

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL IV, No.12

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

JUNE 23, 2005

Commissioner lands \$150,000 for sewer improvements

By RICHARD D. L. FULTON
News Editor

The degraded Emmitsburg wastewater collection system will be getting a \$150,000 helping hand from the state thanks to a senate bill passed on June 9.

Town Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr. announced June 14 that \$150,000 for Emmitsburg was included in the fiscal 2006 U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations allocation for "interior" projects. The funds are specifically earmarked for Emmitsburg wastewater collection system improvements, and are part of a \$1.65 million package for upgrading the water and sewer infrastructure in Western Maryland counties, approved June 9.

However, the funds are not just a handout. "There will be a match requirement, but because the town

-See **Sewer** on page 5



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Cutting lavender at the 4th annual Pennsylvania Lavender Festival

Beautiful weather helped draw 3800 people to the Lavender Festival at Willow Pond Farm outside Fairfield, June 17-19. The crowd, including visitors from California and a South African dignitary who read about the event in The Washington Post, was up 850 people from last year.

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490-house Fairfield-Hamiltonban development-number of area homes would nearly double

By RICHARD D. L. FULTON
AND JOYCE M. DEMMITT
Dispatch Staff

Empire Homes has recently proposed a 490-unit development, named McGinley's Choice, spanning Fairfield Borough and Hamiltonban Township. The developer is refining the proposal

based on comments from the Adams County Planning Commission. The Fairfield Planning Commission will continue its review of the plan at their July 11 meeting, and the borough zoning hearing on the development will continue on July 25.

The new houses represent a nearly 43 per cent increase in

households in the area. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that there were 245 housing units in Fairfield Borough with a total population of 486 residents, and 898 housing units in Hamiltonban Township with a total of 2216 residents.

Of the 490 units proposed, 148 single family homes would be located in Fairfield and 132 single

family homes and 210 townhouses would be built in Hamiltonban, according to a revised site plan submitted June 14 to the Fairfield planning board.

According to James Hanna, Empire Homes Project Manager, the developer has offered to upgrade

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Commissioners approve \$1.3 million town budget

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Algae blooms hamper town water supplies

-see page 5

In spite of defeated annexation, local not giving up on Emmitsburg

-see page 6

Emmitsburg Elementary bids farewell to three teachers

-see page 9

Thurmont celebrates Main Street designation, grants

By CHRIS PATTERSON
Contributing Writer

Thurmont's May 10 designation as a Main Street community is already yielding grant money for downtown area improvements as well as the praise of state and local officials alike.

During a June 15 dinner celebrating the Main Street designation received in May, Kevin Baynes, the Main Street Maryland Program Coordinator, announced

that the town would receive a \$4,000 grant for improvements to the downtown area.

Baynes stressed how impressive it was that the town had achieved the designation with only about 21 months of direct work. He cited the town's passionate and systematic approach to seeking the designation and the commitment of those involved as making it happen. Much more is possible in the future, he said.

"(The Main Street Program) is

what you make of it," Baynes said. "It is only as good as you make it. You can make it great."

In the packed room at the Cozy Inn and Restaurant, Thurmont Economic Development Committee Vice President John

Kinnaird told the evening's guests that the grant money along with \$4,000 in matching funds from the town will be used to create public seating in the downtown area along

-See **Thurmont** on page 8

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100 Years Ago "In this place" From The Emmitsburg Chronicle

This column offers a regular look back at Emmitsburg through the eyes of The Emmitsburg Chronicle which first appeared on June 14, 1879, published by Samuel Motter. In 1909 the paper became known as The Weekly Chronicle. It continued regular publication, allowing for a 5-year hiatus during World War II, until February 9, 1977.

High School Entertainment

June 16, 1905 - On Monday evening an entertainment was given in Spangler's Opera House by the scholars of the Emmitsburg High School. The play was a comic operetta entitled, "The Merry Company." The performance opened with three pretty tableaux, entitled the "Sunflower Quartette," "Milton dictating 'Paradise Lost' to his daughters," and "Nothing to Say." The entire entertainment was first-class in every particular, creditable alike to the young performers and their instructors. The audience was not only large, but an appreciative one, and all who had the pleasure of witnessing the entertainment were delighted with the evening's enjoyment.

June 30, 1905 - The farmers have finished cutting their wheat crop in this section of the country.

June 30, 1905 - Next Tuesday will be the Fourth of July. No arrangements have been made to celebrate the day in this place.

HIGH SCHOOL Interesting Commencement Exercises held on Thursday Evening of last Week.

June 30, 1905 - The eighth annual commencement exercises of the Emmitsburg High School were held in Spangler's Opera House on Thursday evening of last week. The hall was neatly decorated for the occasion and a large

audience was in attendance to greet the graduates and to enjoy the usually well prepared and excellently rendered programs on these annual occasions and the program of last Thursday evening was well selected and equally well rendered. The program was as follows.

Processional; Invocation, by Rev. A. M. Gluck, pastor of the Reformed Church; Salutatory, by Carson P. Frailey; Chorus - "Let the Hills and Vales Resound," by the School; Essay - "Song without words," by Miss Lucy Adelsberger; Music, male quartette, by Messrs. Annan Horner, Joseph Rowe, Thaddeus Zimmerman, and Robert Horner. Valedictory, "Education," by Joseph Shuff. (Owing to the absence of Mr. Shuff from the exercises, this part of the program was omitted.) Address to the graduates by Rev. James Nourse, pastor of the Presbyterian Church; Vocal Solo by Mr. Annan Horner; Distribution of Diplomas; Class Ode; Benediction.

This year's graduating class was composed of Miss Lucy Adelsberger, Messrs. Carson P. Frailey, and Joseph H. Shuff.

The certificates of graduation were distributed to the following graduates by Mr. J. Henry Stokes, member of the board of County School Commissioners: Miss Lucy Adelsberger, and Mr. Carson P. Frailey.

Prof. G. Lloyd Palmer, the teacher, has every reason to feel proud of the highly pleasing manner in which the program was rendered.

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EMPIRE HOMES PROPOSAL

Adams County attracts D. C. commuters

Adams County is an enticing market for Washingtonians looking for housing, according to Jim Watkins, in an April 8 article in *The Washington Times*, "Focus: New Washington Suburb: Adams County," p. F23 of the Friday Home Guide. Watkins says that the county's affordable housing, easy accessibility, and its rich history make it particularly attractive.

According to the Realtor Association of York and Adams County, "The average home value is \$150,229, with homes on the market an average of 57

days." Commuters can travel the 80 miles by car in an hour and a half or take the MARC train service from Frederick. Watkins points out that major highways run through Gettysburg, connecting to interstates 70 and 270 at Frederick and the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 76) near Harrisburg. Several major airports are within driving distance, and the area's Civil War history draws more than 2 million visitors just to the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park each year.

Proposed developments in Adams County, Pa. include:

- Mason-Dixon Country Club: 1200 units (Freedom Township w/portion in Frederick County, Md.)
- Liberty Valley: 1,100 units* (Liberty Township)
- Empire Homes (Fairfield Borough & Hamiltonban Township): 500 units estimated
- Gettysburg Commons: 1,800 units (Straban Township)
- Brougner Farm, Martin Farm, Hostetter Farm, Dellinger Farm: 1,300 units total approximately (Straban Township)

- *Liberty Valley Alternate Proposal: 391 units total
- Liberty Meadows, 257 units
 - Liberty Estates, 43 units
 - Liberty Vista, 41 units
 - Liberty Homesteads, 26 units
 - Liberty View, 24 units

This site plan contains the latest revisions by Empire Homes to a 490-house development being proposed for Fairfield Borough and Hamiltonban township.

Development

-Continued from page 1

the Fairfield sewer system, at an estimated cost of \$3.5 million; to provide the Fairfield schools with \$790,000 to use as school officials see fit; and to build another water tower to increase the towns' water supply.

Hanna and project Attorney Jeffrey A. Ernico reviewed some of the changes they intend to make with the borough planning commission at a meeting on June 14. Hanna told the planning commission that the project would have about a 10-year build out.

Issues include development road connectivity, common green areas, and the required scope of landscaping plans for preliminary review.

Ernico told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that the zoning hearing board has granted Empire Homes an extension to allow them time to amend the plans in accordance with county comments.

The project is to be built on parcels presently owned by Thomas Brown, Hamiltonban, and Carl Sturges, an Adams County resident, some 300 acres.

The development, as presently proposed, would be bounded on the west by Tract Road and by Fairfield Road to the north, with Fairfield

Road as the site's main entrance.

Empire Homes wants approval of a density bonus of up to five units per acre, through a special exception zoning option known as "Village Development."

According to Robert Thaeler, senior planner for the Adams County office of Planning & Development, the developer must meet stringent requirements to qualify for Village Development approval.

Another option for increasing density would be designing a cluster development, which would permit up to three units per acre. Either option is considered a special exception and would require zoning board approval.

The Hamiltonban Township portion of the development lies within R-2 zoning, which permits moderate density development, already set at a higher units-per-acre density than available land in Fairfield.

Fairfield Borough includes approximately 170 acres of potentially developable farmland, not including the McGinley's Choice project, but no developments have been proposed for this acreage at the present time.

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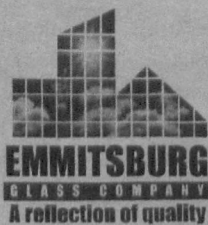
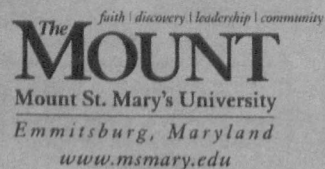
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TOWN NEWS

Commissioners approve \$1.3 million town budget

Water, sewer, personal property rates increase

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON
 News Editor

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a \$1,327,992 million fiscal year 2006 budget at the June 20 meeting, a \$256,224 increase over the 2005 budget.

The commissioners increased the water and sewer rates, along with personal property taxes, although the real property tax rate remains unchanged. Commissioner William O'Neil was absent.

Major budget increases

Total legislative expenditures, including line items for legislative salaries and benefits, operating expenses and "public relations," rose from \$53,368 to \$77,474, while planning and zoning expenditures increased from \$84,000 to \$107,650.

General government expenditures rose from \$97,200 to \$130,194. The \$42,765 earmarked for town employee pensions was nixed by the board, and was moved to "capital improvements," not a current budget category.

The public safety budget actually decreased from \$235,100 to \$222,735. Garbage expenditures rose slightly from \$157,000 to \$167,402.

The street budget increased from \$144,500 to \$199,500, while recreation and parks allocations

rose from \$171,100 to \$207,812.

Debt services decreased from \$45,000 to \$44,950; total transfers to the capital improvement fund increased from \$44,500 to \$112,710; and property management decreased from \$40,000 to \$15,000.

Revenue rate increases

While town tax on real property remains at 36 cents per \$100 of assessed value, the board voted to raise the personal property tax from 75 cents per \$100 of assessed personal property to 90 cents per \$100.

The former rate was established nearly four years ago. Commissioner Arthur Elder voted against the increase. Mayor James E. Hoover and commissioners Christopher Staiger and Glenn Blanchard voted to approve.

The town water and sewer usage rates were increased by \$2.50 for the first 6,000 gallons used relative to ¾ inch meter and one inch meter rates for both in-town and outside of town users. In addition, upper tier users (defined as "industrial" users) will pay an additional 50 cents per 1,000 gallons consumed for those using 100,000 to 1,000,000 gallons; \$1 per 1,000 gallons used for those using 1,000,001 to 2,000,000; and \$2 per 1,000 gallons used for those using over 2,000,001 gallons.

Elder voted against the increases. Hoover, Staiger and Blanchard voted to approve them.

Cost of living increases for staff cut

The commissioners also reduced the suggested town staff cost of living increase from 3.6 percent to 2.5 percent, on a motion by Elder.

The board and mayor generally felt 3.6 per cent was somewhat high. Hoover commented, "We've never given 3.6 that I can recall. Personally, I haven't seen anybody doing more than two percent this year."

Emmitsburg recently entered into a consent order with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) guaranteeing the town will take action to upgrade the wastewater system. MDE continues to fine the town for spillages.

Sewer

-Continued from page 1

of Emmitsburg has an ongoing program to reconstruct or repair its sewer system, it will be able to meet the required match," O'Neil said in an interview.

"The town was capable of funding up to a \$270,000 match. The potential match is no more than 45 percent," he added.

O'Neil credited Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, a member of the interior appropriations subcommittee, and Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, for adding the town-specific money to the legislation.

In his press release, the commissioner wrote, "It is an honor to work with them (Mikulski and Sarbanes) in providing a new, previously untapped source of revenue for our town which will be used to repair deteriorating sewers and help protect the health and safety of our residents, our children, and our environment."

O'Neil's efforts to secure funding for the sewer system problems date back to June 2004 when he initiated a local effort to seek a \$300,000 community development block grant. The town is still waiting to hear about that money.

The town's wastewater collection system has degraded badly over the decades due to lackluster maintenance. The system is often plagued with sewer spills following heavy rains,

and the sewage treatment plant sometimes operates beyond its permitted treatment capacity.

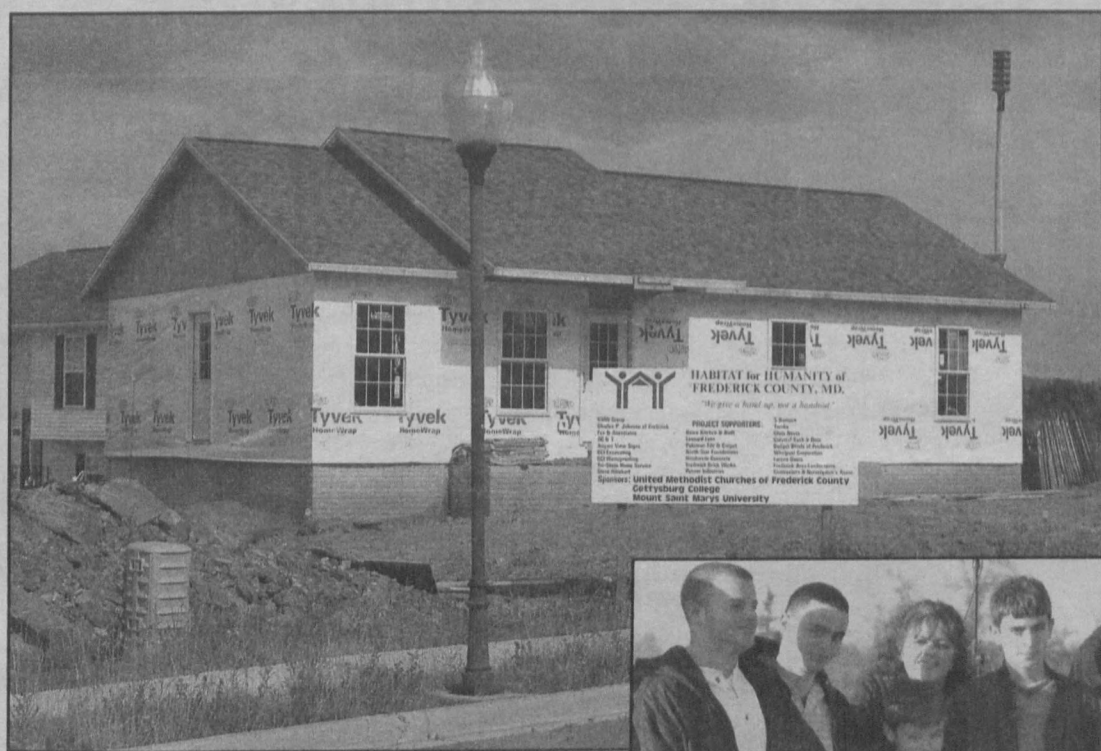
The commissioner's work to acquire a share of the appropriations committee allocation began in March.

In a letter to Sarbanes, O'Neil included the estimated cost to rebuild failing sections of the sewage system at more than \$7 million. He also quoted an engineering study that revealed that 89 percent of the system is either "in an advanced state of decay or on the brink of total collapse."

Former town inspector Jeff Fitzgerald told The Dispatch that a closed-circuit television survey inside the pipeline, conducted in 1980 by Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company, Canonsburg, Pa., under the auspices of Beavin Company, an engineering firm based in Baltimore at the time, indicated that there were "problems almost everywhere in the system."

In a statement issued by Mikulski, the senator said, "Maryland's communities want to do the right thing by the environment, but they can't do it on their own. That's why I have worked so hard to put money in the federal checkbook that creates jobs, builds communities and takes care of our environment."

Sarbanes added, "This funding will help improve the quality of life for the residents of Western Maryland by providing a safer water supply, as well as aiding the overall Chesapeake Bay water clean-up efforts."



Habitat for Humanity home construction will continue through the summer

Construction of the Habitat for Humanity home in Emmitsburg will continue throughout the summer, with plans to have Sara Lee and her four sons in their new home by the beginning of the school year.

Larry Snody, steering committee chair and member of Brook Hill United Methodist

Church (UMC), said volunteers from several United Methodist congregations are still showing up in force to work on the home, even though Gettysburg College and Mount St. Mary's University students are now gone for the summer.

Fundraising has been a tremendous success, according to Treasurer Bob Fenimore,

Walkersville UMC. Fenimore said that nearly \$75,000 has been raised and funds continue to come in. In-kind donations or donated services are expected to total close to \$30,000.

For more information on the Emmitsburg Habitat house, contact Larry Snody at ldsnody@adelphia.net or at 301-624-0002.

-RAYMOND BUCHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Algae blooms hamper town water supplies

The annual, seasonal algae bloom is back in Rainbow Lake, once again interfering with the town's water supply.

Rainbow Lake serves as a significant water reservoir for Emmitsburg. Under normal conditions, the town is authorized to process as much as 168,000 gallons of lake water a day for public consumption.

When the lake's algae population "explodes," water plant filters can become overwhelmed and have to be back-flushed to eliminate plant debris. During this down time, water cannot be removed from the lake and use of the town wells has to increase to compensate.

Water production from the lake dropped from 42 percent of the town water supply to 35 percent

as the spring-summer bloom set in, according to Town Manager David Haller.

Algae are plants, and require sunlight to produce their own food supplies. During times of the year with extended sunlight, the population swells. As fall approaches, blooms tend to die off.

David Fissel, water treatment plant manager, blamed a growing beaver population in Rainbow Lake during last year's bloom for helping to increase the amount of algae. "The beavers keep dragging vegetative matter into the water, which adds nutrients. It's (the algae bloom) run rampant on us," he explained.

The town is also trying to reduce the impact of the algae bloom by attacking the plants with copper sulfate.

Town pension plan canned by deadlocked vote

Efforts to provide the state pension plan for Emmitsburg's 19 town employees were thwarted at the June 20 town meeting by a 2-2 vote.

The base cost of the plan would have been about \$318,000, but would have cost the town more than \$420,000 over the proposed ten-year payback period.

Commissioner Christopher Staiger and President Arthur Elder voted

against the motion made by Mayor James E. Hoover and seconded by Commissioner Glenn Blanchard. Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr. was absent.

Staiger said, "This (state plan) is a tremendous expenditure of town funds. I don't know there aren't better ways to provide our employees with a better benefit plan."

Elder agreed that "Everyone needs a retirement plan," but suggested that more research be done.



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Bob & Barb Morts granddaughter, Ashley Nicole Bauerline, is 16 years old and in the 10th grade.

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BUSINESS

In spite of defeated annexation, local not giving up on Emmitsburg

Business News Briefs ...

W. F. Delauter & Son awarded Frailey Road rehabilitation job

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners awarded W. F. Delauter & Son, Thurmont, a \$71,851 contract on June 6 for proposed improvements to Frailey Road.

The project will include replacing the road base and repaving, according to Town Manager David Haller.

Haller said the Frailey Road improvements were to have

been addressed in conjunction with the Mountain View Road waterline replacement, which has now been completed.

Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr. abstained because the issue had not been scheduled for a vote that night. "I did not vote no, because I support the project. I could not vote yes, because the process was circumvented," O'Neil said.

Stair manufacturer plans move to Emmitsburg

Tamarac Design Inc., a custom stair manufacturer, will be relocating from Westminster to the Emmitsburg East Industrial Park in the near future, and plans to build a 30,000 square-foot facility. The company currently has 15 employees, and plans to hire additional staff after the move. Tamarac proposes to construct a 27,000 square-foot plant with

a 3,000 square-foot office.

A company spokesperson said that Tamarac has purchased land and hopes for a mid-summer groundbreaking.

M & E Land, LLC, the landholder, will submit a preliminary plan for the new facility to the town planning commission for review at an upcoming meeting.

Glass company to seek annexation of adjacent land

The Emmitsburg Glass Company will seek town approval to annex a 35-acre tract located next to their future facility on Creamery Road to establish a new industrial park for new or expanding Emmitsburg businesses.

With the recent sale of remaining site lots to

Tamarac and Josh Bollinger, the Emmitsburg East Industrial Park, owned by glass company owners Sheridan (Dan) and Gregory Reaver, is filled.

Town staff is currently reviewing the proposal which would also require planning board review.

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON
News Editor

Bollinger operations employ hundreds

A local businessman supporting local folks

In spite of a failed annexation, a local entrepreneur continues to invest in Emmitsburg, and will soon establish a multi-business headquarters on Creamery Way.

Josh Bollinger, 42, a life-long resident of Emmitsburg,

In addition to Bollinger Properties LLC, he and his wife Lori own and operate Bollinger Construction, Bollinger Homes, T&M Crane (named for sons Thomas, 10, and Matthew, 14), and South Seton Auto Repair.

Collectively, the firms employ about 320 workers, 300 of whom hold salaried positions or work as subcontractors with Bollinger Construction, a firm the couple established in 1992.

Bollinger explained to *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "Bollinger Construction is a very large company, and is involved with the construction of about 1,000 units a year, with most being in Northern Virginia. We are licensed to build in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia."

Bollinger Properties owns three apartment buildings in town, averaging 17 units each, but is looking to sell them. The firm will hang onto the Irishtown Road property, the subject of the overturned annexation.

Bollinger closed on lot six at the Emmitsburg East Industrial Park on May 10. He plans to build a 10,000 square foot headquarters building, with an attached structure to house South Seton Auto Repair. "We'd like to be in by spring of 2006," Bollinger said.



-R. BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Josh Bollinger at his Bollinger Construction office on South Seton Ave.

will consolidate the operations of five businesses he has founded over the past ten years into a new headquarters to be built at the Emmitsburg East Industrial Park.

Although still somewhat bitter over the 2004 referendum that reversed a previously approved annexation of land to Emmitsburg owned by Bollinger Properties (Bollinger, his wife, mother and aunt), he remains committed to staying in town.

The Bollinger family dates back some 150 to 200 years in Emmitsburg. Bollinger's father, Thomas, worked for Genstar, a mining and quarrying operation; and his great-grandfather, Theodore Bollinger, established a meat market on West Main about 1900, which closed in 1978.

Josh and Lori Bollinger contribute generously to many local efforts from Emmitsburg to Fairfield, especially, but not limited to, sports-related activities.

Bollinger is head coach of the varsity football team at the Fairfield Recreation Center, and a manager of the Fairfield Little League team, the Rockies, who are sponsored by Bollinger Homes.

"I was always involved as sports as a kid and like to help the kids out. There is not a lot for kids to do today to keep them out of trouble," the businessman said in an interview.

He said he had "walked away from" some golden opportunities himself. During high school Bollinger received football scholarship offers from a number of schools, but he chose not to pursue them.

"One of my objectives (in staying involved with and supporting local sports) is to make sure opportunities are here for



-PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOLLINGER FAMILY

Thomas W. Bollinger, Josh Bollinger's grandfather, stands behind the meat counter of his market on West Main St. Taking over the business from his father, Thomas Bollinger ran the meat market until it closed in 1978.

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-PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOLLINGER FAMILY

A meat wagon belonging to Theodore Bollinger, Josh Bollinger's great-grandfather. The driver is not known. Theodore Bollinger established a meat market on West Main St. about 1900.

others," he said.

The Bollingers have also contributed to the Emmitsburg little leagues, the Emmitsburg After School Program and the Up County Center. The Bollinger Pavilion, adjacent to the town playing fields, was named in honor of the family, who built it at no cost to the community.

Town Planner Michael Lucas said Bollinger, "has been extremely generous and an exceptional corporate citizen with regard to funding worthy projects within the town."

Larry Little, One More Tavern, agreed: "Josh has always been heavily involved in the community. If it was a good cause, he would give. There was never any question. He's a good man to have in your corner."

Bitter memories of COPE

"I've still got a bad taste in my mouth," Bollinger shared, about COPE's (Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg) efforts in bringing about the referendum

that ultimately overturned the already-approved annexation of the Irishtown Road property.

The annexation reversal probably cost the town \$1 million in lost fees and revenues.

Choosing not to make a big deal about the setback, Bollinger said, "I'm very respectful. I don't say anything (that could start a running dispute)." He added though that, in truth, if COPE had prevailed in the 2005 election, "I was ready to get completely out of here."

Bollinger was especially upset because he had wanted to build a development that was "something we could be proud of. I would have been able to drive by it and look at it."

He pointed out that if the annexations of their property and Silver Fancy had not been overturned, the revenue from those developments, combined with monies from Brookfield and Southgate, could have paid for the town's needed water and sewer system improvements.

Sees development as a positive thing

Bollinger believes a community must grow, and that development revenues can do a great deal to improve systems for which the town might otherwise have to take out loans or go begging for money.

"Development benefits every-

body," he said. It also creates and enhances employment for workers performing routine services for many homeowners, like lawn care or maintenance.

But he doesn't believe in rampant growth, and feels the Bollinger tract and Silver Fancy were probably the last logical plots of land the town could have annexed. "I'm all for managed growth. A town can't be successful any other way," Bollinger maintained.

Asked if they might re-apply for annexation of the property, he said, "I'm not sure if we would do it again."



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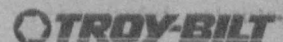
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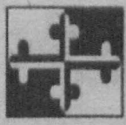
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The official Main Street area of Thurmont is Frederick Road from the town square to Park Lane (at the American Legion), East Main Street to Carroll, and the town square to Boundary Avenue, one block west on Main Street. For more information on the Economic Development Committee and the Thurmont Main Street program go to www.ThurmontFirst.com or call John Kinnaird at 301-271-2273. Volunteers are needed for multiple committees. Business owners and residents are encouraged to participate. For more information on Main Street Maryland, go to www.dhcd.state.md.us/Website/programs/msm/msm.aspx.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Thurmont Economic Development Committee member John Kinnaird (R) points out historic features of town's architecture to (R-L) Yvette Wilson, Internal Coordinator, and Kevin Baynes, Coordinator of the Main Street Maryland program. Kinnaird and Thurmont Commissioner Bill Blakeslee (L) gave the Main Street Maryland representatives a walking tour of the town on June 15.

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 Fr. July 29: Shrimp Basket, French Fries, Slaw

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Thurmont

-Continued from page 1

the street, install signs designating the Main Street area, and to install permanent waste receptacles. The money will also pay for brick-look crosswalks at the town square, he said.

Grants are not the only benefits from becoming a Main Street community.

Towns accepted into the program are eligible for multiple services designed to bolster business in the community, maintain the integrity of the historic and downtown area, and promote tourism. There will be assistance with architectural and

on-site redesign of the downtown area, education about state and federal funding programs, and training for volunteers and for a town program manager, among other services.

"(The Main Street Program) is what you make of it. It is only as good as you make it. You can make it great."

- Kevin Baynes,
 Main Street Maryland
 Program Coordinator

John Fieseler, Executive Director of the Tourism Council of Frederick County, said his office would help obtain advertising

for Thurmont outside Frederick County while the town promotes the program within the county.

Mayor Martin A. Burns credits the work of Kinnaird, town Commissioner Bill Blakeslee and

Vice Chair Vickie Grinder for the speedy success of the application process. It is not uncommon for towns to make multiple unsuccessful attempts to obtain the coveted designation, but Thurmont received it on the first try.

Burns also credited the consulting firm of Jakubiak and Associates of Annapolis. In addition to the Main Street designation, the firm has already helped the town obtain a grant for more than \$100,000 to be used for work on the Moser Road Bridge.

Donovan Hart of Jakubiak and Associates said the Main Street program is really a "ticket to the dance." It opens doors to a myriad of opportunities that can benefit the town.

Kinnaird said the next step for the committee will be to incorporate as a non-profit organization and to hire a full-time program manager. Fund-raising will then be the next order of business, he said.

Main Street Maryland is a comprehensive downtown revitalization program striving to improve the economic potential of Maryland's traditional main streets and neighborhoods. Thurmont is one of three Main Street communities in Frederick County, along with Taneytown and Frederick city. There are 18 Maryland Main Street communities, including the other 2005 addition, Havre de Grace, in Harford County.



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EDUCATION

Good-bye to three teachers

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Staff Writer

*"Don't it always seem to go,
that you don't know what you've
got 'til it's gone ..."*

Songwriter Joni Mitchell's words seem to fit Emmitsburg Elementary School (EES) as staff and students prepare to bid farewell to veteran teachers Jeanne Davis, Carolyn Wiles, and Jim Roubal.

Davis and Wiles teach physical education and music respectively, called "specials" within the school, not regular classroom instruction. Roubal is a special education teacher working with individuals and small groups of students.

They reflected recently on their years as educators, all keenly aware of what they are going to miss.

Jeanne Davis

Leaving EES is "very emotional" for Jeanne Davis, who has taught continuously in Emmitsburg public schools for 34 years. She arrived in 1971 from Rhode Island — "my first job!" The middle and elementary schools were still located in "the old school" (now the community center.) She taught physical education and English literature then. In 1973 she and her old wooden desk moved into the present building. When the middle school was moved to Thurmont in the early 1980s, she stayed in Emmitsburg to teach elementary school physical education.

"Emmitsburg has always been my school," she says. She has "seen

so many children grow up" at EES, but "I'm trying to focus on what I'm going toward instead of what I'm leaving behind."

Because the EES position was part-time, she also taught at other county schools to maintain full-time teaching status. "But I loved that — working with other teachers, seeing how they teach, and bringing new ideas back to my kids in Emmitsburg."

In 2002 she helped develop the school system's "Fit for Life" project, teaching students how to monitor their own physical activity performance using pedometers and heart-rate monitors. Davis is not actually retiring, just cutting back to teaching four days a week next year. She expects to teach three days the following year. "That's the plan, anyway. It's a gradual retirement."

Her two children are grown, working and living on their own. She expects to use her day off each week to pursue different interests that might lead to part-time work after she finally retires. The plan "might change" if her husband, a civilian employee with the Department of Defense, gets an overseas assignment. He likes to travel, "wants to show me the world, and I'm ready to see it!"

Carolyn Wiles

Music teacher Carolyn Wiles also has a long-term connection to EES and the Emmitsburg community. She taught in the old building in 1969, the year the high school students were transferred to

Catoctin High. She often worked part-time while she and husband Bob raised their three children near Emmitsburg.

When she worked full-time, she usually taught in two or three schools. "I never taught in the city schools. I just preferred the smaller schools out in the county," she said.

Wiles came to stay at EES 19 years ago. "Every day," she says, "there's a child who gets excited about something he or she can do with music. And I've always enjoyed doing the (special) programs. It gives a lot of children a chance to 'show off' what they can do and what they've learned."

She was one of the first Frederick County music teachers to introduce kindergartners to a music program using keyboards. "That's my baby," Wiles says, and she has led workshops to teach other teachers her methods. She's proud to say that the project, which teaches math and reading as well as music, also improves students' math test scores.

Retirement for Wiles means devoting more time to her work as music director at Dance Dynamics Studio in Taneytown. She will continue singing with Sweet Adelines, and is also organist and choir director at Piney Creek Church of the Brethren.

Jim Roubal

Jim Roubal came to a part-time position at EES from Thurmont Middle School (TMS) 10 years ago. He had been at TMS for six years. Before that he taught for 14 years in his home state, Wisconsin. He has always worked in special education, and finds it satisfying that the stigma of being a "special ed student" has diminished over the years. He sometimes teaches

students one-on-one for several years, and seeing their progress in that time has been the "most rewarding" part of his career. He hopes to continue volunteering at EES with an after-school chess club he started there.

Roubal already has his second career in place. He plans to work full-time at the Gettysburg battlefield when he leaves teaching. His love of Civil War history led him to a summer job there in 1980. After several summers, he and his wife Kathy relocated to the area.

He is a licensed battlefield guide with the National Park Service in Gettysburg, and occasionally takes groups to Antietam and Harper's Ferry.

At this time of year he works primarily with school groups, and he guided EES fifth-graders on their field trip to the battlefield in April.

"EES has been a great place to work — the teachers, the students, and their parents are really a team," Roubal said. "It is never easy to walk away from a job you enjoy."

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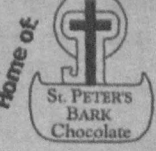
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Local Schools' Year-End Events

Kindergarten students at **Emmitsburg Elementary School (EES)** gave two performances of "Sounds Abound!" in May, including one for residents of St. Catherine's Nursing Center. The children sang and played instruments they had made in class with teachers Sharon Rice, Kelly Canfield, and Carolyn Miller. The hands-on project reinforced their study of both science and music and was supported with Grant in Education funding from *The Washington Post*. The grant allowed the teachers and music teacher Carolyn Wiles to purchase books, instruments and materials for making instruments, and a kazoo for every child.

On May 16, Adam Satterlee's fifth grade class attended a buffet luncheon at

the Carriage House Inn as guests of proprietor Robert Hance. The students had created ads for the restaurant as part of *The Frederick News-Post's* Design-an-Ad program. Hance wanted to thank all of them for their "outstanding" artwork. Jared Harris submitted the winning design.

Stephen D. Martin, acting associate superintendent of schools (elementary) was a special guest at the second annual EES Scholar Bowl dinner. Thirty-two fourth and fifth grade students were recognized for achieving top scores in the Scholar Bowl competition at a dinner catered by the Ott House. Flowers for You and Gifts Too, Ltd. provided balloon decorations; McDonald's of Emmitsburg donated drinks. Students also received Scholar Bowl t-shirts.

Mother Seton School (MSS) has received accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools. The award capped a two-year long evaluation process involving faculty, parents, and students. MSS was one of over 100 schools honored by the commission.

MSS eighth graders Emilie Cecil (essay), Keegan Eichelman (art), and Brandon Myers (poetry) were regional first-place winners in the annual Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education Contest. Themes for 2005 were "Our Mother's Loving Touch" and "I Can Make a Difference." Cecil and Eichelman also won first place at the state level and their entries have moved on to the national competition. Local sponsor is Court St. Elizabeth Ann Seton #278.

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SPORTS

Mount Women's Lacrosse makes NCAA Tournament

BY MEGAN ZIMMERMAN
Contributing Writer

After a rough start, the women of Mount St. Mary's lacrosse team reached the top, with Northeast Conference regular season and championship titles, and an appearance in the NCAA Division I Tournament.

It was obvious the women were just warming up as they began the 2005 season in early March. With two wins in their first six games, the Mount defeats included #5 Georgetown and #8 North Carolina.

"We wanted to play tougher competition, just to know we could," says Coach Courtney Martinez-Connor. "The girls learned and improved every day."

But as the women entered NEC regular season play, they reclaimed their well-deserved glory.

The Mountaineers crushed their opponents in the first five NEC regular season games. A meeting with Wagner College broke their winning streak by one goal, 8-7. But after two more NEC games, the Mount ended the NEC regular season with a 7-1 record.

Their impressive performance earned the Mountaineers the title of NEC regular season co-champions

(with Monmouth). The team also advanced to the NEC Championship Tournament, along with Monmouth, Quinnipiac, and Wagner.

In the tournament semifinals, the Mount met Wagner. With a chance to redeem their only NEC regular season loss, the Mountaineers crushed their opponent, 16-5.

"The early loss to Wagner made the girls focus on every game," says Connor. "They were excited to meet them again."

The women then advanced to the NEC Championship Game, meeting Monmouth. Playing through five overtime periods, the Mount ultimately defeated

Spring Sports Wrap up - Outstanding Athletes

BY MEGAN ZIMMERMAN
Contributing Writer

Local athletes from Fairfield and Catoctin High Schools had wide-ranging spring sport successes. From first installments to regional titles, they breezed through the spring season breaking records and setting higher standards.

Monmouth, 8-7, claiming the NEC Tournament Championship for the second year in a row.

The win also placed the Mountaineers in the NCAA Top 16, granting the team a berth in the elite NCAA Division I Tournament.

In the Tournament's first round, the Mount played the number one ranked team in the Country, Northeastern University, and lost 16-3.

Coached by former University of Maryland All-American, Courtney Martinez-Connor, the team ended the 2005 season with a 14-6 record. The Mountaineers will return next spring without three key senior players. "This was the most successful senior team in Mount Saint Mary's history."

Connor has so far signed six new players for next spring. She says the Mountaineers will again reach for NEC and NCAA success, "putting in the same hard work, time, and effort" as 2005.

Athletes from Fairfield Area High School served up a new batch of spring achievements. The boys' 4x1 relay team made up of Scott Bittle, Jake Donaldson, Kyle Neibick, and Jeremy Stubbs not only advanced to the District Championship, but also broke the school's record. Stubbs also competed in the 100-meter dash in the Districts.

The women's track and field team also had District competitors, including pole-vaulter Janice Gillespie, and javelin throwers Regan Johnson and Ashley McGlaughlin.

In baseball, Myles Sites pitched an outstanding season, and the newly formed girls' soccer team enjoyed their first season in Fairfield's history.

Also making headlines were Catoctin High School athletes Becky and Mona Cuddahee. Sisters and doubles partners in Cougar tennis, the girls had a season record of 25-0 and claimed the Regional Championship.

The Catoctin Lady Softball team repeated as Monocacy Valley Athletic League Division Champions by beating Brunswick in the championship game, 18-3.

Catoctin track and field member Samantha Keeney advanced to the Maryland State Championship in the long jump and high jump events. Teammate Seth Parker earned the Regional Champion title in the 1600-meter run.

Also in regional success, Catoctin High lacrosse player Angus Derbyshire finished the season as the top scorer in Frederick County.

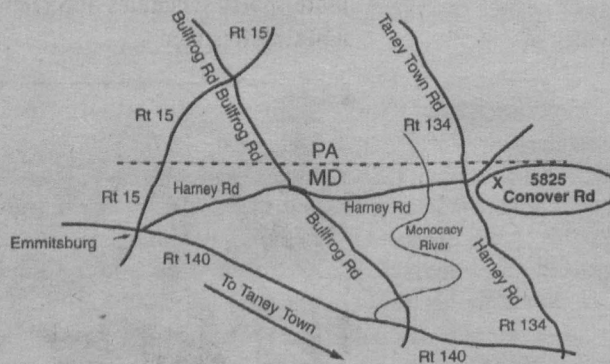
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MOUNT OFFERS NEW *Master of Arts in Liberal Studies*

The Maryland Higher Education Commission has approved Mount St. Mary's University's proposal for a new program—the **Master of Arts in Liberal Studies**.

The Mount is aiming to begin offering courses during the 2005-06 academic year. Recruiting activities will begin immediately for the first class of students to enroll in this graduate program.

Building on the university's strength in providing liberal arts degrees at the undergraduate level, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies will provide educational opportunities for students wishing to study in the liberal arts tradition at the postgraduate level. The degree is designed to appeal to a broad range of professionals and nonprofessionals to help them become informed, educated citizens and seeks to provide diverse perspectives necessary to understand today's rapidly changing world.

"The program is intended for individuals who wish to return to school for the love of learning, or who must complete graduate level courses for professional advancement or certification," said Dr. Linda Martinak, dean of Continuing Studies at the Mount's Frederick Campus. "The program is specifically aimed at strengthening such skills as communication, critical thinking and analysis, ethical judgment, and interpreting the human experience while understanding the forces that transform the world today."

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies is a 30-credit program that will be offered through the university's Division of Continuing Studies in eight-week sessions. Students will progress through the program in four stages, from the foundations level; an examination of western values, cultural strengths and needs; investigation of specific interests; and ultimately a thesis level based on original research in the personal area of interest.

For more information and admissions information on the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, contact Dr. Martinak at 301-682-8315, or Dr. Emilio Rodriguez, MALS Program Director, at 301-447-5374.

"The program is specifically aimed at strengthening such skills as communication, critical thinking and analysis, ethical judgment, and interpreting the human experience while understanding the forces that transform the world today."

—Linda Martinak, *Dean of Continuing Studies*

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"Union with God-Reunion with Others: Healing, Forgiveness and Holiness in Today's World"
July 8-10, 2005
Led by Fr. Jack Lombardi

Through silence and spiritual conferences, adoration, devotions and Healing Service, this weekend will explore the need of forgiveness and reconciliation with God and those in our world: why it is hard to forgive and the need for reconciliation!

Men's Day Retreat—"Men, Masculinity and the Divine Master"
July 16, 2005, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Family Day Retreat—"Holy-Catholic Families Today: Challenges and Blessings"
August 13, 2005, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information on retreats and to register, please call the Grotto Office at 301-447-5318; or email grotto@msmary.edu

SPORTS *Highlights*

Women's Lacrosse Returns to NCAA Division I Tournament

The 2005 Mount St. Mary's women's lacrosse season included back-to-back Northeast Conference (NEC) and regular season titles, earning the Mount's second consecutive bid to the NCAA tournament. The Mountaineers made it to a match-up against top seeded and eventual national champion Northwestern.

Sports information intern Brooke Blain interviewed women's lacrosse senior **Erin LaMotte** of Hampstead, Md., in April. LaMotte helped lead her team in becoming the Northeast Conference Champions and receiving an NCAA tournament berth in the 2004 and 2005 season.

When asked about her most memorable moment at the Mount, LaMotte replied, "During my sophomore year in the conference playoffs, we went in as the underdogs. In those playoffs we beat Monmouth, who was then the No. 1 seed in the opening round. We eventually lost to UMBC by two goals. But we beat UMBC the following year in our nonconference schedule. It was a big win for us."

Mount Student Named to ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District II Team

Mandy Jenkins of Wallkill, N.Y., a member of the Mount St. Mary's women's track and field team, has been named to the 2005 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District II team. A rising junior, Mandy owns a 3.91 grade point average while double-majoring in biochemistry and chemistry.

Jenkins won the pole vault at the Northeast Conference Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field championships this year. She earned a spot in the outdoor NCAA East Regionals for the second straight year.

For complete sports schedules and team stats, visit www.mountathletics.com



Left to right: The Women's Lacrosse team; Mandy Jenkins has been named to the 2005 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District II team.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Meet Beth Watson: Actor, Teacher and Thurmont Thespians Founder

BY JOAN CROOKS
AND SUSAN ALLEN
Dispatch Staff

Beth Royer Watson missed the last performance of "The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wilde," which she directed for the Blue Ridge Theatre Guild. Instead, she was attending the eighth annual celebration and awards program recognizing Lutheran ministry efforts in the Delaware-Maryland Synod. Watson received the Innovation Award for her continuing work with Thurmont Thespians, a summer theater program for children she founded in 1997, sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church in Thurmont.

Nancy Riffle was a member of St. John's Church council when Watson presented her project for approval. "She was - is - so enthusiastic and so supportive of the kids. It is amazing to see her work with 40, 50, even 60 kids, bring them together and see them respond." Riffle says the child's background doesn't matter, whether "churched or un-churched. She finds a way to reach each one, and

bring out the best."

Bonnie Weaver, another Thespians founding member, now a third-year student at Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary, agrees. "I've seen kids who have had problems associating with other children blossom and grow and gain self-confidence because here they were accepted and helped by the other children ... They learn life skills as well as theater skills."

The first plays were presented in the church sanctuary. Now the church's classrooms are used for rehearsals and pre-performance work, and shows are presented in the Thurmont American Legion auditorium. The plays have ranged from those with religious themes, such as "Godspell" and this summer's project, "The Very Best Christmas Pageant Ever," to fairy tales and the children's classics, "Charlotte's Web" and "The Wizard of Oz."

Watson was introduced to theater at Thurmont High School by Mildred Trevvett, a teacher whose philosophy was that every child who wanted to be on stage would be.

"Miss Trevvett gave every person a chance," Watson said. "If they gave the time, she gave them the chance, which is of course how I got hooked." She went on to say, "Our school system today is so big that every child doesn't have a chance to get an onstage role ... they'll never know whether they like it or not because they'll never get a chance to try. I want to give every child an opportunity to find out how much fun it (theater) is."

Children can try every component of a theater production. According to Watson, "I'm not just teaching acting. I'm teaching how to set up a program, how to set up a poster ... how you write a press release. Each one has to do everything and hand it in ... they will learn what the house manager, the stage manager, and stage crew is responsible for and they will know how to set up a prop table so they can find what they want. They also learn how to paint sets. They love doing that. They say, 'Mom won't let me do this at home.'"

Lori White, director of adult and graduate admissions at Hood College, has volunteered with the



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Beth Watson (lower left) sits with a group of her students for a cast photo from their production of "The Wizard of Oz."

Thespians for three years. She assesses Watson's impact on the students: "Beth has the commitment to make this a learning experience instead of just a fun 'play time.' She can take a timid child, who is not

talking to anyone, and by engaging that child in different activities find their niche in the production."

Luke Greffen, a 2005 Frederick

-See **Watson** on page 13

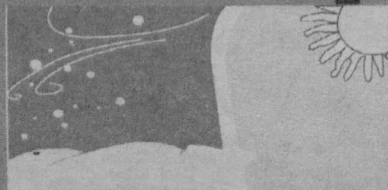
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Lutheran Church Launches Christian Coffeehouse

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Staff Writer

There is a new venture in ministry in Emmitsburg, and it's growing in "The Basement" of Elias Lutheran Church. The Elias Youth Group FOM FROGS (Fishers of Men, Fully Reliant on God) has opened a coffeehouse featuring live, contemporary Christian music. Held the second Friday of each month through August, it is an ecumenical event, "a safe teen alternative" that is also fun for "the young at heart."

Advisers Frank and Lesly Potts began planning the coffeehouse about four months prior to its opening on May 13. Lesly Potts contacted Blake Gelwicks of Hagerstown, who runs a similar ministry with his wife at Grace Brethren Church. He is also the drummer for the five-member Christian rock band "Forgiven," which headlined May 13, along with singer/guitarist Scott Snyder of Gettysburg. Potts credits Gelwicks with being "instrumental in getting us started."

The youth group gave the

parish hall dining room a facelift, painting brightly colored murals on the walls, incorporating crosses, fish, loaves of bread and chalices. On opening night, the tables were covered with white paper and crayons were provided for doodling and drawing. Candles lit the room. Attendance was good, 65 people of various ages, with few high schoolers probably because of the Catocin High School prom that same evening. Middle schoolers occasionally danced near the stage. The band gave quiet time to testimony, prayer, and poetry.

The June 10 concert drew about 75 people and Potts notes that the groups' hometowns in part determine the audience.

Local talent and a featured band will appear each month. Deana Mears and "Silver Lining" perform on July 8, and "Common Clay" is scheduled for Aug. 12. Free coffee, other beverages, and snacks are provided. Donations compensate the musicians. "The Basement - Where Christ is our Foundation" is open from 7-10 p.m., and all are welcome. Information: 301-447-6814.

Church. Greffen is also active there, and says Watson provides dramas and enlists student actors for short performances at monthly services.

"Watching the kids develop" through Thurmont Thespians gives Watson her greatest enjoyment. One of her performers, Jason Driver, "started with us in the very first show we ever did. He was nine or ten. Watching him develop until last year (2004) when he did the scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz" was the greatest gratification you could ever imagine. I've got lots of kids like that. Sam Cofer has come along the exact same way. Jimmy Brown said to me, 'Oh, I wish I could do that.' I said you can. You come and we will teach you how to do that."

Watson

-Continued from page 12

Community College graduate, began volunteering backstage in 2001 as a Catocin High School student.

"They are wonderful people to work with," he says, because "they really believe in what they're doing with community theater. They want to create the best production and get as many people involved in it as they can."

Besides the Thespian ministry, Watson works with "First Sunday" outreach, an interdenominational youth worship program based at Thurmont United Methodist

A&E Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

For Children

June 28 - Port Discovery in Baltimore. Up-County Family Center trip for families with children under age 4.

Taneytown Summer Day Camp. Ages 6-11: June 27-July 1, July 18-22, Aug. 8-12. Ages 3-5: Aug. 1-4. Information: 410-751-1100.

Concerts

July 10 - Westminster Municipal Band. 6 p.m. Thurmont Memorial Park.

July 17 - Music in the Park. 6 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Park (behind the post office). Features the Rohrersville Band.

July 24 - Annual Volunteer Freedom Concert. 6 p.m. Thurmont Memorial Park.

Galleries, Exhibits, Art Shows

June 3 - July 24 Cumberland Valley Artists Winners Exhibit. 56 paintings and 12 sculptures accepted for the salon will be exhibited. Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown. Information: 301-739-5727.

June 25 - Artscape 2005. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Downtown businesses, Taneytown Md. Juried and local artists showcasing sculpture,

paintings, photographs, jewelry, jazz, and ministerial groups. St. Joseph's breakfast 7 to 11 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church will be offering lunch.

Saturdays in July - Art at Farmers Market. Lincoln Square, Gettysburg.

Music Festivals

June 25 - Swingin' Blues Wine Festival. Noon to 6 p.m. Linganore Winery, Frederick. Wine tasting, guided winery tours, 25+ arts and crafts vendors, Kelly Bell Band and the Nighthawks. Tickets: \$10 per person. www.linganore-wine.com.

July 3-8 and 10-15 - Common Ground on the Hill Workshops and Concerts. Traditional and folk arts and music. McDaniel College, Westminster. Information: www.commongroundonthehill.org.

July 9-10 - Common Ground on the Hill Music & Arts Festival. Carroll County Farm Museum, Westminster. A music, dance and art festival for all ages. Featuring Hot Tuna (Saturday), Tom Chapin (Sunday), Dr. Loco with Tomas Montoya (Saturday) and Walt Michael and Co. (Saturday and Sunday). Adults \$40. Information: call 410-857-2771 or e-mail cgrounds@qis.net.

Live Acts

June 25 - Irish Moon Coffee House. 7 p.m. 1 Frederick St, Taneytown. Featuring the music of Eileen Korn. Information: 410-756-6556.

July 2 - Irish Moon Coffee House. 8 to 10 p.m. Featuring Chasmo and Cassandra.

July 8 - "The Basement" Coffee House. 7 p.m. Elias Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg. Featuring Deana Mears.

July 16 - Irish Moon Coffee House. 7:30 to 10 p.m. Featuring "The Trouble with Harry."

Stage

June 21 - July 3 - "Funny Money" Farce (Adult Content) July 5-17 - "Ten Little Indians" Mystery-Comedy (Family). Totem Pole Playhouse, Fayetteville, Pa. Information: www.totempoleplayhouse.org or 1-888-805-7056.

June 10 - Aug. 27 - Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre "The Wizard of Oz" Musical (Family). Willow Tree Plaza, Rt. 40 West, Frederick. Information: 301-662-6600 www.wayoffbroadway.com.

July 15 - Deadline - The New Play House seeks short play scripts by Maryland playwrights for an October main stage production. Information: Jonah Knight 301-668-8019 or e-mail newplayhouse@yahoo.com.

Festivals

June 25 - Free Public Demo and Renaissance Fair. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Renfrew Park, Waynesboro, Pa. Information: 717-263-9824.



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Quilters Quilting is about patience, not speed



By
MARY ELLEN
CUMMINGS

Dispatch
Columnist

Quiltmaking is not for everyone. It requires determination, inspiration, and patience. Patience is probably the most important, especially, in our world of fast food, fast phones, fast cars, fast relationships and fast frustrations. And fast time – it's summer already and I haven't finished my winter projects.

Each time I read a quilt magazine, I promise myself I'll try the newer, faster methods of piecing quilt tops. However, my home is just not speed-quilting friendly. There isn't a room that I want to turn into a quilt factory, so I move along in my snail-pace fashion and enjoy the slow time.

Some of the newer patterns

contain tips for easier, faster ways to make your quilt. There are also publications devoted to tips and "how-tos."

I have a few tips of my own (that may or may not echo others) that might help you. One very important suggestion is – measure your bed before you buy or make a quilt. The manager of a local mattress shop said, "All bottom bed rails are seven

inches from the floor." My beds are 7 inches, 10 ½ inches and a custom-made bed is 5 ½ inches. So-o-o measure your bed – in all directions.

If you are finishing a cover by knotting or tying, use a square knot. After you've made the first loop, dampen that knot with a wet Q-tip. The thread won't slip while you make the second knot.

Arthritis affects my ability to guide large items through the sewing machine. I find that a lattice weave lid gripper pad won't slip on the fabric and I can push easier when my hand is resting on the gripper.

Another tip – slow down; make your quilting experience a happy one – not a race.

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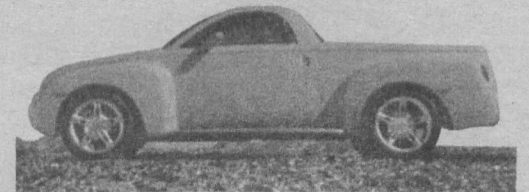


Silver Fancy Garden Club Meeting

The Silver Fancy Garden Club will meet July 21 at Trinity Lutheran Church, beginning at 1 p.m. The program will be "Corn and our environment." The meeting is open to the public and light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Susie Heck at 410-756-1113.

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Cunningham Falls offers 'camp host' opportunities

Cunningham Falls State Park is offering free camp sites to individuals who serve as park "camp hosts," working a stipulated number of hours a week, generally on campground duties. Responsibilities might include welcoming new campers, keeping the campsites clean and the campground in good condition, answering questions asked by campers, and letting the campers know what is happening in the park. Hosts must put in a 20-hour work week, for a minimum four-week stay. In return, they will receive a free campsite, including electric hook-ups, as long as they are part of the program. For additional information, contact Cunningham State Park at 301-271-7574.

Community Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

June 24 - July 3 - Gettysburg Civil War Heritage Days. Commemorates the Battle of Gettysburg with living history encampments, band concerts, a book and paper show, a collectors' show, 4th of July program, Civil War lecture series and battle reenactments. Fireman's Festival at the Gettysburg Recreation Park. Information: 717-334-6274.

June 25 - Campfire Programs. 9 p.m. Catoctin Mountain Park. Owens Creek Amphitheater.

June 25 - Maryland State Grange picnic. Wolfe Farm, St. Mary's County.

June 25 - Blacksmith Shop Demonstration. 1-3 p.m. Catoctin Mountain Park Blacksmith Shop, Camp Round Meadow. Information and directions: 301-663-9388.

June 25 - Littlestown VFW Post

6954 Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. 11 West King Street. "Hat Creek Country" will play classic country music for dancing. Admission: \$5, includes snacks and door prizes. Information: 717-359-5515.

June 25-26 - Central Maryland Antique Tractor, Truck and Engine Show. Middletown Carnival Grounds. Tractor pull, hayrides, saw milling, cake auction, pedal tractor pull. Information: e-mail sph567@msn.com, or visit <http://cmatc.org>.

June 25-July 4 - Gettysburg's Civil War Heritage Days. Commemorates the Battle of Gettysburg with living history encampments, band concerts, battle re-enactments, Fireman's Festival. Information: 717-334-6274.

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.

June 26 - Whiskey Still Talks. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Catoctin Mountain Park. Blue Blazes Still near Visitors' Center.

June 26-July 1 - Children's Faith Festival. 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Emmitsburg. Ages 4 through 13. Fees: \$5 per child or \$10 per family (scholarships available). Information: 301-447-3839.

June 28 - Women Networking 2 B Healthy meeting. 7:15-8:30 p.m. 14513 Bollinger Road, Rocky Ridge. Directions: 301-447-3100.

June 28-29 - Frederick County Farm Bureau Farm Safety 4 Just Kids Camp. County 4-H Camp and Activities Center, Basford Road, Frederick. For ages 8 to 13. E-mail registration and \$5 payment to Jane Smith, Box 547, Jefferson, MD 21755, 301-473-8259.

July

July 1-3 - 142nd Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg Reenactment. Gates open at 8:30 a.m. Sutler tents, living history and live demonstrations. Information: 717-338-1525 or www.gettysburgreenactment.com.

July 2 - Flea Market and Craft show. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Catoctin Pregnancy Center. Table space available for \$10. Information: 301-447-3391 or 301-447-2445.

July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 - Campfire Programs. 9 p.m. Catoctin Mountain Park. Owens Creek Amphitheater.

July 6 - Habitat Restoration Presentation and Wood Duck Box Building. 6-8 p.m. ThorpeWood. Limit of 15 participants. Fee \$10 for non-members. Register by June 30.

July 6-8 - Super Sports Camp. 6-8 p.m. Carroll Valley Park. Choose soccer or cheerleading. Free.

Sponsored by Liberty Worship Center. First 100 registrants receive a free t-shirt. Information: 717-642-9528.

July 9, Aug. 6, Sept. 3 - Thurmont Lions Club Super Summertime Sandwich Series. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bell Hill Farm. 1 1/2 miles north of Thurmont on Rt. 15. For information or advance orders: 301-271-0558.

July 7-10 - Gettysburg Bike Week. Various times. Allstar Events Complex and Battlefield Harley-Davidson/Buell of Gettysburg. Guided motorcycle tours of the battlefields, observation rides, vendors, parade. Information: 1-877-595-9005.

July 9 - Alien Species: Catoctin's 10 Least Wanted. 1:30 p.m. Catoctin Mountain Park Visitors' Center. Learn about invasive plants replacing native species in the park.

July 10 - Maryland-Pennsylvania Horse Show Circuit show. Gettysburg Riding Club, Gettysburg, Pa. Open to all types of horses and equestrians of all ages, features a variety of classes. End-of-season awards banquet. Information: 717-334-3043.

July 11-16 - Guardian Hose Company Carnival. Carnival grounds, 100 block of East Main Street (Route 77) Thurmont. See www.guardianhose.org/carnival2005.htm.

July 14 - Red Cross Blood Drive. 2-8 p.m. Emmitsburg Ambulance Building, South Seton Avenue. Walk-ins welcome.

July 15 - Miss Frederick County Farm Bureau Contest. 7 p.m. Jefferson Ruritan Center.

Pesticide container recycling dates set for Frederick County

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced dates for June through September for recycling of accrued, empty pesticide containers in Frederick County.

The pesticide container recycling program is free and open to all agricultural producers and pesticide applicators. Containers submitted for recycling must be triple-rinsed and clean.

Used pesticide containers may be taken to the Frederick County Landfill, Reich's Ford Road, Frederick, for disposal between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on June 27, July 25, August 29, and Sept. 26. According to the MDE, the county landfill has agreed to accept empty pesticide containers from outside Frederick County, but no other out-of-county trash will be accepted.

For additional information, contact Rob Hofstetter, Special Programs Coordinator, Pesticide Regulation Section, MDA, 410-841-5710.

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Town of Emmitsburg is currently seeking a treatment plant operator for the town's water & wastewater treatment plants. Maryland Class W-1 or Class T-4 license prerequisite with min. 2 yrs. experience. Some weekends

required. Class B CDL must be acquired within 6 months of employment. Must be willing to do all tasks required for operations of small treatment facilities. Pay commensurate w/ experience. References required. Send resume and/or pick-up application; Town of Emmitsburg, 300 A-1 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727 or fax 240-629-6313 attn: Dan.

Services

High School Students working for the summer cleaning cars. South Seton Auto Repair, 140A South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD. 301-447-3560 for appointments. Cars: \$30, trucks: \$40, SUVs: \$50. **Includes:** Vacuuming, upholstery cleaning, exterior wash, Armorall dash, rims & tires cleaned, glass inside and out. (Wax and carpet shampoo extra.)

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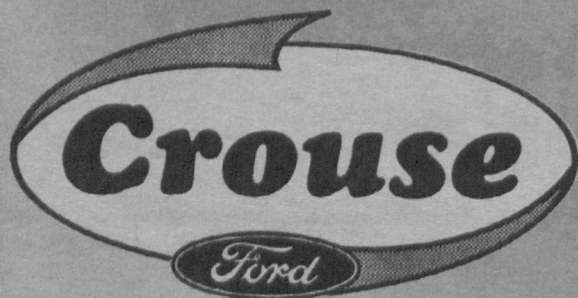


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