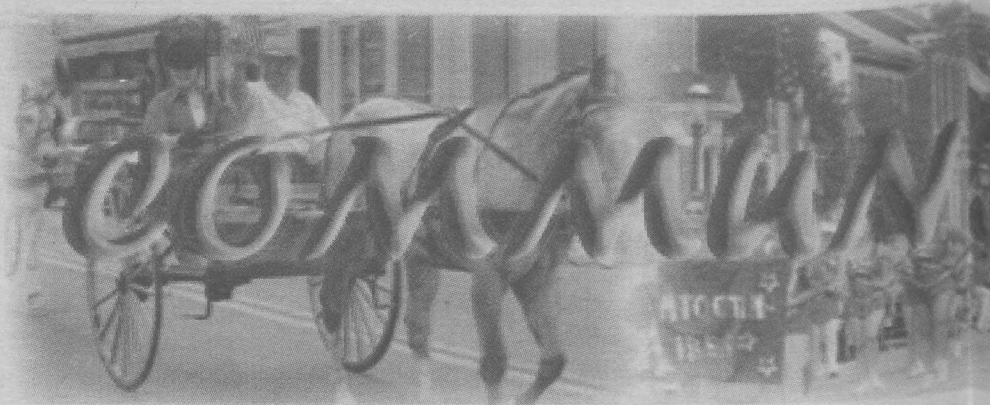


joy and a wisdom which is a thousand times better than any of the pleasures of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls."

Houston asked, "Are we still the masters of our souls?"

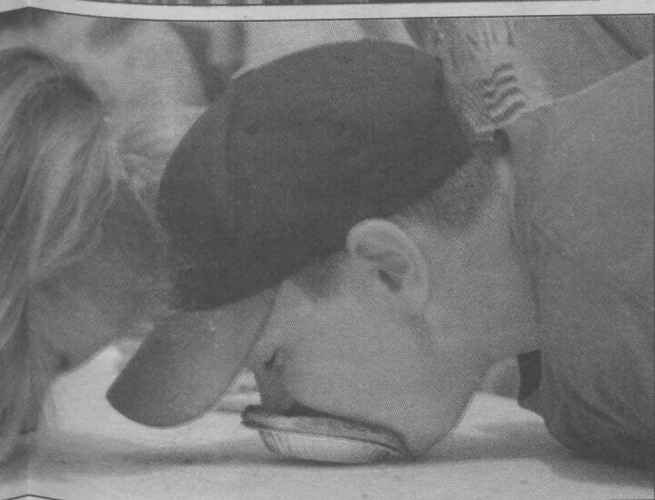
He used another famous quotation, by Edmund Burke, to convey a conviction of his own: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." He added, "We truly believe that to live and let live is fine but to live and help others to live is better. That is the American way."

At the end Houston expressed his personal sentiment for Emmitsburg where he lived for 9 years, with another quotation, from Thomas Jefferson: "Preserve for me always a little corner in your affections in exchange for the spacious part you occupy in mine."





-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH



Community Day Winners

Casting Contest - Ribbons

(Age group)	(Winner)
1-4	Maggie Cole
5-8	Kevin Dorsey
9-12	Tony Alvarez
13-16	Chris Forrence
17+	Travis Sanders

Sack Races-3 Legged - Ribbons

1st place	
1-4	Zoe Emory (only one person)
5-8	Gus Cole & Patrick Miller
9-12	Edward Miller & Alex Forrence
13-16	Amanda & Kayla Miller
17+	Ashley Kaufman & Tracey Ganjon
2nd place	
1-4	Maggie Cole (only one person)
5-8	Ricky Garver & Justin Messner
9-12	Carrie Messner & Kayla Lenhart
13-16	Carrie Messner & Chris Forrence
17+	Robin & Ellen Carter and Lindsay Topper & Chris Warp

Egg Toss - Ribbons

1st place	Kevine and David Dorsey
2nd place	Lucy and Ellen Carter

Water Balloon Toss - Ribbons

1st place	Kathy and Dave Shields
2nd place	Anna Messner and

Amanda Droneburg

Pie eating - Ribbons

1st place	
1-4	Zoe Emory
5-8	Josiah Julian and John Carter
9-12	Lydia Emory and Carey Messner
13-16	Bobby Knox
17+	John Carter
2nd place	
1-4	Joseph Miller
5-8	Sophia Eurka
9-12	Katie Sweeney
13-16	William Emory and Paul Carter
17+	Bill Emory

Water Melon Eating - Ribbons

1st place	
1-4	Brandon Gooden
5-8	Eric Stone
9-12	Matthew Bradshaw
13-16	Amanda Miller and Bobby Knox
17+	Paul Carter
2nd place	
1-4	Joseph Miller
5-8	Gordon Horner
9-12	Erin Knox
13-16	Hillary Horner
17+	John Carter

Closest to the Pin - Cash

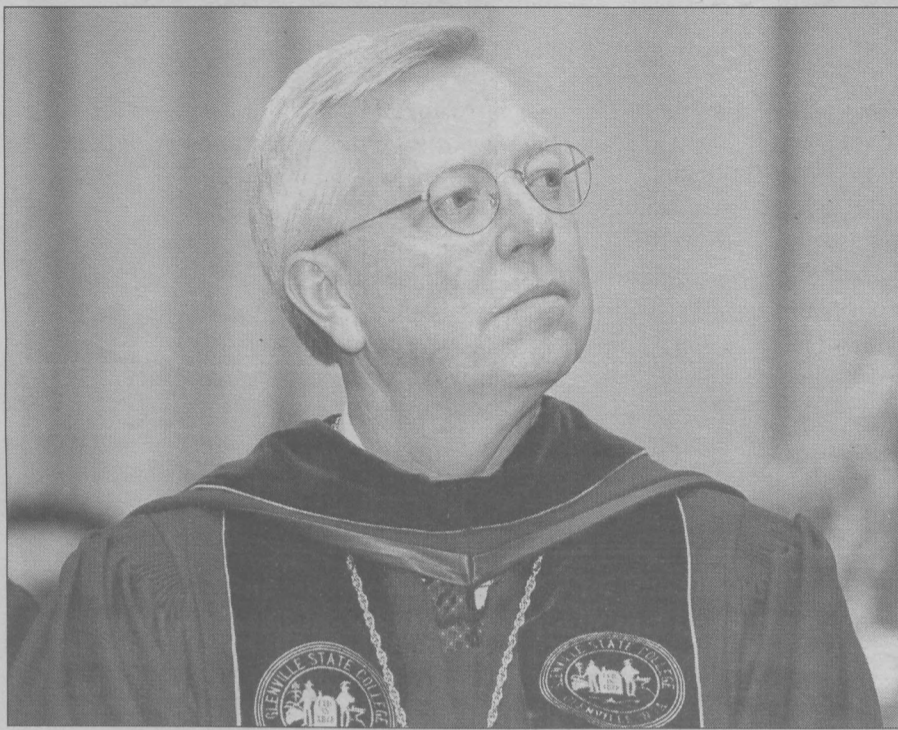
5'5" - \$26.00	John Alvarez
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Lions Club 50/50 winners - Cash

1st - \$135.00	John Sanders, Rocky Ridge
2nd - \$80.00	Frances Fields, Emmitsburg
3rd - \$55.00	Mary Grady, Fairfield



EDUCATION



Mount St. Mary's News

Mount grad drafted by Tigers

The Detroit Tigers recently selected Brian Santo, C'03, in the 43rd round of the Major League Draft. He is assigned to Oneonta in the Single-A, New York Penn League. Santo, a 6-8 right-hander from Oberlin, PA, holds the Mount's all-time career record for strikeouts and innings pitched. He was also named NEC Pitcher of the Week during the 2002 season.

New President takes office July 1

Dr. Thomas H. Powell arrived at Mt. St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg on June 26 to begin serving as its 24th president. His came shortly after former Mount President George R. Houston, Jr., retired. His appointment begins officially on July 1. An inauguration ceremony will be held in early October.

Powell and his wife, Irene, have taken up residence on Old Emmitsburg Rd. in the college's presidential home, which has been renovated to accommodate the Powell family. His previous position was president of Glenville State College, Glenville, WV.

Powell says he intends to develop a close relationship with area residents and to be actively involved in Emmitsburg community events.

198th class larger than expected

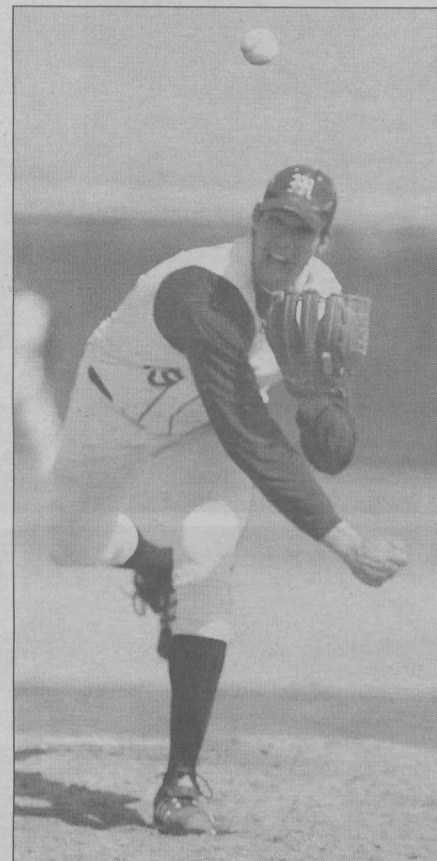
The incoming class of 2007 numbers nearly 400 students, which surpassed admissions goals. "We have continued expectations that the class of 2007 will approach the size of last year's freshman class, which was one of the largest in Mount St. Mary's history," said Steve Neitz, executive

director of Admissions and Financial Aid.

The average SAT score of the incoming class, the Mount's 198th, is 1100, representing a steady increase over previous classes.

In late spring the College hosted the students during 2 separate orientation weekends. They will return to the campus for a final orientation shortly before the rest of the college returns on Aug 26.

—Staff writer Peter Mannix contributed to this article



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Short story contest — a report

The Emmitsburg Dispatch held a short story contest which closed this month. We received no submission judged worthy of a prize for writing, but one deserved a prize for effort. It goes to Miss Aimee Martin who asked her 5th grade class at Mother Seton School to write stories for this newspaper, and they did.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch awards her a token prize of \$25 and is giving her a \$50 U.S. Savings bond to award to the student writer whose story she judges best.

Most stories oddly resembled events seen in computer games. Here are their names and the titles of their stories.

Charles Bartholow, "The Day TV Ended"; Daniell Buchholz, "Me and the Sink"; Richard Clements, "Plant

Wars"; Hannah Dorsch, "My Teacher Gets Sick"; Dillon Fitzgerald, "Kids?"; Alex Forrence, "The Big Pixie"; Chris Gebhart, "The Pencil"; Kirsten Gumienny, "Mr. Pencil"; Meghan Hane, "The Missing Flower"; Alex Hoffman, "The Evil Mr. Potato Head"; Jontathan Karlheim, "My Adventure in the Piano"; Taylor Linton, "The Four Jumping Jelly Beans"; Lynly Meunier, "Fierce Feline"; Edward Miller, "The War Between the Grass and the Turtle"; Allie Oliverio, "The Lime Sisters"; Ike Pappas, "Attack of the Dragons"; Sara Provost, "Dreamland"; Joshua Quinn, "How the Animals Saved the World"; Brian Sandman, "Lazy Smack"; Ian Weant, "Call the Navy, Call the Army, Call the Monkey"; Brendan Winston, "The Color Changing Turtle"; Kelsey Wivell, "The Movie Star Teacher."

Students nationwide receive few writings assignments

A case can be made that writing is second only to speaking as a necessary skill for living in this world successfully. Yet, teachers give few writing assignments, according to the National Commission on Writing in America's Schools and Colleges. Writing is clearly the most neglected of the 3 "Rs", reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic.

Writing is seen as a way for students to take possession of what they know - that is, understand the facts and principles already in their minds, and acquire the ability to communicate their thoughts to others.

Some findings were that 4th-graders spend only a fraction of the time writing as watching television; most high school seniors in history and

social studies are never asked to write anything, only half get writing assignments in English class, and nearly none are required to write a research paper. Teachers, who have upwards of 200 students, lack the time to grade them.

Another study found that most college freshmen could not analyze arguments, synthesize information or write papers without many language errors.

Signs of hope are the fact that the College Board is revising both major college-entrance exams, the SAT and the ACT, to include writing tests, and the National Writing Project has been working on the problem, offering teachers 5-week summer sessions on writing at 170 sites.

August At the Library

Storytimes

Babies with Books (birth- 24 months with an adult) Every 4th Tuesday, August 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Two Terrific! (age 2 with an adult) Tuesdays, August 5, 12, 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime (ages 3-5 with an adult) Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

For Teens

Teen Time (6th grade and up) Thursday, August 14 at 1:30 p.m. Join us for crafts and fun. Please call the branch to register. **Registration required.***

Special Programs

Cool Crafts- for a hot summer (grades 3-5) Thursday, August 7 at 1:30 p.m. Join your friends and make new ones while you share crafts and fun. Please call the branch to register. **Registration required.***

Wild, Wild West (ages 3-5 with an adult) Thursday, August 7, 10:30- 11:30 p.m. Join us for some rootin' tootin' fun. Bring a sock to

make your own hobbyhorse, learn some cowboy lingo, and listen to some cowboy tales. **Registration required.***

Third Thursdays at ThorpeWood- (ages 3-5 with an adult) Third Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m. (August 21) Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries host a monthly preschool story program at beautiful ThorpeWood Environmental Center, Old Mink Farm Road in Thurmont. Families are invited to enjoy special nature related stories. For directions call the library or visit the ThorpeWood website at www.thorpewood.org. **Registration required.***

Book Discussion Groups

Evening Club: 2nd Tuesdays, August 12 at 7:30 p.m. Selection: *Lake Wobegon Summer 1956*, by Garrison Keillor.

Programs are held at the Emmitsburg Library at 101 Silo Hill Road unless designated by an asterisk. Those programs will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 313 West Main Street (or other noted locations). For registration or information call 301-447-2682.

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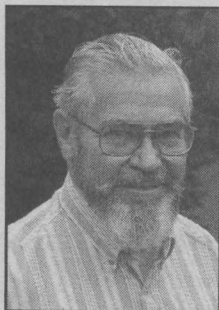
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The (retired) Ecologist Seeds of things to come



Bill Meredith
Dispatch Writer

Weed: a plant that is growing in a place where it is not wanted. *American Heritage Dictionary*.

One of the courses I used to teach was general biology, which was required of students who were not majoring in science. Some of the faculty didn't like teaching it because it was not in their field of specialty, but I always enjoyed it; it was a challenge to capture the interest of those students. The course included a unit on ecology, and one of the lectures I designed for it was entitled "Why We Have Weeds." Although it has been several years since I last taught it, the topic still comes back to mind every year about this time.

Our garden has had a tough time getting started this year. It was too wet to plow at the usual time, so, to my wife's increasing agitation, I waited. The pressure increased, and late in April we finally had 4 consecutive days without rain, so I plowed. But it was still too wet, and

walking on the soil just to make the rows and plant the seeds compacted it pretty badly.

Then, the day after we planted it rained heavily, and the seeds got washed everywhere. Those that didn't rot came up in unexpected places, downhill from the straight, orderly rows where they were supposed to be. I think my wife rather liked that; too much organization makes her nervous, and that week when the seeds first came up was the most relaxed I've seen her this year.

As soon as it dried a bit, I redid the rows and planted new seeds. As they came up, I surreptitiously began pulling out the plants that were in the wrong places, a few at a time; I didn't want them between the rows, so by definition they were weeds. Order gradually returned, but with it came the real weeds. Like their domesticated cousins, they got off to a slow start because of the wetness, but they soon made up for it and grew like... well, like weeds. The battle was on, and will rage the rest of the summer; the weeds will not call a truce if we happen to go away for a week on vacation. It is a battle as old as life itself; ecologists call it "Succession," and it went on before there were gardens, or even people.

Succession is the process by

which plants and animals organize themselves into a "community," i.e., an interrelated group of species best adapted to the climate of a particular place. In this part of the world, if you would remove all living things from an area and then leave it alone, succession would go through a series of stages, each consisting of a group of plants that is more complex than the group it replaced. Eventually a forest community would develop, much like what was here before the country was colonized in the 17th century. It would take time... one or two centuries... but in ecological terms, it would be inevitable and predictable. It would begin with weeds.

Weeds are nature's colonizers. Their role in nature is to move into an area that has been denuded of vegetation by some sort of ecological disaster, such as a forest fire, volcanic eruption, flood... or plowing a garden. To survive, they have to be tough. They must be able to grow on poor soil; disasters like floods or fires often destroy the topsoil and leave nothing but bedrock. Weeds adapted for the earliest stage of succession have no trouble growing in the cracks in suburban sidewalks or the asphalt of abandoned tennis courts; they have roots that go deep for moisture, and leaves that can withstand the summer's heat without wilting. At the end of the growing season the leaves and stems die back to the surface, where they trap particles of dirt that are washed or blown into the area; this material builds up over the course of time, and eventually gives rise to topsoil.

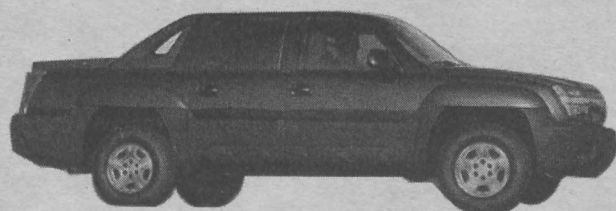
The second stage of succession is done by weeds that grow on topsoil; these include the common garden species. Their life is competitive, so many of them are equipped with protective devices such as thorns, poisons or bad-tasting chemicals. They are designed to grow fast and produce large numbers of seeds. These seeds have a variety of dispersal mechanisms; they may float in the air, stick to the fur of passing animals, or survive the trip through

a bird's digestive system and thus be deposited far from where they originated (this is why plants like poison ivy are found growing in fencerows so often). Weed seeds are also designed so they will not germinate all at once; thus, even if you keep your garden free from weeds all summer, there will still be seeds there from years ago, and some of them will come up next year.

Over the years I have developed a kind of respect for weeds. After all, they are specialists, doing their job as best they can under difficult circumstances. But I'm not sentimental about them; I still root them out as fast as I can keep up with them. Nevertheless, it is interesting to watch the sequence of different species that appear over the course of the summer; you can easily find over 30 species in a garden the size of mine. Occasionally there are surprises; this year, there are a remarkable number of silver maple seedlings. Some weeds have attractive flowers, so I may leave a few for the grandchildren to see. In particular, I always try to leave a few milkweeds in the uppermost row, so the kids can see monarch butterfly larvae feeding on them.

Until this year my wife had taken a simpler approach (if you've seen one weed, you've seen them all), and ripped them out indiscriminately, including my milkweed collection. This spring, however, she happened by chance to hear a talk by someone from a master gardener's organization, and came home delighted with the newfound knowledge that milkweeds are the food of monarch butterflies. My first impulse was to complain that I had been telling her that for years; but I finally decided I'd better accept whatever method it took to get the idea across. The result is that among the sweet corn in the upper row, we have the best crop of milkweeds I can recall, and as this goes to press we're waiting for the monarchs to show up. There's nothing like a weedy garden to bring a family together.

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Outside the Game

Women players, coaches, earn less partly because of stereotype

By A.J. Russo
Dispatch writer

Women soccer players found themselves on the covers of Time, Newsweek, People and Sports Illustrated 3 years ago shortly after the most famous women's team in international sports history won soccer's World Cup. Close to 100,000 spectators in the Rose Bowl and tens of millions of TV viewers watched. The players had everything they ever wanted as athletes, a new pro league, household name recognition, a devoted following of soccer-playing girls and women.

Then, this Spring, in a stadium speckled with only 5 percent of the fans that packed the Bowl 3 years before, they came back — a little less certain of where women's professional soccer was headed.

Before Title IX (the NCAA document requiring equality in men's and women's sports) only a few female athletes found fame. In 1968 Peggy Fleming's Olympic gold in Grenoble, France, made her a star. Her professional skating shows, on-air analysis,

and television appearances, kept her in the limelight — traveling to and from the bank, for decades. In 1971, Billie Jean King was the first female athlete to make more than \$100,000 in a year. These athletes and Title IX sparked a steady increase in women participating in sports at every level.

Although some individual women tennis player's salaries are catching their counterparts in the men's game, these are tough times for women who play professional team sports. In the WNBA (basketball) and the WUSA (soccer), players are entering their new seasons with fading dreams of big paydays. With both organizations losing money, the viability of the leagues is in jeopardy. Not surprisingly, the players are feeling the pinch.

So, why can't women's team sports draw substantial numbers of viewers (therefore more TV/advertisement dollars, which would translate into higher salaries)? In part, it's related to the stereotype, held generally by men, that women are not as competitive.

Contributing to this label is the fact that more and more men are coaching

women's teams. In 1972, the year Title IX was signed into law, over 90 percent of women's teams were coached by women. Now, nearly half of women's college teams are coached by men. Male athletic directors argue that they would like to have more female coaches, but women just aren't applying, and men seem to be more willing than women to hop around the country to pursue better coaching positions.

Well, go figure. Coaches of women's teams are still paid less than coaches of equivalent men's teams. In fact, out of 14 sports that have men's and women's teams, average men coaches' salaries in Division I are more than the women's in all sports—sometimes a lot more. On top of that, overall expenditures per athlete, and recruiting

money spent per athlete, is lower in women sports.

Add to these facts that only one-fifth of college and high school women's athletic programs are headed by women, and women fill only one-third of all administrative jobs in women's programs, it's no wonder the stereotype that men are more knowledgeable, skilled and competitive in sports remains entrenched in our society.

More men coaches mean fewer women coaches and therefore fewer role models for girls. Schools (both high school and college) should adhere to a policy of not hiring men to coach women's teams. And coaches' salaries for equivalent sports, as well as overall financial support, should be the same.

Sr. Mary Kevin re-assigned



A stalwart of the OutReach program at the Seton Center, Sr. Mary Kevin, D.C., has been re-assigned. Her new post will be at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, beginning in August. Sister is a registered nurse.

UpCounty Family Center Funding Renewed

By Susan Allen
Staff Writer

Emmitsburg's UpCounty Family Center will be receiving funds from Maryland's Board of Public Works (BPW) for another year. BPW approved a contract with Friends of the Family Inc., a nonprofit organization which passes the monies to a network of family support centers in the state.

Margaret Williams, executive director of Friends of the Family, said that they "are delighted to be in a position to be able to continue funding" the

UpCounty Center at the same level as last year. The Center received \$230,000 toward staff salaries, benefits, and general operations for fiscal year 2003.

UpCounty also receives funds from a number of agencies, including the Frederick Board of County Commissioners. The Center, which is sponsored by Catholic Charities, offers a flexible high school completion program, English as a Second Language, and emotional and financial support to families. It currently serves 60 area families, and all services are free.



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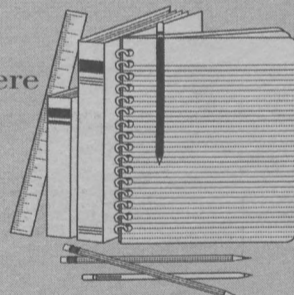
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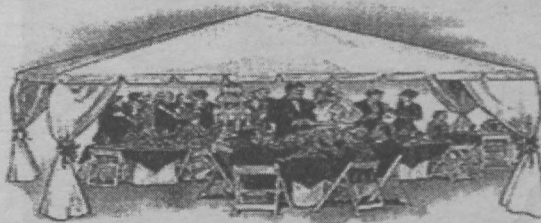
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HEALTH

A word from the doctor

Dandelions and Milk Thistle can supplement diet

There are a couple of plants which we very enthusiastically call weeds, but may deserve more respect. These plants are the Dandelion and the Milk Thistle. For many years these plants have been called into service for the treatment of ailments related to the stomach, liver, gall bladder and kidney by those who practice alternative or natural medicine.

Watching the great abundance of Dandelions in my own back yard and remembering that it was the small leaves that were used the most, I tried a few leaves — a refreshingly bitter taste that added something to otherwise bland salads. Hmm, my curiosity was peaked.

I went to www.NIH.gov and also to the Mayo Clinic web site to see if there

was active support for the medicinal use of the Dandelion and Milk Thistle. Medical research is scant for the Milk Thistle and virtually non-existent for the Dandelions.

There was information that Milk Thistle had been reviewed and was under serious study since 1993. The Dandelion had not really been reviewed. Both of these plants were noted to be fairly harmless to humans. However, animal studies were the basis of most of the findings for each. The following is my share of what I found:

Milk Thistle's fruit contains a chemical called Silymarin. Silymarin is further broken down to Silybin. Silybin taken in doses of 240 mg, just twice weekly, seems to be able to encourage

the growth of some types of liver cells as well as block toxins that can affect the liver. Milk Thistle can be harvested from the back yard weed patch or easily found in most stores with a vitamin section. Happily, Milk Thistle is not very expensive.

Milk thistle capsules sold in stores contain 200 milligrams of Milk Thistle. This in turn contains 140 mg Silymarin which contains the Silybin. About 3 capsules would be needed to dose the 240 mg of Silybin used in the research study. Of interest, Milk Thistle cannot be used as a Tea as its therapeutic ingredients are not water soluble.

In Germany Milk Thistle has official approval as adjunct therapy for enhancing liver function in such diseases as Hepatitis C and cirrhosis. Remember, there is *no* cure for Hepatitis C. Enhancing liver function for the many who are afflicted by Hepatitis C and other liver diseases can be a quality-of-life issue.

The ever even more accessible Dandelion as health supplement has not been supported by medical research.

However, virtually every part of the Dandelion has been used for both digestive and kidney therapy. The leaves are used in salads and teas. The root is used as a coffee substitute or a tea using the leaves and roots together. It is suggested that 40 minutes be used for steeping the leaves and roots.

For those used to adding Chicory to their coffee, it is fun to know that the Dandelion is related to Chicory. The flowers are used for Dandelion Wine. Nutrition from the Dandelion: leaves contain Vitamin A, D, C, B-2 (riboflavin), iron, silicon, magnesium, zinc and manganese. Not bad for a salad food. It is thought the leaf ingredients also stimulate urination and can act as a fluid reliever.

These solutions are in no way to replace medicines needed for health. But healthy eating can enhance general good health and assist us in Wellness. *Important note:* don't gather plants from areas that have been treated with fertilizer or other chemicals.

— Bonita J. Portier, D.O.
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Where: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church Parish Hall, 103 N. Church St.

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Incarnation Church Summer Schedule

The Incarnation United Church of Christ, located at 124 West Main St., Emmitsburg, will hold a worship service at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday during the summer, until the end of August. Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. At 10:15 interim pastor Ted Haas will gather informally with those who wish to engage in contemporary devotions and spiritual discovery. The discovery theme will be "EXPLORING THE MAGIC IN LIFE."

Discussion will conclude at 11 a.m.

Topics for discussion will be:

July 27- Exploring the Magic of Travel

August 3- Discovering the Spirituality of Gardens

August 10- Discovering the Spirituality of Mountains

August 17- Discovering the Spirituality of the Sea

August 24- Summer devotions led by a guest minister while pastor is on vacation

August 31- Vacation Sunday; there will be no worship service or devotions on this Sunday

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Quilters

Was there a quilt code, or not?

By Mary Ellen Cummings
Dispatch Writer

In the June issue I cited examples of quilt block names reported in *Hidden in Plain View* (Tobin and Robard) that represented codes used by slaves fleeing to the north and freedom. Some African-American scholars and quilt historians question the veracity of these reports. They don't deny the existence of the Underground Railroad, just that quilts were used as codes in conjunction with the railroad.

African-American, Giles Wright, an Underground Railroad historian calls the code "nonsense." Fath Davis Ruffin, a Smithsonian historian, feels there is no truth in the information in the book. "...They do not provide a single shred of evidence that it is true...it is a disservice to Underground Railroad history."

One of the authors of the book (Raymond Tobin) says, "There will never be any documented evidence of the code quilts because nothing was written down." My question for the doubters is, "Would you tell anyone or write anything down if your freedom — even your life — hung in the balance?" There were few slaves who could write English and those who could were often active in the Underground Railroad efforts. They were not going to jeopardize the movement by telling.

It was against the law to teach slaves to read and write. However, these people did not come to America as slaves. They were Africans when they arrived — then they were made slaves. They brought with them the cul-

ture of the area in Africa where they lived, a culture that used symbols as forms of communication and celebration. In America they were prohibited from "drumming" or to speak in their native tongue. However, they did learn to use familiar symbols to make quilts to communicate.

Eliza Farrow was from Africa. She was a slave trained as a seamstress, midwife and medicine maker. Her husband, a free black, worked 7 years to save enough to buy her freedom. Together, they traveled from plantation to plantation, taking a sampler quilt to teach other Africans the English translation or quilt code patterns. One pattern known as "Wagon Wheel" by native Africans represented a Supreme Being meaning, "God is everywhere." Wagon Wheel is one of the patterns in the questioned "code."

In addition to making special quilts the Africans also hid symbolisms in song. They sang as they worked and after their work was done. Often these songs conveyed messages from escape from bondage. Such songs as "I'll Fly Away" and "Wade in the Water" were popular.

Making quilts was a necessity for the slaves, as they had no money to buy bedcovers. It seems logical to embody symbols in them. Quilters today still use quilting to express sympathy, memories and hope. It is also a fact that quilts were often hung on lines to air and dry — it was so common in the hot, humid south that one more sampler went unnoticed — except by slaves daring to flee to the north.

Next time- Examining Specific Codes

Catoctin Mountain Park Summer activities schedule

Catoctin Mountain Park is one of 388 units administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The park Visitor Center on State Route 77 is 3 miles west of Thurmont, MD. Open daily 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information: 301-663-9388.

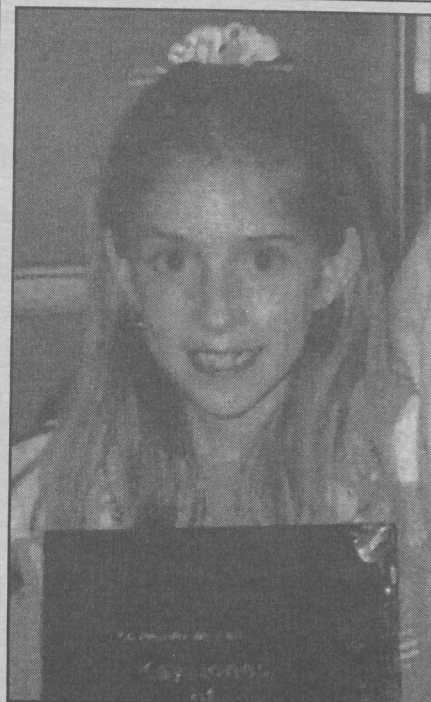
Now through Oct. 31. Cabin rentals. In historic Camp Misty Mount. Rustic chestnut cabins are available to individuals, families and groups. Information: 301-271-3140 to.

Now through Nov. 16. Owens Creek Campground. Open for family camping, first-come, first-served. Only one camping unit (tent or trailer) per site and a maximum of 5 people. Tent size up to 9'x12'. Trailers up to 22' in length. No hookups available. \$16 night.

July, August. Campfire Programs, Saturday evenings at 9 p.m. (8:30 p.m. in August), at the Owens Creek Amphitheater. Topics: the National Park Service and the natural and cultural history of Catoctin Mountain Park.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

People To People is a section in The Emmitsburg Dispatch for personal and family news, announcements, and messages. Unlike Letters to the Editor this is paid space and has the lowest rate in the newspaper. It's not for businesses. The submission must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be used for verification. The Dispatch will only edit for punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.



-SUBMITTED PHOTO

Boyd wins poster contest

Jennifer Boyd received first place in a poster contest on American Patriotism sponsored by the Fairfield Amvets. Each student in the third grade at Fairfield Elementary School was asked to pick their favorite American Hero and create a poster about them. Jennifer made a poster about her dad, Bill Boyd, who is a volunteer firefighter for Emmitsburg's Vigilant Hose Co. Jennifer was honored at an Awards Ceremony at the Fairfield Amvets on Saturday, June 7. She received a book, an American Flag, and a \$50 check. Her poster will be judged in a state contest. Jennifer is the daughter of Bill and Jo Ann Boyd, Fairfield, and grand daughter of Bill and Carrie Boyd and Guy and Betty Ann Baker, Emmitsburg.

Births

Congratulations to these new parents:

Robert & Sherry Hicks, a son, March 17

Eric & Veronica Cunningham, a son, March 22

Mike & Mary Royce, a son, April 4

Rusty & Pam Garber, a son, April 7

Gregory & Amanda Bair, a son, April 15

Machel & Amber Keens-Dumas, a daughter, April 16

Margaret E. Lowe, a son, April 16

Anthony Bentz & Tara Topper, a daughter, Samantha Jean Bentz, April 20

Michael & Tammy Working, a daughter, April 21

John & Karen Malachowski, a son, April 23

Jason & Shelly Hahn, a daughter, April 26

Jeff & Mariah Beard, a daughter, May 20

Gregory Cauley & Stephanie Heizer, a son, May 22

James & Kimberly Hanvey, a son, June 11

Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Beard Jr., a son, June 15

Mr. & Mrs. Terrance P. Kanfield, a daughter, July 3

Bryan Fitzgerald & Amy Cregger, a daughter, July 4

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin E. Dewees, a daughter, July 7

Mr. & Mrs. John H. Forrest, a daughter, July 12

July 26. Closer Look at the Forest. Half-hour program on how the rise and fall of a plant or animal species population can alter forest composition. 3:30 p.m. at the Visitor Center

Aug. 9, 23. Catoctin Discovery for Kids. For kids to learn about nature and the environment while participating in a fun program. 6:30 p.m. At the Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater

Aug. 16. Trail Work in Catoctin Mountain Park. See June 21.

Vacationing?

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Emmitsburgian hits hole-in-one

On July 6 Geoff Hillis hit a golf ball 125 yards non-stop from the tee into the par 3 No. 6 hole at The Links At Gettysburg. Hillis, who lives on Bull Frog Road, Emmitsburg, scored the hole-in-one using a pitching wedge.

Looking Ahead

July 31- Aug 2: "You Can't Take it With You" performed by the Gettysburg Stage. Riegler Auditorium (Middle School on Baltimore St) at 7:30 PM matinee July 27 at 2 PM. Adult admission is \$12.50, and tickets for Seniors and children 14 and under are \$8.50. Box office opens 1 hour before curtain. For Gala patrons a \$35 ticket will provide a front section seat for the July 26 performance and a post show reception with the cast at the G.A.R. Hall catered by Briggerstaff's and featuring jazz and classical guitarist Marc Jalbert and Saxman Bret Crawford. Advance tickets are required for the Gala. For information please contact the Adams County Arts Council at (717) 334-5006 or acac@desupernet.net

July 31- Aug 9 "Charlotte's Web" presented by the Thurmont Thespians Summer Youth Music Theatre at St. John's Lutheran Church of Thurmont. All performances begin at 8:00 PM except Sunday, Aug. 3- 2 p.m.; Aug 6-Aug 8 8:00 p.m. Aug 9 2:00 p.m. As a preview to all evening performances, there will be a children's "County Fair" exhibit from 6:00-7:45 p.m. with games downstairs in the St. John's Lutheran Social Hall. August 3rd, there will be an outdoor Children's County Town Fair exhibit behind the church following the end of the matinee from 4-6PM. Profits from this Thespians Summer Youth Music Theatre productions will be donated to the 4-H Club Therapeutic Riding Program of Thurmont. For reservations or more info call 301-271-3052.

Aug 13: Catoctin High School Safe and Sane Meeting at 7pm at the Thurmont Pizza Hut. Volunteers and Chair persons still needed. Last year over \$56,000 was raised for the graduating seniors final party. Parents and guests welcome.

Sept 20: Annual Alumni Dance: Saint Joseph's High School, Emmitsburg, MD 7:00 p.m. to 12 a.m. Mother Seton School, Emmitsburg, MD \$5.00 admission, BYOB - setups available All Alumni & Guests are welcome For information call: Maria Topper @301-447-2282

Copy Editor wanted

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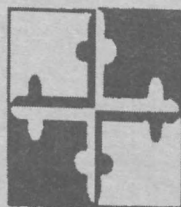
Help Wanted: Housekeepers. Full time/Part time. Weekends included. Apply in person during daytime hours. Sleep Inn & Suites 501 Silo Hill Parkway, Emmitsburg.

Wanted: Pleasant, hard working person to be trained as a cleaning helper. Must have own car. Part time. \$150 - \$200 per week when trained. Call Mrs. Ward at 301-447-6465.

NEEDED — kind volunteers to answer phones, or drive patients for local doctors' visits. Help the Daughters of Charity help others in their Outreach Program for the poor and needy. Answer phones for just one 3-hour period Monday through Friday at the Seton Center. 301-447-6102.

For Sale: Eagle Alloy Rims (4). Size 15x10. 6 Lug. \$450 OBO. Call 301-241-3689

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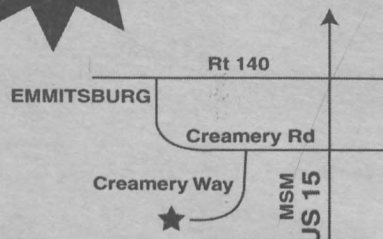
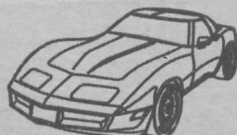


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