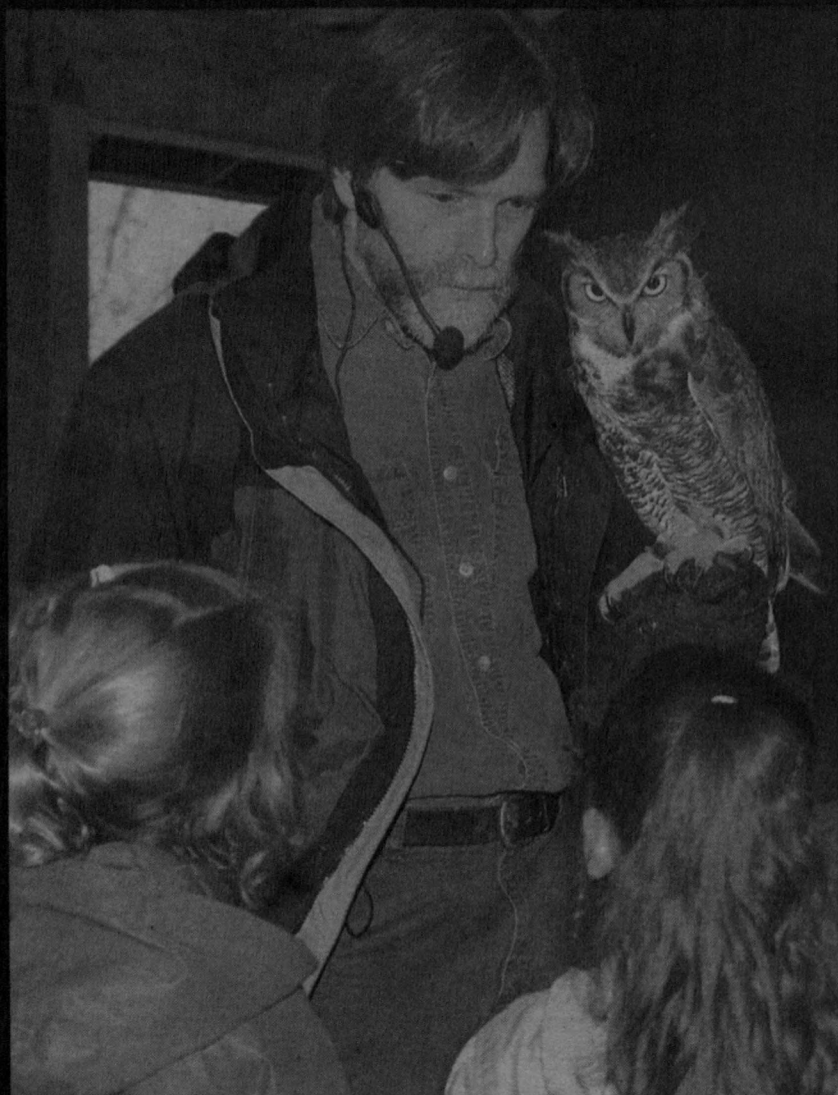


The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL IV, No. 9

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

MAY 5, 2005



RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Girl scouts learn about 'critters'

Naturalist Jack Hubley answers questions about "Lester," a great-horned owl, posed by two brownie scouts from the Penn-Laurel Girl Scout Council at Fairfield's Camp Happy Valley on April 30. Hubley is the former host of a Channel 8 (Lancaster, Pa.) Sunday TV show, "Call of the Outdoors," and currently hosts a Friday evening news segment on Channel 8, "A Wild Moment." See story on page 3.

Voters re-elect mayor and choose two commissioners

Election called 'mandate for sanity and civility'

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

The voting results in Emmitsburg's April 26 election sent a clear "mandate for sanity and civility," according to departing Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker.

Re-elected was incumbent Mayor James E. Hoover, whose campaign slogan was "a voice of reason in Emmitsburg Town Government." Hoover received 357 of the total 537 ballots cast for mayor, nearly seven out of every 10 votes.

Two new commissioners, Christopher V. Staiger, currently chair of the town planning and zoning commission, and Glenn E. Blanchard, who chairs the water

and sewer committee and is a member of the parks and recreation committee, together received 41% of the total 1049 votes cast for commissioner. Staiger received 221 votes and Blanchard received 214.

It took the election judges nearly three hours to count the votes. Although the overall percentage of voter participation was down given the sizeable increase in registered voters, the total number of ballots cast increased by more than 100, from 437 last year to 540 useable ballots this year.

Mayoral candidates Commissioner Arthur Elder received 126 votes and Stanley C. Mazaleski received 54 votes.

-See **Election** on page 5

Catoctin Mountain Park seeks name change

STAFF REPORT

J. Mel Poole, superintendent of the Catoctin Mountain Park, appeared before the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners on May 2 to ask them to consider supporting a proposed name change for the park.

Renamed to identify national status

Legislation (S.777) was introduced by

Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md.) on April 13, 2005, to designate Catoctin Mountain Park in Maryland as the "Catoctin Mountain National Recreation Area." Changing the park's name will serve two purposes, according to the legislation: it will clearly identify the park as a unit of the National Park System (NPS); and it will distinguish the park from Cunningham Falls State Park.

The legislation states that "Catoctin

-See **Park** on page 14

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Vandalism Destroys Students' Tree-Planting Efforts

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Staff Writer

A "person or persons unknown" ruined the recent efforts of local children to plant a grove of trees in Memorial Park. Trees planted by kindergarten children along Willow Rill were uprooted and tossed into the stream shortly after the children planted them as part of the New Forest Society's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

On April 19, 51 kindergarten students from Emmitsburg Elementary School (EES) worked with Elizabeth Prongas of the New Forest Society (NFS) and other volunteers to plant hazelnut seedlings on the bank of Willow

Rill, the small stream which runs in front of the school and proceeds along Emmitsburg's southern boundary.

Kindergarteners from Mother Seton School were scheduled to plant more trees that Friday, April 22 (Earth Day.) Rain cancelled the children's planting, but Prongas and several volunteers - Richard Lind of Frederick, Scott Trexler from Rocky Ridge, and Jennifer Dotson, from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin - intended to plant the remaining seedlings while they were still healthy.

Arriving at the site around 9 a.m., Prongas discovered that the already planted trees were gone. "I was just heartsick," she said. The

soil was disturbed and it appeared that all the trees had been pulled up. Dotson and Prongas walked the area and noticed a few seedlings floating in the stream, their roots intact.

In speaking with one of the town's maintenance workers, they learned that the trees had not been there on April 21 when the man was working in the area.

Prongas and Dotson reported the vandalism to Michael Lucas, Emmitsburg Town Planner. The

park property belongs to the town and Lucas has been their contact in arranging the tree planting this year and last.

Prongas called the police, despite Lucas' reluctance to involve them. The trees had been purchased with grant money from the Canaan Valley Institute, which received at least some funds from the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Although the

-See **Vandalism** on page 14

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Emmitsburg Dispatch encourages its readers to express their thoughts and opinions about issues that appear in this publication or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to the Dispatch and should be no longer than 300 words in length. They must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be used for verification. The Emmitsburg Dispatch reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

A letter from the editor...

Postal workers care

Thanks to the extra efforts of postal workers, Emmitsburg residents received the April 21 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* in time to review the voters' information before the April 26 town election.

The paper was scheduled to be out April 21, but was delayed in order to include the Ethics Commission Report. The issue included a Voters' Guide and a news analysis of the election forum co-sponsored by this paper and The Frederick County League of Women Voters.

The paper was printed first thing Monday morning, April 25,

and Emmitsburg residents received it the same day. Had it not been for the post office carriers, clerks and postmasters, voters would not have had this opportunity to learn more about the candidates and issues.

Postal regulations allow the post office two to three business days for delivery, but they went out of their way to get it out on Monday.

We want to recognize the efforts of the following carriers: Rural Route 1 - Ronnie Stouter, Rural Route 2 - Steve Hollinger, and Rural Route 3 - Harriet Haxton. Special thanks also to these clerks in the post office

who distributed the papers to the PO boxes: Vicki Alcorn, Kathy Christian-Tuff, and Patty France. And we also appreciate the efforts of the postmasters on duty that day who worked with the staff to get the paper out: William Thomas and Sonny Cox.

It is this kind of caring and teamwork that makes us all proud to be part of this town. The next time you see one of these postal employees, take a minute to add your own personal thank you.

-Raymond Buchheister
Editor & Publisher



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Sabrina Paxton-Daily (right) and Catherine Forrence (middle) both former presidents of Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE) in attendance at Mondays' town meeting. Both regularly attend Emmitsburg municipal meetings.

COPE Presidents Resign

After much soul searching and with heavy hearts, we announce our resignation from COPE's executive board as well as renounce our memberships. As COPE's current and past presidents, we both had many ideas for the improvement of the community that we hoped to be able to bring to fruition with COPE's support - but it is just not meant to be. COPE's membership is more interested in pursuing the purposes in their by-laws

concerning town management and we would like to focus on more philanthropic endeavors. Being mothers of young children, our time is limited and we would like to devote it to establishing a community garden, among other things.

-Sabrina Paxton-Daily
-Catherine Forrence
Former Presidents,
Citizens Organized for the
Preservation of Emmitsburg

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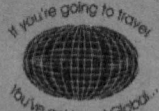
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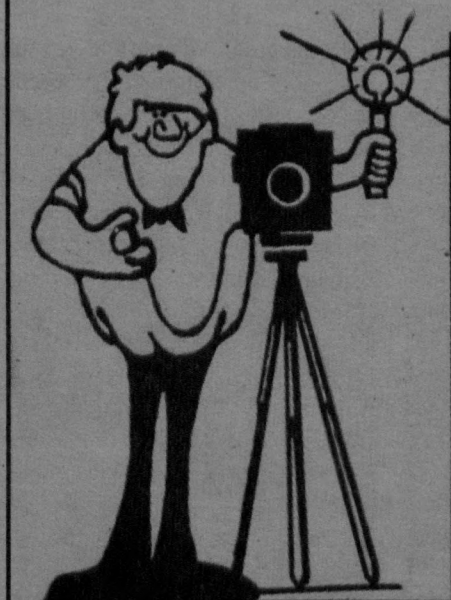


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Fairfield Camp hosts Girl Scouts

By JOYCE M. DEMMITT
Managing Editor

More than 175 Girl Scouts, brownies in grades 1-3, spent the day at Camp Happy Valley in Fairfield on April 30, working to earn their "Eco-Explorer-Try-It" badge. The Saturday program was called "The wonderful world of critters and plants," and included hikes and other activities designed to increase the girls' awareness of cohabitation with nature and animals in their habitat.

One of the day's highlights for the scouts, and the 60 adults with them, was the visit from naturalist Jack Hubley, who introduced the girls to "Critters beyond your back door." Hubley hosts a weekly Channel 8 news segment called "A Wild Moment," and previously hosted a Sunday evening show, "Call of the Outdoors," for 10 years.

He talked about animals that he said literally lived at their doorsteps, but ones the girls seldom saw because many of the animals are secretive or nocturnal.

Accompanying Hubley were Lester, a great-horned owl, Olivia, an opossum, non-poisonous black and garter snakes, a copperhead, and numerous mice and moles for the girls to observe.

Hubley, who is also a falconer, also brought with him Peewee, his peregrine falcon. He has hunted crows, rabbits and pheasants with falcons since 1986, and told the girls that the birds have been clocked flying at 230 miles per hour.

The Fairfield camp is one of five serving the 20,000 girl scouts in the Penn Laurel Council, which includes troops from seven Pennsylvania counties and troops from Frederick County, Maryland.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Brownie scouts break out into laughter as naturalist Jack Hubley tries to contain his opossum Olivia.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Brownie Scouts observe a common field mouse up close. In containers similar to this one, Hubley passed mice and other small 'critters' around the room for the girls to interact with.

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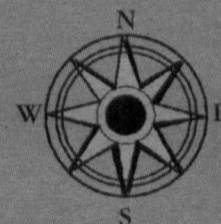
*Ed McMahon to speak at
EBPA luncheon*

Open to the public

Join nationally renowned speaker Ed McMahon of the Urban Land Institute on May 9 at 11:30 a.m. McMahon will speak on "The dollars and sense of maintaining the character of your town and area." A buffet lunch is included in the \$15 cost. The event is sponsored by the Catocin Land Trust and co-hosted with the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association. Open to the public; reservations requested. Call 301-447-3110.

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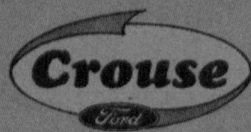
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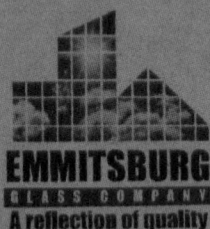
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EDITORIAL

Anonymous attack belittle the attacker

Emmitsburg lived under the shadow of an ethics investigation for months. Ted Brennan, chair of the ethics commission, along with Scott McClendon and Stephen Kleindienst investigated two charges against Emmitsburg commissioners O'Neil and Elder since late last year.

The ethics commission report was distributed April 18. But during the weekend of April 9 and 10, then Commission President O'Neil was seen distributing door hangers in Emmitsburg. The hangers were an unsigned diatribe against Ted Brennan, the other ethics commission members, their procedures, and against those who filed the ethics complaints.

The flyer starts out, "Would you sit down to a high stakes poker game where you didn't know the rules and had a dealer who publicly opposed you? Can there be any greater wager than your personal reputation and honor? This is exactly what the

Emmitsburg 'Ethics' Committee is doing now."

O'Neil had previously likened the ethics commission investigation to a high stakes poker game, and tried to have Brennan removed as its chair.

In talking with a *Dispatch* reporter, O'Neil confirmed that he had written the text for the door hangers, had them printed, and distributed them himself. He said he didn't feel that his side of what was going on was getting out adequately. He wanted the public to know his position and Art Elder's before the ethics commission report came out.

These admissions raise more questions. Why if O'Neil wanted the public to hear his side of the issue did he not add his name to the door hangers? What response did he hope for from the public? Was this some sort of political tit-for-tat? Was he trying to influence voters before the April 26 election by mentioning that

Art Elder defeated Brennan's friend Cliff Sweeney in the last commissioner election? Or was he simply furious about the whole ethics investigation and chose this way to lash out, having failed to secure enough support from fellow commissioners to remove Brennan from the ethics commission?

Answers to these questions need to come from Bill O'Neil. Emmitsburg residents deserve commissioners who conduct themselves professionally, who speak up for what they believe is right, and who consistently work for the good of the community. Elected not only as a commissioner, but also as commission president, O'Neil had the responsibility to lead the commission, to set the kind of example voters want their commissioners to emulate.

Unsigned flyers filled with innuendo do not befit a leader. They are an insult to those they attack as well as to all citizens who receive them.

In defense of the town ethics commission

The Emmitsburg Ethics Commission "EEC" has been and continues to be greatly concerned about the substantial amount of erroneous and misleading information submitted to the press and stated in numerous Town Council meetings in regards to a recent investigation of two complaints lodged against two Emmitsburg Town Commissioners. The EEC report is now complete and available for review at www.emmitsburg.net.

Numerous comments have been targeted at the EEC for the time it has taken to complete this process. The first complaint was received October 6, 2004. The second complaint was received November 24, 2004. These complaints involved two commissioners. A recent Frederick County ethics matter took more than 6 months to complete, and involved only one commissioner. What delayed the Emmitsburg investigation even further was the refusal of the two commissioners, despite numerous requests, to meet with the EEC in order to address the complaints.

Numerous misleading comments have been made by various residents of Emmitsburg that the EEC was not following any rules or procedures for operating. It is clear in

Emmitsburg Municipal Code 2.32.020(c) that one of the primary responsibilities of the EEC is "To process and make determinations as to complaints filed by any person alleging violations." The procedure the EEC followed, as guided by the town's attorney, was to first review the complaints. After unanimous agreement that the complaints appeared to have merit (had they not, they would have been dismissed at this point in the process), the next step was to interview the complainants and if found credible, to interview the two commissioners subject to the complaints. Those commissioners refused repeated requests throughout the process. A list of witnesses was then assembled as well as review of associated documentation. Witnesses were interviewed. A final meeting was held to discuss all the information collected and to organize a report. A town attorney was present at all of these. The EEC reached its conclusions, based upon sworn testimony of witnesses and supporting documentation.

Numerous misleading comments have been made that EEC Chairman Brennan is using the EEC as a political vendetta against the two commissioners. The EEC is composed of three independent individuals. All decisions were based on unanimous consent. One of the EEC members lives

outside of Emmitsburg and has never been involved in any of the politics of Emmitsburg. This member didn't even meet the other two members until after he was appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the town commissioners, just as all members were appointed.

Another misleading item is a claim that the EEC refused to provide rules and procedures, as ordered by the town commissioners. Per the March 21, 2005, town meeting minutes, the EEC was "directed to prepare a draft set of standard operating procedures for investigating ethics complaints and that the committee submit that said draft to the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners on or before April 4, 2005." The EEC met this demand in the ordered time.

The EEC formed their decisions based on facts from sworn testimony and supporting documentation in memo and e-mail form.

We urge you to read the report and draw your own conclusions.

-Ted Brennan,
 chairman

-Scott McClendon,
 vice-chairman

-Stephen Kleindienst,
 secretary

Emmitsburg Ethics Commission

TOWN NEWS



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Del. Paul S. Stull, District 4A, swears in (L to R) Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover and new town commissioners, Glen Blanchard and Chris Staiger.

Election

-Continued from page 1

In the commissioners' race, incumbent Commissioner Joyce A. Rosensteel received 199 votes; former Commissioner Clifford L. Sweeney received 189 votes; Catherine Forrence received 125 votes; and Harold C. Craig, Jr., 101 votes.

Hoover will serve a three year and five month term. Staiger will assume the three year and five month position vacated by Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel. Blanchard will serve out the two-year remainder of Walbrecker's term, who resigned.

Victors rallied at Main Street Grill

Many of the candidates waited with Hoover at the Main Street Grill as the vote count began. Few seemed confident there would be a clear-cut victory.

Other candidates reportedly attended a private gathering and chose not to comment about the election until Wednesday.

Upon learning of his landslide re-election, Hoover told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "The results speak very clearly. The residents of Emmitsburg are looking for changes and improvements. They want a board that will work together professionally with the best interest of the town in mind and less special interest issues."

Blanchard told *The Dispatch*, "I am grateful to all of the Emmitsburg voters who have voted for me and expressed their trust in me as a commissioner."

A seemingly stunned Staiger responded, "It's a great honor that the voters of Emmitsburg were willing to support me and let a relatively new resident participate in the town government. What we

all expect is some progress where everyone's voice can be heard."

Sweeney said that, in spite of his defeat, "I think it's (the voting outcome) wonderful. I did win. I beat COPE. I was ecstatic. We sent the message to COPE that 'our town is tired of you and want you out (of our government).' I think Glenn and Chris are wonderful people and will make wonderful commissioners."

Defeated incumbent Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel said, "I'm a little disappointed, but I'm happy that COPE didn't get in. I'm sure both of these men (Staiger and Blanchard) will do a good job."

Later comments from candidates

Interviewed by *The Dispatch* the day after the election, Elder said he was hurt by what he saw in the town election. He said he felt the ethics investigation was, "dirty politics to destroy my name. They started six months ago in destroying me and they got their wish," he said. Elder added that he was also upset because everyone on the new board will be relative newcomers. He said he will serve

out his term on the board, but now feels a strong emotional separation from the town he once loved. "I don't feel the way I used to about the town, I can tell you that," he said.

Craig said he was disappointed but not surprised by the election results. He told *The Dispatch*, "The powers that be didn't want COPE to control the board of commissioners and so they smeared COPE." He said he was grateful to those who helped him in the election and voted for him, and to those who did not vote for him because they saved him from a "thankless task and further loss of reputation."

Forrence told *The Dispatch* she had called to congratulate Staiger. She said, "I think he will do a very good job and he's aware of the major issues in town. He'll treat residents' concerns with respect." Forrence hopes to be appointed to the planning and zoning commission if a vacancy occurs, and plans to work with Sabrina Paxton-Daily to develop a community garden, which she's wanted to do for more than a year.

Mazaleski was contacted for comment, but did not respond to *The Dispatch* by press time.

Ethics Update ...

Ethics report in attorney general's office

The Emmitsburg Ethics Commission's findings have been handed-over to the Frederick County State Attorney General's Office.

Ethics Commission Chairman Theodore Brennen confirmed May 4 that the report was sent to state Attorney Scott L. Rolle's office "because of the enforcement aspect" of cease

and desist orders, which have been served on the targets of the investigation.

Commissioners William B. O'Neil, Jr. and Arthur Elder have been sent copies of the orders, Brennen stated.

Rolle has been on military leave and could not be reached for comment.

Ethics cease and desist prepared, additional penalties possible

At a special meeting held April 20, the town board of commissioners voted to direct the ethics commission to prepare cease and desist orders for Commissioners William B. O'Neil and Arthur Elder in response to the ethics investigation findings issued April 19.

The cease and desist orders

bar both men from voting on matters relating to W.F. Delauter & Son, and CPI Printing, the two ethics complainants.

The board will consider any further actions regarding the two commissioners at their May 16 meeting. The ethics code permits the town to assess penalties and even mandate imprisonment for ethics violations.

Ethics commission attorney offers protocol

Attorney Harry T. deMoll, representing the Emmitsburg ethics commission, presented the board of commissioners with a proposed set of ethics investigation guidelines for possible adoption as part of the town code.

deMoll also addressed a number of questions posed by the board of commissioners regarding the ethics investigation of commissioners Bill O'Neil and Art Elder.

Asked what procedures the

ethics commission used in its present investigation, deMoll responded in an April 5 letter, "A simple answer is 'none.'" Because they have not adopted procedures, he said, "The ethics commission has been loosely following the procedures set forth in the Maryland code ..."

O'Neil suggested that the newly elected board of commissioners consider deMoll's draft guidelines following the April 26 election.



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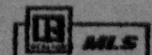
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TOWN NEWS

News Briefs ...

Wastewater system spills 100,000 gallons

More than 100,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled from the town's wastewater collection system again in April, according to Town Manager David Haller.

The 4.5 inches of rain the Emmitsburg area received during the month increased the amount of storm water the treatment plant had to process, Haller stated. He said that 46 percent

of the wastewater treated in April was rainwater and runoff that had infiltrated the system (down from 55% in March), causing the treatment plant to exceed its design capacity on two consecutive days. On April 2, the plant was over capacity by 2,604,000 gallons, and by 1,562,000 gallons on April 3, resulting in the sewage spill.

Town presented with new state flag

Maryland Delegate Paul S. Stull presented the town of Emmitsburg with a new state flag at the May 3 commissioners meeting.

Stull was present that night to swear in newly re-elected Mayor Hoover and newly elected commissioners Staiger and Blanchard.

Senator's office aware of town needs

Tim Magrath, field representative for Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, was in attendance at the May 3 town meeting. He told board members that the senator is "keenly aware of the needs" of Emmitsburg and continues to try "to secure funding for

the crumbling sewer system," including "resources out there at the federal level."

Commissioner O'Neil commented that it could cost \$7 million or more to rehabilitate Emmitsburg's wastewater collection system.

Cady pledges support

Frederick County Commissioner Vice President Michael L. Cady reaffirmed his support for Emmitsburg in an e-mail to re-elected Mayor James E. Hoover on April 27, the day after the town

election. Cady wrote, "You have my most sincere congratulations on your election. I stand ready to help you in any way I can to serve the residents and businesses of Emmitsburg."



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Newly elected Board of Commission President, Chris Staiger (L), consults the town's ordinance with former board president Bill O'Neil to clarify a matter at Monday's town meeting.

Board of commissioners reorganizes

Following the April 26 town election, the board of commissioners welcomed two new members and selected a new president at its May 3 meeting.

Based on Mayor James E. Hoover's recommendation, the board unanimously chose newly

elected Commissioner Christopher V. Staiger as its president, replacing Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr.

The mayor recommended that Commissioner Arthur Elder remain the board's liaison to the water and sewer committee, and that O'Neil

continue as liaison to the streets and transportation committee.

Newly elected Commissioner Glenn E. Blanchard was appointed liaison to the planning and zoning commission, and Staiger to the parks committee.

Residents talk about why they voted

BY CHRIS PATTERSON
Contributing Writer

A woman toting three small children, a first-time voter, a man with layers of dust on his boots, a grandmother, and hundreds more like them made their voices heard loud and clear at the April 26 Emmitsburg election.

Robert Rosensteel, Sr., who voted along with 539 others, said he was proud of the turnout for the small town election. He was also proud that his grandson, Robert Rosensteel III, came with him to cast his first vote since he turned 18.

Voting was steady all day, according to the judges, with the evening rush hour bringing typical increases.

Between 4 and 5 p.m., 56 people voted. By 6:30 p.m., 84

more had cast their ballots. Voting drifted to a quiet stop just moments before the polls closed at 8 p.m.

For town election judges Denise Etris, Sabrina Paxton-Daily and Dottie Davis, who started their day at 6:30 a.m., the end of voting meant the beginning of the hardest part of their day. They counted votes until nearly midnight.

During the day, Davis used a "high-tech tool" — the handle of a fly swatter — to push ballots down in the ballot box. Voting only stopped once for a minute or so when the handle got stuck in the box, much to the amusement of judges and voters alike.

While few people wanted to reveal how they voted, they were more than willing to talk about why they voted.

Many voters were concerned about overly rapid development in

town, traffic, or ecological issues. But mostly they were concerned about the fighting between board members and within town government. They were also worried that additional elected officials from Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE) might too heavily tip the balance of power to one organization.

Anne-Marie Miller, 36, has lived in Emmitsburg about two years and came to vote with her three small children.

Her main issues were how the "council gets along" and ecological issues, specifically the town's water and sewer problems, and the lack of fluoride in the water, she said.

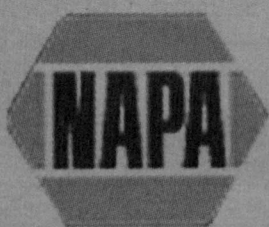
Lucille Nielsen, 76, was concerned most about traffic problems in town. "I'd like to see a bypass," she said. "I don't think people will stop shopping (downtown) and it would help keep the trucks out."

She was not concerned about development as long as it is managed reasonably, she said.

Two Brookfield residents, Kristen McKenna, 33, and Tiffany Rupp, 28, appreciated meeting commission candidate Glenn Blanchard and mayoral candidate Stan Mazaleski when they each visited their neighborhood. Rupp said it also meant a lot when Mazaleski remembered her when she saw him again.

McKenna said her discomfort with COPE having another member

-See Voters on page 7

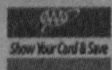


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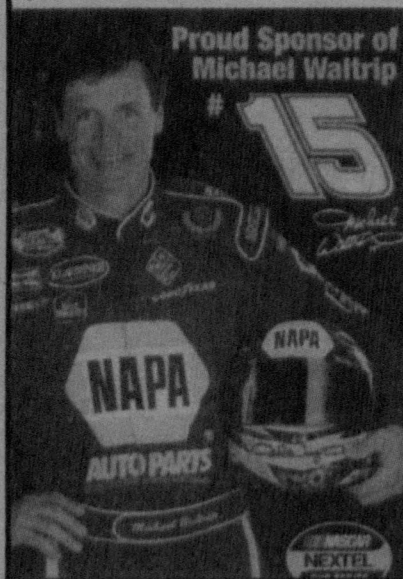
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Donated items sought for Route 15 Welcome Center

The new Route 15 Welcome Center, underway at the current center location between North Seton Avenue and Route 140 on the west side of Route 15, is seeking donations of antique farm implements and farm life objects for display.

Small items might be displayed on interior walls or over the stone fireplace in the new building. Larger implements would be outside on the grounds.

Donors will be invited to the grand opening ceremony and their names will appear on a plaque in the center, which is tentatively scheduled to open the early part of June.

Anyone interested in making

a donation is asked to send a photo to Nancy Wilson, Maryland Office of Tourism Development, 217 E. Redwood St., Baltimore, MD 21202. Prospective donors can also Wilson at 410-767-6296 or e-mail nwilson@choosemaryland.org.

The Welcome Center itself will provide information about life on the Mason-Dixon Line. The design concept for the new building is a 19th century farmhouse with numerous additions put on over the years. The grounds will be landscaped in keeping with this theme.

The Tourism Council of Frederick County is working with the state on the exhibits which will eventually be housed in an exhibit wing to be developed next year.

EMS Days Open House at Emmitsburg Ambulance Co.

In celebration of National EMS (Emergency Medical Services) week, May 15 through 21, Emmitsburg Ambulance Company 26 will host its annual EMS Days Open House Sunday, May 15, from noon until 5 p.m., at the ambulance building, 300 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg.

In keeping with this year's

theme, "Child Safety Week," there will be safety stations geared toward elementary school-age children. Activities include the 911 simulator, Mr. Yuk Poison Control, McGruff's Stranger Danger, fingerprinting, "Tools of the Trade," child safety seat checks and free ambulance rides. Refreshments will be available.

Voters

-Continued from page 6

member on the board influenced her votes. She moved to Emmitsburg to get away from Montgomery County and to enjoy small town life, she said. Managed growth is important, but it is also important for the town's leaders to get along, she added.

Rupp's concerns were also about her children having the opportunity to grow up in a small town environment. Some growth is necessary, she said, but added that she shared concerns about COPE. "They are taking it to the extremes," she said.

Sister Mary Catherine Conway, principal of Mother Seton School, had two important elections on April 26. She first prayed and attended the student government election at school and later did the same for the town election. She voted to take care of Emmitsburg for the children, and also because it is holy ground, she said.

Sister Karen Burgess was voter No. 500. Burgess said she believes some growth is necessary and that led her to vote for candidates with a managed growth agenda. "A town has to grow or it will die," Burgess said.

Departing Commissioner Dianne Walbrecker voted just before 8 p.m. and the significance of voting for her replacement was not lost on her. She felt emotional about casting

her ballot and stuffing it into the box. "Yes, it does make it final," she said somewhat sadly.

As the evening wore on, a string of people stopped in front of the old town hall on East Main Street to see if the results were posted. The rain began softly around 10:30 p.m. and by 11:30 p.m. it was coming down pretty regularly.

A brother and sister sat in their van across the street. They were not friends of any candidates, they said, but were just curious about the election results. While waiting, the sister voted on her cell phone over and over for her favorite American Idol.

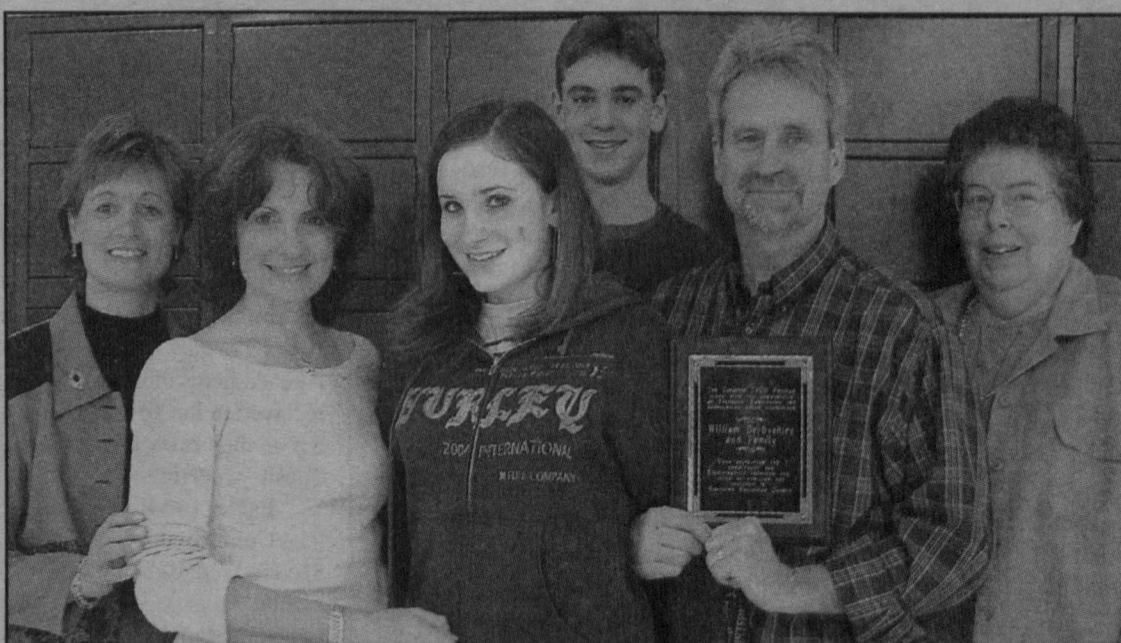
After two announcements to the waiting crowd by a Frederick County Sheriff's Deputy monitoring the count, the results were finally posted in the window and people appeared en masse like moths to a flame.

With many squeals and a rare groan, residents and members of the press tried to take in the impact of the final count. Press representatives, candidates and others quickly wrote down the numbers in the cold rain as the ink ran down their papers.

One man, Tom Wilhide, 63, who had waited hours in the evening chill and rain, was more than pleased with the results. Indeed, he was positively giddy.

"My candidates won! The ones I voted for won!" he said.

And there was joy in Emmitsburg, at least for most.



-SUBMITTED PHOTO

(L to R) Debbie Wivell, current Catocin CASS Coordinator, the Derbyshire Family: wife Myra, daughter Myralove, son Angus, and Bill Derbyshire, plus Wanda Severance, principal of Emmitsburg Elementary and CASS Advisory Council Member.

Derbyshire honored for his contribution as Catocin CASS Coordinator

The Catocin Feeder Schools gathered Feb. 22 for the annual Empty Bowls Event at Catocin High. After a simple meal and silent auction, the

Catocin Community Agency School Services (Catocin CASS) presented a community award to Bill Derbyshire and his family for their contributions to the

Catocin Area families while Bill worked as the Catocin CASS Coordinator from 1998 to 2004.

Homeownership for Low-Income Residents

The Woodsboro Bank, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Frederick County Housing are working together to provide a creative funding source for purchasing a home in rural Frederick County.

The eligible area is Frederick County, excluding Frederick City and its environs. Individual eligibility is based on income, credit and affordability. Funds are available for purchase and repair of "fixer-up" houses, and to help with closing

costs. The program offers reduced interest rates and subsidized loans.

Contact Woodsboro Bank - 301-898-4000, ext. 37; USDA Rural Development - 301-797-0500, ext. 4; or Frederick County Housing - 301-631-3531.

Emmitsburg Municipal Meetings-

May 9 - Emmitsburg Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
Continued hearing on *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* sign waiver request.

May 10 - Scheduled test day for the Emmitsburg emergency warning system.

May 16 - Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

May 17 - Emmitsburg Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

May 23 - Emmitsburg Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

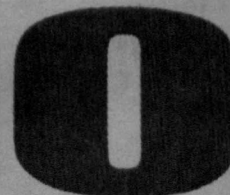
May 28 - Opening day for Emmitsburg town pool.

May 30 - Memorial Day
No trash pick-up;
Emmitsburg town offices closed.



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People in the News ...

Hillary Benjamin, a Ca-toctin High School student from Thurmont, Md., has been named a United States Award Winner in English by the U.S. Achievement Academy. The Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students. Winners are selected exclusively on recommendations of teachers, coaches, counselors and other qualified sponsors. Consideration is given to criteria including academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities and motivation to learn and improve.

Ted Brennan, Emmitsburg, has been appointed Staff Director of the U.S. Senate International Narcotics Control Caucus on April 18. The caucus, chaired by Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-IA), was created to monitor and encourage federal government and private programs seeking to expand international cooperation against drug abuse and narcotics trafficking, and to promote international compliance with narcotics control treaties, including eradication. With standing committee status, the caucus has subpoena power and can hear testimony, and produce books, records, papers, and documents. In the past it has dealt with international cooperation, eradication, trafficking, interdiction, border control, drug strategies, assessments of federal programs, and money laundering issues.

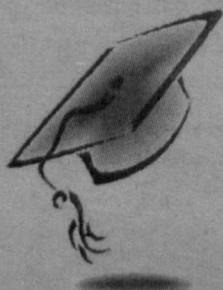
Jo Ann Kurtz of Every Bloomin' Thing Florists, Taneytown, recently completed a "Traditional Weddings" class hosted by Teleflora in Oklahoma City, Okla. Floral designers from all over North America attended the seminar to learn the latest trends and techniques in flowers for brides, attendants, ceremony flowers, and reception décor.

Free Choral Concert at the Mount

A free concert featuring the touring Ashland (Ohio) University Choir and Chamber Singers will be offered in the Mount St. Mary's University Chapel on May 11 at 7:30 p.m. Selections will include spirituals, folk songs, and motets as well as Haydn's "Little Organ Mass." Works by Rutter, Poulenc, Parker, Husa, Barber, and Biebl are part of the choir's repertoire. The Chamber Singers will present madrigals and Swingle Singers arrangements of popular classics by Mozart and Bach.



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Middletown, June 1st @ 1 p.m.
Linganore, June 1st @ 7 p.m.
Walkersville, June 2nd @ 1 p.m.
Catocin, June 2nd @ 7 p.m.
Urbana, June 3rd @ 1 p.m.
Brunswick, June 3rd @ 7 p.m.
Rock Creek, May 20th @ 7 p.m.

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Regional Municipal Meetings-

Thurmont, Md.

Charter and Code Review committee

Every Monday, 7 p.m. Senior Center, East Main Street.

Board of Commissioner town meetings

Every Tuesday, 7 p.m. Agenda items must be received in the Town Office by 5 p.m. the Friday preceding the Tuesday meeting.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Second Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Second Thursday of every month as needed, 7:30 p.m.

Media Commission

Third Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

Police Commission

Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

Fourth Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

Taneytown, Md.

City Council

Second Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

Fairfield, Pa.

Planning Commission

Second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

Board of Supervisors

Fourth Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.

Liberty Township, Pa.

Board of Supervisors

First Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Agenda items must be received 10 days prior to the meeting

Planning Commission

Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board

meets as needed.

POLICE ACTIVITY

Police investigating glass company damage

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is seeking information relating to those responsible for shattering a plate glass window at the Emmitsburg Glass Company's Creamery Way facility.

Deputy Jennifer Bailey, sheriff's office spokesperson, told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that a window at the plant was broken at approximately 10:44 p.m. on April 23, triggering an alarm to which Deputy James

Moxley responded within minutes.

However, Bailey said, that by the time Moxley arrived the individual or individuals responsible had fled the scene. The damaged window was on the side of the building, and there was no evidence of forced entry, she said.

The sheriff's office has asked that anyone with information about the incident contact Deputy Moxley at 301-360-3905.

Alleged threat against local deputies leads to arrest

According to information received by *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, an Emmitsburg resident has been arrested in conjunction with alleged threats made against two Frederick County deputies.

The resident allegedly contacted Liberty Township Police asking how to obtain

a weapon "to take care of two deputies."

The newspaper is not releasing the suspect's name pending further verification of the incident.

Liberty Township Police have not responded to an inquiry from *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* as of publication deadline.

Elementary student saplings uprooted

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is investigating an incident reported in Emmitsburg on April 21 in which saplings planted by elementary children were uprooted and thrown over an embankment.

Jennifer Bailey, spokesperson for the county sheriff's office, said Deputy Anthony LaRusso responded on April 21 after receiving complaints about the apparent vandalism of the trees that had been initially planted by students on April 19.

Kindergarten students from Emmitsburg Elementary had

planted the saplings on April 19 in Memorial Park behind the post office along Willow Rill. Mother Seton Elementary kindergarteners were scheduled to do a second planting when the damage was discovered.

Bailey said the saplings were originally thought to have been stolen, but they had apparently "been removed meticulously." When found, their roots appeared to still be intact.

The sheriff's office has requested that anyone with information about the incident contact Deputy Anthony LaRusso directly at 240-629-6077.

Now Enrolling For Summer Camp

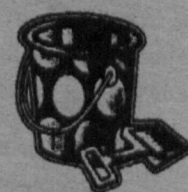
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Emmitsburg Area Churches

National Shrine Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Built in 1965 and formally dedicated as the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapel in 1976, the chapel was designated a Minor Basilica by Pope John Paul II in 1991.

333 South Seton Avenue
Services: Masses Sept. - June: Wednesday - Friday, 1:30 p.m., Saturday - 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Sunday - 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Mass schedule changes occasionally.
301-447-3121

Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Mount St. Mary's University

Romanesque chapel designed by an alumnus and opened in 1910. Open to students, faculty, seminarians and the public.

Father Raymond Harris
301-447-5223

Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

100 West North Avenue
Services: Sundays, worship with Holy Communion - 10:30 a.m., Sunday school - 9 a.m.
Pastor Jon Greenstone
301-447-6239

Emmitsburg Presbyterian

Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church has been a part of the Emmitsburg community since before the American Revolution. The original meetinghouse stood about a mile north of Emmitsburg along the Gettysburg road (U.S. 15). The grave of Samuel Emmit, founder of Emmitsburg, is located in the old cemetery.

415 West Main Street
Services: Sunday - 11 a.m.
Rev. R. Benjamin Jones
301-447-2413

Eyler's Valley Chapel

Eyler's Valley Chapel was built in 1857. Lit only by candles, with an old pump organ providing accompaniment for the hymns, the stone chapel remains much as it was in the 1850s. The chapel is non-denominational, located four and one-half miles southwest of Emmitsburg at the corner of Eyler's Valley and Hampton Valley Roads.

Services: Sunday - 7 p.m.
Pastor Jeff Walter
301-271-4885

Incarnation United Church of Christ

Founded in 1768 as a German Reformed Congregation. In 1868 the church moved into town. The current brick building was rebuilt after a fire in 1950.

The current organization is now UCC.

124 West Main Street
Services: Sunday - 10 a.m.
Rev. Reginald Rice
301-447-2270

National Shrine Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes

One of the oldest American replicas of the French shrine, dating to about 20 years after the apparitions at Lourdes (1874). The Grotto was proclaimed a Public Oratory Dec. 8, 1965 by His Eminence Lawrence Cardinal Sheehan, Archbishop of Baltimore.

Mt. St. Mary's University
For services,
call 301-447-5318
Rev. John J. Lombardi,
Chaplain

St. Anthony Shrine

St. Anthony's roots intertwine with the old St. Mary's on the Hill and date back to the 1700s. The present church was dedicated Oct. 26, 1897.

16150 St. Anthony's Road
Services: Saturday Mass - 4 p.m., Sunday Mass - 7 and 9:30 a.m.
Rev. James W. Hannon
301-447-2367

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic

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

100 North Seton Avenue
Services: Monday - 7:30 p.m. with the Miraculous Medal Novena; Tuesday through Saturday - 8:30 a.m., Saturday - 4:30 p.m., Sunday - 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 12 noon.
Rev. Vincent O'Malley
301-447-2326

Tom's Creek United Methodist

In 1797 the Methodist congregation purchased the log church built at Tom's Creek in 1757 by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations. The old log church at Tom's Creek had been used for 146 years. In 1903 the present church's cornerstone was laid and the church was dedicated in 1904.

10926 Simmons Road
Services: Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school - 9:30 a.m.
Pastor Bill Warehime
301-447-2693

Trinity United Methodist

Trinity United Methodist was founded in 1833. The present sanctuary was built in 1897. In 1968, the church became known as Trinity United Methodist.

313 West Main Street
Services: Sunday - 9 a.m., Sunday school - 10:15 a.m. Informal contemporary worship service every Saturday evening - 6 p.m.
Rev. Wade A. Martin
301-447-3740

OBITUARIES

Mr. Robert Harpster

Mr. Robert Earl Harpster, 47, Waycross Court, Emmitsburg, Md., died April 24, 2005, at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

Born November 19, 1957 in Baltimore, Md., he was the son of Larry Earl and Shirley Ann Varen Harpster.

Surviving are his parents; his wife, Karen Marie Goldhammer Harpster; three daughters, Jennifer Lyn Tarr, Christina Marie Tarr and Tricia Ann Tarr; two brothers, Richard Harpster and Paul Harpster; one sister, Cindy Harpster; and two nephews.

A memorial service was held April 29 from the Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Roger Rollins, pastor of Thomas Tabernacle Holiness Church, officiating.

Miss Frances Mehaffie

Miss Frances Elizabeth Mehaffie, 73, a longtime resident

of St. Catherine's Nursing Home, Emmitsburg, died April 21, 2005.

Born June 19, 1931, in Frederick, she was a daughter of the late George E. and Fannie E. Michael Mehaffie.

Surviving are three brothers, George D. Mehaffie, James C. Mehaffie, Robert L. Mehaffie; three sisters, Florence M. Angleberger, Connie D. Boone, and Terri F. Leather; and many nieces and nephews.

Graveside funeral services and interment were held at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick on April 23, with Bishop Leon Hewerdine, of the Church of Latter Day Saints, Frederick, officiating.

Mrs. Catherine Sanders

Mrs. Catherine Rose (Price) Sanders, 36, Sabillasville Road, Sabillasville, died April 29, 2005, at home.

Born July 17, 1968, in Prince George's County, Md., she was a daughter of the late John Andrew

"Jack" and Margaret Teresa McConnel Price.

Surviving are her husband, David Brian Sanders; two daughters, Crystal Rose Sanders and Amber Lee Sanders; and four brothers, John Francis Price, David Gerard Price, Steven Henry Price and Christopher John Price.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 4 from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with her pastor, the Rev. Stephen P. Trzeciecki, C.M., as the celebrant. Interment followed in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

150th Anniversary St. John's United Church of Christ Sabillasville

June 26 at 11:15 a.m. 16923 Sabillasville Road. Pastor Janet Comings officiating, special speakers and singers. Luncheon following the service; reservations: 301-241-3488 or 301-241-3017.

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Courtenay Bartholomew, M.D.

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at Liberty Mountain "Ski Liberty" Resort & Conference Center, Heavenly Room,
78 Country Club Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320 (717) 642-8282

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Braddock Heights celebrates anniversary of a French victory, Fairfield-area resident portrays defeated general

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

Portraying a general who actually lost to the French

The Frederick County community of Braddock Heights received its name both because of its proximity to the "Braddock Road," an Indian trail used to transport forces under the command of British General Edward Braddock during the French and Indian War, and because of the claim that Braddock's forces used a nearby spring to refresh their canteens.

On May 1 the town marked the 250th Anniversary of British General Edward Braddock's ill-fated march during the French and Indian War through the town, and Ben Newton, as General Braddock, was mortally wounded yet again.

Newton, a 72-year old Fairfield-area resident, has portrayed General Braddock for over seven years, in reenactments, at living history events and even in documentaries.

Newton told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* he started as a reenactor more than 25 years ago when "somebody asked me if I wanted to be in a state color guard (appearing in colonial military garb)."

He then got involved with other colonial period reenacting units. Newton's "normal attire" is that of the 4th Battalion Royal Artillery. He even comes equipped with his own

artillery and crew, all members of an umbrella organization called The British Brigade.

His loyalty to the king has led Newton to pursue the enemy in an effort to suppress the "the rebellion in the colonies" from Charleston, S.C., to Fort Niagara, N.Y., and quite a few points in between.

Although primarily a Revolutionary War reenactor, Newton sometimes participates in French and Indian War events, including the Braddock Campaign.

Asked what inspired him to portray an officer, Newton said, "When I got older, and decided I didn't want to run around the woods anymore, I put together a British officer's uniform to do that instead."

When asked to portray General Braddock about seven years ago, Newton readily accepted the role of the British general whose first and only continental battle ended disastrously. With tongue-in-cheek humor, he said, "Losing to the French is a rather unique thing (in the context of history)."

However, he vindicates himself as British General John Forbes, who had a bit more success at taking on the French in the war. Among Forbes' military accomplishments was the capture of the fort Braddock failed to take.

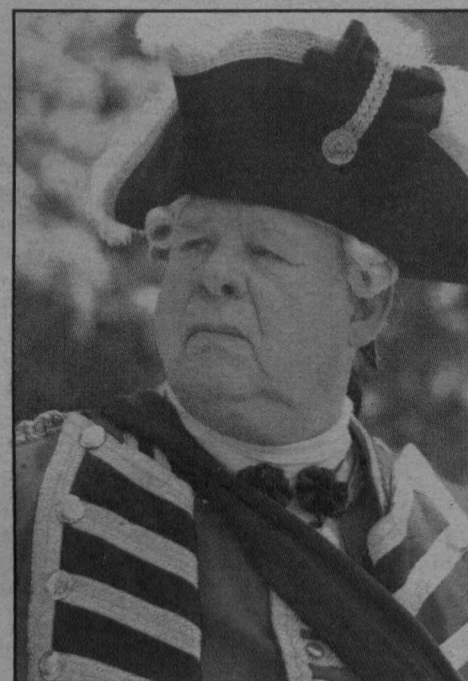
Braddock's first and last battle

General Braddock was given command of the British forces in North America in 1755 during Britain's war with France. His first objective was to seize the French stronghold of Fort Duquesne, located at the juncture of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers, near what is now Pittsburgh, Pa.

Braddock led his command of 1,400 British regulars and 450 colonial militia on a march from Fort Cumberland, up the Indian trail, eventually called the "Braddock Road," toward the French fort. He stopped on May 2, 1755, at a spring along the road that became known as the National Pike, then Route 40, later Route 40A.

On July 9, 1755, a French force of 250 French Canadians, supported by an estimated several thousand Native Americans, almost accidentally collided with Braddock's troops about eight miles from Fort Duquesne. The French had set out to intercept the encroaching British troops.

Even with experience and



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Ben Newton of Fairfield, Pa. portrays Gen. Edward Braddock for a 250th anniversary celebrating Braddock's expedition, which was held in Braddock Heights, Md. this past weekend.

firepower on their side, the British lost. Newton told *The Dispatch*, "There's no way he (Braddock) should have lost that battle."

"Disasters very rarely happen as a result of one cause," Newton said. He blames the defeat on British Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gage, an officer in charge of the advance force. Gage, Newton said, had collided with the advance French troops and actually forced them to retreat.

"But Gage did not take the high ground to protect his flanks as he advanced" against the enemy, Newton explained, and the enemy began to spill over the exposed flanks of Gage's army.

Then, inexplicably, Gage halted, allowing the French both to envelop his troops and reform on his front.

"Braddock advanced into a chaotic state with the flanks in the air and held by the enemy," Newton said.

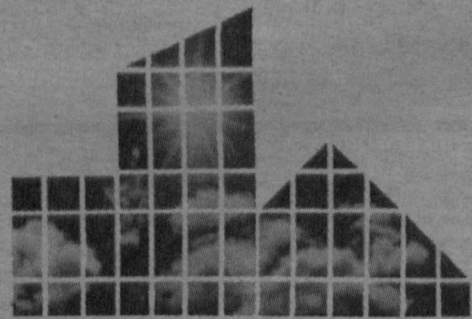
Braddock could have used the colonial troops at hand to redevelop a front, but the British army generally had little faith in the ability of the colonials. Because of this distrust, Braddock did not use the colonials in any significant, tactical manner.

The result was a British military disaster. Braddock fell mortally wounded as he tried to get his troops to stand and fight the enemy in an orderly fashion.

Braving enemy fire, one volunteer, a young former British officer, Lt. Col. George Washington, serving as an aid to Braddock, compelled his fellow soldiers to retrieve the severely wounded general. Less than two decades later, Washington himself would lead an army to fight against the empire for which he had once fought.

The British army was forced to retreat. Braddock died several days after the battle and was buried in Pennsylvania along "Braddock's Road."

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This large stone marks the location on U.S. 40A in Braddock Heights where Gen. Edward Braddock and George Washington stopped to drink from a nearby spring

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Milton French, the Big Bad Wolf, gets his day in court.

Big Bad Wolf on Trial

Everyone gets a day in court – even the Big Bad Wolf. On April 2 and 3, the Creative Kids Academy of Emmitsburg presented their spring play, “The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf” at

Mount St. Mary’s University.

Under the direction of Mount senior Marc Parisi, the cast recreated a witty trial to determine the guilt or innocence of the Big Bad Wolf, played by Milton Frech. Other characters included the Mad Hatter - Joe Gros, Cheshire Cat - Ali Gros, Alice - Melissa Swanson, Queen of Hearts - Alaya Robinson, Dorothy - Jessica Potts, Jack and the Beanstalk - Brandon Stouter, Jack’s mother - Tara Guasch, Cinderella - Olivia Frech, Reporter - Olivia Sielaff, Construction workers - David Gros and Stephen Swanson, Court reporter - Sarah Petrosky, Lupo Luigi - Alex Forrence, Pork Chop - Myra Derbyshire, Riblet - Chelsea Birch and Butterfly - Katy Ruggiero.

For more information about Creative Kids Academy, a ministry of Elias Lutheran Church, contact Debbi Linton, Director of the Kids Academy: 301-447-5955.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Lupo Luigi, played by Alex Forrence, leads this song and dance number in the Creative Kids Academy's performance of “The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf.”

Sabillasville organizing Neighborhood Watch

All residents of Sabillasville and surrounding rural areas are invited to a 6:30 p.m. Neighborhood Watch meeting on Thursday, May 19, at St. John’s United Church of Christ Parish Hall, Harbaugh Valley Road, Sabillasville. The Frederick County Sheriff’s Office will help interested

citizens organize a Neighborhood Watch group to prevent crime in the community. The Northwest Frederick County Civic Association is helping to sponsor the group. Coordinators and neighborhood captains are needed. For more information, call Lisa Cantwell at 301-241-4886.

Neighborhood Watch is a national crime prevention program designed to partner local neighbors with law enforcement agencies to improve security, reduce crime, promote police/community communication, and enhance the quality of life in a community.

Mount St. Mary’s University music ensembles present a Mother’s Day Concert and Benefit

Mount St. Mary’s University Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Workshop will present a Mother’s Day concert Sunday, May 8 at 3:00 p.m. in Knott Auditorium. Admission is free. Mothers who attend will receive flowers in honor of the occasion. A collection will be taken for the Catocin Pregnancy Center, a non-profit organization that provides assistance for young mothers. Everyone is invited to a reception

following the concert, celebrating the work of the Mount’s graduating senior musicians.

The Jazz Workshop features largely improvisational works based on the music of Sonny Rollins, John Coltrane and Dave Brubeck. The Wind Ensemble draws on the inspiration of World War II in Darius Milhaud’s “Suite Francaise” as well as the American themes of Samuel Barber. Graduating music major Julie Martin from Mechanicsburg,

Pa., will be a featured guest conductor, leading her peers through Frank Ticheli’s popular setting of “Cajun Folk Songs.”

The growing ensembles, under the direction of Professor Barry Long, are comprised of Mount St. Mary’s students from across the country, representing a wide array of academic majors and interests.

Information: contact Michelle Venzin, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, 301-447-5308.



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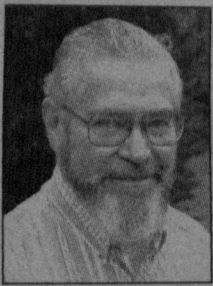
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The (retired) Ecologist Of Poetry, and Science, and Growing Old on the Floodplain



BY BILL
MEREDITH

Dispatch
Columnist

*Now of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again...
And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.*

-A. E. Housman

April is past, and with it went my favorite time of the year, when everything in nature is reborn. I look forward to it because the majority of trees and wildflowers bloom then. Some, of course, will last on into May, and some will come into bloom in summer and fall, but the profusion and exuberance of April are not matched by any other month. But even if there were no other flowers, April would still be special because

of the weeping cherry in our yard. It blooms faithfully in the second week of April, and every year it reminds me of the poem quoted above. Housman wrote those lines as a young man, but their meaning to me increases as my own youth slips deeper into memory.

Most people probably would be surprised to find that poetry and science both depend on the same methods. I was reminded of this recently when Ted Kooser, the Poet Laureate of the United States, was interviewed on Jim Lehrer's "Newshour." Kooser is a most unlikely poet; he earned his living most of his life by selling insurance, but he understands the essence of his craft. When asked what advice he would give to aspiring young poets, he gave a one-word answer: "Read." Then, when asked how he got ideas for his poems, he said he goes for walks and does not come back until he has seen something new. Hearing this, I reflected that I could not think of better advice for an aspiring young scientist. Reading tells us what has been done in the

past and what questions remain to be answered, and curiosity about new things is essential for the growth of the mind. These are the fundamental requirements of science... and indeed of every field of study.

I went for a Sunday walk a couple of weeks ago to one of my favorite places, the floodplain along Tom's Creek. My mind was preoccupied with the cherry tree, Housman and Kooser, so I may have been a bit more observant than usual that day. Entering the woods onto a trail that had been kept clear through the winter by the nightly passage of countless hooved and clawed feet, I saw a footprint... a woman's shoe, judging from the length and narrowness of it, made two or three days earlier. Musing on who she was and what she might have been thinking as she passed, I came upon a half-full pack of cigarettes on the ground; and the right side of my brain visualized her hearing a bird or seeing a flower and flinging the cigarettes into the air, inspired by the beauty

of the setting to kick the habit and live a new life... if I had the gift, there would have been a poem to describe the scene. But then the left side resumed control and reminded me that, more likely, the pack had simply dropped from her pocket by accident.

When I reached the creek I found it had changed since my last visit. The debris of the previous year... sticks, logs, old tires, plastic containers... had been swept away by the March floods, and the stream ran clear and clean. At the place where the beavers climb up the bank on their nightly forays, there was a dead mole; probably a fox had pounced on it and then decided it didn't taste good. It clearly had been dead for a while, but I saw its tail move; inside its body, worms were eating away at it... the eternal cycle of death producing life, and the germ of another poem.

The remains of last year's grass and weeds were covered by a fresh layer of silt, deposited there by the same floods that cleaned the creek. It is a process of renewal and enrichment that produces a uniquely fertile, spongy soil and sustains a delightful variety of wildflowers. I counted 24 species of them; once I would have known all their Latin names, but several have slipped away through the pores of an aging memory. Many of them are native species with mouth-filling names like dog-tooth violet, cut-leaf toothwort, Dutchman's breeches, or Solomon's Seal; others are immigrants, like dandelions. Some are escapees from lawns and gardens upstream; there are patches of daffodils, daylilies and snowdrops that are healthier than the ones in my own yard... more poems waiting to be invited.

The old sycamore tree that once supported a suspension bridge

still stands by the creek. Near it is a smaller sycamore; jutting out at a right angle from its trunk, some 20 feet above the ground, is a pine two-by-four. It is the remnant of someone's deer stand from years ago; the tree has grown around it, pine and sycamore fused into one. Ted Kooser could do something with that.

The ground was covered with tiny seedlings that I recognized dimly. I could see in my mind the plants they would grow into: juicy, branching stems, four or five feet high, with yellow, pitcher-shaped flower s... but their name would not come to me. I walked on, increasingly nagged by the name, and ten minutes later it appeared: jewel-weed, a plant I have known since childhood. I was relieved to have captured the word before it got completely out of my head, but it was a disturbing reminder that, unlike the floodplain, my mind and body are not renewable. Reminders come more frequently now. The stick I used to carry to poke at things was replaced a few years ago by a cane that is necessary to support an arthritic hip; ears that once detected sounds of 16,000 cycles per second can no longer hear brown creepers; eyes that once picked out the color patterns of migrating warblers now have trouble telling them from splashes of sunlight on leaves.

My threescore years and ten were used up two years ago; as my friend, Ben Jones, frequently reminds me, I am now living on grace. But serendipity can still happen. As I left the floodplain and turned toward home, I found a wild cherry tree in full bloom. I had seen it there before, but never at this exact time of year; and it was hung with snow, just as Housman promised. Grace will do.

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The only thing missing was the legendary Donald Trump and his now famous line: "You're hired!"

All of the students in **Professor Cyd Maubert's** Strategic Marketing class at the Frederick Campus were winners when they presented their marketing plans to members of the Delaplaine Visual Arts and Education Center's board and staff.

The class, designed to educate students in the theory and practice of strategic marketing, was organized around four teams competing against each other within the eight-week MBA session. Each team had the assignment of writing a 25-page proposal and delivering a 30-minute presentation to board and staff members of the Delaplaine Center, including: Board President, Angela Delaplaine; Director, Catherine Moreland; and Marketing Director, Jim Gordan.

Student **Adenah Sledge** believes this class "was definitely a learning experience and unlike any real project I've done. It also helped me to see some of the challenges that the Delaplaine faces. It was fun and interesting to deal with real life and real time issues."

"One of the strengths of the Mount's accelerated MBA is that classes are often taught in the seminar format with strong reliance on group work, discussion, papers and presentations," said Maubert. "This project was a unique opportunity for the students to apply the theories they learned to a real business situation. Each team had to examine the marketing mix, market research, consumer behavior, branding, market segmentation and effective promotional practices and develop recommended strategies for the Delaplaine Center. The assignment was truly a win-win situation for Mount students and for Delaplaine Center."

So, with a twist on the popular TV series, *The Apprentice*, the teams' presentations were judged to be equal and the Delaplaine Center members decided to use parts of each team's work as the foundation for their strategic plan, as well as to improve awareness of the Center in the Frederick community.

"Fortunately, no one was fired!" said Maubert, jokingly.

"Each of the teams demonstrated enthusiasm and professionalism and gave us ideas and approaches that were fresh and new," said Delaplaine. "We have already incorporated some components of the plans. We are so grateful to Professor Maubert and her excellent students for having provided this unique opportunity."

Magazine Born in Mount Business Class

January 2005 marked the inaugural issue of *Maryland Life* magazine, Maryland's first statewide magazine since 1992. The seed for the idea was planted in a Mount entrepreneurship class in 2002, where business partners **Dan Patrell, Scott Runkles** and **Ross Peddicord** first met.

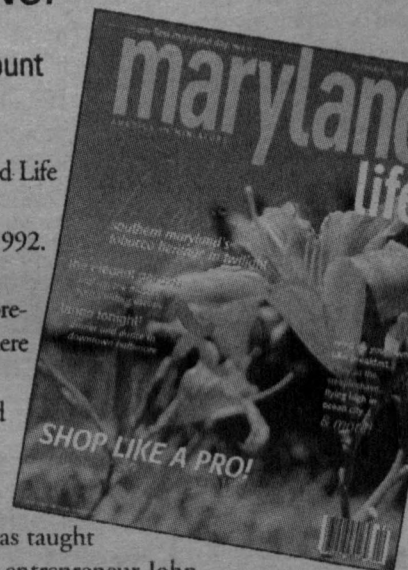
The class, Entrepreneurship 410, was taught at that time by Frederick entrepreneur John Laughlin and made regional news for Laughlin's offer to provide up to \$50,000 of seed money if the new business that sprung from the class proved viable. While the class project didn't evolve into a full-blown business, several students went on to improve or start their own ventures, such as a book-keeping service, restoration of old homes and the new *Maryland Life* magazine.

Dan Patrell, president and editor, is the former managing editor of *Frederick* magazine. Scott Runkles, vice president of finance and operations, was in mortgage investment banking, and Ross Peddicord, vice president of advertising and marketing, was the marketing director for the Mount's Continuing Studies Program. The three publishers are backed by an investor team that includes George B. Delaplaine Jr., president of Great Southern Enterprises and former publisher of the *Frederick News-Post*, along with several other distinguished leaders in publishing and finance.

The glossy, coffee table-style magazine covers Maryland destinations, lifestyle, history and people, and features the work of writers and photographers from throughout the state. A board of directors representing every county provides editorial direction. Details can be found at www.maryland-life.com.

As for future entrepreneurs, **Professor Kevin Robinson** regularly teaches MBA 534, Entrepreneurship, at the Mount's Continuing Studies Center in Frederick. The next successful venture may be incubating at this very moment ...

Summer sessions for the Accelerated MBA or BS in business begin June 27. For information, call 301-682-8315 or email mbainfo@msmary.edu or inquiry@msmary.edu.



MOUNT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Celebration of 200th Grotto Anniversary
Saturday, May 7
Grotto of Lourdes, Noon Mass

Mount Wind Ensemble and Jazz Workshop Concert
Sunday, May 8
Knott Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Spring Open House
Sunday, May 8
For more info and times call 301-447-5214 or visit www.msmary.edu

Women's Retreat
Saturday, May 14
Grotto of Lourdes, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
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Annual Rosary Walk
Saturday, May 28
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C2 Women's Lacrosse Camp
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Rob Ryerson Professional Soccer School
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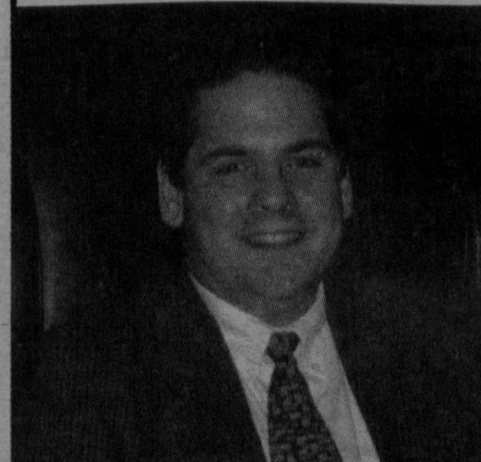
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This period, according to Miller, "the time of the Judges, has been unknown territory for the historian. This study uses the archaeology to write its history and then finds fascinating areas of correspondence with the biblical text."

Professor's New Book Sheds Light
ON ANCIENT ISRAELITE POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Dr. Robert Miller II, SFO, professor of sacred scripture at Mount St. Mary's University, has written his first book, *Chieftains of the Highland Clans: A History of Israel in the 12th and 11th Centuries BC*, released on April 29, 2005.

Published by Eerdmans Press, the book investigates and explains ancient Israelite politics and society before the rise of the monarchy around 1000 B.C. Using archeological research and anthropological models, Miller suggests that power and rank of the early civilization was ascribed rather than won. He applies the "complex

chiefdom" model to 11th- and 12th-century Palestine, revealing the sociopolitical nature of early Israel in new and enlightening ways. He then looks anew at the biblical text in light of this fruitful perspective.

Miller has served as associate professor of sacred scripture at Mount St. Mary's Seminary since 1999 and is chair of the Seminary Department of Sacred Scripture. He holds a B.A. from Kent State University and a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He is a Secular (Third Order) Franciscan.

ENVIRONMENT

Welcome to "Coyote Country"— Emmitsburg, Maryland

By RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

What living creature symbolizes the Great Plains and the Wild West more than the sometimes admired, sometimes loathed, coyote? Who would have dreamed that this shy western predator had continental domination in mind?

The first reports of coyote in Maryland occurred in 1972, and were confirmed in Frederick, Washington and Cecil counties. Now it is felt they have achieved statewide status, and subsequently spilled over into Delaware.

Some conservationists believe that the destruction of the Eastern wolf populations helped pave the way as well for the so-called coyote invasion. In their quest to reduce the threat to livestock allegedly posed by wolves, farmers and others instead opened the door for an even stealthier adversary.

As the coyote merges with the Maryland ecosystem, something has to give way. His only real competitors in Maryland are the red and gray fox and the bobcat, and he has proven time and again to be a worthy adversary.

The coyote is known for suppressing competition from the red fox. The two, according to the Maryland Department of Natural

Resources (DNR), "share many common habitat requirements and occupy overlapping niches. Through time, the larger and more resilient coyote is able to out-compete and displace resident red fox populations."

In Maryland, in areas where the coyote has officially taken up residence, the state has already noted "diminishing red fox populations ... in portions of central and western Maryland." How the coyote will impact the gray fox and bobcat populations remains to be observed.

Pet cats and dogs sometimes end up on the coyote's shopping list as well. In fact, DNR notes, "A localized indicator of the presence of coyotes is a rapid decline in the free-ranging cat population."

"Nationally, in excess of six million tax dollars are expended annually to address coyote damage complaints," according to DNR. "Already," DNR continued, "livestock and pet losses have been experienced in Maryland, with frequency of occurrence paralleling increasing coyote populations."

According to Robert Colona, furbearer project leader for DNR, Eastern coyotes, as a rule, are larger than the Western coyote. Even worse, the genetic make-up of the Eastern breed tends to include some

timber wolf and red wolf, because the coyote can and will interbreed with wolves.

Maryland permits coyote hunting, during any hunting season, with whatever the weapon restrictions are for other game that particular season.

Individuals experiencing problems with coyotes or other wildlife species are encouraged to call the Public Access Nuisance Animal Hotline, 877-463-6497, which was contracted by DNR with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services.

DNR releases deer kill figures for 2004-2005 season

More than 7,400 deer were killed through hunting in Frederick County during the 2004-2005 hunting season, according to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Hunters shot 2,959 antlered deer and 4,533 without antlers. Bow hunters accounted for 1,301 of the kills.

The Frederick County total was the second highest numbers of deer felled by hunters in Maryland, exceeded only by Washington County which reported more than 10,000 kills.

A total of 93,868 deer were killed statewide, a 7.6 percent increase over the previous deer season, according to the DNR.

Park

-Continued from page 1

Mountain Park is one of 17 units in the National Park System and 1 of 9 units in the National Capital Region that does not have the word 'National' in the title; and that its history, uses and resources make it "appropriate for designation as a national recreation area."

Superintendent Poole told the commissioners that the park, consisting of 5,810 acres, receives an average of 700,000 annual visitors. NPS believes that the number of visitors would increase if it were made clear that the preserve is a federally designated recreational area.

Poole asked for a resolution of support from the town commissioners. The board unanimously approved the idea and Mayor Hoover asked Commissioner William B. O'Neil,

Jr. to draft the requested resolution for the board's consideration.

Camp David Museum to open at Cozy Inn

One important component of Catocin Mountain Park is Camp David, the presidential retreat.

On Sunday, May 15, the Camp David Museum will officially open to the public at the historic Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont, with a dedication and gala ribbon cutting ceremony at 5 p.m.

The museum will house the history of "Shangri-La-Camp David," including presidential memorabilia from Herbert Hoover to the present day. The press corps and dignitaries have given pictures and artifacts to the Cozy since 1929.

Richard D.W. Fulton and Joyce M. Demmitt contributed to this report.

Vandalism

-Continued from page 1

seedlings were not expensive - NFS spent \$649 from its \$4,747 grant to purchase 2,000 seedlings from the state nursery - the money needed to be accounted for.

And there remained the human factor as well. Fifty-one children, their teachers, and families knew the trees had been planted. The project was part of their "good citizen" efforts, and they expected to be able to see their good deed grow through the years. They would have to be told what had happened, and

would need to know that someone was working to make things right.

Severance and EES guidance counselor Sarah Fawley gently told the kindergarteners what had happened. They congratulated the children for being good citizens in their community and making a good choice in planting the trees. One child said she and her mother had gone to the park but couldn't find the trees.

Severance and Fawley explained that not everyone is a good citizen, and that someone had made the bad choice to pull up the trees. They told the children not to be too disappointed, because a "new plan" (planting more trees) was in the works.

"No one cried," said Fawley. "They seemed reassured by the idea of a new plan."

The sheriff's office has requested that anyone with information about the vandalism contact Deputy Anthony LaRusso directly at 240-629-6077.

Two area residents become natural resource police

David Lowman, Thurmont, and Richard Doney, Sabillasville, recently graduated as state natural resource police (NRP), according to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The NRP were previously merged with the Maryland Park Service ranger force to produce one law enforcement body assigned to provide a variety of services, including homeland security tasks, search and rescue, emergency medical services, education, information and communications services.

NRP is the only police force aside from the Maryland State Police with statewide jurisdiction.



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-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Indian Lookout Hike

(R) James Tiller, 4, examines some plant life with a small magnifying glass, as his brother Edmund, 8, looks on. The micro adventure was made possible by "retired ecologist" Bill Meredith, and was part of group hike that he guided from the Grotto of Lourdes up the mountain to an overlook that was once used by the Monocacy Indians. The hike took place on April 30 and was a Mount Community Social Club event made possible by the Mount President's wife, Irene Powell, and by Fr. Jack Lombardi, who both also participated.

Musician & Local Churches lead Celebration of Creation

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Staff Writer

Following closely on the 35th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church hosted a special interchurch worship service on Sunday, April 24. Church organist and choir director Christine Maccabee organized the event, which brought together two choirs and the pastors of three churches to celebrate the wonders and blessings of "God's good creation."

The service featured congregational hymns and an original setting of Psalm 104 by Maccabee, performed by the choirs of Incarnation United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church. Rev. Wade Martin of Trinity Methodist Church and Rev. Reginald Rice, Incarnation Church pastor, led Scripture readings and prayers. Rice brought his parakeet Molly along to illustrate the children's message. Presbyterian pastor Rev. Benjamin Jones' sermon spoke of his own spiritual growth and understanding of the "connectedness" of God and man to the earth and all its living things.

The community room was filled with books and displays, open until mid-afternoon. Visitors browsed and chatted, sampling organic milk and carrots (donated by Jubilee Foods), vegetarian chili, herbal tea, and duck-egg salad sandwiches. Everyone seemed amazed by utensils that appeared to be plastic but were actually made from corn and wheat and were biodegradable. Bowls and plates were made of sugar cane fiber, and could be added to a garden compost pile after use.

Osman Garcia, proprietor of

the Nicaragua Arts and Crafts shop "on the square" in Emmitsburg, led lively and informative discussions about Central American rainforests and environmentally-friendly energy projects in Nicaragua. Iona Conner, formerly of Frederick, brought casual clothing for children and adults from Grassroots Cooperative, Inc. The New Forest Society gave away pine tree seedlings. At 1:30 p.m. the Children's Praise Choir from Creative Kids Academy sang along with Maccabee, parents, and friends.

Maccabee said she hoped the events of the day reached Christians and the "un-churched" members of the community. She would like to see "Earth Sunday" become an annual celebration in northern Frederick County.

AGRICULTURE & GARDEN

Emmitsburg Farmers' Market gearing up for the season

The Emmitsburg Farmers' Market will be back for its second year, featuring an array of farm products and related merchandise.

Open every Friday from June 3 to mid-October, from 3 to 6:30 p.m., the market currently has seven vendors with five spaces remaining.

Already signed up, according to marketing manager Jennifer Staiger, are South Mountain Creamery, Stone Hearth Bakery, Frugal Bee, Cat's Paw Farm, WindBorne Farms, Windy Hollow Growers, and Creekside Critters Farm.

A few proposed sellers are "still

up in the air" about participating this year. "I'm trying to get solid commitments in the next month or so," Staiger told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

The vendor fee has increased from \$25 per dealer to \$75. Staiger said the increase is intended to help reduce the amount of assistance needed from the town.

She said the new rate is also more in line with participation fees charged by Taneytown and Gettysburg farmers' markets.

This year the market will also be state sanctioned, which will allow WIC (women, infant and children's) subsidy recipients to use their WIC coupons to purchase certain items.

The market is held on property owned and provided by Donald Briggs. The town pays the necessary liability insurance.

Information, or to participate, contact Staiger at 301-447-3757.

Plant Exchange

On Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Emmitsburg Branch Library will host its third annual plant exchange. Is your garden overflowing with perennials, yet you still want to try others? Receive a ticket for each plant you bring, with which you can "buy" other plants. If you have no plants to share, a donation to the Friends of the Library, Emmitsburg Branch will suffice.

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Family farms get financial boost

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), working in collaboration with the state Department of Agriculture, the University of Maryland, and local agricultural organizations, has taken steps to ease restraints on on-site food processing and sales for farms.

Interested farmers must obtain a license to process food, but must first complete a licensing course. If a license is approved, the farmer would be permitted to process certain goods for commercial sale and distribution, including baked goods, canned foods; and dried fruits and vegetables.

Commercial farmers who raise animals would also be allowed to produce and sell a limited amount of pre-packaged raw meat from those animals.

For additional information on any upcoming training sessions, contact the DHMH at 410-767-8400.

Silver Fancy Garden Club Plant Sale

The Silver Fancy Garden Club will host its first annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 5, in Emmitsburg and Taneytown.

Locations are Emmitsburg Memorial Park, and Heltebride & Associates parking lot, 441 East Baltimore Street in Taneytown.

The club has members in both

towns, and money raised will be used for the annual garden club plantings in both communities.

Plants will come from members' gardens, and will include standard flowers and shrubs and some hard-to-find heirloom specimens.

For more information, contact Susie Heck, 410-756-1113.

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SPORTS

Wrestling with Success

BY MEGAN ZIMMERMAN
Contributing Writer

The Catoctin Youth Wrestling team of the Catoctin Youth Association (CYA) has finished another successful season.

In the recent Mason-Dixon Division B Qualifying Tournament, 19 of the CYA wrestlers placed in the top four to advance to the March 13 Championship.

Five of those wrestlers, Joseph Puvell, Kurt Sanders, Collin Schildt, Jon Sweeny, and Seth Chilson, were champions in their weight class.

Also placing were Noah Stone and James Kehne, second place; and Charlie Perella, Eric Stone, Thomas Rej, Sam Cofer, and Chris Schildt in third.

Coached by Tim Cole and Assistant Head Coach Charlie Perella, CYA wrestling is made up of 40 athletes, ages 5 to 13. Children from the Catoctin High School feeder area participate in CYA.

Catoctin Youth Wrestling participates in the Mason-Dixon League against 18 other teams from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. The League is divided into two groups, Division

A and Division B, with CYA belonging to the "B" division.

After eight weeks of regular league matches, CYA wrestlers compete in the Mason-Dixon Division B Qualifying Tournament. The top four finishers in each weight class advance to the Championship Tournament, which brings together athletes from both divisions.

The Qualifying Tournament took place in Smithsburg, Md., and 24 CYA wrestlers placed in the top five. The Championship Tournament, held in Mercersburg, Pa., awarded 12 wrestlers honors in the top three.

CYA is a non-profit organization that offers a variety of sports to area youth, including football, soccer, cheerleading, basketball, track and field, and lacrosse. Its mission is to provide youth with athletic skill and knowledge that will be beneficial in sports and life.

Registration for the 2005-06 season will take place during the last two weekends in October. For more information, contact Michelle Harbaugh, CYA Wrestling Activities Coordinator, 301-271-1830, or visit www.leaguelineup.com/cyawrestling.



-SUBMITTED PHOTO

'Jump Rope for Heart' a success at Emmitsburg Elementary School

A bouncing group of 109 Emmitsburg Elementary students jumped rope to fight heart disease and stroke -- not only for themselves, but for the people helped by the money they collected. On Feb. 15 this year, the bounding students raised

almost \$7,400 for the American Heart Association. One student, Kurstin Metz, raised the most for the second year in a row, garnering \$500 in donations.

Heart disease and stroke rank first and third as cause of death in the United States.

According to Mrs. Jeanne Davis, the coordinator for the Emmitsburg Jump Rope for Heart event, the program is designed to promote physical fitness and heart health through the fun activity of jumping rope.

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Outside the Game On the clock

By A.J. RUSSO
Sports Editor

Wouldn't it be interesting if political parties chose their candidates and judges the same way the NFL chooses its rookies?

Imagine, Red Team and Blue Team choosing their party's congressional and senatorial representatives through a draft. No commercials, no politicking, no dredging up dirt, simply choosing candidates according to their qualifications.

It might go something like this:

Mel, Boomer sitting around the oval cherry desk.

Boomer: Well Mel, the Blues are on the clock. In Maryland they've been searching for a moderate liberal who's young, but still has enough experience to beat out the conservatives who are increasing in popularity in the state.

Mel: That's why my number one rated pick, Susan Blackman, is a moderate and a female. I see the Blues having needs in the moderate position. I mean, let's face it, the region is moving to the right.

Boomer: I agree, Mel, a moderate who can play to the right... but a female? You see gender being important here? I understand why you have her rated high on your list... she's young, and yet has experience, but why a woman?

Mel: If you look carefully at the Blues you see strength, but mostly on the left. As a moderate, she balances that out...

Boomer (interrupting): Yeah, I see that but...

Mel (interrupting): Wait... let me finish. It's the subtle dynamics of the team. Of course, the Reds and Blues both have far more men than women, but I see that as a negative. More men generally means quick decisions on the "playing field," and decisions that are not as thoughtful. Men tend to be stubborn. Granted, I think if the parties were to swing the other way — more females than men, maybe we'd see emotions influencing. But the narrow-minded actions of politicians now... I mean, something's got to change.

Boomer (smiling): I love it when you show your feminine side, Mel. But, seriously... I

agree. The filibuster question says it all. We should be able to choose judges based on qualifications, not party politics. It would be nice to get rid of all the haggling.

Across the stage, behind the cherry desk, walking to the podium, then stepping up to the microphone, Bill Clareman, Commissioner of the Parties.

Clareman: As the first overall pick of the Maryland draft, the Blues pick Susan Blackman of East Baltimore.

A roar from the studio crowd, interspersed with loud boos. Her supporters, some with blue face paint, standing and waving signs displaying her photo.

There is a close-up of Susan Blackman. She's in her living room talking on her cell, her family surrounding her. As soon as the announcement is made, everyone, including Susan, jumps to their feet, hugging... kissing each other.

The Ravens used their first pick in the NFL draft to answer one of their most pressing needs. They selected Oklahoma WR Mark Clayton with the 22nd pick overall. In Round 2, Baltimore selected Oklahoma DE Dan Cody and Syracuse OT Adam Terry. Both should solidify needs on both the offensive and defensive lines.

The Redskins picked two of Auburn's best. In the first round, they took Carlos Rogers, arguably the top-rated cornerback available in the draft. He should help the Washington defense that is solid but lacking depth at cornerback with the departure of Champ Bailey and Fred Smoot during the past two off-seasons. Then they chose quarterback Jason Campbell, who could solidify the future at that position.

No women were chosen in the draft.

A.J. Russo is a professor at Mount Saint Mary's University and the former head men's coach of lacrosse at RIT and the Mount. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of Mount Saint Mary's University.

His newest novels, "Lost Girl of the Sudan" and "Blacks of Their Eyes," to be published in 2005, will be available at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.



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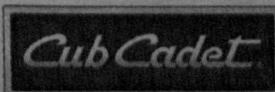
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ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

Library Events

Storytimes

Babies with Books

(birth-24 months with adult)

Wednesdays, May 11, and 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Two Terrific!

(age 2 with an adult)

Tuesdays, May 10, 17, and 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime

(ages 3-5 with an adult)

Wednesdays, May 11, 18, and 25 at 7 p.m.

Preschool Storytime

(ages 3-5 with an adult)

Thursdays, May 12, 19, and 26 at 10:30 a.m.

For Teens

Teen Book Club

(grades 6-12).

Discuss great books with other teens. Third Tuesdays, May 17 at 7 p.m. Selection: "First Test" by Tamora Pierce.

Anime/ Manga Club

(grades 6 and up)

Join us for our first meeting at the Thurmont Branch. Give us your ideas and watch a full-length film. Refreshments. Co-sponsored by the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries. Friday, May 13, 6-8 p.m.

Skateboarding

(all ages)

Roll over to the Emmitsburg Library where the staff of PITCREW will present a program about skateboarding, followed by a demo. Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m. Registration required.

Special family programs

Leaving a Legacy:

Writing About Your Life

(adults)

Every person has unique legacy stories to pass on to future generations. Join this writing group and learn to record your stories, events, anecdotes, family characters and your personal observations of what life was like "back when..." First Mondays, June 6, 1:30-3 p.m.

Third Thursdays

at Thorpe Wood

(ages 3-5)

Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries host a monthly preschool story program at beautiful Thorpe Wood Nature Retreat. Register at www.thorpewood.org or call Thorpe Wood at 301-271-2823.

Thursday, May 19 at 1 p.m. Registration required.

Knitting Club

(adults and teens)

Open to all, from beginners to experts. Even if you don't know how to cast on, someone in the circle will be able to demonstrate. Bring your needles and yarn or give us a call.

Third Thursdays, May 19, 4 p.m.

Plant Exchange

(adults)

Is your garden overflowing with perennials, yet you still want to try others? Receive a ticket for each plant you bring, with which you can "buy" other plants. No plants

to share? A donation to the Friends of the Library, Emmitsburg Branch will suffice! Saturday, May 14, 9-noon.

Book Discussion Groups/

Adult Reading Club

Evening Club

Second Tuesdays, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. Selection: "Birth of Venus" by Sarah Dunant.

Non-fiction Book Club

Second Thursdays, May 12 at 1 p.m. Selection: "The Rapture Exposed" by Barbara Rossing.

Programs are held at the Emmitsburg Library in the Community Center on Seton Avenue. For registration or information call 240-629-6329.

Senior Events

Everyone at the Senior Center is hoping that May will bring not only flowers, but also warm weather that will last! Long-time Emmitsburg residents have special memories of the May Day celebrations at the old Emmitsburg High School, and we know our new neighbors bring their own memories of the merry month of May.

Basket-making class

The center is offering this 4-week class beginning May 3, 9-10:30 a.m. Frederick County will observe "Senior Week" May 8-14, including a carnival at the Frederick Dept. of Aging Center on May 10 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Transportation is available; contact Linda Umbel, 240-629-6350.

The center will be closed Memorial Day, May 30.

Bowling: Mondays at Taneytown bowling center. Carpool; meet at center at 12:30 p.m.

Strength Training & Conditioning: Tuesday and Thursday,

2 p.m. Dress comfortably, wear athletic shoes, participants will use small weights. Led by Linda Stultz.

Bingo: May 11 and 25

Bingo on May 11 will be held with residents of St. Catherine's Nursing Center.

Cards - 500 and

Bridge Group: May 18

Meeting Day: May 17

Spring Bazaar: May 21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Evening Card Party: May 25. Doors open at 6 p.m., play begins at 7.

Canasta & Pinochle: Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

Programs are held in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. Call for lunch reservations 24 hours in advance. The Senior Center will close whenever county offices are closed. To register for special events or for information, call program coordinator Linda Umbel, 240-629-6350.

LOOKING AHEAD

May 7 - Miracle Mile Walk. 9 a.m. Thurmont Community Park. Four-mile course. Proceeds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. Information: 301-898-5175. Rain date: May 14.

May 7 and 8 - Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. 9 a.m. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship. Admission and parking free. www.sheepandwool.org.

May 8 - Mother's Day Breakfast. 7 a.m. to noon. Union Bridge Fire Company, 8 West Locust Street, Union Bridge. All you can eat. Adults: \$5, children 6-12: \$2, under 6: free.

May 8 - Mother's Day Concert. 3 p.m. Knott Auditorium, Mount St. Mary's University. Wind ensemble, percussion ensemble, and jazz workshop performance. Free. Reception following celebrating the work of the Mount's graduating senior musicians.

May 8 - Thurmont Riding Club. Open to all types of horses, equestrians of all ages, features a variety of classes. Show information: 717-762-1032.

May 8 - Spring Wildflower walk. 11 a.m., Catocin Mountain Park Visitor Center. Join a ranger for an interpretive wildflower walk along an easy 1/2 mile trail.

May 11 - Choir concert. Ashland University (Ohio) to perform 7:30 p.m., Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Mount St. Mary's University. Free and open to the public.

May 9 - EBPA Luncheon. Open to the public. 11:30 a.m. Carriage House Inn, Emmitsburg. Ed McMahon of the Urban Land Institute to speak about "The Dollars and Sense of maintaining the character of your town and area." Cost: \$15, includes buffet lunch. Reservations requested: 301 447 3110.

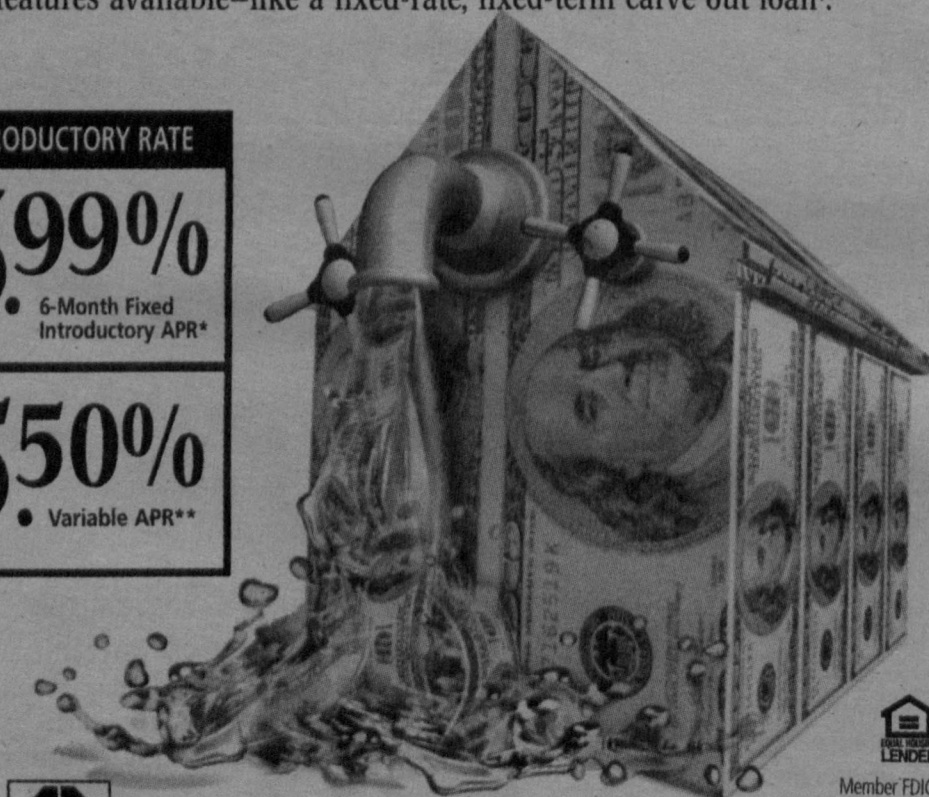
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LOOKING AHEAD

May 11 - CHS Safe and Sane Class of 2005 Meeting. 7 p.m. Catocin High School Media Center. Junior parents are invited to attend and are needed to help with the graduation party.

May 13 - Bus Trip to Mount Vernon and Woodlawn. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bus from Frederick Towne Mall. Sponsored by Historical Society of Frederick County. Cost: \$55; \$45 for members. Register: www.hsfinfo.org, or 301-663-1188.

May 14 - Mushrooms and Wild Edibles of the Catocin Mountains. 9 a.m. - noon. ThorpeWood. Limited to 15 participants. Free for Friends of ThorpeWood; non-members, \$5. Register by May 6: 301-271-0602.

May 14 - International Migratory Bird Day Program. 11 a.m., Catocin Mountain Park Visitor Center. Join a ranger to learn more about migratory birds,

including a video produced for elementary to middle school children. Hands-on related activity.

May 14 - Plant Exchange. 9 a.m. to noon. Emmitsburg Branch Library. Bring a perennial to share or make a donation to the Friends of the Library to "buy" plants.

May 14 - Thurmont Riding Club Walking/Racking Horse Show. 10 a.m. 14981 Roddy Road, Thurmont. Information: call 717-762-1032 or visit www.geocities.com/thurmontridingclub.

May 15 - EMS Days. Emmitsburg Ambulance Company 26 Open House. Noon-5 p.m. 300 South Seton Avenue. Free community activities including safety stations geared toward elementary school children.

May 17 - Catocin FFA Chapter Annual Parent-Member Banquet. 6:30 p.m. Catocin High

School. Reservations by May 6: call 240-236-8117 or e-mail Robert.Beavan@fcps.org.

May 19 - Third Thursdays @ ThorpeWood. 1-2:30 p.m. Preschool story program for ages 3-5. Sponsored by Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries. Register: 301-271-2823.

May 19 - Sabillasville Neighborhood Watch Meeting. 6:30 p.m. St. John's United Church of Christ Parish Hall, Harbaugh Valley Road.

May 21 - Senior Center Bazaar. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center. Plants, clothing, fancy table, baked goods and food, "white elephant" items, door prizes. Everyone welcome. Information: 240-629-6350.

May 21 - Spring Festival. 11 a.m. St. Stephen's UCC, 25445 Highfield Road, Cascade, Md. Home-cooked food, games, yard sale, auction at 2:15 p.m., raffle at 4 p.m. Information: 301-241-4541.

May 21 - Thurmont Riding Club Old-Fashioned Fun Horse

Show. Noon. 14981 Roddy Road, Thurmont. Four-show series. Information: 240-674-5992, 301-271-4218, or visit www.geocities.com/thurmontridingclub.

May 21 - Volunteer Trail Work Days. 9 a.m. at Catocin Mountain Park, Camp Round Meadow. Help repair and maintain trails to make them safe for hikers and to prevent erosion. Information: 301-663-9388.

May 22 - Frederick County Dairy Princess Contest. 7 p.m., Frederick County 4-H Camp and Activities Center, 3702 Basford Road, Frederick. Information: 410-775-1369.

May 22 - Spring Wildflower walk. 11 a.m., Catocin Mountain Park, Owens Creek Picnic Area. Join a ranger for an interpretive wildflower walk along an easy 1/2 mile trail.

May 25 - 500 Card Party. Doors open 6 p.m., games begin at 7. Emmitsburg Senior Center. Admission: \$2. Open to the public. Light refreshments available.

Information: 240-629-6350.

May 26 - Spring Ephemerals Walk & Talk. 9-11:30 a.m. ThorpeWood. Limited to 15 participants. Free for Friends of ThorpeWood; non-members - \$5. Register by May 6: 301-271-0602.

May 28 - Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. Bell Hill Farm, just north of Thurmont on Route 15. Benefits Catocin CASS. Sponsored by Lewistown United Methodist Church. Information: 301-898-3596 or 301-898-7004.

May 28 - Super Summertime Sandwich Series. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bell Hill Farm. Proceeds benefit community projects. Sponsored by Thurmont Lions Club. Information or sandwich orders: 301-271-0558.

June 26 - Sabillasville St. John's United Church of Christ 150th Anniversary. 11:15 a.m. 16923 Sabillasville Road. Pastor Janet Comings officiating, special speakers and singers. Luncheon following the service; reservations: 301-241-3488 or 301-241-3017.

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Help Wanted:

Mature and experienced bartender, cook, server for family atmosphere cafe in Thurmont. Part-time positions. Please call 301-241-3069.

Landscape/nursery labor needed for immediate opening. Experience preferred. Compensation for travel time. 202-361-2869 or leave message 301-447-6420.

For Rent: Ocean City 116 Street, bayside tri-level townhouse. 3BR, 2.5B, washer/dryer, dishwasher, pool, tennis court, sleeps 8. \$950/week in season: 301-447-2342.

For Sale:

Community Yard Sale. Saturday, May 14, 7:30 a.m. until? Fairfield Town Center. All proceeds will benefit the Lacie Ann Wivell Fund. Rain date: June 4.

Community Yard Sale. First annual community yard sale at Brookfield. Saturday, May 21 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain date: Sunday, May 22. Directions: Brookfield is right off Main Street in Emmitsburg on Timbermill Run

Yard Sale - ALL ANTIQUES. May 27-30. 17058 Harbaugh

Valley Road, Sabillasville, MD 21780. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Services:

Free Success Seminar. The next trillion-dollar industry in America will be the health and wellness industry. Learn how you can stake your claim as an entrepreneur. This FREE seminar will be held Monday, May 16, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Cozy Restaurant, 103 Frederick Road, Thurmont, Md. To reserve your seat, please call Jeanne Angleberger at 301-305-1466.

Lunch. Have lunch in our beautiful sunroom on wicker rockers. Trish's Treasures new Coffee House and Restaurant. Main Street, Fairfield. 717-642-5240. Mother's Day flowers too.

Preschool. Do you have a 3 or 4-year-old who would like to make some new friends while learning in a loving Christian environment? We are now taking applications for the 2005-2006 school year. Call for registration materials: places are filling up quickly. 717-642-1553.

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