

# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL III, No. 10

NEWS AND OPINION IN THE SERVICE OF TRUTH

JUNE 2, 2004



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

## Veterans Honored

The combined honor Guard of the Emmitsburg Posts of the American Legion, Post #121, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Post #6658, remembered veterans by firing a memorial salute at several locations throughout the town on May 30.

## Commissioners approve temporary moratorium

Richard D. L. Fulton  
Managing Editor

Questions arise over adoption process

The town Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a "temporary" new construction permit moratorium at their May 26 work session.

Board President William B. O'Neil, Jr. made the moratorium motion and Commissioner Art Elder seconded it. On the first vote, O'Neil and Elder voted for the moratorium, while commissioners Joyce Rosensteel and Dianne L. Walbrecker voted against it.

However, the board approved the ordinance, which denies new commercial and residential building permits, 10-15 minutes after it was initially stopped by the 2-2 tie vote.

Questions arose after passage as to whether it was appropriate to approve potentially significant ordinances at a normally low-key work session, and whether an advertised ordinance could be voted on again after being rejected, without being re-advertised.

Town Planner Michael Lucas told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that the board is permitted to address "action items" at its work or agenda sessions.

However, in the minds of some individuals, the question of whether or not an ordinance can be voted down, then brought back up

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## Voters reject Bollinger annexation

Staff Report

A small number of registered Emmitsburg voters cast ballots to reject the Bollinger development annexation Tuesday, May 25, in a special referendum held at the Resident Deputies Office (aka Old Town Hall), 22 East Main St.

With a total of 158 ballots against and 112 for approval,

voters overturned the Board of Commissioners' approved annexation of the 20.3-acre Bollinger tract.

The annexation had become effective February 11, 2003, after town Mayor James E. Hoover had signed-off on the Board of Commissioners February 2 approval.

Members of Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE) led the

effort to challenge and overturn the decision by gathering enough registered voter signatures to attempt to have the issue placed on the April 27 ballot as a referendum.

Since there was not enough time to advertise the referendum prior to printing the election ballots, the town decided to hold a special vote on May 25.

Mayor Hoover clarifies annexation

Mayor James E. Hoover told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that he doesn't think people understand the point of annexing property into the town. He said, "Just because you approve annexation doesn't mean you approve development."

There are several reasons

-Continued on page 6

## Emmitsburg Dispatch increases circulation

-see editorial on page 4.

## Emmitsburg Farmers' Market to open in June

-see details on page 5.

## Tax base increased, tax rate stayed the same

-see article on page 6.

## 12 seniors graduate from Emmitsburg's UpCounty Family Ctr.

-see story on page 9.

## Toms Creek water quality questioned, sick cattle and wildlife reported

Richard D. L. Fulton  
Managing Editor

In 1996, over a hundred head of cattle belonging to David Stone, a dairy farmer located along Sixes Road, became mysteriously ill.

Also in 1996, an endangered species of freshwater mussel vanished and fish began to appear with dorsal and stomach sores.

What did these events have in common? Scientists are still not certain, but all the reports involved the waters of Toms Creek below the sewer plant outfall, a section of the stream that has also received sewage spills.

Sewage spills have more frequently reached Flat Run in recent times, according to sewer plant incident reports. Flat Run may have been impacted as

recently as late April during a 128,000-gallon sewage spill during a severe storm.

The run is a tributary of Toms Creek, and ultimately the water carries anything spilling into Flat Run into Toms Creek.

## Cattle sickened along Toms Creek

Stone told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that, in 1996, an investigator from

the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) told him his cattle were sick as the result of "an act of God." He said, "We lost a bunch of those (sickened) cows."

When Stone suggested that sewage spilled during the 1996 flood might be to blame, the MDE investigator stated the sewage was "so diluted it couldn't happen (cause ill-

-Continued on page 8



## 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 Emmitsburg Dispatch reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

## ECC ready to activate emergency warning system

I reviewed your article, "County Failed to Trigger Emmitsburg Tornado Alert" (May 19). I wish to add some comments and information.

The Emmitsburg mass notification warning system is a wonderful example of a community meeting the public safety needs of its citizens. Last year when this idea was taking shape, Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) Chief Frank Davis asked me my thoughts about having a remote activation point at the county's Emergency Communications Center (ECC). I anxiously embraced the idea and along with Chief Davis, Mayor Hoover and other local and county officials developed a remote activation proposal. In late fall this plan was presented to the Board of Frederick County Commissioners who unanimously expressed their enthusiasm and voted their

support.

As you know, after several months of construction the Emmitsburg warning system has recently been completed. Along with many others I personally attended a system overview and training meeting at VHC on May 4. Although by then the new system had been equipped with a local activation point at VHC, the remote hookup at the county ECC was not installed and functional until May 20. That was five days after the tornado warning was issued for Emmitsburg. Therefore it was physically impossible for 911 staff to remotely activate the system during the May 15 emergency. So while the article was correct in stating that 911 dispatch personnel on duty May 15 failed to activate the system, the reason is because we weren't yet equipped to do so.

I wish to assure your readers that since the remote activation system was installed at the ECC on May 20, the 911 staff has been fully trained in the conditions and the mechanics of when and how to trigger the warning system and did indeed activate it when a tornado warning was issued in the northern county region on May 25.

The staff of your 911 center is fully committed to the safety and welfare of all county citizens and visitors. As a 30-year friend of the Vigilant Hose Company and a fellow northern county resident, I am especially troubled that your readers may have been left with some misperceptions about the county's ability to assist in the provision of their safety. (See Editor's Note below.) That is far from the truth.

Thank you for this opportunity to add my remarks and I hope this helps ease anxious minds.

-Randy Waesche, Director  
Frederick County Emergency  
Communications

Editor's Note: The May 19 cover story would have been very

Intersection still confusing  
Red light needed

Here is another response about the Silo Hill and 140 intersection. It sure is nice to have a yellow caution and red blinker light there. It still is very confusing at this intersection. As a former truck driver it sure is hard to go through a blinking red light. Driving through a

red light is unlawful. The town or state needs to install a red light. With the poles and the electricity there it shouldn't be too much of an expense. This should be done before a serious accident occurs.

-- Dave Casey Glass  
Emmitsburg

different with the information Mr. Waesche has provided. The Emmitsburg Dispatch had contacted the Frederick County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operated by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, but received no response to the call for information. The Frederick County Emergency Communications Center (ECC), incorrectly identified as the EOC by Vigilant Hose Company chief Robert Rosensteel, Jr., was the organization called on May 15 to see if they were going to activate the emergency warning system. The ECC is a 24-7 operation responsible for handling all 911 calls and fire and police dispatch.

The number of recent warnings has raised questions about what is considered a real emergency and justifies using the warning system. Waesche told The Emmitsburg Dispatch that the ECC is only responsible for activating the system in a weather-related emergency and under the following conditions: a tornado warning issued for the county with strong weather cells in the Emmitsburg area; reliable funnel cloud sightings called in by citizens or public safety officers; other calls from public safety officials. The system can also be activated at the Vigilant Hose Company or at the Fire Academy. On June 1 the Fire Academy activated the system during a severe thunderstorm.

## Moratorium may create new homeless

On May 26th, at a "budget workshop" meeting, the Emmitsburg town commissioners, with unbelievable persuasion by Mr. O'Neil, voted on a temporary moratorium on new building permits. I might add they first voted and ended up with a

"stalemate." Then about 10 minutes later, after O'Neil -- not stopping until he got what he wanted -- convinced the rest of the board, they voted AGAIN! This time all members voted for the moratorium! Can you legally vote twice?

It is my opinion, as well as numerous others, that the manner in which this town's elected members work is absolutely mind boggling, backwards, unsupported, and is pretty much based on how O'Neil feels at that time!!!

Please know that I am not a lawyer, nor do I have all the facts directly in front of me. I know only what I have read and what I have been told by many different sources regarding all the issues in Emmitsburg. But what I do know is that I have multiple families dangling on a string held by the town. Some of them have had contracts written since February, sold their houses, and in mid-June will be homeless and they have no idea if Apple Tree Homes will be able to build them a

new home!

I care about these people. It's not about the money for me. I love helping others during this stressful time in their lives. That's what makes me "tick." That is also why this is so hard for me. I honestly don't believe the citizens of this town have any idea how their town is run.

New development is inevitable. Just how long does Mr. O'Neil think he can hold off new development, new people? Will he decide to move again in a few years to some place else and prohibit growth? It's my understanding that he, himself relocated to Emmitsburg a few years ago, bought a new home, and once he got there, formed a group...COPE... in order to prohibit others from moving here. WOW! Maybe the citizens of Emmitsburg don't care about improving their beautiful town. OR maybe they do.

-Karen Fegani  
Apple Tree Homes

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## Town swimming pool party proposed for community teens

The town Parks & Recreation Committee is proposing a party in June at the town swimming pool featuring music to attract local teens.

The committee has set a tentative date of June 19 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. They are considering having two swim parties this year, one for teens and one for families. Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel, liaison to the committee, told them that Mayor James E. Hoover wanted a family swim party as the first event.

However, committee President Glenn Blanchard noted that timing the first swim party with the beginning of summer break would give students something to do right after they get out of school.

"The kids won't have had time to firm their plans (for the

summer) yet," he said, adding, "They'll be looking for things to do."

The committee is still deciding on the specifics, whether the event will be free with food supplied for a charge by a vendor or sponsor, games to interest teens, door prizes and other items to purchase or as giveaways.

Michael Kassakatis, Frederick County Recreation Center's coordinator, offered a number of suggestions, based on his experience with county activities.

The teen pool party would cost the town somewhere between \$500 and \$700. Committee member Dianne Walbrecker will draft a concept paper for committee approval. They will then seek the go-ahead from town officials.

the proposed consent order. Town staff is still negotiating with MDE regarding the, as yet, unsigned consent order.

The purpose of the consent order is to restrict, not stop, growth in the town while the community addresses the wastewater collection system. The consent order MDE proposes does not suspend development in town, and merely limits the number of new sewer connections to 20 per year.

Under the order MDE may allow additional connections each year on a case-by-case basis.

A moratorium prohibits all new construction, while any form of managed growth plan allows for at least some amount of construction.

Whittenberger told the board, "This (moratorium ordinance) is a no-growth plan. The moratorium is this town's idea, not MDE's. MDE is not requiring a moratorium."

be worked out for distributing any limited number of building permits under any signed MDE consent order.

If the town is limited to only 20 new construction permits a year, the staff (both Lucas and Town Manager David Haller) have said that these permits must be handed-out equitably.

Haller stated, "(MDE is going to allow) 20 connections a year to give out. This must be done in the fairest way possible." Otherwise, he noted, applicants whose permits are denied might bring legal action against the town.

The moratorium "is also buying time to repair the (wastewater collection system) trunk line," according to Haller.

In truth, the town has been under a "verbal" new construction permit prohibition since March when the Board of Commissioners directed the staff to stop issuing them.

## Permit suspension panics new home buyers

Dennis Carolyn (no relation to developer Tom Carolyn) is trying to purchase a home at South Gate. He told the board he came to the meeting "to try to figure out what is going to happen."

Sarah Palmer, who is also buying a home at South Gate, stated, "I have sold my home (planning on moving into the new home at South Gate). As of June 18, we don't have a place to live (without a permit)."

Robert Palmer said the blame for the permit suspensions lie solely with the boards involved in the development planning and approval process.

"You also did some planning in the first place," he said. "You should have done the advance planning. This (the failing wastewater collection system) should have come up when you approved the developments."

## Moratorium

—Continued from page 1

for another vote at the same meeting without re-advertising it remains unresolved.

One resident, who asked to remain anonymous, told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "As far as I'm concerned, it was illegal."

Additionally, the town apparently only advertised the fact that it would be considering adopting the moratorium on its web site and on a public cable access channel.

G. Randall Whittenberger, representing Apple Tree Homes (developers of South Gate), said, "My client did not get any notice this was to take place. It seems the town tried to keep this a little hushed."

"A moratorium should be subject to more public input. Some of you ran (during the previous board election) on openness (in local government),"

Whittenberger stated.

## MDE consent order an issue

The ordinance was approved as a temporary measure to be lifted once the town satisfies the impending consent order proposed as part of an enforcement action by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

The MDE notified the town in March that it was taking enforcement action due to the intermittent spillages of untreated sewage from the problematic wastewater collection system. Part of that enforcement action includes establishing a consent order to help ensure that the town addresses the problems.

The moratorium ordinance goes over and above new sewer connection limits being sought by MDE. The MDE wants to impose a state-mandated managed growth plan through

## Moratorium intended to "buy time"

Town staff previously indicated to board members that the town must prohibit new construction until a formula can

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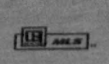
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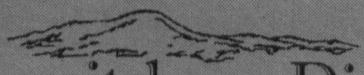
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# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

NEWS AND OPINION IN THE SERVICE OF TRUTH

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## EDITORIAL

### The Emmitsburg Dispatch increases circulation

With this June 1, 2004 edition, *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* welcomes new readers. The newspaper now has a regular circulation of 10,000, taking in more readers south of Gettysburg, and in Keysville and Sabillasville.

*The Emmitsburg Dispatch* continues to undergo changes. These changes reflect the needs of the community and the planned future of the paper. With this issue, the paper is now two inches taller. This size allows for more layout space per page without changing the overall tabloid format.

We recently initiated our sponsors program, hired a managing editor, changed the paper's layout and began publishing twice a month rather

than monthly. Sponsors and advertisers make it possible to publish the newspaper, helping us keep the Emmitsburg community informed. The managing editor brings added professionalism and strict adherence to Associated Press (AP) copy standards adds a consistent quality. The new five-column layout enhances the paper's appearance, making it easier to read while also providing more size options for advertising.

The *Dispatch* will be printed on Wednesday of the first and third weeks of the month. We are making this move to prepare for publishing the newspaper as a weekly edition. Almost all weekly newspapers in the country are published on

Wednesdays or Thursdays.

The editorial board of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* has not yet decided when the paper will go weekly. The timing depends a great deal on the amount of commercial advertising received and on hiring the staff needed to support a weekly effort.

As a community service, we will continue to mail *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*. Since we allow two days for post office delivery, local readers should have the newspaper by Friday. We ask for your patience in receiving the paper as we continue to implement changes and work out refinements.

-Raymond Buchheister  
 Editor & Publisher

### Let's create our own vision for Emmitsburg's future

Emmitsburg seems to have grown in this remote corner of Maryland with little specific planning.

Did earlier Town officials have an explicit design for what Emmitsburg should be? To designate land for industry is not the same as planning a complex of desired industries. To allocate areas for housing is not the same as sketching how streets and open places should be integrated.

Town officials seem to have idled around an imaginary stove and waited for customers.

So Emmitsburg "just grew" like Topsy, with a charming informal pattern, with

nooks and vistas and small surprises.

Unnoticed, however, Topsy has "grewed up".

**Too many residents.** Right now Emmitsburg already has too many residents for its public services.

And existing lots for houses, if built and occupied, could cause Emmitsburg's population to balloon to 4,000 or more.

Right now most residents have to travel elsewhere to work or shop; schools are overcrowded, traffic chokes the square, water mains deteriorate, and sewers overflow.

This is why citizens recently defeated 2 annexation proposals. They did not vote against economic development but against the harm to be perpetrated by another housing development. They foresaw the burden that new residents would impose on the Town's infrastructure and the potential damage another housing development would cause.

At this time Emmitsburg does not need a larger population.

**What Emmitsburg needs** is what *current residents already need* -- businesses and small industries that provide jobs and tax revenue. Many current residents would prefer to exercise their talents and engage in their professions without a

long commute. Many citizens, especially those below the poverty level, need work here.

This lovely Town should have facilities that both serve its citizens and attract people on their way to or from Gettysburg or elsewhere. It should be place where people come to enjoy our vistas, to eat in our restaurants, shop in our shops, and go home with a desire to return.

**First, A Vision.** These generalizations only suggest a vision for Emmitsburg. They are not a plan to realize it. The Town needs to develop a clear vision for the people and the land -- what classes of commerce and which public facilities should exist, and where.

The suggested dinosaur park on the Boyle property is an example of how officials and citizens should be thinking (see *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, May 19, 2004, p. 1). The park would attract visitors, offer instruction for our young people, and give everyone a different kind of place to recreate.

But first, Town officials must acquire a vision for the Emmitsburg. Without a vision they will continue to let this municipal jewel be scarred by outside forces. Neither Frederick County nor housing developers should dictate the Town's future. Its government, with ideas from its citizens, can and should create the Emmitsburg of tomorrow.

-Bill Steo  
 Emmitsburg

### Burn Ban Begins June 1

The Frederick County Health Department has issued a ban on open burning, effective June 1 until September 1, for all county residents, including those with burn permits. The ban helps protect air quality during the hot, humid months when ozone levels are the highest.

Open burning with a burn permit is allowed during other months. However, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources can institute a burning ban at any time if extreme drought conditions exist, as happened in 2002.

Burn ban violators can receive a county fine of \$500 and a state fine of \$5000.

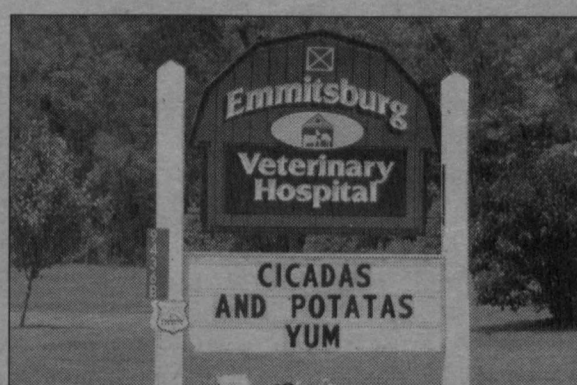
Permits are available during open burning months from the Health Department's Environmental Services Division on Montevue Lane. The annual permits cost \$10.

"Burn permit requests are about 200 above average this year," reports Larry Bohn, Environmental Services Director. "All those residents who are outside burning need to stop that activity at the end of May."

Residents with a burn permit need to notify Central Alarm, now called the Emergency Communications Center, 301-694-1603, before starting any burning.

For more details contact Cindy Bowers, Frederick County Health Department Public Information Officer, 301-694-1788.





## The Real Mystery of the Cicadas

If there is anyone between New Jersey and Kentucky who does not know by now that this is the Year of the Cicada, I would like to meet him, or her, and find out how such isolation happened. For months now, it has been impossible to pick up a newspaper without finding an article about cicadas; even *Time* magazine succumbed to the pressure. Television has been just as bad; on every local station, the "happy face" newsmen whose assigned task is to fill time with inane chatter when there is no real news to report have been blathering about cicadas and reassuring us that they do not constitute a threat to our national security. In both print and electronic media, reporters who would not know an insect from a squid wax eloquent about the "mystery" or "miracle" of the 17-year cycle.

This baffles me. This is the seventh cycle I have seen, and I can not recall anything like this level of interest. To me, that is the real mystery. In the last cycle, 1987, there were articles in the papers about disgusted urbanites sweeping up piles of cicada carcasses from their sidewalks, but nothing compared to the present level of anticipation. Of course I am delighted to see the public get interested in anything related to ecology, but why such fascination now? Everyone over 17 years old has seen this before, and there are many more important phenomena in the living world, yet it is impossible to get the public interested in them. Something odd is going on, but it is not in the insect world; it is in the public psyche.

By this time, those readers who are paying attention should be saying, "Wait a minute!" In order to have seen seven 17-year cycles,

I would have to be at least 119 years old. The fact is that I have seen only three cycles (1970, '87, and 2004) since coming to Emmitsburg. The cicadas we have here belong to "Brood 10," which ranges from



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

"The cicadas we have here belong to "Brood 10," which ranges from New Jersey to Kentucky."

New Jersey to Kentucky. But the ones in Fairmont, W. Va., where I grew up, are a different population; they are five years out of synch, and I saw them in 1948, '65, '82 and '99.

When I was a child, we called them "locusts," and their emergence from the soil was called Locust Year. In those days, many people of my grandmother's generation still believed that tree frogs (spring peepers) and turtles were "generated" from the ground in the spring, and cicadas were explained in the same way. I suppose the name, "locust," was assigned to them when some entomologically illiterate reporter compared their appearance with the Biblical plagues of locusts in Egypt. Nowadays, all schoolchildren, and even many parents, know that the true locusts are grasshoppers.

Whatever the source of the name, I have a clear memory of an afternoon in 1948 when I missed the bus at school and had to walk the five miles or so home. In town, the background noise was the usual clatter of traffic, but as I approached the edge of town the buzz of "locusts" became

detectable, like slowly turning up a radio, and soon it drowned out all other sounds. That first experience did leave an impression, and I can certainly understand people who have a scientific interest in the cycle, but the current flood of media attention hardly seems justified.

Many years ago, students of animal behavior discovered that when animals are confronted with conflicting or threatening stimuli, they often perform "displacement activities" that have no apparent relation to the threat before them. For example, a goose whose nest

is approached by a potential predator will be torn between the impulses to fly away and save itself or to risk its life defending the nest. It will make very specific threats like hissing and raising its wings, but between these responses it will act distracted and pluck up pieces of grass. In thinking about the flurry of interest in cicadas by a public that ordinarily is emphatically apathetic about nature, it occurred to me that maybe this mysterious interest is a displacement activity.

We are surrounded by threats and conflicts... terrorism, a mismanaged war, economic chaos, single-issue politics, a looming environmental crisis that everyone knows is there but no one will admit... Perhaps it gives us comfort to focus on something that is ominous only in a science-fiction sense, and that we know will go away after a month or so. Perhaps the cicadas are giving us that psychological respite, and perhaps we need it. But we can't afford the luxury of being distracted very long.

-Bill Meredith  
Emmitsburg

## Emmitsburg farmers' market set for June 25

Staff Report

The first Emmitsburg farmers' market will open for business Friday, June 25, from 3 to 7:30 p.m., and will feature goods from eight or more agricultural enterprises.

The market will be held every Friday from June 25 until October 22, on a 1/4-acre vacant lot off South Seton Rd. across from Brigg's Real Estate. Donald Briggs has loaned the land to the town, according to Jennifer Steiger, spokeswoman for the farmers' market. Steiger said the site could hold possibly ten vendors.

Eight have tentatively booked so far, Steiger said: South Mountain Creamery, Frederick; Harvest Moon Farm, Walkersville; Cat's Paw Farm, Union Bridge; Stone Hearth Farm, Frederick; Old Orchard Emu, Sabillasville; Frugal Bee, Thurmont; John Kile, Taneytown; and Robert Hadad, Walkersville.

"Items offered will include bread and dairy products, fruits and vegetables, organic products and emu meat," she told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

Emu, for readers not on top of the bird meat market, are large, flightless birds native to Australia and similar to the ostrich. According to the U.S. National Agricultural Library, "Emu meat, like ostrich meat, is similar in texture and color to beef."

Steiger commented,

"The mayor has been wanting to establish a farmers' market for a few years and established a committee headed by Mike (Town Planner Michael H. Lucas)." The committee now includes Steiger, Thelma Richardson, and Donald Briggs.

The town is sponsoring the market, and it is also registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (DOA). After its first year of operation, the market will be able to participate in the WIC (state Women, Infants & Children) Program, which will allow qualified residents to use state coupons to purchase the farm products.

"Only the actual producers of agricultural goods will be accepted," Steiger said, adding, "There will be no second-hand producers represented." Agricultural enterprises in Adams and Franklin counties, Pa., and Frederick, Carroll, and Washington counties, Md., are eligible to participate.

Steiger noted that there is a \$25 vendor fee to sell goods, but no charge for the public to attend. Most of the dealers will sell from tables, and the site will be cleaned up and cleared after the market closes each Friday.

For additional information, or to inquire about selling at the market, contact Steiger at 301-447-3757.

## Willow Pond Farm hosts Pennsylvania Lavender Festival

Staff Report

Willow Pond Farm in Fairfield, Pa. will host the third annual Pennsylvania Lavender Festival, June 18-20.

This is the only festival of its type in the mid-Atlantic region, and will feature tours of lavender fields and demonstration gardens, workshops led by nationally known experts, herbal cooking and pick-your-own lavender. Plants, food, body and bath products along with crafts by local artisans will also be available.

Tom and Madeline Wajda

have owned the farm for nearly a decade and are nationally recognized for their work in organic gardening, plant cultivation and herbal cuisine. They propagate more than 70 different varieties of lavender.

Admission, shuttle and parking are free. Hours are Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Willow Pond Farm is located at 145 Tract Rd., Fairfield, PA, 10 minutes west of Gettysburg, Pa., and 45 minutes north of Frederick, Md. For more information, visit [www.palavenderfestival.com](http://www.palavenderfestival.com).



## Town News

### Town tax base increased, tax rate to remain the same

The mayor and town Board of Commissioners will hold a hearing at the June town meeting to notify residents that the town will maintain the current tax rate, in spite of revenue increases.

For the tax year beginning July 1, 2004, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 2.9 percent, from

\$98,224,380 to \$101,117,004 as a result of additional in-town development, resulting in \$10,413 of new real property tax revenue.

To offset the effect of increasing assessments completely (to produce the same amount of revenue generated in the current budget year), the real property tax

rate should be reduced to 35 cents per \$100 of assessment.

The board is considering not reducing the real property tax, and is, instead, proposing to re-adopt the current real property tax rate of 36 cents per \$100 of assessment.

Maintaining the current real estate tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year will add an additional \$10,413 to the budget currently being prepared, without raising real estate taxes.

The public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate will be held at 7:30 p.m., June 7, at the Emmitsburg Town Office, 300A South Seton Ave.

### Work continues on \$1.1 million town budget

The town Board of Commissioners continued working on the proposed 2005 budget at their May 27 meeting. They must approve the budget June 7.

As proposed by town staff, the budget would total \$1,107,986 with no tax increase for town residents.

Board President William B. O'Neil, Jr., recommended that \$30,000 of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund, used to help pay for police security at

the water and sewer facilities, be taken instead from the general fund.

O'Neil stated that, given the work that needs to be done to the community's water and sewer systems, it did not seem appropriate to use money earmarked for improvements to pay for site security when that money could come from elsewhere in the budget.

Town staff will revise the budget accordingly for the next board review.

### Request to close Armstrong Lane rejected

The town Planning and Zoning Commission rejected a request May 24 to close Armstrong Lane as a means of halting the growing amount of commuter traffic.

Armstrong Lane is located west of the Emmitt House and serves as a connector road between West Main Street and Fraily Road. Two other connector roads, Huffman and Stoner, parallel Armstrong.

Kevin Shorb asked the town to close Armstrong to traffic. He lives on West Main Street and Armstrong runs along the rear of his house.

Shorb told the board that traffic has been continually

increasing because commuters use the alley as a shortcut to avoid driving to the West Main St.-Fraily Rd. intersection to double-back. "The vehicles fly up and down this alley all day long," he said, noting that traffic is heaviest during the week before and after work hours and again on weekends.

Pointing out that a number of children play on property adjoining the lane, Shorb suggested that it is only a matter of time before a speeding car hits one of the children.

Sandy Wormley, who lives along Huffman, expressed her concern that closing Armstrong would simply

increase commuter traffic along Huffman. "They speed up our alley too," she said.

According to Town Planner Michael H. Lucas, the closure would be at odds with town traffic flow plans, which attempt to "provide a comprehensive network of routes for transport throughout the town."

The planning board voted to recommend to the mayor and town commissioners that the town not close Armstrong Lane, but instead, consider increasing police patrols during peak traffic hours, posting more speed limit signs and installing speed bumps.

### Commissioners address diminishing water pressure

The town Board of Commissioners approved a change order to address water pressure in the Mountain View Road water line replacement contract.

The initial contract for \$402,000 was awarded in April to W.F. Delauter & Sons, Thurmont.

The work change order will require adding more piping to help address diminishing water pressure at the Brookfield and Pembroke Woods developments, at a cost of \$40,520.

Town Manager Dave

Haller told the commissioners that the added piping will help establish a "second pressure zone" to divert more pressure toward the water supply lines serving the developments.

Haller said this will not only increase water pressure in homes in the developments, but will also improve fire safety by increasing water pressure at the hydrants serving those areas.

Former board president Patrick Boyle said the commissioners had been working on addressing the water pressure issue for seven years. "Pembroke and Brookfield will wake up one morning and not have any pressure," he stated.

The board approved the change order, with Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker voting against it.

survives without growth," he said, noting that other options for the property not annexed "would not be beneficial to the town."

"I feel that COPE only evolved because of certain members' personal vendetta against the Boyle family. That's how I feel," he observed (referring to the 2003 Silver Fancy annexation referendum).

"The hypocrisy of new people moving to town and then trying to shut the gate is absurd," Bollinger said.

There appears to be some question as to whether the version of the annexation used on May 25 was the correct one. Bollinger would not comment on this aspect of the referendum at this time, and has referred the matter to his attorney.

### Annexation

—Continued from page 1

for the town to annex property itself, rather than leaving in the county. Through annexation the town gains control of what happens to the property, and there are monetary benefits as well, such as property taxes and water and sewer tap fees.

If the town decides not to annex a piece of property, and the landowner proceeds with plans through the county, potential revenue goes to the county, rather than to the town. In the case of the Bollinger property, \$75,000 was to come to the town to be used toward sewer line repair.

Bollinger's request for development would still have had to go through the town Planning and Zoning Commission which might have imposed additional restrictions.

Hoover said, "If you (the residents of Emmitsburg) continue to reject annexation,

the county may begin to feel the pressure from the developers to approve development within Emmitsburg growth limits."

Hoover cited Buckeye Development's recent application to the county for the Silver Fancy farm as an example.

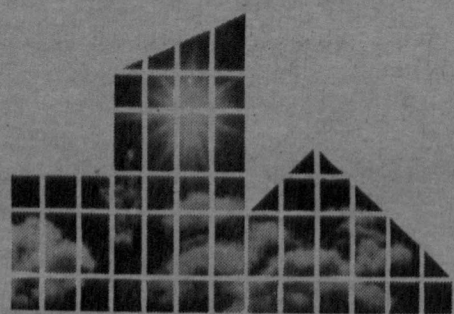
### Bollinger's reaction

Josh Bollinger told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that he and his family "appreciate the 112 voters who did support us." He said he felt the rejection of the annexation was a bad move for the town. "Emmitsburg is notorious for making the wrong decisions. That's why it is in the shape it is in now," he stated.

Bollinger confirmed that he stands to lose \$50,000 to \$60,000 in legal and engineering fees as a result of the rejected annexation.

"For COPE (Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg) to call this a victory is ridiculous. Nothing

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## Town Planning and Zoning special work session will review Emmitsburg's future land use

For the past two years residents for and against residential growth for Emmitsburg have expressed concerns and even engaged in heated debates. The opportunity to address future growth and development is now.

On Saturday June 12, the town Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a special work session on the Emmitsburg Comprehensive Plan from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the town meeting room. The commission will be reviewing several land use aspects of this 20-year plan for Emmitsburg.

## Text amendment dies for freestanding sign

The town Planning and Zoning Commission took no action May 24 regarding the creation of a text amendment that would allow exceptions to sign regulations applicable to the Village Zone.

Taking no action is equivalent to denying a recent request for an exception to the sign regulations applicable to the zone.

The commission previously directed town planner Michael H. Lucas to determine why a sign ordinance required a 35-foot setback for signs in the Village Zone.

Thelma Richardson's request at their April 26 meeting for approval of a sign near the fence-line on her property, 400 West Main St., prompted the review of the requirement.

Richardson operates a business called "The Printed Page," which prints invitations, announcements, and business and personal stationary.

According to the town's sign code, a house must have more than a 35-foot setback to qualify for a freestanding sign in the Village Zone. Richardson's house has only a 25-foot setback.

It was pointed out that Village Zone signage was only intended to be visible to pedestrians on the sidewalks, not to individuals traveling in cars.

Board member Dianne

L. Walbrecker stated, "It seems we intended (when she was involved in working on codes) that signs be attached to buildings (in the Village Zone)," adding, "The character of the Village Zone was set up so people would get out and walk through town."

Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE) Harold C. Craig, Jr. and former COPE secretary Lisa Elder expressed support for a text amendment that would allow exceptions to freestanding sign restrictions.

"Sometimes it seems we are working at cross purposes," Lucas said. "People don't want traffic but they want the signs that will attract (more) traffic," which he labeled "ambiguous expectations."

At the May 26 work session, Commissioner Art Elder asked that the Board of Commissioners begin to review the community's sign ordinance at their June 7 meeting.

## A word from the Mayor Emergency Warning put to the test

On Saturday May 15, 2004, the Vigilant Hose Fire Company activated the Emergency Warning System. Vigilant Hose activated the system due to a reported tornado spotted just south of Emmitsburg and heading north at 35 miles per hour. Other than tests, this was the first time the system was activated.

The system was installed less than six months ago and many of us, including myself, thought that it might be a much longer time before there was a need to activate it.

We were very fortunate that the reported tornado did not materialize and hit Emmitsburg as the forecasters predicted. I also feel that we were very fortunate that we now have such a system that can be used to warn the community of such emergencies.

With the warmer weather here, we now have baseball, swimming and other activities in the parks that create large gatherings of individuals that could be in harm's way of a dangerous storm or some other unpredicted emergency.

On Tuesday May 25, 2004, due to reports of tornadoes spotted to the west and south west of Emmitsburg, Frederick County and Vigilant Hose Fire Company activated the system again.

We were especially fortunate to be able to use the emergency warning system this time, because this was also one of the nights that Mother Seton School's Carnival was open. With many rides and other

equipment subject to various

wind conditions, carnival staff was warned that Emmitsburg was under a tornado warning.

The system also warned citizens to take shelter in a safe place. This is what the system was planned and designed for, to give our community as much warning and information as possible about actual emergencies or potential emergencies (not just tornadoes) that may effect us.

Each time the system has been activated, we (the town, Frederick County, Vigilant Hose and the citizens) learn something new about the system, which helps improve our actions for the next time it is activated.

In the future, Vigilant Hose Fire Company will conduct a monthly test of the system. The test will be conducted on the second Tuesday of every month, and will begin between 7:15 and 7:

30 p.m.

Once the test is activated, it will take approximately 60 to 90 seconds to complete. The purpose of the test is for community awareness and to run diagnostic testing on the equipment to insure that all of it is functioning properly. This type of testing also keeps equipment users familiar with operating the equipment.

For additional community awareness, the town will be adding information to its web site, [www.emmitsburgmd.gov](http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov), and to the town's cable channel, channel 99. Also Frederick County cable channel, channel 19, provides viewers with information about what every household should have available in a safe place in the event of an emergency. You must prepare for an emergency before it happens.

Jim Hoover

-Mayor of Emmitsburg

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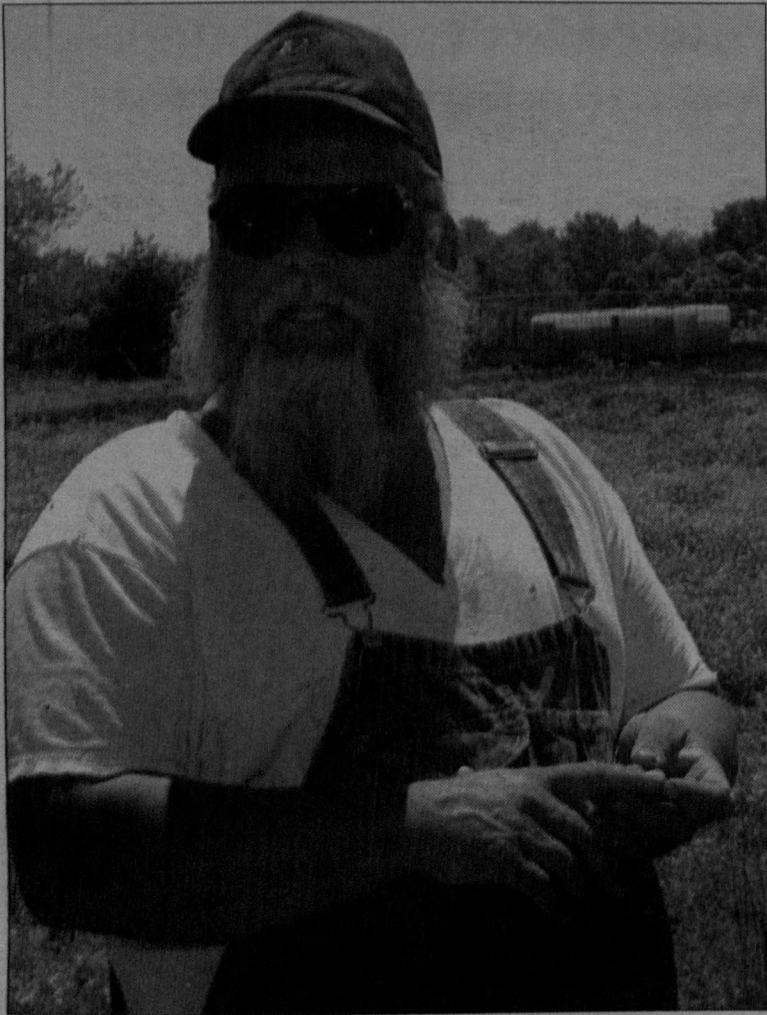
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-Mahatma Gandhi





-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

David Stone, a dairy farmer located along Sixes Road whose farm extends to Toms Creek, explains to *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that in 1996 over a hundred head of his cattle became mysteriously ill.

## Tom's Creek

-Continued from page 1

effects)."

Stone said he could smell sewage in the mud tracked around during his workday. "It wasn't (all that) diluted," he told this reporter.

According to Richard McIntyre, MDE spokesman, the inspector who met with Stone has since retired, and there are no records of what transpired.

### Endangered freshwater mussels vanish

Daniel Feller, a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Natural Heritage Program, was part of an investigation that began in 1996 and was initially unrelated to Stone's concerns about his cattle.

Feller told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that he became involved in a study of endangered, freshwater mussels in Maryland as part of an annual report conducted for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. One of the species being assessed was the Brook Floater (aka *Alasmidonta varicosa*).

The assessment brought Feller to Toms Creek, once

an ideal habitat for this rare shellfish. A previous state survey conducted between 1993 and 1995 located a small population of Brook Floater in Toms Creek.

As Feller worked his way along the creek, it soon became apparent there were now zero Brook Floaters in the stream... at least, no living ones.

"There seemed to have been a serious event in 1996 which appeared to be related to the flood," Feller said. "The extinction of the Brook Floater in Toms Creek could have been attributed to agricultural pesticides or sewage being washed into the creek as a result of the flood.

"There were no direct ties to show that what happened there was related to sewage spills or another cause," Feller stated.

But the missing mussels were not the only phenomenon Feller observed, suggesting that something was amiss in Toms Creek.

Feller also noticed that other more common freshwater mussels were having problems. "Those seen were gaping at the surface," he said, biologist lingo for shellfish lying in shallow water with their shells open in apparent distress.

"They were obviously in the last throes of dying," he stated. "This could have been the result of a low oxygen content in the water," but what caused the oxygen depletion remained undetermined.

### Diseased fish with open sores observed

Then there were the fish. "An unusual number of the fish had sores. You could see them swimming by with open sores on their backs," Feller stated, an observation that Stone told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* can still be made today.

But even worse, Feller became a "victim" of Toms Creek as well while conducting the mussel survey. "The area (of the creek) was putrid. I got a foot infection from walking out into the water," he said.

"Eight out of ten fish

(caught in lower Toms Creek) have sores on their bellies. The MDE said it is a bacterial infection," Stone told *The Dispatch*.

The number of fish in general is declining. "The fish have never come back," Stone noted. "There is a diminishing amount of aquatic plants for the young fish to hide in. When the grass goes, the fish leave."

Stone said he feels the lack of aquatic plants below

the sewage facility is endemic to yet another problem. The sewage plant is actually over-cleaning the affluent (the treated water discharged from the plant), removing nutrients vital to aquatic vegetation growth.

"Why do they (the town) keep giving sewer connections out when the (collection) system is obsolete?" Stone asked. "They have ruined the creek and keep on giving out permits."



The shells of common fresh water mussels found in Toms Creek. MDE biologist, Daniel Feller, noted shellfish in distress during a 1996 investigation of Tom's Creek. Photo by *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.



The Brook Floater, an endangered fresh water mussel, once lived in Toms Creek, an ideal habitat for this rare shellfish. Photo courtesy of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

(L-R) David Stone, Jr. and his father look for signs of aquatic life at the bank of Tom's Creek where they claim the number of fish have declined. Stone Sr. claims Emmitsburg's sewer plant has ruined the creek.



## 12 high school students graduate from Emmittsburg's UpCounty Family Center



Thursday May 20 was a special night for 12 graduating students from the UpCounty Family Center. They shared a graduation dinner and senior prom with friends and family, with food and space courtesy of the Emmittsburg Carriage House Inn. These young people faced a number of situations that made it difficult for them to complete high school with their peers. The UpCounty Center provided them with individualized help that allowed them to complete their education. Teacher Sharla Worley said the students were bright, motivated and had chosen to continue their education. The dinner and prom "was a nice celebration of their success, something they've worked very hard for," Ms. Worley told *The Dispatch*. "They're very proud of what they've achieved, and well they should be." According to Ms. Worley, "They've learned that 'when you set goals and work for it, it's possible.'" Bob Hance and his father, Jim, own the Carriage House. Bob is president of the Family Center's advisory, and told *The Dispatch*, "I'm a strong believer in UpCounty and what they do for the community. I help because I can. I have the time and that's how I was brought up." Holding the dinner and prom in the ballroom named for Bob's mother JoAnn is a way to honor her. "She was a very giving individual," Hance said, "and events like this carry on her legacy." The UpCounty Family Center opened in 1987. It primarily serves parents with children younger than 3. The young people learn parenting and job skills and can also earn a high school diploma, GED or External High School Diploma through the center's Flexible High School program. This year's graduating class is the largest in the center's history.

## Frederick County Summer Camps

The Frederick County Department of Parks and Recreation is offering a summer camp called "Camp Monocacy and Emmittsburg Summer Fun" for students in grades 2-5.

The eight week-long sessions will be held at the Emmittsburg Community Center from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. starting July 1.

Each session will include games, arts and crafts, and sports from different continents. There will also be field trips, including bowling, ice-skating, miniature golf, and a visit to Fountain Rock Nature Center.

The weekly fee is \$100.

A \$20 deposit per camper, per week, will reserve a space. The balance due must be paid by 4:00 p.m., Monday, June 14. All online registrations must be paid in full. All registrations after June 14 must be paid in full at the time of registration.

Low-income families may qualify for financial assistance to help pay for camp. Contact the county summer camp program for a financial assistance application.

For additional information, call the Frederick County Department of Parks and Recreation, 301-696-2936, or visit the website, [www.co.frederick.md.us/Parks/Camp.htm](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/Parks/Camp.htm).

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### Coming Soon



### Emmitsburg Farmers Market

This year, The Town of Emmittsburg will sponsor a State approved Farmers Market. The Farmers Market will be located on South Seton Avenue, Friday's from 3:00 pm until 7:30 pm. Vendors on hand will have a variety of fruits, vegetables, baked goods, plants, honey and much more.

The Farmers Market will open Friday, June 25 and operate through Friday, October 22, 2004. Come out and support the Farmers Market. Vendors will take special orders for available items not on hand.

[www.emmitsburgmd.gov](http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov)



## RELIGION

## Rev. Ted Haas leaves Incarnation Church, recognized by Council of Churches

Susan Allen  
Staff Writer

Rev. Ted Haas of Incarnation United Church of Christ (UCC) received a farewell honor from the Emmitsburg Council of Churches at his last service, May 2, 2004.

Bill Wivell, council president, thanked Pastor Ted for his work with the council, especially for his support of Caring Hands of Emmitsburg, Inc., the interfaith parish nursing program. The council made a donation to Caring Hands in Rev. Haas' honor. Council president Wivell and his wife Rachel were guests at a luncheon for Pastor Ted and his wife Norine.

Pastor Ted came to Incarnation UCC in November 2001 as interim minister, expecting to serve for one year while the congregation sought a new pastor. One year became

two as no candidate was found to serve the small church. Rev. Haas agreed in the fall of 2003 to remain with the church for six more months in order to guide the confirmation class to full church membership.

During his tenure, Pastor Ted drove to Emmitsburg from his Frederick home for weekly services and monthly meetings at Incarnation, plus Council of Churches meetings and special events, including various ecumenical services. In May 2003 the congregation celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. Later that year he helped the church consistory plan Incarnation Church's 235<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance.

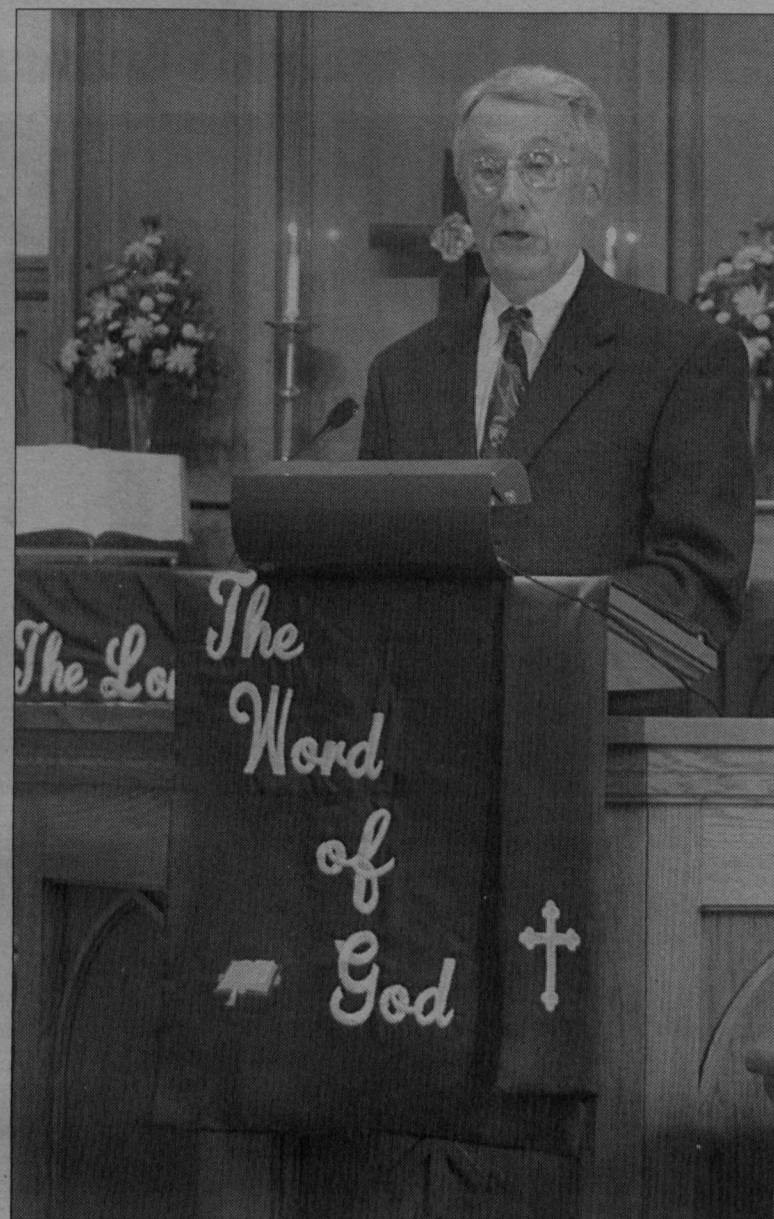
Among their many interests, Pastor Ted and Norine include gardening, and share a love of the outdoors. The congregation presented Pastor Ted with a garden statue of St. Francis of Assisi, his favorite saint. The sculpture

includes rabbits: the German word "haas" means "rabbit." The Sunday school children gave them a cement stepping-stone with a central dragonfly mosaic. Several of the children had made the stone, which included all the class members' names.

The day's events ended with a choral good-bye by the Incarnation Church choir, a musical version of the Irish blessing, concluding with the words, "Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

## Volunteers needed for Vacation Bible School

The Emmitsburg Council of Churches is in need of volunteers to help with their annual Vacation Bible School. Vacation Bible School will be held Sunday, August 2 thru Friday, August 6 from 6:30



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Rev. Ted Haas preaches to his parishioners at Incarnation United Church of Christ during a Sunday service earlier this year.

pm-8:30 pm at Elias Lutheran Church in Emmitsburg. Teachers and assistants are needed for all age groups (nursery thru grade 6), a craft leader, and a snack

person. Anyone interested in helping should contact Johanna Schmetsal at emmitsburgvbs@hotmail.com or call 301-447-3523.



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## Grotto of Lourdes painting still available



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTO OF LOURDES

Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary is selling unframed prints of Harry Richardson's painting of the Emmitsburg Grotto of Lourdes.

The Frederick artist, commissioned by Mount trustees Bettie Delaplaine and Peter Plamondon, completed the painting in 1996.

Unframed, signed and numbered prints, 18" by 24", cost \$50. Sales proceeds go to the college.

Mail checks or money orders, payable to Mount St. Mary's, to George Gelles, 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd., Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Be sure to include a mailing address for the print.

For additional information, call 301-447-5530.



## OBITUARIES

### Mrs. Margaret Shorb

Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Shorb, 86, West Lincoln Avenue, Emmitsburg, died April 30 at St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg. She was the wife of the late Clarence Irvin Shorb.

Born June 13, 1917, in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late Thomas and Virginia Lingg Zurgable.

She was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, a member of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and a former member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Francis X. Elder Post 121, Emmitsburg.

Mrs. Shorb worked as a laundress at St. Joseph's Provincial House for many years.

Surviving are two children, a daughter, Gwen Topper, and a son, Donald Shorb; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren; a number of nieces and nephews; and one sister, Sister Amelia Zurgable, Daughter of Charity.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held May 4 from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, with her pastor the Rev. Stephen P. Trzeciecki officiating.

Interment was in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

### Mr. Charles Ott

Mr. Charles Christopher Ott, 92, Old Gettysburg Road, Emmitsburg, died May 2 at St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg.

Born Nov. 4, 1911, in Emmitsburg, he was a son of the late John B. and Ida Miller Ott.

He was married to Virginia Louise Baugher Ott who died Feb. 7, 1981.

Mr. Ott was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, and a member of the Thurmont Riding Club. He had retired from the housekeeping department at Mount St. Mary's College.

He is survived by four children, John F. Ott, Francis C. Ott, Richard A. Ott, and Patricia A. Glass; 16 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; one

brother, John (Jack) Ott; and two sisters, Betty Weatherly and Doris Asper.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held May 5 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, with his pastor, the Rev. Stephen P. Trzeciecki as principal celebrant.

Interment was in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

### Mr. Robert Eiker

Mr. Robert Clarence Eiker, 87, South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, died May 10 at home.

Born Jan. 21, 1917 in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late Francis and Laura Van Sickle Eiker. His wife, Mildred Bernadine Ott Eiker, died Feb. 9, 1995.

An active outdoorsman, Mr. Eiker was a founding member of the Indian Lookout Bowmen Archery Club and an organizer of the Gettysburg Archery Club. He belonged to numerous outdoor clubs as well as Carpenters Local 132. He had retired from Thurmont Construction Company.

He was a member of Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg.

Survivors include six children, Dorothy Fox, Anna Ray, Robert B. Eiker, William Eiker, Joan Carney and Peggy Eiker Fleagle; 18 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; a number of nieces and nephews; a sister, Helen Irene Weinarsky; two brothers, Gilbert Eiker and Elwood Eiker; and a dear friend, Elva O'Brien.

Funeral services were held May 13 from the Skiles

Funeral Home, with his pastor, the Rev. Jon Greenstone, officiating.

Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

### Mr. Lewis Hahn

Mr. Lewis Edward Hahn, 67, 107 Eyler Road, Thurmont, died May 10 at home. He was the husband of Virginia Gay Elder Hahn, whom he married May 3, 1955.

Born in Emmitsburg, Oct. 15, 1936, he was a son of the late Clarence Edward and Carrie Elizabeth Andrew Hahn.

Mr. Hahn worked for Superior Plus, Frederick. He served during the Korean War with the U.S. Army 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles." Mr. Hahn was a Past Master of Tyrian Lodge 205 A.F. & A. Masons; a member of Edwin C. Creeger Post 168 American Legion, Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, and the South Mountain Rod and Gun Club.

Surviving in addition to his wife are four children, Lewis Edward Hahn, Trina Gay Keilholtz, Jeffrey Neal Hahn, and Andrew Wade Hahn; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; three sisters, Mary Rohrbaugh, Carrie Boyd, and Shirley Pittinger; and one brother, Alfred C. Hahn; along with several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held May 13 at Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, with his pastor, the Rev. Jon Robert Greenstone officiating.

Interment was in Blue Ridge Cemetery, Thurmont.

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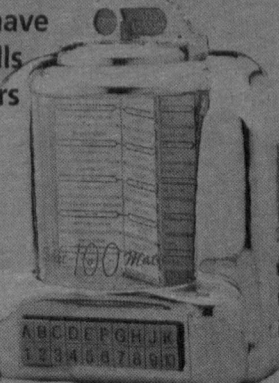
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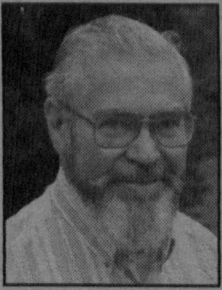
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## The (retired) Ecologist Of Immigrants, and Natives, and the Persistence of Memory



Bill  
Meredith  
Dispatch  
Writer

Being retired means you have time to walk instead of riding everywhere. This benison is offset by the fact that, at this age, you become more forgetful. The retired part happens suddenly; one day you're working, the next day you're not. The forgetful part is sneakier; sometimes it's so gradual you don't even notice, but sooner or later it catches you. For me, that happened last April.

I had finished a book one evening, and the next morning after breakfast I decided to drop it off at the library when I made my usual trip to the post office. It was an unremarkable day... neither rainy nor sunny... and the walk to the library was uneventful, until I got to the door and found it locked. Momentarily

disoriented, I stared at the door, tried it again to be sure it hadn't changed its mind, and then noticed a sign that said opening time on Mondays was 10 a. m. I knew that; I had got there early one day last month too. After a quick mental review I assured myself that this was the right day, so I pulled back my sleeve and looked at my wrist, where my watch normally resides. It wasn't there; I had forgotten to put it on that morning. Luckily, the clock at the Provincial House picked that moment to sound the three-quarter chime, so I knew it was fifteen minutes before some hour. Calculating backward, allowing for the time I usually get up and how long it usually takes to eat breakfast and get organized, I figured there was a pretty good chance that the coming hour was ten. So a stroll on to the post office used up five minutes, and I arrived back at the library with ten minutes to kill.

The recent renovations of the library made it a thing of beauty, functionality and comfort on the inside, but the grounds outside had not yet

been finished. The lawn had been chewed up and compacted by construction equipment over the past year; the ruts had been smoothed out, but there was no topsoil and the grass was all gone except for a thin band within a foot or two of the building. To a casual glance there was nothing there except red clay strewn with rocks; but a closer look showed that things were going on. Nature's colonizers were not waiting for the landscaping contractor to come; weeds were springing up everywhere. I counted 15 species in less than five minutes.

Some were the neighborhood toughs you would expect... curly dock, with tap roots that go down two feet or more; wild carrot, dandelions and chicory, also with tap roots; broad- and narrow-leafed plantains, wild onions, and goldenrods, which had been in the previous lawn and survived being ground under bulldozer tracks. But there also were more delicate varieties; annuals, whose seeds may have been dormant in the old lawn for years, jumped at the chance to avoid their grassy competitors. Henbit, wild mustard, ground ivy, and two types each of veronicas

and chickweeds were not only growing, but blooming, covered with flowers less than a quarter of an inch across. There was even a tulip, whose bulb must have once been in a flower bed, pushing its way through the clay.

Later that week I was able to get approval from both my wife and the weatherman to play golf. Botanically, a golf course is one of the most artificial and intensively managed ecosystems on the planet; but ironically, it is increasingly one of the few places where you still have a chance to see native plants. In this case, the cart-path between two holes led through a small patch of woods by a hillside, where it was too steep and rocky to build anything. There, right by the path, was an area the size of a small house where the ground was carpeted with bloodroot, in full bloom... spectacular, delicate, pure white blossoms, 4 inches high, with lobed, purplish-green leaves. I had not seen them growing in this area for years. But there they were, by some happy convergence of the right amount of rainfall last year, absence of livestock, people and pets compacting the soil, trees left standing to provide shade, and my being there at the right time. They were like the flowers Steinbeck\* wrote of, "so rare and magical that a child, finding one, felt singled out and special all day." And

it was all the more special for me because the instant I saw them, their name, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, popped into my mind. I hadn't thought of that name for probably 30 years, and I couldn't recall the name of the lady who took my book at the library, but there it was.

When I saw the weeds that were blooming in front of the library, I recognized them like old friends. Like me, most of them are immigrants; their ancestors came to America the same way mine did, and about the same time... on the lower decks of sailing ships, among the livestock. They are gone now... the landscape crew tilled the ground, planted some grass seed, and spread a layer of hay... but they will be back. They are designed for living in disturbance, in competition, in imbalance. The new grass will sprout and grow, but when the going gets tough and it turns hot and dry this summer, the weeds will be waiting. They will crowd out the grass, and unless we interfere again, they will take over. We humans are like that; we crowd out all who stand before us. There is more weed in our makeup than we like to admit.

The bloodroot, on the other hand, is a true Native American; it was here even before the arrival of those early immigrants, the Indians, who used its red sap for warpaint and medicine. It was also a medicinal herb for the later immigrants from Europe, and coexisted with them for a while. But natives, be they plant or human, do not adapt easily to change. Cutting the forests and plowing the soil destroyed the bloodroot's habitat as it created habitat for people.

We cannot live together, it seems. We can preserve islands of woodland by accident, like the one on the golf course, or by design, like state and national parks; but if our population continues to grow, its sprawling pressure will doom these preserves in the long run. Just as the name of the bloodroot will eventually fade from my rickety and porous memory, so will the species itself disappear from the rocky hillside. The way things are going with the environment, even at my age it is uncertain which will happen first.

\* *East of Eden*, Chapter 1.

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# MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

## NEW SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED *in* *Honor of* EMMITSBURG NATIVE

By Kate Charubas

The Mount is pleased to announce the establishment of The Agnes Taylor Garner Scholarship, named after a native of Emmitsburg and lifelong friend of many Mount priests, faculty, staff and students.

Garner's sons, William A. Garner, who graduated from the Mount in 1943, and John T. Garner, established the Garner Scholarship in April 2004. The scholarship was also given in memory of Rev. John F. Cogan.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to an incoming freshman who belongs to St. Anthony Shrine Parish or St. Joseph Parish in the greater Emmitsburg area.

The first scholarship recipient will be named for the fall semester of the academic year 2004-2005.



Top, left to right:  
William A. Garner, Elizabeth Fitzgerald Garner, Frank DeLuca, vice president for institutional advancement, and Thomas H. Powell, president

### Twenty-five years of service

Bottom, left to right:  
Sr. Ann Miriam Gallagher, Thomas H. Powell, Gloria J. Meyers, Dr. German Grisez, Jeannette E. Grisez, Dr. Gertrude D. Conway, Mildred A. Valentine, James W. Hartnett, Denise L. Ditch, Irene Powell



### MOUNT HONORS EMPLOYEES

Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary recently honored many employees from the Emmitsburg community for their service to the school. An awards banquet was held on May 18, 2004.

#### Name, Years of Service, Job Title

Melissa M. Gladhill, 20, Human Resources Assist.  
Connie E. Barnes, 10, Admin. Assistant—Marketing & Promotions  
Eric L. Baumgartner, 10, Captain—Public Safety  
Dawn R. Cool, 10, Mount Cafe supervisor  
Phyllis M. Cool, 20, Dining Room Supervisor  
Cheryl L. Crum, 15, Custodian  
Dr. Germain Grisez, 25, Chair of Christian Ethics  
Laura A. Eiker, 10, Line Supervisor  
Samuel C. Eyler, 35, Grounds Foreman  
Kevin J. Fitzgerald, 20, Custodian  
Barbara A. Glass, 15, Custodial Building Supervisor  
Jeannette E. Grisez, 25, Office Assist.—Christian Ethics  
Linda K. Junker, 15, Dir. of Institutional Research  
Julie A. Kerr, 11, Salad Bar Attendant  
Patricia A. Knott, 15, retired Custodian  
Cynthia L. Lenhart, 15, Line Cook Attendant  
Barbara A. McGraw, 35, Food Production Manager  
Gloria J. Myers, 25, Assistant Cataloger—Library  
James J. Phelan, 50, retired Men's Basketball Coach

Thomas D. Ryan, 40, Prof.—Business, Accounting & Economics  
Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, 10, VP/Rector of the Seminary  
Susan E. Sanders, 10, Deli Attendant  
Sr. Ann Miriam Gallagher, 25, Prof.—Seminary  
Deborah J. Stely, 20, Assistant Mgr.—College Store  
Viola E. Topper, 42, retired Operations Specialist—Information Technology  
Samuel D. Tressler, 15, Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator  
Mildred A. Valentine, 25, Mgr. of Accts. Receivables  
Linda Wantz, 35, Kitchen Supervisor  
Linda L. Northrup, 10, Accts. Receivable Assistant  
Dr. Frederick J. Portier, 15, Prof.—Math & Computer Science  
Patricia L. Trout, 30, Print Shop Supervisor  
Robin I. Bowling, 10, Dining Room Supervisor  
Eric K. Harbaugh, 15, Preventive Maintenance Tech.  
Cynthia M. Marshall, 10, Admin. Assist.—Admissions  
Mary L. Newton, 15, Admin. Assistant—Education  
Connie A. Springer, 20, Custodial Building Supervisor

The Mount is one of Frederick County's largest private employers, with almost 500 full and part-time faculty, staff and administration. For additional information please contact the human resources at 301-447-5372.

## MOUNT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Seminary Laity Retreats

[www.msmary.edu/seminary/retreats](http://www.msmary.edu/seminary/retreats)  
All inclusive retreat cost is \$130. For more information, 301-447-5017

June 11-13

"The Mystery of the Eucharist: Living Out the Mass."

June 18-20

"Devotion to the Virgin draws its inspiration from the Bible. How does Mary appear in the Scriptures?"

July 9-11

"Disciplined Desire: Living God's Virtues in a Stress-Filled World"

### Grotto Day Retreat

[www.msmary.edu/grotto](http://www.msmary.edu/grotto)  
For more information, Carol Spoonhour, 301-447-5318, or [spoonhour@msmary.edu](mailto:spoonhour@msmary.edu)

Saturday, June 5

"Graces and Challenges of the Family Today"

Upcoming retreats

July 17—Women's Retreat

July 31—Men's Retreat

### 2004 Summer Sports Camps

<http://mountathletics.collegesports.com>  
For additional camps being offered, check out the above website.

Girls Basketball Camp

June 20-24 (ages 10-18)

Resident: \$440

Commuter: \$330

301-447-5791

Boys Basketball Camp

June 24-28 (ages 8-17)

Resident: \$425

Commuter: \$325

August 6-8 (HS team camp)

\$200/camper

301-447-5387

Baseball Camp

July 11-15 (ages 7-12)

July 25-29 (ages 13-17)

Resident: \$395

Commuter: \$285

301-447-3806

Womens Lacrosse Camp

June 20-23

Resident: \$380

Commuter: \$300

301-447-3802

Professional Soccer School

June 20-24 @ Glencoe MD (girls)

July 25-29 @ MSM (boys)

Aug. 1-5 @ Glencoe MD (girls)

Resident: \$425

Commuter: \$315

301-447-5383

Elite 150 Lacrosse Boys Camp

July 4-8 (Sun-Thur)—

July 18-22 (Sun-Thur)

Ages 10-17

Resident: \$455

Commuter: \$325

301-447-5356

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## EDUCATION

## Emmitsburg Elementary School Honors Scholar Bowl Winners

Susan Allen  
Staff Writer

Emmitsburg Elementary School honored dozens of fourth and fifth grade students at an evening dinner celebration

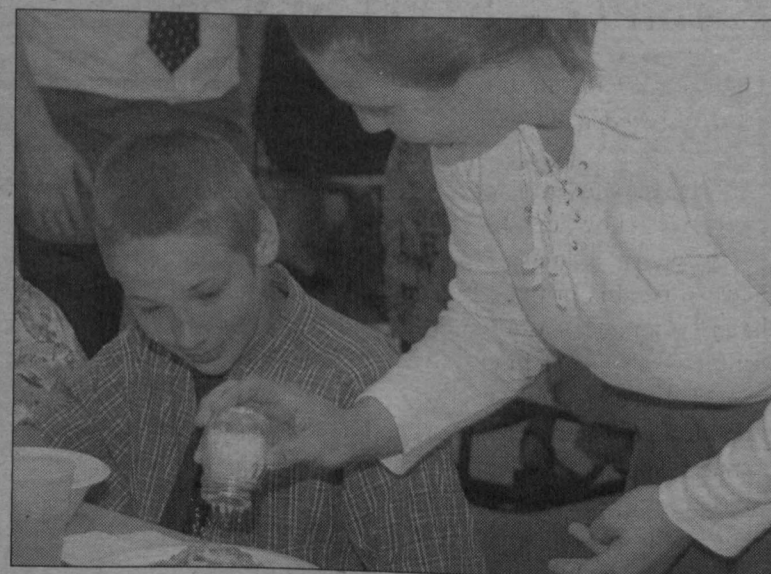
100 questions that covered many subjects from the school curriculum. In addition fifth graders had to memorize the preamble to the U. S. Constitution. They had two months to prepare for the tests.

scored 100% and attended the May 19 dinner, catered by the Ott House. Each one was escorted along a red-paper "carpet" into the school cafeteria, which was decorated with mini-lights and balloons donated by Flowers For You and Gifts, Too.

Musicians Dan Sherman, Marty Miller, and Bill and Betty Meredith performed during and after dinner. Many teachers and staff members, including principal Wanda Severance and guidance counselor Sarah Fawley, volunteered as servers.

Students dined on salad, spaghetti, breadsticks and brownies, and toasted one another with orange soda from McDonald's. After dinner Joe Gros and some of his fifth-grade classmates started a "conga line" and led a group of dancers around the dinner tables.

Perhaps the greatest highlight of the evening was a "Jeopardy" style face-off, students versus teachers. Mrs. Hoffman asked the questions, which were not from the students' lists. Final score: students 22, teachers 7.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

At 6:30 p.m., all carrying lollipops, some with balloons, the students were again escorted individually down the red carpet to the cars that took them home.

Later that week Mrs.

Hoffman said it was just a "wonderful evening -- I hope we can do it again next year."

Mrs. Fawley declared that the dinner "was the best thing I've ever done (for students) in all my years of teaching."



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Students dine on spaghetti while their teachers stand ready to serve them.

May 19. The first-time event recognized their 100% scores in the school's Scholar Bowl.

Mrs. Dawn Hoffman, Title I teacher, devised the Scholar Bowl program. She modeled it on one in the Gettysburg, Pa. school system. All fourth and fifth graders could participate, but were not required to do so. Their task was to learn, on their own time, the answers to a set of

Mrs. Hoffman encouraged parents to practice the questions with their children, and offered suggestions for success.

In all, 46 students participated in the Scholar Bowl. They were rewarded with an after-school movie, popcorn, and juice on May 10. Emmitsburg Video donated the film, "Like Mike," for their enjoyment.

Thirty-seven students



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

"Jeopardy" was the highlight of the celebration as students faced teachers in a battle of wit.

## Mother Seton School 2004 Walkathon benefits Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Susan Allen  
Staff Writer

Sunscreen, tennis shoes, and t-shirts were essential for the walkathon at Mother Seton School (MSS) on May 14. Cool hats were optional. Promptly at 9:15 a.m., the eighth graders set the pace, walking in support

of their classmate, Christina "Chrissy" Gossweiler, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Every student, including the smallest kindergartner, followed paths around the school to the boundary of the Provincial House property, down Seton Avenue to the drive into St. Catherine's Nursing Center.

Teachers, staff members, several school alumni, and many parent volunteers also participated in the annual fundraiser.

Although a final tally will not be available until June, Val Mentzer of the MSS development office stated that the walk has raised approximately \$4,000 in previous years.

Sister Mary Catherine Conway, school principal, explained that students help select the nonprofit organization to receive their pledges each year. This is Chrissy Gossweiler's last year at MSS, and her schoolmates wanted to contribute to the search for a cure for cystic fibrosis (CF).

CF is a genetic disease that affects about 30,000 people in the United States, clogging their lungs and pancreas with mucous. Chrissy was diagnosed with the disease when she was 18 months old.

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## Quilters – Start Simple

Mary Ellen Cummings  
Dispatch Writer

Have you ever watched a quilting show on TV? Did it inspire you to make a quilt? All you need is print and plain fabric (yardage), a few tools and a sewing machine (new one, preferably). Oh, yes! You also need a rotary cutter and mat, scissors, a plastic cutting guide/ruler, a pattern, a flannel wall, an iron and pad, and a table to put the tools on. Don't forget a place to throw the excess fabric you cut off when you sew the little pieces to the big pieces.

Is your quilt making desire beginning to fade? Don't let it die. Remind yourself that the people on TV are professionals. Quiltmaking and teaching is what they do - over and over again. They are probably not your next-door neighbor -- the one who just happens to quilt.

My advice is "Go to your favorite fabric shop and join a class." Classes are available in all levels of quiltmaking, and your instructor is nearby

to guide you. Don't be too ambitious. Sign up to make something small and simple. And, don't expect too much of yourself. Remember a baby usually learns to crawl before it can walk.

My quilt history begins at age eight when I started my first project with the recommended beginner's pattern -- a 9-patch. There was only one pattern piece -- a square -- and no curves. The 9-patch is still a good starter pattern. There are many ways to use the blocks in a quilt. It is difficult to see the block in some arrangements, but the easy 9-patch is still the basis.

Many quilts and designs later, I watch the television shows and vendor demonstrations, hoping to see ideas that will improve my technique and make quiltmaking easier and faster. If I had advance knowledge of the essence of a given show, perhaps the methods would not seem so complicated and time consuming. Vendors' demonstrations are usually held in conjunction with large

quilt shows, and even though I enjoy the demonstrations, I can't see myself dragging tools and fabric to a quilt show. I could take my own advice and join a class, but transportation is a problem.

At home, I have the patterns, rulers, rotary cutters and the fabric -- yards and yards of it. However, there are three requirements I don't have -- a new, modern sewing machine, quilts-only room and patience. I could buy a new sewing machine. I could eliminate a bedroom and make a quilts-only room. Patience -- hmmm -- that's not so easy to acquire. I can't buy it. No one can lend theirs and it doesn't grow on trees. At my age, level of experience and lack of patience, I could make one half a quilt top in the time I would need to study and digest modern methods.

How about you?

## Classified Ads

**REPORTER NEEDED** to cover local events and write short features. Pay is by assignment. Apply to *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, P.O. Box 358, Emmitsburg, MD 21737; Phone 301-447-3090; Fax 717-334-0423; e-mail [publisher@emmitsburgdispatch.com](mailto:publisher@emmitsburgdispatch.com)

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**For Sale:** Camper- 2000 29-S Wilderness Camper, Queen bedroom front, bunk bed rear,

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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.

**Annual Yard Sale:** Seton Center Thrift Shop. 16840 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. July 10<sup>th</sup> 8am-4pm, raindate July 17<sup>th</sup>. Stop n and sign up now. Spaces \$10.00 and up. Phone: 301-447-6102 for more information.

## Looking Ahead

**June 10-20 – Comedy of Errors Under the Stars.** Thu-Sat 8 pm, Sun 5 pm, Hood College Campus at the Hodson Outdoor Theater, Frederick, MD. Presented by *The Shakespeare Project*. Admission: Adults \$15, Children and Seniors \$5. No advanced sales. Visa and MasterCard accepted. Thursdays FREE! Information: 301-668-4090 [www.ShakespeareProject.com](http://www.ShakespeareProject.com)

**June 10 – Annual Strawberry Night.** 7:30 pm. Masonic Temple Tyrian Lodge # 205, Emmitsburg. Local resident, Paul Alfred Harner to be honored and presented with a Fifty Year Service Award. Also, a presentation of a College Scholarship Award will be made to a four year honor student, David M. Stitely, grandson of local resident Charles L. Long. Family and friends are cordially invited. Members, please make every effort to attend. Refreshments & fellowship to follow.

**June 12 – Family Style Dinner.** 12 noon-6 pm.

Creagerstown Lutheran Church Parish House. Fried chicken and ham. Adults \$8, Children \$4. Benefit Creagerstown Lutheran Church.

**June 12 – Festival at Mt. Tabor Park, Rocky Ridge.** 4 pm. Home of the BIG SLIDE. Enjoy home-cooked food, soup, sandwiches, homemade pie, iced tea, and ice cream. Games, including Bingo. Music by "The Gospel Travelers" beginning at 7 pm. Open to everyone.

**June 13 – All Day Cash Bingo.** Doors open at 11:30 am. Games begin at 1 pm. Emmitsburg Ambulance Co., Emmitsburg. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. Ticket includes a fried chicken and ham dinner. 47 games include 1st and 2nd half 50/50 & winner takes all. 1st half jackpot \$250 & 2nd half jackpot \$500 Information: 301-447-6626. To benefit New Building Fund.

**June 15 & 29 – Auditions for Jubilate!** A central Pennsylvania-based choral group. Information to set up an audition: Agnes French 717-560-6448

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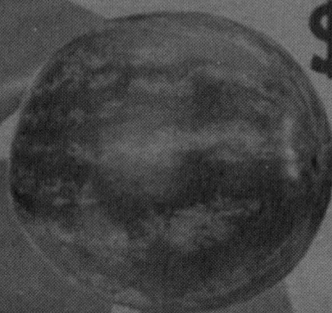


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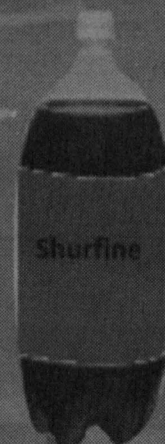
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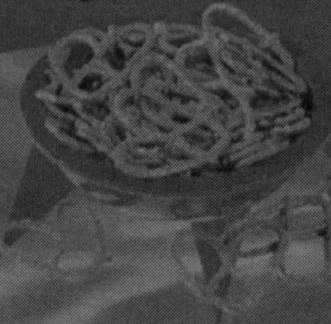


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