

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL IV, No. 23

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

DECEMBER 15, 2005

Commissioner files \$5.4 million lawsuit against town officials

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — A town commissioner filed a lawsuit in Frederick County Circuit Court Nov. 23 against the mayor, ethics commission and board of commissioners for more than \$5 million in alleged damages related to the 2004-2005 ethics investigation.

Commissioner Arthur Elder is seeking \$5.4 million from town administrators because of the "grave harm and injury" and alleged deprivation of "due process" resulting from his being the subject of an ethics investigation which, in April, found that he, along with Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr., had violated the town ethics code.

The ethics investigation, although it found the commissioners violated ethical conduct as per the town code, only issued a cease and desist (prohibiting future

-See **Lawsuit** on page 3



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

Decorating tradition continues in Emmitsburg

Volunteers pose with over 100 finished evergreen swags ready to be hung from town lampposts to add a festive air for the holidays. Town workers began decorating the lampposts this past week. See "Tradition of swag making continues in Emmitsburg" on page 11 of this issue of *The Dispatch*.

This Issue

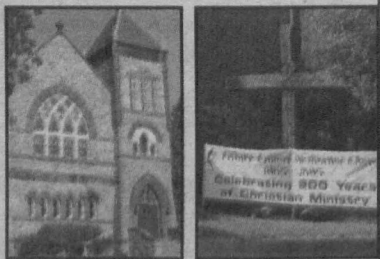
New resident deputy assigned to Emmitsburg

-see page 5

1854 'Emmitsburg Meteorite' surrounded with mysteries

-see page 8

Feature



Two local churches celebrate 200 years

-see page 14

Christmas Decoration Contest

-see page 17

Publisher's note

There will only be one issue of *The Dispatch* in December. We extend our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and healthy and Happy New Year to all of you.

- Raymond Buchheister

Town awarded \$656,000 sewer grant

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The town has officially been awarded a \$656,107 community development block grant (CDBG) to improve its wastewater collection system, and to help provide water and sewer

services to Emmitsburg Glass.

The town intends to use the grant money to resolve a long history of sewage spills; to extend sewer service to the new Emmitsburg Glass facility on Creamery Road; and to make modifications at the sewer plant to accommodate needed collection

system improvements.

Mayor James E. Hoover told *The Dispatch* he received notification from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community (DHC), the agency that administers the block grant, late last week. Although the original amount requested was \$822,000,

Hoover said the proposal included an amount for administrative-type expenses that could not be covered by the grant. "We're comfortable with this (figure)," he said.

The grant funding is reserved

-See **Grant** on page 3

State visitor center grand opening delayed

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — A leaking roof on the new state visitors center on U.S. 15 was the "final straw," and the grand opening date has been postponed until sometime in spring 2006.

John Fieseler, Executive Director of the Tourism Council of Frederick County, told *The Dispatch* that the Maryland Office of Tourism Development had been considering postponing the new visitors center grand opening because of a project

lag, but, "the roof was the final factor" in the decision.

"The big five inches of rain several weeks ago had caused some leaks at that point. The contractor is addressing those," he said.

Fieseler said the staff had already moved into the new center about two months ago so that the old building could be knocked down.

He told *The Dispatch* the council is looking at scheduling the grand opening to coincide with "National Tourism Week" in May.

In the meantime, contractors are still working on the site, Fieseler

said. The parking lots have been paved, and the crews are currently painting the parking stripes on the back parking lot. Much of the chain link fencing has been taken down.

"It was getting late in the season anyway and the site work was not done. Now we are right at

the tail end of the tourist season, so it just seemed like why not wait until spring and finish up the landscaping work," Fieseler added.

The project is expected to cost about \$3.5 million, but this price tag includes the new southbound ramp at North Seton Avenue and U.S. 15.

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Pre Sort Standard
US Postage Paid
Emmitsburg, MD
21727
Permit # 67

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 *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 for verification purposes. *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

Seton Shrine administrator retires

On the occasion of her retirement from the position this past month, the Tourism Council of Frederick County would like to take the opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to Sister Mary Clare Hughes, D.C., for her outstanding leadership while serving as Administrator of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

The Seton Shrine has always been a wonderful asset to Frederick County, and has been blessed with inspired leadership through the years. As the historic sites in the county have expanded their collaborative efforts in recent years through our

Tourism Council's Historic Sites Consortium, Sister Mary Clare led the staff and docents of the Shrine in partnering with other museums and sites throughout the county to everyone's mutual benefit. We wish her the best and are delighted that she is remaining at St. Joseph's Provincial House in Emmitsburg.

With familiar faces in new positions, the Seton Shrine is well positioned for a great future, especially with the bicentennial of Elizabeth Ann Seton's arrival in Saint Joseph's Valley just a few years away. We look forward to continuing to work with Karen Harding in her new role

as Director of the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann, and with Sister Vincentia Goeb now overseeing the Heritage Ministries at the Provincial House, which include the Shrine.

It is often the case that people don't visit attractions in their own backyard, no matter where they live. We invite anyone in this area that has not visited the Seton Shrine, no matter what your faith, to do so. It is a world-class gem of which Emmitsburg and Frederick County are rightly proud.

- John J. Fieseler
Executive Director, Tourism
Council of Frederick County

Commissioner corrects misunderstanding

As you may know, I am not a lawyer. I am, however, human. Like all humans, from time to time, I make a mistake. This letter is to correct a misunderstanding of the law on my part for the record.

In an earlier comment to *The Dispatch*, I said that Norm Usiak 'was never my attorney.' This was incorrect. Following publication of my comment I spoke with Rosemary McDermott, as she has represented me in the past, who educated me on the laws relating to this matter.

Previous to my comment, I had always assumed that in order for someone to be your lawyer, you had to sign a contract and come to some terms. This is not so in this case.

Because Rosemary McDermott represented me in the Ethics Committee matter, under Maryland

law, she is due full payment. In relation to this, Norm Usiak sent a letter to the town noting that he represented Rosemary and me in the billing matter, on our behalf.

Before doing so, Rosemary McDermott and Norm Usiak asked for my permission to send the letter, to which I agreed. I interpreted this as permission to mention my name as the "subject" of the suit, rather than a party to one. This is where I erred. Under Maryland law, by giving permission, which I did, I agreed to join Rosemary McDermott in this matter and, as a consequence, that would, indeed,

mean that Mr. Usiak represents me as well.

Mr. Usiak does, in fact, represent me and Ms. McDermott in the billing matter.

I apologize to all concerned for the confusion. It was an honest mistake based on a lack of understanding of this specific law.

As I also said in the article, I'll just leave it at "no comment" from now on and ask for everyone's understanding until this matter is settled.

- William B. O'Neil, Jr.
Emmitsburg Commissioner

Commissioners thank Vigilant Hose

Open letter to citizens of Emmitsburg

The Frederick County Commissioners would like to extend our gratitude to the members of the Vigilant Hose Company for their support over the past year and longer to assure ongoing emergency ambulance and rescue services to the Town of Emmitsburg and the surrounding community. We appreciate the willingness of the fire company and its members to house career firefighters and a reserve ambulance to maintain and provide excellence in emergency services during a period of critical need. Your assistance assured quality and timely service to the community.

The Town of Emmitsburg

and the surrounding community has been well served by the Vigilant Hose Company for many decades.

The commitment of the Vigilant Hose Company and its members is acknowledged and deeply appreciated.

We thank you for your dedication to the citizens of Frederick County.

Sincerely,
- Board of County Commissioners
Frederick County, Maryland
John L. Thompson, Jr.,
President
Michael L. Cady,
Vice President
John R. Lovell, Jr.,
Commissioner
Jan H. Gardner,
Commissioner
Bruce L. Reeder,
Commissioner

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.

December 14, 1905
Mt. St. Mary's Items

Our sick are Henry Lingg, trouble for past two weeks with a severe cold and rheumatism; Miss Addie McNulty has been sick, threatened with typhoid fever; Mrs. Douglas Knott, suffering from a very bad cold; Aloysius Baker has been troubled with dropsy, his condition serious; Miss Rowe, the public school teacher was sick but is better again.

The Messrs. Hemler's stone fence along the pike will be hauled to the College where the stone will be crushed for the avenue leading from the pike to the college.

James McBride had a new roof put on his house this week.

The Mrs. Kolb property has been repaired.

and opened with prayer by Rev. J.W. Keracafe.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: George Z. Best, president; Jesse H. Michael, secretary; J. Welty Fahrney, treasurer.

Among the district vice-presidents named are Jacob Rice, Lewistown, Rev. Chas. Rinewald, Emmitsburg; J.P. T. Mathias, Mechanicstown.

Rev. C.A. Grise, the State Superintendent, spoke in favorable terms of what the State League is doing and said he was much impressed with the interest and the work of the League in Frederick.

G.Z. Best, in taking the chair, said that the substantial growth of the league and its work was such as to encourage not only the officers but the league in general to impressed activity in the cause of temperance.

December 21, 1905
Anti Saloon League

The Annual meeting of the Frederick county Anti Saloon League, held in Frederick last week, was called to order by the president, R. Rush Lewis,

Mt. St. Mary's Items

The Christmas vacation at the college began Tuesday morning and will expire January 4th. About 80 of the 260 students will remain at the college this vacation.

What have we learned in 2000 years?

Though living in the present moment in Emmitsburg, it doesn't take an overly active imagination to place oneself in Bethlehem a little over 2000 years ago. In that year Our Blessed Mother visited Bethlehem and presented Jesus to the world as the Prince of Peace. Today she comes to us with Jesus, not only as the Prince of Peace, but also as the Son of Justice. In Bethlehem, because nobody had room for the Holy Family, the poor shepherds had to go to the "farm" to pray with her, much the same as today. The greatest difference between then and now is that today room is not the issue, but arrogance may be.

As a matter of fact, for years Our Lady was allowed to address her children in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Emmitsburg; that is until her message made some people too uncomfortable. Then she was shown the door, and those shepherd-type folks, who were flocking around her,

were told to go home. What is our comfort level, and what price are we willing to pay to maintain it?

Soon after the Holy Family's visit to Bethlehem, they fled the slaughter of the innocents at the hands of Herod. Yes, Our Lady left Bethlehem with Jesus. Do we understand how blessed we are today? Despite the rejection of this great gift from Heaven and despite the persecution of the faithful followers of Our Lady of Emmitsburg, she still tells us and the whole world, "I am *not* leaving, and my Son is *not* leaving! We will protect you!"

One would hope that after 2000 years mankind would have matured enough to generate a better response to her special presence here. For now, one just has to be content to pray for a change in hearts, to work for justice, and to "Watch and See!"

- Ivan Paré
Emmitsburg

M&T EXOTIC BIRDS
MD LICENSED BREEDING AVIARY
Hand fed TAME BABIES!
HIGH QUALITY PET BIRDS!

Baby Cockatiels
Senegals
Rosellas
Congo Grays
Crested Budgies
PARAKEETS!

Amazon
Starter
Kits
Cages

Indian Ringnecks
Princess of Wales
Alexandrine, English Budgies
Pet/Companions
301-845-4448
www.mandtoticbirds.com

TOWN NEWS

Lawsuit

-Continued from page 1

interaction with town staff), and assessed no additional penalties. State's Attorney Scott Rolle determined that the violations were not criminal in nature.

Commissioner sues himself along with officials

Aside from Elder technically suing himself as a member of the board of commissioners, he has filed a claim of \$1.2 million against Mayor James E. Hoover (individually and in his official capacity), \$1.2 million against ethics commission Chairman Patrick "Ted" Brennan (individually and in

his official capacity), and \$3 million against all of the defendants.

Named as defendants were Hoover, Brennan, board of commissioners' members Christopher V. Staiger, Glenn Blanchard, William B. O'Neill (sic), Jr., and elder himself, and ethics commission members, Brennan, Scott McClendon, and Steven Kleindienst.

The papers were filed in circuit court by attorneys Rosemary A. McDermott, Thurmont, and Norman Usiak, Frederick City.

Should the town lose the lawsuit and not be covered for liability, \$5.4 million works out to about \$5,498 per taxpayer, using the July 2005 tax bill which lists 982 taxpayers in Emmitsburg. Of course, that figure would not

include accrued legal expenses.

Hoover stated, "The town has coverage for legal defense expenses," but couldn't say who would pay for any settlement if the Elder lawsuit should prevail.

Otherwise, Hoover would only confirm Dec. 7 that the town had received notice. "I can only confirm we (the town) have received notice of a multimillion dollar lawsuit," adding that the papers were delivered to him by Cathy Bodine at the Dec. 5 town meeting. The issue, he stated, has been turned over to town Attorney John R. Clapp.

Commissioners, past and present, react to suit

Board President Staiger, one

of the defendants named in the suit, said, "I'm still sort of dumbfounded (at being informed of the impending litigation). I haven't heard any reaction to it (from other members) and don't have any (further) insight."

Former Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel said, "I'm shocked. I don't really know what to think. This is his (Elder's) town. I don't see how he can remain on the board."

Former Commissioner Clifford Sweeney agreed with Rosensteel's comment, adding, "I think they should have left the recall provision in (the election rules). They (certain commissioners) have dragged this town down into the gutter."

In reference to the claimed lack of "due process" alleged by Elder,

Sweeney stated, "He was asked to answer questions and denied (did not participate)," adding, with regard to the lawsuit, "He's doing this and he's living in our town? This lawsuit doesn't make any sense. Nobody did any damage to him. He did it himself. The town citizens did nothing to him."

Dianne L. Walbrecker, also a former commissioner, said, "I'm shocked. I'm horrified this has turned into a circus. It has turned into a circus for Art and the town. It's a shame for our town that we have spent so much time and energy worrying about this. The town needs to get back to the business of serving the citizens."

Former board President Patrick Boyle declined to comment on the litigation.

Grant

-Continued from page 1

for the town at the state, and the town will draw-down on the allotment by submitting bills as work progresses.

Hoover has signed the grant on behalf of the town, and it now goes back to the state for appropriate signatures. "Then we're good to go. I would assume there would be a notice to proceed (once all the signatures are in place)," he stated.

The mayor noted, "We have been working on this grant application for over a year and had attended several meetings with the state Department of Business and Economic Development and the state Department of the Environment. And I am very

pleased that our request was approved for \$656,000. This will go towards making a tremendous improvement in our sewer system. We are confident this should prevent future sewage spills."

The town wastewater collection system has experienced sewage spills for several years. Periodically, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) took enforcement action, finally issuing a consent order to ensure that the town dealt with the problems.

A valve apparently never installed in the late-1980s overhaul of the collection system is likely responsible for numerous spills. If a valve were installed, "theoretically the system would be 100 percent fixed," Town Manager David Haller has said.

However, replacing the valve

must be accompanied by design changes in the treatment plant. Haller stated previously that the best fix would be to replace the current mixed pressure-driven and gravity-flow system with an all pressure-driven system, eliminating the gravity flow portion of the line entirely.

This change would need to be coupled with improvements at the treatment plant to deal with the incoming pressurized wastewater. The work could be completed sometime in early 2006, according to Haller.



LAKE FRONT 3 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS

K-Section - Excellent primary or secondary home in picturesque Carroll Valley. Lake front lot. Decks, balcony, family room & game room. Located minutes from golf courses, ski resort, 10 minutes to Gettysburg & PA/MD line. Fairfield school district. (MLS#20507533) **\$334,900**



NEW HOME!

Carroll Valley - Custom 2468SF 4 bedroom/2.5 bath home w/2-car side entry garage, walk-out lower level, 9' 1st floor ceilings, Corian kitchen counters, master suite w/whirlpool tub/separate shower & walk-in closet, 2nd floor laundry. Hardwood floors, Berber carpet, covered front sitting porch, rear deck, 1.28 acre lot, ideal PA/MD access. Fairfield school district. (MLS#20504070) **\$399,000**

COLDWELL BANKER

Call David L. Sites,
Associate Broker
(717) 337-1188

BOB YOST - SITES

Voice Mail: (717) 337-5036

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.



Catoctin
Recreation Center

Tues. & Thurs.
7:00pm



Want a safe and effective aerobic program?

Fast-paced? — Aerobic Dance

More moderate? — Low Impact

Burn calories, slim down, tone up!

Laurel Columbia Lisbon Elkridge
Frederick Beltsville Ellicott City

301-776-8410 or 301-898-3477

WINTER Classes Start January 10th
8 weeks • 16 classes • \$56

STAY IN SHAPE THE LIVELY WAY

Planning and zoning staff resigns

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Two planning and zoning employees have resigned within a week of each other.

Town Planner Michael Lucas resigned at the end of November, having served for two years. His last day on the job will be Dec. 16. Lucas told *The Dispatch* that he will be pursuing a more lucrative job offer elsewhere.

Zoning Technician Jennifer Joy resigned on Nov. 21, effective immediately, after nearly two years with the town. When asked her reason for leaving, Joy would only state she "could not in good conscience remain in a position where doing the right thing was the wrong thing."

Mayor James E. Hoover confirmed Dec. 5 that both employees had resigned and told *The Dispatch*, "At this time my intention is to reorganize the zoning staff, modify the hours of the current employees and hire one additional part-time person."

Lucas and Joy did a considerable amount of legwork for the recently approved community development block grant, Hoover acknowledged (see related story, "Town receives \$656,000 sewer grant," in this issue).

Additionally, both employees testified during the town ethics investigation of commissioners William B. O'Neill, Jr. and Arthur Elder, concluded in April.

— R. Fulton

BINGO
EMMITSBURG
Ambulance Co.
300 S. Seton Ave.
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Every Monday and Friday Night
Year Round
7:00 P.M.

Air
Conditioned
Building

Doors Open
5:30 P.M.

EARLY BIRDS
PAPER CARD

SPECIALS
JACKPOTS
WINNER TAKE ALL

SMOKE FREE BUILDING
SMOKING PERMITTED OUTSIDE

FOR MORE INFORMATION
(301) 447-6626

J&S DRYWALL & PAINTING
"Quality work and Dependable Service"

Specializing in:
Basement finishing • Repairs
Remodeling • Additions

FREE
ESTIMATES

CALL
TODAY!

301-271-9298
Fx: 301-271-4900
MHIC#122477

The Dispatch

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

P.O. Box 358 Emmitsburg, MD 21727
TEL 301-447-3039 FAX 301-447-5990
www.emmitsburgdispatch.com

Editor & Publisher

Raymond Buchheister

E: publisher@emmitsburgdispatch.com

Advertising & Business Manager

Jennifer Buchheister

E: jbuchheister@emmitsburgdispatch.com

Managing Editor

Joyce Demmitt

E: editor@emmitsburgdispatch.com

News Editor

Richard D. L. Fulton

E: rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

Advertising & Subscriptions

Lori Stromberg

E: advertising@emmitsburgdispatch.com

Advertising Design

Toya Warner

Graphic Design

Shannon Cooley

Webmaster

Wendy M. Shepherd

E: webmaster@emmitsburgdispatch.com

Contributing Writers

Susan Allen, Nicole Belanger,

Diann Devart, Chris Patterson,

Masha Persanova, Megan Zimmerman

Column Writers

Mary Ellen Cummings

William Meredith

A.J. Russo



MEMBER OF
MDDC
Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association

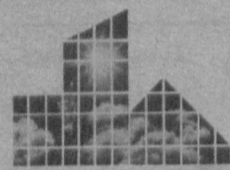
Published twice monthly,
1st & 3rd Thursday

Next Publication: Jan. 5

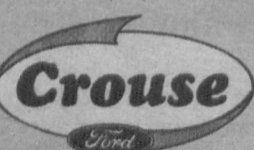
By their generosity, these sponsors make it possible for the local community to have its own newspaper.



MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



EMMITSBURG
GLASS COMPANY
A reflection of quality



Holtzople



Heating & Air Conditioning

NEWS ANALYSIS

Looking back ... Emmitsburg 2005

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

The year 2005 virtually mirrored 2004 when it came to issues confronting the community, but some degree of progress was made.

Politically, the town voiced what some called "a mandate for change" in town government in the April 2005 town election, but if change has occurred, it has been imperceptible. The state of political affairs in town has essentially become a regional embarrassment.

The Dispatch has compiled what it views as the top local stories of 2005:

1. Ethics - Emmitsburg's Never-Ending-Story

In April, the town ethics commission determined that commissioners William B. O'Neil, Jr. and Arthur Elder, had violated the town's ethics code. Both subsequently sought payment of alleged legal expenses resulting from the investigation and/or its outcome. Both commissioners were ultimately denied payment.

Since then, both have threatened to take legal action against the town, along with Thurmont lawyer Rosemary A. McDermott, who represented O'Neill during the investigation.

The community itself seems to be suffering from "sticker shock" as the costs to date of the

investigation and subsequent legal fees exceed the \$20,000 mark ... not even considering the potential economic impact of any impending litigation.

The ethics story began in 2004, and will most likely continue through much of 2006, because now one of the commissioners has filed suit. See "Commissioner files \$5.4 million suit against town officials" in this issue.

2. Wastewater infrastructure

On a more-or-less positive note, the primary cause of all of the town's major sewage spills was determined - a critical valve in the wastewater collection system that someone 1) forget to install; 2) purposefully avoided installing; 3) removed after it was installed; or 4) was never told to install.

The town may never know exactly what happened, because no one seems to have pursued an answer. But the discovery provided direction for fixing a situation that has produced environmentally damaging spills for years.

Progress was made in locating funding rather than physically fixing the problems in 2005, although using acquired funds is planned for 2006:

- The town submitted an \$822,000 state community development block grant (CDBG) for wastewater infrastructure work in September. The mayor just received word that a portion of the

grant request was approved. See "Town receives \$656,000 sewer grant in this issue."

- O'Neil secured a \$150,000 matching grant from the 2006 U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee allocations for "interior" projects in June. Those appropriations have not yet been allocated;

- In October, the town learned it might be entitled to over \$1 million in "flush tax" money to put toward infrastructure improvements to ultimately help protect the Chesapeake Bay.

3. Election 2005 - The fall of COPE

Some hailed Election 2005 as a "mandate for change." It may have been a mandate, but whether or not it was, is another matter altogether.

At the center of the storm going into the 2005 election was an activist organization called Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE), two influential members of which (O'Neil and Elder) were already on the board of commissioners. Both men were under an ethics commission investigation, the results of which were released in April just before the election. Both commissioners were found to have engaged in unethical practices.

Prior to that, Elder announced his intention to run for the mayoral seat open in 2005, while COPE members Harold C. Craig, Jr. and Catherine Forrence announced they would run for seats on the board of commissioners. When the votes were counted, every COPE member candidate finished last.

Finishing on top were incumbent Mayor James E. Hoover, and commissioners-elect Glenn Blanchard and Christopher V. Staiger (a former COPE member).

4. Mayor votes; board could go to five members

Mayor James E. Hoover announced in March that he intended to enact his voting rights under the town charter, and vote with the board of commissioners.

Commissioner O'Neil almost immediately challenged the idea. Hoover said he took the step because he had "heard concerns expressed over what direction the town was going in."

Although O'Neil was seemingly never happy with the mayor's decision, he seemed resolved to change matters through amending the charter, not only to remove the mayor as a voting member of the board, but to establish a fifth commissioner seat.

O'Neil introduced his proposed ordinance in September, but the town charter would likely also have to be changed before any such ordinance was adopted.

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners would like to enact the changes in time for the upcoming April 2006 election, in which case two seats would be available, Elder's and the newly created one.

5. Gone with the Park

Hopes rose high in 2005 that the town would have a major state-sanctioned horse park in its immediate vicinity, when in June county commissioners nominated lands largely belonging to Mount St. Mary's as a potential site.

The Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) had announced plans to develop an expansive horse park hundreds of acres in size as a major state tourism attraction, and the Mount offered several hundred acres as a possible venue.

Other potential sites fell by the way as the Frederick County proposal met the MSA deadline, along with only five other applicants.

But by the end of August, the race was over. The Frederick County effort did not make the short list. And in an odd twist of fate, none of the primary sites selected for the short list even ended up producing the final selected site - in October the MSA went with the Naval Academy Dairy Farm located in Gambrills.

See related story, "Planning and preservation 2005" in this issue of *The Dispatch*.

Years Serving **76** Frederick County

COZY
HISTORIC
EST. 1929

Restaurant * Country Inn * Shoppes

New Year's Eve
Seafood Extravaganza
4pm - 9pm

Get Cozy in our Pub
On New Year's Eve

New Year's Day Brunch
8am - 3:30pm

301-271-4301 • 301-271-7373
www.cozyvillage.com

PARHAM TAXIDERMY

Lifetime Guarantee
on Workmanship
"You Can Pass
Your Trophy
Down to Your
Grandchildren."

18 Years Experience
Graduate of Northwestern
School of Taxidermy
State & Federal License

Free Caping
Free Skinning
Free Check-In
All you have to do is
Harvest your Trophy

Your trophy will be tanned,
not dry preserved.
Call "Dex"
410-751-1578 or 410-259-9931 cell
Keymar, MD
(4 miles south of Taneytown off Rt. 194)

TOWN NEWS

New resident deputy assigned to Emmitsburg

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Frederick County Sheriff's Office has assigned 31-year Deputy Donald Duman to Emmitsburg to replace Deputy Roger Venzin, who was recently transferred to another assignment.

Duman is a former security officer at Mount St. Mary's and has been a member of the county sheriff's office law enforcement team since 1998.

Born in 1974 in Port Huron, Michigan, Duman attended Spring Arbor College. He joined the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Ritchie in 1993, training as a military policeman and as a member of the army's special reaction team (the military police equivalent of a special weapons and tactics squad - aka SWAT).

While in the army, Duman was also certified for air assault, as a combat medic. After serving two years in the army at the now-closed Fort Ritchie and in Panama, he served as a security officer for the

Mount in 1997.

Duman's career with the county sheriff's office began in corrections at the county jail, a position he held for six months before being put on patrol, which frequently took him to North Frederick County from 1999 to 2000.

In 2003, the deputy served in the sheriff office's School Resource Officer (SRO) Program where he was assigned to Governor Thomas Johnson High School. "The program," he said, "was set up to provide for the safety of the kids (while at school)." Developed in 2000, the program was a partnership between the Frederick County Sheriff's Office and Frederick County Public Schools developed to help reduce juvenile delinquency.

Following this duty, Duman patrolled Middletown for the past two years as its community deputy, before coming to Emmitsburg in October as Deputy Venzin's replacement.

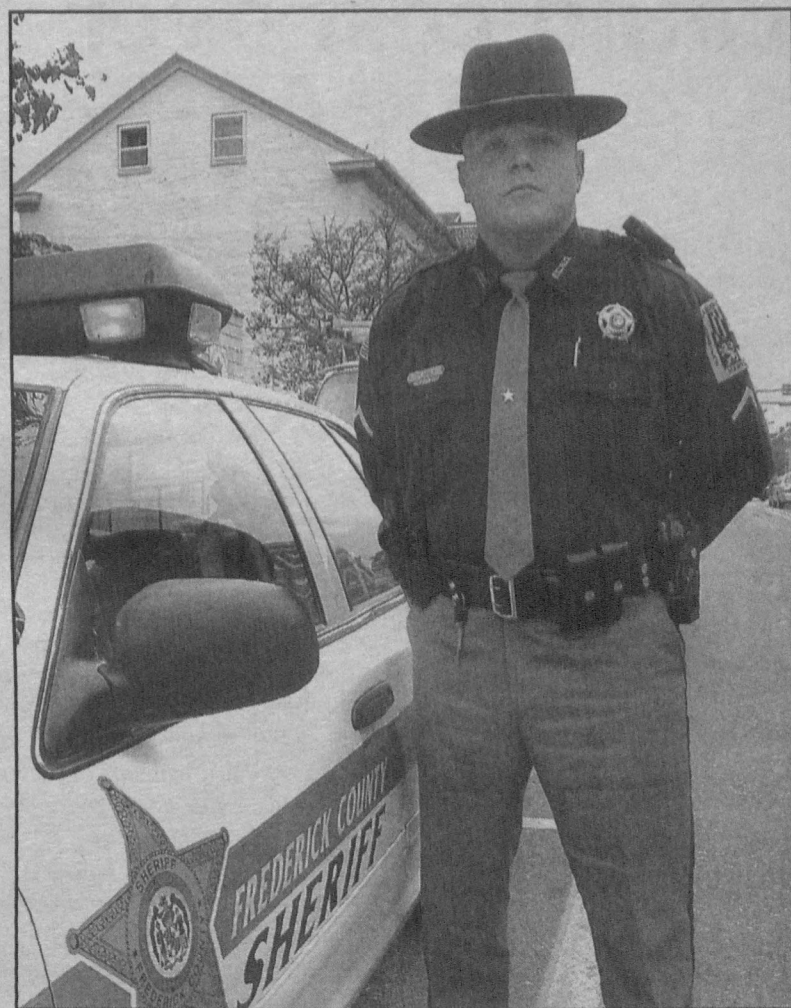
Duman told *The Dispatch* that he does not always expect to patrol the town in the deputy squad car. "I

am bike certified (trained to patrol on bicycle) and I will be taking to the streets on the bike when the weather is warmer." He is also a recruiter for the sheriff's office, is a certified field-training officer, and is continuing to work on his four-year degree in criminal justice.

Duman coaches football in Catoctin High School's youth program and enjoys sports, especially football and softball. He has also been interested in military history for a long time.

The officer plans to establish a program for Emmitsburg youths. "I talked to the mayor (James E. Hoover) about starting a community deputy activity program which could meet regularly, and provide a place where kids can come and get involved in various activities. The program is in the works," he said.

"I'm looking forward to serving the community," Duman told *The Dispatch*, noting, "It's a real good town and it's quiet." The deputy encourages residents who want to discuss any problems they might be having to call him at 301-694-1046.



-RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

New resident deputy, Donald Duman, will be patrolling Emmitsburg. He replaces Deputy Roger Venzin, recently transferred to another assignment. In addition to helping maintain law and order, Duman hopes to establish an activities program for town youth.

Planning and preservation 2005

Work on comp plan continues

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Work continued throughout 2005 on revisions to the town comprehensive plan, if at times at a snail's pace. Producing the initial draft of the plan has taken over a year and a half, with the first workshops held back in 2004. To date, no final draft has been produced.

One of the most recent key ingredients is the inclusion of the "Heart of the Civil War Heritage" management plan, which would qualify the town for a number of grants and loans based on the community's historic assets.

Physical historic renovation efforts include the work on the 1700s-1800s structure at 121-123 West Main Street for the relocation of the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center.

Additionally, for the first time, the "Lost Dinosaur Quarry" was delineated on the Silver Fancy tract involved in an annexation and senior housing development project proposed by Buckeye Development. Buckeye has agreed to donate the quarry site to a public entity if the annexation is approved.

A story in *The Dispatch* on the dinosaur quarry in 2004 led Buck Forest Farm co-owner Linda Ballinger to tell the newspaper in March about another possible site

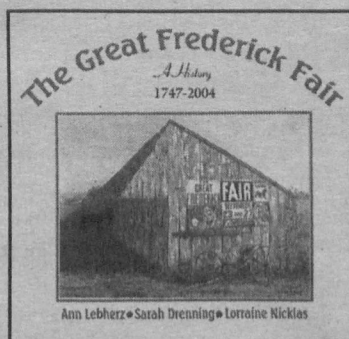
in Rocky Ridge. That tip led to the discovery of the largest Triassic Age fossil site ever found in Maryland.

Although traces of dinosaurs have not yet been found, reptile skin impressions and at least 1,500 reptile tracks have been recovered.

along with freshwater clams and snail shells, cricket, beetle and millipede tracks and two types of fish. Most recently, the excavation team discovered an extensive bed of Triassic plants, and a "fossil log jam" elsewhere on the farm.

— *R. Fulton*

The Great Frederick Fair — now in print



Three county women have published an illustrated book about the Great Frederick Fair, past, present and future – “The Great Frederick Fair: A History, 1747-2004.”

Ann Lebherz, Sarah Drenning and Loraine Nicklas researched and wrote the book the book, with permission from

the Fair's board of managers.

The women transcribed the fair meeting minutes, which were handwritten until 1926, from 1820 forward. Current directors gave interviews about their experiences. Future Farmers of America, 4-H, the Grange, the Extension Service and homemakers organizations provided background on farm animals, machinery, crafts and farm product displays.

The book was published by Locks Hill Press, Woodsboro, and can be purchased for \$75 at the Fair's annual meeting Dec. 10, and at the administration building. For more information, call 301-663-5895.

Season's Greetings

NAPA

SERVING THE WEST CARROLL AREA
FOR 27 YEARS!

ASE Certified Counter Man Show
 Your Card and Save Program

Mason-Dixon Auto Parts

117 E. Baltimore St.,
 Taneytown, Md.
 OPEN: Mon.-Fri. 8-7,
 Sat. 8-3

410-756-2044
 410-756-2045

TOWN NEWS

Sidewalk repairs could cost over \$200,000

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — What appeared to be a shoo-in policy holding the town accountable for sidewalk damages caused by town-planted trees went nowhere — except back to the drawing board — at the Nov. 21 board of commissioners meeting.

The board took no action because the document town staff produced did not address all of the commissioners' concerns expressed at the Nov. 7 town meeting.

The commissioners had asked town staff to develop a policy for dealing with sidewalks that have been cracked and made dangerous by the growing roots of trees planted years ago. Some of these damaged areas are within town rights-of-way.

Town Manager David Haller told the board, "I'm certain that (ultimately) every (sidewalk) tree in town will need to be replaced," a project he estimated could take up to five years to complete.

Town Planner Michael Lucas said that replacement and repairs for damage caused by the trees could cost as much as "\$200,000 to properly repair the situation."

Haller further said that the town needs to develop a "long-term" plan to address the issue because of the cost of correcting the problems.

The policy was to state explicitly that the town would pay for the damages caused by



—RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

Massive slabs of sidewalk are being gradually forced up by the expanding roots of the more than 20-year old trees planted along Main Street, posing a hazard to pedestrians. Replacing the trees with new ones planted in root wells could cost more than \$200,000.

town trees, but town staff did not address this issue in its Nov. 21 document.

Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr. previously stated, "When the trees were planted by the town, it was my belief ... the town should pay for the repair." He reiterated his concern at the Nov. 21 meeting when the wording was not included in the draft policy.

The draft also stated that the town could replace the sidewalk damaging trees at its discretion, but the board felt replacement should be mandatory.

Board President Christopher V. Staiger noted that Main Street has two key attributes, one being the underground utilities and the second the tree-lined streets, suggesting the town should take steps to ensure tree-lined avenues continue.

The town staff was asked

to revise the submitted policy to comply with the board's request.

Additionally, the staff had been asked to develop a list of potential trees that could replace the existing pear trees lining Main Street. No list was presented at the Nov. 21 meeting, nor was it mentioned.

Editor's Note: Former Emmitsburg Mayor William Carr told The Dispatch the trees were planted along Main Street in the mid-1980s, when the "hump" down the middle of the road was also addressed. The work was done through Main Street funding provided by the state, which Carr believed covered about 90 percent of the costs of the trees. The town hired contractors to plant them.

See related story, "Return of the Ginkgo: A 'native' tree from a foreign land" on this page of The Dispatch.

Return of the Ginkgo: a 'native' tree from a foreign land

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. —

The board of commissioners is considering how to take on the pear trees lining town walkways, trees once blessed for their fast growth to achieve shade, and now cursed because that fast growth has also cracked local sidewalks.

One tree mentioned by a town resident present at the Nov. 7 meeting is the ginkgo, an ornamental tree from Asia once widely popular in the United States, especially during the Victorian Period.

During fall in the Mid-Atlantic states, the ginkgo is among the last tree types to begin to manufacture sugar to get through winter hibernation. The leaves, when they do change color, are bright yellow.

The trees have primitive palm-like leaves and are unique among the existing families of trees because, among botanists, they are known as "living fossils." There is a reason their leaves are unlike those of any other living tree — the ginkgo family predates all other "leafy" trees by millions of years.

The first dinosaurs some 200 million years ago shared their landscape with the ginkgo during the

Triassic period when these primitive trees first appeared. In spite of their ability to endure harsh climates, such as the radically arid conditions of the Triassic, the ginkgo family has survived several mass extinction events during the past 200 million years.

Of course, one could argue that the ginkgo would be inappropriate for Emmitsburg streets because, being from Asia, it is not an indigenous species. But recent local excavations prove the inaccuracy of this view.

Not only were ginkgos once global, but excavations in the Triassic rocks at the nearby Rocky Ridge fossil reptile site have uncovered a bed of sandstone packed with 200 million-year old fossil ginkgo leaves. These ongoing excavations, which have revealed a wealth of new information about Maryland's Triassic period, are taking place on Buck Forest Farm owned by John and Linda Ballinger.

Although there are many shade and/or ornamental trees that could be chosen to reline the streets of Emmitsburg, the ginkgo shouldn't be dismissed as a "foreign" tree. The ginkgo is as "native" to the Emmitsburg area as any other tree grown here, if a bit removed by eons of time.

Town News Briefs ...

Home daycare regulations changed to help bring 'illegal' businesses into compliance

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The town board of supervisors voted unanimously at the Dec. 5 meeting to amend an ordinance to legalize most, if not all, current home daycares in town.

Town staff had estimated that over 90 percent of home daycares would have been illegal under existing zoning, primarily because of their failure to meet 20-foot setback requirements. On learning this information, the board of commissioners had directed that enforcement be suspended until the ordinance could be revised.

The Emmitsburg Planning Commission voted unanimously Sept. 26 to recommend to town commissioners that the zoning

ordinance be modified to change the way home-based daycares are regulated.

The new rules permit home daycare centers to meet the setback requirements of the zones in which they are located, rather than the previous 20-foot setback requirement regardless of zone. According to town staff, no existing daycare in town could have met those setback requirements.

Home daycares will still be required to obtain a county permit to operate before the town would grant any zoning considerations. Town level permitting would be as an approved use, contingent on approval by the town board of appeals.

—R. Fulton

Peggy Koontz
YOUR AREA SPECIALIST
301-271-2808
It's the Experience!

When it comes to Real Estate, look for a professional who is highly skilled in marketing properties and getting transactions closed!

When you need help Buying or Selling Call ME!

RE/MAX 100 301-695-5500
5100 WESTVIEW DR., SUITE 200 • FREDERICK, MD
Licensed in Maryland - Realtor/Sales Person

"Season's Greetings from all of us at Thurmont Barber"

Thurmont Barber & Styling Shop
Hair Care for the Entire Family
1 East Main St.
Thurmont, MD 21788
301-271-0200
9-7 WEEKDAYS • 7-2 SATURDAYS

Full into a New Look
Full Highlights \$75

Master Barbers
Greg Wolf
Tom Frame
Cheryl Jones
Rachel Jones

• Walk-Ins Welcome
• Appointments Always Available
• Additional Parking in Rear

TOWN NEWS

A Word from the commissioner

Goals for 2006

2006 will be my first complete year as a town commissioner. I have found my time in office to be interesting and educational. I thank again the town residents who entrusted me with their vote and the opportunity to help serve this town. 2005 saw some excellent opportunities for community spirit to flourish: from the baseball celebration in the spring, to the Community Day celebration in July, to the Halloween parade in October. Along the way, concerts in the park and pool parties gave townspeople additional opportunities to come together and share community experiences. I hope in 2006, this community spirit continues with additional opportunities to grow as a community.

In the fall, I participated in a 5k run/walk sponsored by the Catocin Pregnancy Center at Mount St. Mary's University. I would like to see if there is town support for a 5k or longer run/walk/bike ride around Emmitsburg. Annual athletic events in Emmitsburg would help gain prestige for the town and help bring outside money into the town in the form of possible corporate sponsorship.

Two years ago, the town helped sponsor "A taste of Emmitsburg." I would like to bring this activity back. Regardless of people's differences on different issues, food is a common denominator that helps bring people together. This could be an excellent opportunity for town restaurants to show off their best recipes and

culinary skill.

As a Frederick County School teacher, I consider myself an advocate for educational issues concerning Emmitsburg. In the past couple of months, I have attended Board of Education meetings along with attending the meeting with the superintendent of FCPS at the Catocin Feeder Pattern. I plan on continuing in the year 2006 as an advocate for Emmitsburg in educational issues.

Concerning the environment, I applaud the efforts of the New Forest Society in their efforts to plant trees with the help of the young students of Emmitsburg. I do believe that good citizenship is a learned behavior. As adults, we teach our youth by example. In the springtime, I would like to organize a walk of the watershed area to examine the wildflowers in bloom and the new life that is in abundance each spring. I hope for a productive, energetic year and wish everyone the same.

Glenn Blanchard

- Emmitsburg Town Commissioner

Town had two minor sewage spills in October but lots of inflow and infiltration (I&I)

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The wastewater collection system suffered two minor "burps" in October, spilling a collective 9,000 gallons of diluted wastewater during two separate two-day events.

Due to heavy rainfall, the spillages occurred Oct. 7-8, and again on Oct. 25-26, according to Town Manager David Haller. The area received about 8.1 inches of rain in October.

Both spills, he said, occurred at the area of the collection system where a valve is apparently missing, and might never have been installed.

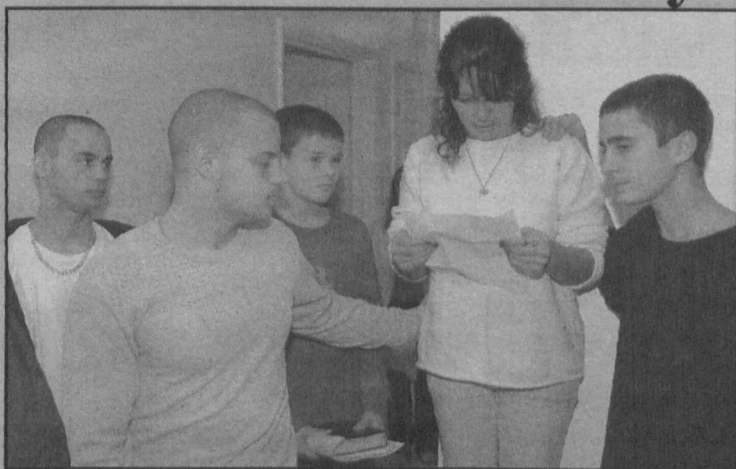
The town is awaiting approval of grant monies to be able to address all of the problem areas of the system.

Although the wastewater infrastructure managed to avert any major spills in October, the treatment plant experienced six over-capacity incidences during the month.

- ◆ Oct. 7 — 2,291,000 gallons of incoming wastewater
- ◆ Oct. 8 — 2,078,000 gallons
- ◆ Oct. 9 — 862,000 gallons
- ◆ Oct. 24 — 990,000 gallons
- ◆ Oct. 25 — 2,014,000 gallons
- ◆ Oct. 26 — 965,000 gallons

Haller said 46 percent of the wastewater treated in October was "wild water," also known as I&I.

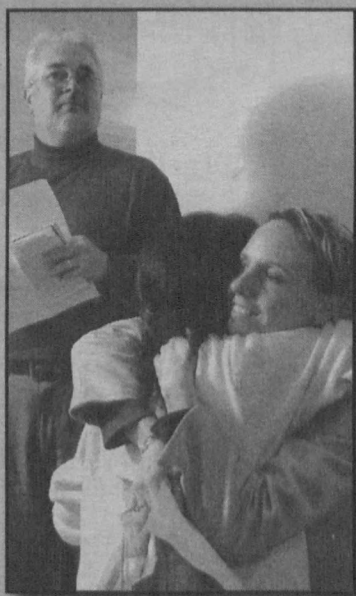
Home for the holidays



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

Habitat homeowner Sara Lee comforted by her four sons, (L-R) Curtis, Joseph, Greg and Gage, as she tearfully reads notes of thanks to all who helped make her new home a reality.

Sara Lee and her four sons moved into their new home in Silo Hill in time for Thanksgiving. This 23rd Frederick County Habitat for Humanity home, and Emmitsburg's first, was dedicated on Nov. 21. More than 30 people gathered inside the house on the rainy night to celebrate. The home's three sponsors, the United Methodist Churches of Frederick County, Mount St. Mary's University and Gettysburg College raised nearly \$65,000; the town of Emmitsburg donated \$1,000; three dozen area businesses donated labor and materials covering half the construction costs; and 120 volunteers, many students from the Mount and Gettysburg, helped with construction. And every Saturday since the building began in May, one of Emmitsburg's seven local churches provided lunch for the volunteers — occasionally more than 50 showed up to help.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

Leah Sheckels hugs Sara Lee as Habitat Board President Ron Cramer looks on. Sheckels and her three children, Robert, 10, Travis, 5, and Hailey, 10 months, will become Lee's neighbors. Habitat for Humanity will be building Sheckels a house next year in Silo Hill.

Town Meetings

Tree Lighting
December 5, 2005
6:00pm

Commissioners Meeting
Monthly, 1st & 3rd
Monday
7:30pm

Water Commission
December 20, 2005
7:30pm

Planning/Zoning Commission
December 27, 2005
7:30pm

Meetings held in the Emmitsburg Town Office, Emmitsburg Community Center, 300A S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg.

For more information call 240-629-6300 or visit www.emmitsburgmd.gov.

Commissioner expresses outrage over sign notice

Tears up FYI letter at town board meeting

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Notices the town sent to various local nonprofits about temporary sign regulations came under fire at the Dec. 5 town meeting as a commissioner tore up a copy in protest.

Commissioner Arthur Elder, who recently filed a \$5.4 million lawsuit against town officials over issues relating to the investigation which found him to have violated ethics rules, tore the notice in half, saying he felt it was "ridiculous to hound these nonprofits about temporary signs ... (the letters stating) that they have to come to the town for a permit."

Mayor James E. Hoover told *The Dispatch*, "I directed town staff to issue a letter to the nonprofits as an informational letter. We are

currently considering changing the sign ordinance because of ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) action and we want to bring it to their (nonprofits') attention what their requirements are and what the proper procedures are."

The town has received no complaints from any of the nonprofits regarding the letter, the mayor said, adding, "We have taken a lot of hits because people claim they don't know what's in the law. We went the extra step to make people aware of the procedure."

He said the town would waive the permit fee in most cases for nonprofits, "but there are size restrictions and placement issues" with which they would have to comply.

- R. Fulton

WILHELM
Featuring
Amarr
Garage Doors
& Liftmaster
Openers

JOHN WILHELM
MHIC 121485
THURMONT, MD

DOORS, L.L.C.
Sales • Service • Installations

Residential and Commercial
Local, Family Owned Business
2 Year Labor Warranty

301-271-0731
240-674-0728

E Plus Copy Center
Emmitsburg Jubilee Foyer
FAX • COPY • PACK • SHIP
Copy Black & White, Color, Wide Format
Create and print Business Cards
Shop our BIG line of Promo Products
Self-Inking Stamps, Avanti Greeting Cards

Comparison Shop for Shipping
UPS • FedEx • DHL
Authorized FREE drop-off site for prepaid UPS, FedEx & DHL Shipments
Fax 301-447-2946 • Phone 301-447-2804 • epuscopycenter@aol.com

LOCAL HISTORY

1854 'Emmitsburg Meteorite' surrounded with mysteries

Fragments in museums around the world

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

It was probably just another quiet night in Emmitsburg in 1854. Nothing was out of the ordinary. There was no advance warning about the impending impact.

Somewhere in the skies above the Earth, unknown to those below, a ball of fire wrapped around an iron rock was descending from space at somewhere between 32,000 and 150,000 miles per hour.

Emmitsburg was on the brink of making astronomical history — it was about to be struck by a meteor.

What happened when, and what immediately followed, has been lost in time. There are no records of what actually transpired; no recorded notes, letters or newspaper articles.

What is known is that the meteor slammed into the ground in the Emmitsburg area, according to records, and there it sat until an unknown party came across it. From there, the meteorite made its way to New York.

Joseph Boesenberg, a meteorite scientific assistant with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, told *The Dispatch* that scanty records suggest that no one actually saw the meteor fall, and therefore no one knows how long the object lay where it landed.

In truth, while it may have been found in 1854, there is no record stating when it might actually have fallen. It could have lain there for days, years, decades, or even longer.

According to information from www.am-meteorites.com, through some means, the rock came into the possession of a Dr. J.R. Clinton, of New York.

Boesenberg said A. Brezina, a meteorite dealer, described and

designated the meteorite as the "Emmitsburg Meteorite" in 1885, 31 years after its discovery. Subsequently, in the early 1900s, it came into the possession of S.C.H. Bailey, another meteorite dealer.

At some point, the meteorite was "thin-sliced," meaning it was cut up into sections for study or re-sale. When the Bailey collection was sold off, the slices of the meteorite made their way around the world.

"There are specimens of the meteorite in museums in New York, Harvard, Washington, Chicago, London, Vienna and Göttingen (Germany)," Boesenberg said, and each piece retains the name, the "Emmitsburg Meteorite."

What made the find so rare,

Boesenberg said, is that while more than 50,000 meteorites have been recovered thus far around the world, "only four have ever been found in Maryland."

Another mystery is that some of the meteorite has disappeared. The amount of the meteorite in museums does not match the total known size of the meteorite recovered.

"Most of the meteor is missing," Boesenberg noted. He believes that a portion of the original rock is "out there on the market (in dealers' stocks or in private collections, having been purchased from dealers)."

Editor's Note: During descent to Earth, a falling rock is called a meteor. After impact, the remains are called meteorites.

Mexican meteorite sometimes confused with Emmitsburg original

According to the findings of those involved in studying meteorites, there are two sets of meteorite remains floating around in museum collections labeled as being from Emmitsburg.

Joseph Boesenberg, a meteorite scientific assistant with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, told *The Dispatch* that somewhere along the line, the Emmitsburg meteorite samples became intermixed with those from one that fell in Mexico.

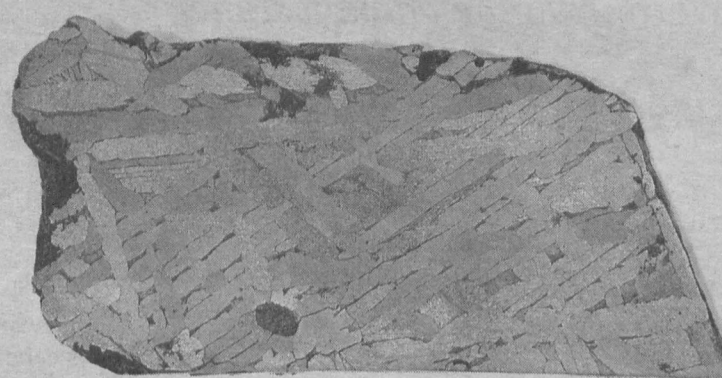
Boesenberg said that the two meteorites could only be seen at the microscopic level, where their differences are easily sorted out.

The Emmitsburg Meteorite is classified as an octahedrite, meaning it is basically iron mixed

with a nickel content of from six to 13 percent. The name octahedrite refers to the eight-sided crystals of one of the nickel-iron alloys contained in meteorites assigned to this classification.

The Mexican meteorite, sometimes mislabeled as being from Emmitsburg, has a larger crystal structure than the Emmitsburg specimen, although they are geologically related.

Iron meteorites are generally attributed to asteroids that most likely collided with other asteroids in space, shattering them into fragments. Some of these fragments get caught up in the Earth's gravitational pull and fall, the bulk burning up on descent and never making it to the ground.



- Photo courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History.

Emmitsburg Meteor fragments, such as the Emmitsburg specimen depicted, were distributed to a number of museums around the world. The one pictured resides in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City.

"Season's Greetings from the crew at His Place"

HIS PLACE, INC.

Family Owned and Operated for Over 35 Years

301-447-2800

1-800-529-5835

We Install

JASPER
ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS

36 Month/75,000 Mile
Parts & Labor

Nationwide Warranty!
COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE

New 3D Four Wheel Alignment
Welding and Brazing
Tune-Up
High Performance Work
Transmission Repair
A/C Repair

Computerized Wheel Balancing
Coolant flush and Recycle
Exhaust systems
Complete Restoration
Suspension adjust and General
Engine Repair and Rebuilding

Maryland Inspection Station Motorcycle & Car Inspection
Check Engine Light On?

It's getting cold!
Get your
Cooling System
checked.

INAPA AUTOCARE
CENTER

ASE
CERTIFIED

Equal Opportunity Employer

We now carry Precision Alternators
and starters - Wipers, Oil and Oil Filters
New Service - Transmission Flush

His Place, Inc. and the Kuhn family are proud to endorse the EMMITSBURG
ENDOWMENT FUND and encourages community participation in this fund which
provides scholarships and local youth activities. Emmitsburg Endowment
is operated by the Community Foundation of Frederick County, Inc.
For more information call Billy Kuhn at 301-447-2800

Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

20 CREAMERY WAY, EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND

www.hisplaceinc.com

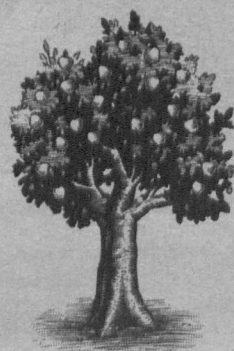
FLANAGAN ORCHARDS

25 Flanagan Rd.

Thurmont, MD

301-271-2775

APPLES



Old fashion service

Old fashion prices

REGIONAL NEWS

Special exceptions testimony concludes on proposed Mason-Dixon Country Club

Public comment next step as hearings continue

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP, Pa. — Representatives of the Mason-Dixon Country Club (MDCC), a 1,165-unit golf community spanning Freedom Township, Pa., and Frederick County, Md., concluded their special exceptions presentation at the Nov. 17 zoning hearing board.

Testimony was essentially the same as that provided at MDCC's Nov. 10 conditional use hearing. (See "Mason-Dixon wraps up conditional use testimony: Proposed homes reduced by 14 units" in the Nov. 17 issue of *The Dispatch*.)

Some additional information from Nov. 17:

- Developer has established Mason-Dixon Utilities, Inc. as the

present owner of the (proposed) water and sewer infrastructure. This entity could be sold at a later date.

- Draw-down tests suggested that water taken from the Gettysburg Formation would not impact wells established in the diabase formations, even with relatively close proximity.

- An architectural review committee would be established, as provided in the guidelines, to provide oversight of any subsequent design changes within the development; and,

- Pumps at the water treatment plant would produce sound at 30 decibels or less at the nearest property boundary, about the equivalent of the decibels generated by a residence with no stereo on.

To advance to the preliminary plan stage, MDCC must secure special exceptions for the proposed commercial portion of the site. In addition, conditional use approval is needed for the golf community, the major component of the proposed development, within the township's mixed use (MU) zone.

With the conclusion of MDCC testimony, both the conditional use and the special exception hearings will continue in order to receive public comment and public or other (non-MDCC) expert testimony.

The continued conditional use hearing before the supervisors has been scheduled for Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. The continued special exceptions hearing before the zoning board will take place on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. Both hearings will be held at the Freedom Township building.



Developer proposes Fairfield in-fill project

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — Gettysburg, and former Fairfield resident David Sites is proposing a 22-unit development to be built on property at 20 and 26-28 East Main Street.

The housing project, designated "Fairfield Commons," would consist of several rows of

18-foot wide homes, with one row incorporating the former Adams County Bank building for a homeowners' association community hall.

Sites presently has a demolition permit for the bank, but to preserve the building, he proposes tearing down the "Kump" building instead, which consists of two associated structures previously used for

rentals and for a tax business.

The project is slated to be presented to the planning board on Dec. 12.

Additionally, both the proposed demolition and the design of the homes must be reviewed and approved by the borough historic architectural review board (HARB) because the project is located in the borough's historic district.

Fairfield News Briefs ...

Borough awards trash contract for 2006

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — After much debate, at their Nov. 22 meeting, an evenly divided council awarded the new residential trash hauling contract to EISI when out-going mayor Rick Cordell cast the tie-breaking vote.

Proponents of retaining Waste Management cited the company's history of reliable service and a concern over whether EISI has enough equipment to serve the borough effectively.

Council members in favor of awarding EISI the contract made it an economic decision. The Waste Management bid represented an annual increase to residents of nearly \$48 over 2005, while the EISI price would increase residents' garbage bills by approximately \$16 per year.

Council president Patricia Smith commended council members for their "tough decision" and acknowledged that all points raised in the debate were "valid concerns." Though "coming from different perspectives," Smith concluded that all the council members "had the residents' concerns at heart."

EISI will begin servicing Fairfield residents, as well as residents of Liberty Township and Carroll Valley Borough, Jan. 1, 2006. — W. Reinke

(See related story "Changes in trash collection for Carroll Valley residents" on p. 9 in this issue of *The Dispatch*.)

Fairfield architectural board needs member

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — The borough historical architectural review board (HARB) is looking to fill the vacancy created by Dean Thomas, who is resigning, having recently been elected to serve on the borough council.

Interested candidates cannot be elected officials, and the board is hoping to fill the position with a Fairfield resident.

HARB is committed to preserving the architectural and historical integrity of the Borough of Fairfield. Individuals interested in this position should contact the Fairfield Borough offices at 642-5640. — W. Reinke

Borough reviews 2005 local election results

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — The borough council announced the official results of the Nov. 8 election at their Nov. 22 meeting.

Winning four year terms for borough council were Ronald Shanks, Robert Stanley, and Dean Thomas. Winning two-year terms were Robert Costello, Lloyd Geer, and Dean Thomas. Robert Stanley won the mayoral seat. Letters were to be sent to the winners on Nov. 23, giving candidates the opportunity to accept or refuse the positions.

Stanley and Thomas, who each won two offices, will have to choose which seat they wish to fill. Any remaining vacancies will be filled by council appointment at the reorganization meeting on Jan. 3, 2006. — W. Reinke

'McGinley's Choice' seeks input on proposed traffic light

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — Fairham Development, a subsidiary of Empire Homes overseeing the "McGinley's Choice" project, has asked the town for input regarding the possibility of a future traffic light on Main Street.

James Hanna, project manager for McGinley's Choice, stated a traffic light might be warranted at some future point at the intersection of McGinley's Road and Main Street (Route 116).

Hanna told the borough council Nov. 22 that the developer would be willing to commit \$500 per unit up to 100 units to help defray the cost of a traffic light, which he estimated at costing somewhere between \$80,000 and \$90,000. Borough Solicitor Matthew R. Battersby estimated in a Nov. 9 letter the cost would be more like \$100,000.

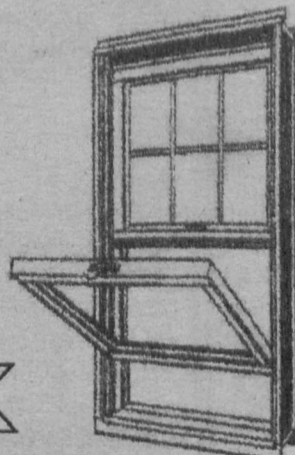
State Representative Stephen R. Maitland, however, wrote to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) on Oct. 26 asking the state agency to ensure that the light be paid for solely by the developer. — R. Fulton

**Rubis
Contracting
Inc.**

Specializing in Maintenance Free Home Exteriors

John (Johnny) Rubis
MHIC #33963 Since 1989

301-416-0017
Free estimates



VINYL
REPLACEMENT
WINDOWS

- Maintenance Free
- Tilt In for Easy Cleaning
- Includes Screen
- Lowe Glass

REGIONAL NEWS

Changes in trash collection for Carroll Valley residents

BY WILLIAM REINKE
Contributing Writer

CARROLL VALLEY, Pa. — The borough council voted unanimously Nov. 15 to contract with trash collection company IESI Corp., based in Chambersburg, as sole provider for residential solid waste collection services beginning Jan. 1, 2006.

The current contract with Waste Management expires at the end of this year.

Under the present collection arrangement, Waste Management allows residents to purchase weekly trash pickup, and biweekly recycling service separately. In 2005 Waste Management charged customers \$136.40 and \$22.80 per year respectively for these services. Their bid for 2006 was \$199.92 for trash and \$51.79 for recycling,

representing an overall increase of 58 percent.

IESI's bid for 2006 came in at \$167.64 for trash and \$22.20 for biweekly recycling. While this represents a 19 percent increase over 2005, it is 25 percent lower than Waste Management's 2006 bid.

Many residents rent the familiar green-wheeled trash containers from Waste Management. The company will collect them, but Borough Manager David Hazlett assured the council that IESI offers a similar service.

The council's biggest concern was residents would have to arrange their own individual service with IESI. Hazlett assured the council of IESI's willingness to communicate this transition through print ads and direct mailings.

While current ordinance states that all commercial entities are

required to use the vendor of the borough's choosing, Mayor Jim Becraft assured the council that all pre-existing contracts between businesses and solid waste collection companies would be grandfathered under this change.

The decision to award IESI the contract for 2006 only affects residential customers and any new businesses beginning in the coming year.

Editor's Note: IESI is a Houston-based corporation providing services in nine states. Combined with affiliated BFI Canada, IESI serves more than one million customers in North America, according to IESI Corporation Public Relation Coordinator Donna Higgins. The company was founded in 1995 by Charles "Mickey" Flood, the former North American president of Waste Management.

Carroll Valley News Briefs ...

No borough tax increase for 2006

CARROLL VALLEY, Pa. — The borough council unanimously approved a motion at their Nov. 15 meeting to advertise a proposed tax levy ordinance which will actually call for no tax increase for 2006.

Council President Laura Scudder said that because of a solid budget, the borough "didn't even come close to needing a tax increase."

According to Pennsylvania law, any proposed ordinance must be open to public comment for a period of 20 days, although Borough Manager David Hazlett expects little opposition to this ordinance, which is scheduled for a public hearing on Dec. 13.

Both Scudder and Hazlett commended the Council's work on producing a balanced and fiscally responsible 2006 budget, which will become available to the public sometime after Nov. 28. — W. Reinke

Borough increases police salary to attract applicants

CARROLL VALLEY, Pa. — The borough's recent attempt to fill a police officer vacancy proved unsuccessful as two candidates interviewed failed to meet qualification requirements.

The borough passed a motion at their Nov. 15 meeting to raise the starting salary for this position from \$31,000 to \$33,000, which is about average for communities in this area.

Police Chief Richard Hileman stated that jurisdictions across the country are struggling to find qualified law enforcement officers and Carroll Valley is no exception.

The council felt that a more competitive salary, along with an already existing attractive benefits package, would help fill this vacancy. — W. Reinke

THE ROSENSTEEL STUDIO

WWW.ROSENSTEELSTUDIO.COM



SINCE 1986
301-447-6272

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
from The Rosensteel Family

A gift certificate from
The Rosensteel Studio can last a lifetime.

Available up to the 24th of December.

Great Food And Good Times

Make any day a special day. Bring your family, friends or that special someone to Ventura's in Fairfield for a delicious lunch or dinner. Enjoy one of our great daily specials or order from our fine menu. Thursday is our famous Chicken Wing Night, "the best in the area", 13 flavors to choose from. Good Times always start here.

For Entertainment And Special Events Check Out What's Happening In Ventura's Lounge

NFL Football Sunday Ticket viewed on 15 TV's, Karaoke and a DJ. There's always something happening in Ventura's Lounge. Come enjoy your favorite beverage.

PRESENT THIS COUPON FOR

10% OFF TWO ENTREES

Good Any Day Of The Week In Our Restaurant Or The Lounge.

Expires 12/05

ED

Ventura's
RESTAURANT

100 East Main St. Fairfield, PA 717-642-8202
www.venturasllc.com

"Thank you for your support!"
Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BOLLINGER
HOMES

Josh Bollinger, President

Custom Homes 140-A South Seton Avenue
Decks P.O. Box 929
Remodeling Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
Additions 301.447.6917
Fax 301.447.2704

For all your
Crane,
Skidloader,
Backhoe, and
Snow Removal
needs.

T & M

Call:
301.447.3718
301.447.3719
800.251.3503
Fax: 301.447.2704

CRANE RENTALS, INC.

Josh and Lori Bollinger

140-A South Seton Ave., P.O. Box 929 Emmitsburg, MD 21727

South Seton Auto Repair

"Customer Satisfaction Guaranteed!"

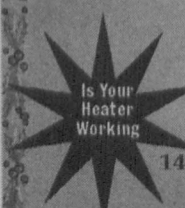
BEST LABOR RATES IN TOWN

NEW FEATURES OFFERED:

NEW Tire Sales
Hydraulic Hoses and
Fittings Sold and Repaired
Custom Made Battery Cables
Local Vehicle Pick Up & Delivery

ASE Certified Mechanics

140 A South Seton Ave. P.O. Box 118
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301-447-3560 fax: 301-447-2704



REGIONAL NEWS

Joint police building cost soars

By RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

THURMONT, Md. — Thurmont may be looking at alternative ways to build a new police office if the county is unable to adjust a "sudden" rise in projected costs for a joint building with the county sheriff's office.

The board learned in a meeting with representatives from the sheriff's office and the county Management Services Division (MSD) on Dec. 13 that the cost of the joint police department building could be as much as \$3 million.

The board was split on its next course of action, causing the board president to cast a deciding vote.

Misunderstanding may have caused size increase

Board President "Mayor" Martin A. Burns said the new numbers came out during a joint meeting with MSD and that apparently even the sheriff's office was unaware of the projected cost changes.

Thurmont had envisioned an 11,000-square foot building, 8,500 of which would serve as the new Thurmont police office, with 2,000 for the sheriff's proposed north county office. These calculations included common space such as hallways and reception areas.

Somehow, the county misunderstood, and added another 4,000 square feet for common areas, producing

estimates for a 15,000 square foot structure, which radically impacting projected costs.

"No one really knew (at the meeting) why it grew" to the new size, Burns told the board Dec. 13. Board members surmised the county did not realize the 11,000 square foot structure already took common areas into account.

In addition, projected design costs soared from \$150,000 to \$235,000. Thurmont was expecting to pay only \$75,000 for its half of the design work. The town's share would now be more than \$117,000.

Commissioner Glenn D. Muth said, "I'm troubled by all of this. They knew what our budget was. Somehow this has gotten out of hand."

Town will look at Taneytown option

Burns suggested the town work with planners from the county and sheriff's office to clarify the proposal in order to generate real, working numbers.

However, that in itself would not be cost-free and the town would have to allocate some of the \$75,000 design money toward a meeting, with the actual percentage causing the board's split decision.

Commissioners William H. Blakeslee and Wayne A. Hooper voted to allocate up to \$13,000 for a work session with the

county project planners. Muth and Commissioner Ronald A. Terpkio voted against the amount. Muth had suggested no more than \$7,500.

Burns broke the tie, voting in favor of the \$13,000 amount, stating that residents have said they would support a new police office and "this will take the process forward."

However, the board agreed to consider an alternative, should the proposed joint venture fail, that of using the Taneytown police station blueprints and simply adding the extra space. Taneytown had already provided Thurmont with a copy of the blueprints.

This option would make much of the architectural costs unnecessary, since the town would be building with an already existing set of blueprints.

County Commissioner Michael Cady, present at the town meeting, said, "I am as frustrated as you about the cost of the project." County commissioners had previously voted to provide \$75,000 toward the planning phase costs of the joint station.

"I think you are absolutely right to look at your options (such as simply adopting the Taneytown blueprint)," Cady stated.

(See related story, "Town, county agree to joint police station" in the Aug. 18, 2005, *Thurmont Dispatch*.)

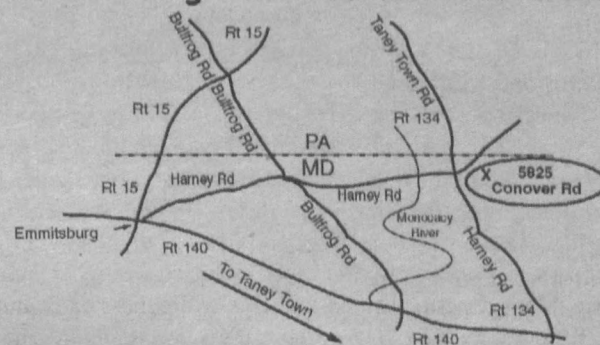
MOWER REPAIR

Quality and Dependable Service
Servicing all makes & models
Pick up and Delivery available
Average turn-around time 7 to 10 days

MOWER SALES

We sell the best and service the rest

A spacious showroom and parts department
An acre of green area for test driving



Exceeding expectations one customer at a time!

Season's Greetings from
Harrington's Service Center Inc.

5825 Conover Rd Taneytown MD
410-756-2506 410-756-6888

"In this life, the only thing for certain is death and taxes."

-Benjamin Franklin

We can help you and your family deal with the uncertainties associated with planning your funeral. Important planning information is outlined for you in the free Reflections® Planning Guide... our gift to you.

We may also help you get tax-free* death benefits. And with a payment plan to fit your budget, you can fund your funeral expenses and be assured your family won't be left with a financial burden. By planning now, your family won't be faced with this burden during their time of grief.

Call for a no-obligation consultation and your free gift.

Reflections®

☎ 301-447-6244

Skiles Funeral Home

210 West Main Street - P.O. Box 427
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727-0427

*Growth may be free of income tax - consult your tax advisor
Final expense funding may be available through Fortis benefits Life Insurance Company, Greenville, SC, and its representatives.

☐ Yes, I would like my FREE Reflections® Planning Guide and the peace of mind of a no-obligation consultation right away.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

© 1999, Skiles Funeral Home

✦ "Happy Holidays" ✦
PATRICK ARENTZ
GENERAL SERVICES
Fairfield, PA.

Mowing: Yards & Fields
Trimming & Removal of Shrubs
Hauling: Junk & Debris
Lawn: Installation & Repairs
Lot Clearing
Roto-tilling: Beds & Gardens
Pressure Washing
Gutter Cleaning
Light Excavation & Light Demo
Snow Plowing & Ice Removal

Topsoil, Mulch, Firewood
Sales & Delivery

Free Estimates-Fully Insured

Residential & Commercial

717-642-6802

www.arentzs.com

Season's Greetings
from

Hillside TURKEY FARMS



Order Now for the Holidays!

-All Natural-

- Fresh Turkeys & Fresh Breasts
- Fresh Maryland Oysters
Select or standards in pints, or gallons
- Muscovy Ducks, Capons & Geese
- Whole Country Hams
- Smoked Pit Pork Hams

We ship Smoked Turkeys and Turkey Breasts
anywhere in the continental United States.

A perfect gift for any occasion!

Store Hours:

Thu & Fri 8-3, Sat 8-12

30 Elm Street

Thurmont, MD

301-271-2728

REGIONAL NEWS

Bomb threat at Middle School

By RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

THURMONT, Md. — Thurmont Middle School (TMS) students were forced to evacuate for about an hour Nov. 21 after a bomb threat was allegedly made against the school around 11:45 a.m., according to Marita Loose, director of communications services for Frederick County Public Schools.

Loose told *The Dispatch* that TMS administrators contacted the county sheriff's office, Thurmont Police Department and the Maryland State Police after receiving a threat that a bomb was in the school.

She would not elaborate on how the school had received the threat or its form, stating the incident was still under investigation, led by the county sheriff's office. *The Dispatch* was told through other sources that the threat was sent in a letter left in the school.

According to Loose, the school was evacuated "within

minutes" of the threat. Students from grades 6 and 7 went to the American Legion building. Grade 8 students were sent to the carnival grounds.

Around 12:45, she said, a state police K-9 unit arrived to check the school for explosives, adding, that the "all clear" was given around 1:15 p.m. and students began walking back.

Deputy Jennifer Bailey, Frederick County Sheriff's Office spokesperson, said the K-9 unit was a "bomb sniffing" dog flown in by state police helicopter from Waterloo, Md.

By 1:45 p.m. the students were back in school, but parents were permitted to take their children home early if they requested it. Otherwise, the students were dismissed at their normal times, according to officials.

The bomb threat was the latest incident at the 744-student school. School administrators



—RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

Maryland State Police helicopter Trooper 8 (top) was used to transport a bomb-detection dog to Thurmont Middle School after a threat was received on Nov. 21, 2005. Thurmont police, Frederick County Sheriff's deputies, and fire police provided traffic control and security for students during the one-hour evacuation.

recently concluded an investigation into threat letters in October.

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office arrested a 13-year old juvenile at TMS Nov. 15

for alleged possession of a "look-alike" gun and related offenses. (See related stories on p. 5 in this issue of *The Dispatch*.)

INFINITY GLOBAL TRAVEL, INC.
"Ever dream about a trip to Ireland?"
Let us make those dreams come true!

410-756-4450
Toll Free: 1-877-448-5151

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Mon-Fri
5151 Allendale Lane, Taneytown, MD 21787
located in the EVAPCO building

If you're going to travel, you've got to get Global.

St. PETER'S BOOKS & GIFTS CAFE

Visit us today!

- BOOKS
- GIFTS & RELIGIOUS ARTICLES
- CARDS
- GOURMET COFFEE & TEA
- MUFFINS, COOKIES, CHOCOLATE
- & MORE!!!

9am-6pm M-F
9am-4pm Sat
301-447-1901

Seasonal Specials!

101-2 Silo Hill Road • Emmitsburg, MD 21727 • By Jubilee Next to Subway

Robert F. Gauss & Assoc.
Professional Land Surveyors

Land Surveying
Engineering
Planning

301 447-2222
FAX 301-447-3158

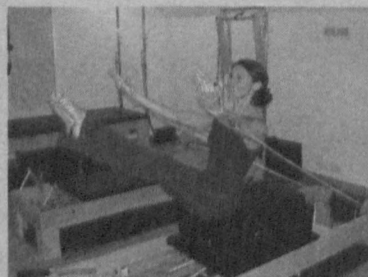
Emmit House, Box 128
601 W. Main St.
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Center of Life Pilates Studio
A World-Class Studio...
In Downtown Thurmont!

NOW OPEN!

Offering
Group Mat Classes

Private/Duet/Trio
Apparatus and
Group Tower Classes



All Classes taught by
Power Pilates Certified Instructors
Marcia Hagemann, Senior Instructor/Owner

36 Water Street Thurmont
Visit us on line:

www.centeroflife.us
301-748-2284

CAPITAL WOMENS CARE

FREDERICK OB/GYN PROFESSIONAL GROUP
A Division of Capital Women's Care

61 Thomas Johnson Drive, Frederick, MD 21702
301-663-6171 FAX 301-695-4469

Obstetrics ♦ Gynecology ♦ Urogynecology
Treatment for Menopause ♦ Childbirth Classes
Osteoporosis Testing

REGIONAL NEWS

State's attorney decision soon on teacher threats

By RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

THURMONT, Md. — A decision by the state's attorney's office regarding any action concerning alleged threats made against two Thurmont Middle School students by a teacher could be made within the next two weeks.

State's Attorney Scott Rolle previously told *The Dispatch*, "We are looking into it (the allegations). I have been presented with some items that could be considered evidence, and we are determining what, if anything criminal, has occurred here."

Rolle said on Dec. 13 that a decision by his office could come soon, "Certainly by the end of the month." In fact, he said, a decision could be rendered in a few days.

For nearly two months, Thurmont Middle School administrators have been

investigating several notes, left on school property and on a nearby vehicle, which allegedly threatened two particular students at the school.

Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) communications Director Marita Loose said the school concluded its investigation of the incidents late in the week of Nov. 14, and that the employee allegedly involved is not longer at the school.

"We have concluded our investigation...the individual suspected of making the threats is a female teacher and no longer in the classroom," she told *The Dispatch*, adding, that the teacher's "employment status is (now) inactive without pay."

Loose said the teacher had been removed from the school during the investigation, but would not say whether that removal was with or without pay.

The first letter or letters (school representatives have

declined to release the specific number of letters involved) appeared on school property in September, with one or more additional letters found in October. One letter was found on a vehicle off school grounds, later confirmed to belong to the parents of one of the threatened students.

Principal Barbara G. Keiling assured parents in a letter sent home on Nov. 15 that school administrators "have taken all appropriate measures to address this situation."

Deputy Jennifer Bailey, spokesperson for Frederick County Sheriff's Office, told *The Dispatch*, "It could be a lengthy investigation," adding that the board of education is "being very cooperative."

Neither the FCPS nor the sheriff's office would discuss the actual contents of the letters due to the on-going status of the investigation.

'Look-alike' gun leads to Thurmont Middle School arrest

By RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

THURMONT, Md. — The Frederick County Sheriff's Office arrested a 13-year old juvenile at Thurmont Middle School on Nov. 15 for alleged possession of a "look-alike" gun and related offenses.

Deputy Jennifer Bailey, sheriff's office spokesperson, told *The Dispatch* that police investigated the incident on Nov. 14 after school officials reported that the suspect allegedly pointed the gun at another student.

Bailey said police seized a black plastic handgun from the suspect, and placed the juvenile under arrest. The juvenile was subsequently transported to the Western Maryland Children's Center Washington County.

The individual has been charged with first-degree assault, carrying a concealed weapon, carrying a deadly weapon on school grounds, disrupting school activities, and making threats on school property, according to police.

Marita Loose, director of communications services for the Frederick County Public Schools, told *The Dispatch* on Nov. 22 that disciplinary action has been taken against the arrested student.

A school principal has the authority under state regulations to suspend students for up to ten days, but can also recommend that the school superintendent take additional action.

FCPS believes series of incidents a fluke

By RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

THURMONT, Md. — Thurmont Middle School (TMS) administrators have spent the last several weeks trying to come to grips with a series of incidents that might seem to have more in common with a school in Baghdad than one in Frederick County, Md.

Letters were sent to TMS parents Nov. 15 from Principal Barbara G. Keiling informing them that a teacher had allegedly made threats against two students.

That letter also noted an incident on Nov. 14 that led to the arrest of a 13-year old student for carrying a concealed weapon and carrying a deadly weapon, among other charges.

The trilogy of incidents at the 744-student school was capped off on Nov. 21 with a bomb threat that emptied out the building for an hour.

However, school officials feel the series of incidents is merely an aberration. Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) Communications Director Marita Loose told *The Dispatch*, "I would characterize the recent

incidents as a spike rather than a trend."

Additionally, no one appears to be in a position to even suggest that the incidents are in any way related. "All three incidents are being investigated by the sheriff's office. It would be up to them to determine if any connections exist," Loose stated.

Specifics about the threat letters allegedly left by a teacher and the notice received by the school of a bomb threat are still being kept under wraps due to on-going investigations by law enforcement authorities.

A Christmas Wish
"May the Blessings of Christmas be yours!"
from Rodney McNair & Family

MULCH \$20 yd.
Screened or Unscreened Topsoil

Dark Mulch \$20.00/yd
Red Mulch \$32.00/yd
Black Mulch \$32.00/yd

Composted
Mushroom Soil \$17/yd
Composted
Cow Manure \$17/yd

Driveway Stone
Landscaping Stone
Sand
Fill Dirt
Snow removal

17618 Old Gettysburg Road
Emmitsburg, MD
(301) 447-2675

A Christmas Wish

✱ Enjoy a SPECIAL DINNER ✱
NEW YEAR'S EVE

Champagne is Available!
Reservation suggested

✱ **SHAMROCK** ✱
RESTAURANT

Route 15 North Served 4 until 10
Thurmont, MD 301-271-2912

Home Improvement Supplies • Home Improvement Supplies • Home Improvement Supplies

Zurgable Bros. Hardware

"Merry Christmas"
We carry...

- Holland Gas Grills
- Red Wing Shoes
- Cement
- Bruning Paints
- Glass & Screen Repair
- Hardware/Tools
- Garden Supplies
- Lumber
- Sakrete Cement
- Mulch

16663 Old Emmitsburg Road
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
(301) 447-2020

Home Improvement Supplies • Home Improvement Supplies • Home Improvement Supplies

Happy Holidays

Real Estate Teams LLC

DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS
GET A....
"Little - Moore"

301-662-2468 (Direct)
www.littlemoore.com

Tony Little & Jane Moore
Associate Brokers, Md.
Also Licensed in PA.

4.29 ACRES, OPEN & WOODED

What more could you ask for?
Open with great views, or walk through your own private nature trails. 4 possibly 5 bedroom home all remodeled. Just sit on your trex deck or relax in your hot tub.
FR:5439206 -- \$409,900

Real Estate Teams, LLC 301-695-3020 (office)

200 years celebrated at Saint Anthony Shrine

with history provided by St. Anthony Shrine

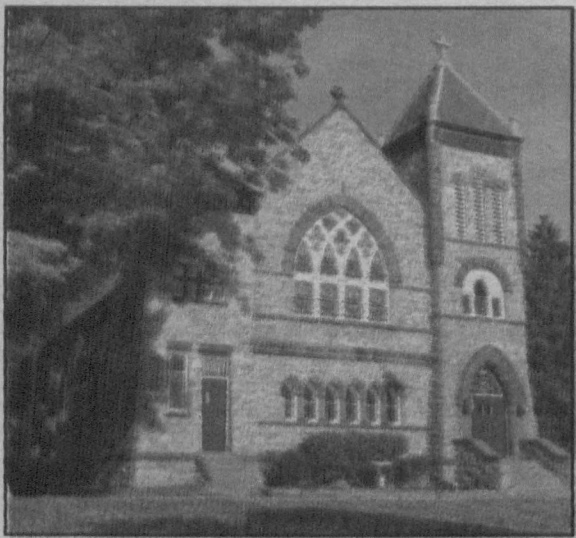
By JOYCE M. DEMMITT
Managing Editor

St. Anthony Shrine in Emmitsburg is celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2005. The church known as St. Anthony Shrine dates from 1897, but records of the Baltimore Archdiocese list St. Anthony Shrine as the oldest parish in central Maryland.

To commemorate the anniversary, St. Anthony's recently held a celebration Mass and is offering a number of special

products. Parishioners, friends, former pastors and priests from the area joined Baltimore's Bishop Malooley in the special anniversary Mass on Nov. 19.

Cat's meows (door sill toppers) are available at St. Anthony's Church, parish center, and Mt. Carmel Church, as are a pictorial directory and a parish cookbook. Adams County Winery in Ortanna, Pa. has customized labels for four wines in honor of the anniversary: "Baron's Blush," "Tears of Gettysburg," "Rhedd Butler" and "Three Ships



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

to the Wind." The labels include a picture of the Church and the celebration date. Bottles sell for \$15 each. Memorabilia can be ordered from the parish offices: 301-447-2367.

Early history

The first Catholic families moved into the Emmitsburg area in the 1730s. By 1740, circuit-riding priests, usually Jesuits, came occasionally to say Mass and provide the sacraments to those

who met in private homes or "house chapels." The leading Catholic family of the time was the Elder family whose descendants still live in the Emmitsburg area.

In 1793, Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore assigned Father John DuBois to the pastoral duties of much of central and western Maryland. In 1805, Father DuBois came to Emmitsburg and bought land from the Elder family to build a church on St. Mary's Mountain. The church, called St. Mary's Church or The Mountain Church or The Old Church on the Hill, was the forerunner of St. Anthony Shrine.

Church construction began in 1805 and was an ecumenical effort. Many Protestants, including a Mennonite preacher, took part in the groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 19. Father DuBois himself wielded an axe and helped to clear the land for the church.

The first Mass was celebrated in the new church on Aug. 1, 1806. Father DuBois remained as resident pastor for 21 years. During this time, he founded Mount St. Mary Seminary in 1808. From 1808 until 1894, the local congregation and the seminary and college students worshipped together at St. Mary's Church. In 1809, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton came to the area and became one of St. Mary's early parishioners.

In 1894, the College Council met at Mount St. Mary's and decided that priests at the college would no longer serve the local parish. One of the seminary teachers, Father John Manley, was appointed pastor of the newly independent parish. The Mountain Church needed major repairs, and the community decided to build both a rectory and a new church. To make clear its independent status, the parish was given a new name - St. Anthony Shrine.

The parishioners built what is still used as the rectory beginning in 1895. Construction on the new church began later: the cornerstone was laid May 2, 1897; and the church was consecrated on Oct. 26, 1897. Archbishop William Henry Elder of Cincinnati, the great-grandson of original settler William Elder, said the Mass of consecration. James Cardinal Gibbons came from Baltimore, assisted at the Mass by two other bishops.

Some of St. Mary's furnishings were transferred to the new St. Anthony Shrine church and are still in use. They include the six bronze candlesticks above the main altar and the statues of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the Sacred Heart. The large stained glass window in the choir loft was a gift from the



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

Bishop Frances Malooley greets parishioners Ed and Helen Reaver, after he celebrated Mass in honor of the 200th Anniversary of St. Anthony Shrine on Saturday, Nov. 19. The Reavers were recently honored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore for their service to the parish.

St. Vincent branch of the Emerald Benevolent Association (EBA), which provided insurance and other benefits to Catholic churches at that time.

Parish history

As soon as the St. Anthony Shrine building was complete, the old Church on the Hill was abandoned,

except for an occasional summer Mass. Even this limited use was stopped in 1900 because of the building's condition. Despite its disuse, St. Mary's Church celebrated its centenary on Oct. 19, 1905. Cardinal Gibbons presided and Pope St. Pius X sent his blessing. Old St. Mary's destroyed by fire when its roof was ignited by a toy balloon from a fireworks display on July 4, 1913.

St. Anthony's school opened in Sept. 1903. It was staffed by Daughters of Charity from St. Joseph's Provincial House in Emmitsburg and was housed in a two-story hall across the road from the church. This school served Catholics in the area for 53 years until 1956, when the Daughters of Charity opened Mother Seton School. The parish school

then became St. Anthony's Hall, providing space for church dinners, meetings, and parish offices.

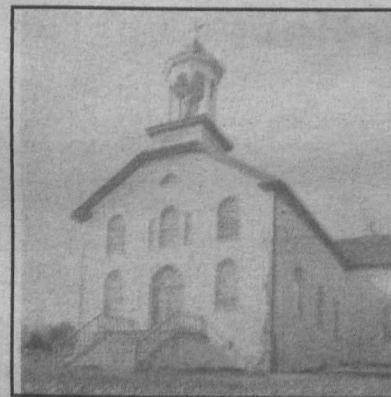
From 1987 to 2005, the pastor of St. Anthony Shrine also served as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Thurmont. In June 2005, the Archdiocese of Baltimore transferred the pastor, Father James Hannon; and Cardinal Keeler appointed Sister Joan Maenner as Pastoral

Life Director of both St. Anthony Shrine and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Priests from the Grotto of Lourdes and Mount St. Mary's assumed liturgical and sacramental duties.

St. Anthony Shrine today is a rural Catholic parish in the Baltimore Archdiocese located near Mount St. Mary's University, about two miles south of Emmitsburg. The parish buildings - church, rectory, hall, and "the little red schoolhouse" (used for parish meetings) - are situated on sixteen acres of land. Some of the same

families whose names appear in the early parish records are still active members of St. Anthony Shrine, along with many others who have moved into the area over the years.

In 2005, there are 356 families registered in the parish, 943 individual parishioners and 115 persons actively involved in ministry at St. Anthony Shrine.



St. Mary's Church, or the old Church on the Hill, used in a limited way after St. Anthony Shrine was consecrated in 1897, and destroyed by fire in 1913. (below) St. Anthony Shrine pastoral council - 2005.



Happy Holidays!!
A sponsor of The Emmitsburg Dispatch

EMMITSBURG
GLASS COMPANY
A reflection of quality

Emmitsburg Glass Co. will take care of all your residential glass needs including insulated glass replacement, storm door glass, glass table tops, custom mirrors and pattern glass - round, oval, and special designs.

Emmitsburg Glass Co., a major commercial glazing contractor in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, is not too big to serve the needs of Emmitsburg citizens.

PO. Box 346/2 Creamery Way
Emmitsburg, Maryland
301-447-2245
Fax: 301-447-2316

Trinity United Methodist marks 200 years

By JOYCE M. DEMMITT
Managing Editor

Trinity United Methodist Church in Emmitsburg is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1805, Trinity United Methodist began its four-week, "Celebrating the Journey," with a kick-off on Nov. 20. The congregation had shared old photos at an ice cream social earlier in the year and in October, and in November awarded prizes to those who correctly answered trivia questions about the church's past and the Methodist heritage.

On Nov. 27, John Wesley, portrayed by Rev. Ken Valentine, shared the roots of Methodism with the congregation. At the Dec. 4 service, the church celebrated the present, with the help of the Emmitsburg Children's Praise Choir and the Emmitsburg Teen Praise Choir.

On Dec. 11, Bishop John Schol from the Baltimore-Washington conference preached. The bishop also blessed a time capsule that members had begun putting together in October. The capsule will be buried outside the church under a stained glass window of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. A plaque inside the church on the windowsill will describe the time capsule.

The Dec. 11 worship service was one that "remembered the past, celebrated the present, and looked to the future with hope," said Trinity's pastor, Wade Martin.

Early years

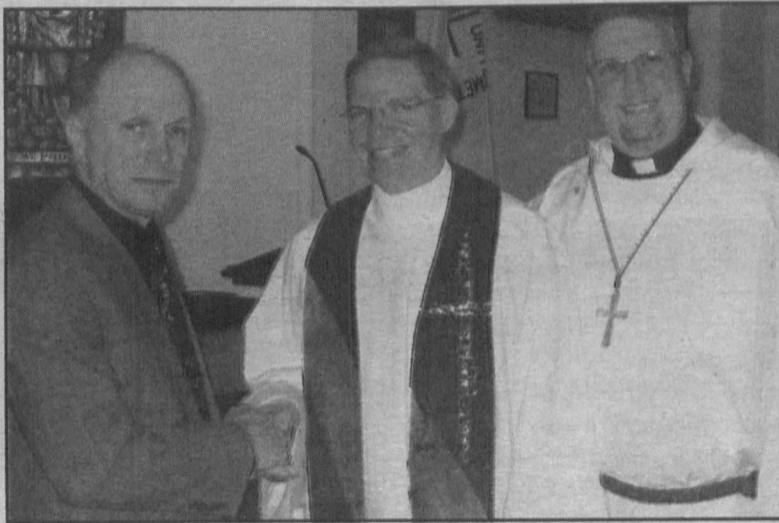
William Moreland, an Irish linen maker, bought two lots in Emmitsburg in 1805 to build a church. Because of his dedication to spreading the gospel with his neighbors, Moreland became known as a local preacher. He held "classes," as they were called, in his home on Wednesdays and Sundays.

In the summer of 1833 a brick church known as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Emmitsburg was completed. Moreland died before he could preach at the new church.

The congregation and their neighbors worked to complete the church. Reverend Charles Young dedicated the building in December 1833. Worship continued there until 1897, when the congregation purchased a lot from the Byron O. Donnel estates, and exchanged it with Jacob Smith for the location of the present church.

The church cornerstone, in the northeast corner of the building, is a white block to the right of the entrance steps. It was laid on Aug. 24, 1897, and contains a Bible, a hymnbook, coins and newspapers.

with history provided by Trinity United Methodist



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

Bishop Schol visits Trinity United

Bill Wivell, (L) member of Trinity United Methodist Church and current President of Emmitsburg's Council of Churches, shakes hands with Bishop John Schol after the Dec. 11 service, as Rev. Wade Martin looks on. Schol is the first Methodist bishop to visit the parish in 175 years.

-See p. 16 for a word from Pastor Wade Martin.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

In 1940, the Program of Unification joined the three branches of Methodism - Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South, and Methodist Protestant. The charter of Emmitsburg Methodist Episcopal Church was amended. The word "Episcopal" was deleted, and the word "Trinity" was added. The church's official name became Trinity Methodist Church of Emmitsburg, Md.

Church was amended. The word "Episcopal" was deleted, and the word "Trinity" was added. The church's official name became Trinity Methodist Church of Emmitsburg, Md.

In 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Churches combined, assuming the name United Methodist. The church's name changed again, to the present Trinity United Methodist Church, Emmitsburg, Md.

As Pastor Martin said, "Clearly this is an exciting time for the church. A time of celebration, and a time of hope as we look to the future."

The church offers regular worship services, a teen praise band, children's praise choir, Bible study and other ongoing and special events for its 142 members.

Martin became full-time pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church on July 1, 2004. The church is located at 313 W. Main Street, Emmitsburg.

Sign Creations

STORE FRONT *** WINDOWS
COMMERCIAL *** VEHICLES
MAGNETICS *** BANNERS
DECALS *** JOB SITE
100 Tacoma Street Thurmont, MD 21788
240-446-2273

Merry Christmas from The Fitzgerald Family

Fitzgerald's Auto Service

Repairs Service Maintenance Towing

"Get Dealer Service at a low home town price."

Only 3 Scooters left.
Save \$50 off regular price

Complete Auto Repair
Specializing in:

- Brakes
- Tune-up
- Alignment
- Suspension
- Tires & Exhaust

Is your car
Winterized?



Buy 4 tires & get a FREE alignment
As always, free mounting & balancing

301-447-6274

Pete Fitzgerald, Service Technician

17307 North Seton Ave. 25 Years Experience
Emmitsburg, MD 21727 Fully ASE Certified

130 S. Seton Ave.
Emmitsburg, 21727

Briggs Associates, Inc. • Real Estate Sales and Appraisals
Over 30 Years of Appraisal Experience
www.briggsassoc.com

"Merry Christmas"

"Thank you to the community
for letting us work with you
for another year."

FOR SALE:

- 173+ Acre Farm adjoins Mt. St. Mary's
- 301 West Main St. Sold
- Mountain Community, 2 story home, 24834 Pen Mar Road. - Sold
- Commercial Land for Lease near Sleep Inn Hotel. Excellent Frontage on US-15.

CONTACT US: Donald N. Briggs, Broker MAI, SRA
Libby Briggs, Appraiser

Phone: 301-447-3110
Fax: 301-447-3022
E-mail: sales@briggsassoc.com
Web Site: www.briggsassoc.com

Merry Christmas from The Glass Family

The Taney Corporation

Manufacturers of Wood Stairs & Stair Parts

Locally owned continuously
for over 46 Years

5130 Allendale Lane
Taneytown, Maryland 21787

Office: 410-756-6671
Fax: 410-756-4103
Visit us at www.taneystair.com

A sponsor of
The Emmitsburg Dispatch

A word from the pulpit 200 years and still going strong

BY REV. WADE MARTIN
Pastor

Trinity United Methodist Church

In 1805 William Moreland and William Shields had a dream of growing and building a church to the glory of God in Emmitsburg. Rev. Moreland embraced and worked toward this dream for 28 years. And in the summer of 1833, a little brick church known as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Emmitsburg was built.

The congregation worshipped in the little brick church until 1897,

when the present sanctuary was built. In 1957, yet another dream was born. The current fellowship hall, and the kitchen and bathrooms were built to accommodate a growing ministry.

200 years ago Rev. Moreland had a dream of a place where:

- People could meet in Christian fellowship;
- The Word of God would be taught and preached;
- People would come and bare their souls to the Lord;
- God's saving grace would be experienced;
- God's Word would be

received and acted on.

Trinity Church continues to live the dream of its ancestors by being a place of vital Christian ministry that brings glory to God, makes and equips disciples of Jesus Christ, and serves others in Christian love. As Trinity Church lives out this dream, it continues to bring honor to the past, celebrates the present with thanksgiving, and looks to the future with unbridled hope.

On Nov. 27, Trinity Church welcomed John Wesley (founder of Methodism) to worship. John Wesley (portrayed by Rev. Ken Valentine) shared with us a message focused on the beginnings of the Methodist movement and reminded us of our role in the world as Methodists.

On Dec. 4, we welcomed the Emmitsburg Children's Praise Choir and the Teen Praise Band who shared their gift of music with us as we continued our anniversary celebration. And on Dec. 11, Trinity Church concluded its month-long anniversary celebration with a visit by Bishop John Schol, Episcopal leader of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Schol was the first Methodist Bishop to visit Trinity Church in over 175 years. The first bishop was Francis Asbury back in the very early 1800s when what is now known as Trinity Church was a preaching station on a circuit served by traveling Methodist clergy.

Trinity is a vital and growing community of faith. If you are seeking a church home and want to make a difference in your life and the lives of others, please come visit us. All are welcome!

Emmitsburg Area Churches Christmas Schedule

Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Dec. 24 - 9 a.m. Mass, 7:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass
Dec. 25 - 9 a.m. Mass
Shrine Sites closed Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
Christmas Novena begins Tues., Dec. 27 at 1:30 p.m. Mass daily through Jan. 4.
Dec. 31, New Years Eve. 9 a.m. Mass - 1:30 p.m. Mass.
Jan. 1 - 9 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.
Shrine Sites closed New Years Day

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

Mass service discontinued
Dec. 15. Will resume Jan. 16, 2006

Elias Evangelical Lutheran

Dec. 24 - 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
Jan. 1, 2006 - 10:30 a.m. service

Emmitsburg Presbyterian

Dec. 24 - 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Eyler's Valley Chapel

Dec. 15 through Dec. 17 - 7 p.m.
Dec. 18 through Dec. 23 - 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 24 - 5, 6:30, 8, 9:30 and 11 p.m.

Incarnation United Church of Christ

Dec. 24 - 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes

Dec. 25 - confession 11:30, noon Mass
Dec. 31 - Vigil - 8 p.m.

- midnight. Mass at 11 p.m. Benediction at midnight
Jan. 1 - noon Mass

St. Anthony Shrine

St. Anthony's - Dec. 24 - 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. Vigil Mass
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Dec. 24 - 5 p.m. Vigil Mass (Parish Center)
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Dec. 25 - 9:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
Dec. 31 - 4 p.m. St. Anthony
Jan. 1 - 7 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. St. Anthony.
OLMC Jan. 1 - 8 a.m., (Church) 11 a.m. (Parish Center)
www.emmitsburg.net/sasolmc

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic

Dec. 24 - 4:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant and Mass, 7:30 Vigil Mass
Dec. 25 - 8 a.m.; 10:15 a.m. Mass only
Dec. 31 - 4:30 p.m. Mass only
Jan. 1 - 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m., noon Mass

Tom's Creek United Methodist

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Family Service 7 p.m., 11 p.m. Candlelight Service
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day 10 a.m.
Jan. 1 - 10 a.m.

Trinity United Methodist

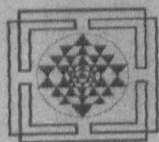
Dec. 24 - 4:30 p.m. Family Worship with Candlelight (Children's Service); 7 p.m. Traditional service with Candlelight & Holy Communion
Dec. 25 - 9 a.m. service with Holy Communion
Jan. 1 - 9 a.m. worship

Refer to the regular church schedule for locations and contact information.

Center of Life

Chiropractic, Pilates and Massage
Therapy

Celebrate the Holidays!
Help Those in Need!



8th Annual Open House
Wednesday, December 21st
9a.m. to 7p.m.

"It is an honor to serve the people of this community and share our LOVE and GRATITUDE to support programs that support our commitment to help those in need. We wish everyone a New Year full of Peace, Love and Health..." Dr. John and Marcia

All Proceeds Collected on this Day
Will Be Donated to Support the Reconstruction
Of Our Sister City Waveland, MS

For More Information call 301-271-2711

www.centeroflife.us

Dr. John C. Hagemann 56 Water St. Thurmont, Maryland

Speak Automotive, Inc.

We always have
vehicles under
5 grand in stock.

CLEARANCE SPECIALS

99 Ford Taurus 115k	\$ 2,995
99 Ford Taurus 61k	\$ 6,500
00 GMC Jimmy 77k	\$ 6,800
02 Pontiac Sunfire 67k	\$ 6,995
02 Ford Taurus 83k	\$ 7,500
01 Saturn 4DR 48k	\$ 7,500
02 Ford Taurus 63k	\$ 8,500
99 Dodge Durango 77k	\$ 8,995
01 Dodge Ram 67k Quad cab	\$13,995

FREE CarFax!

Priced way below Kelley Blue Book

See All Cars, Trucks, & SUV's at
speakautomotive.com

SERVICE CENTER

Complete Auto
Repair

Maryland State
Inspections:

Preventive Maintenance • Tires
Clutch • Batteries • Shocks
Air Conditioning • Muffler
Engine & Transmission Repair
/Replacement • Oil Changes
Brakes • Towing • Alignments
• Windshield Replacement

Call to
make
appointment!

Rt. 15 N. Thurmont, MD
Call Today 301-271-4700

ONE MORE TAVERN

135 Chesapeake Ave.
Emmitsburg, MD

301-447-6749

Steamed Shrimp Avail.
Crabs In Season
Full Breakfast Menu
Daily Lunch Specials

Friday Night Dinner Specials
Broasted Chicken Is Our Specialty!
Homemade Soups

Call Ahead For Lunch
Eat in or Carry out
"Serving Good Home Cookin"

Party Trays & Catering Available
Bonnie & Clarence Ohler
Shirley & Larry Little
Owners



"Happy Holidays"

Sen's

Cutting Edge Salon LLC
&
Tanning

Hair Care for the
Entire Family

Jennifer Weddle, Owner/Operator
Tanning
Gift Certificates Available
Styling & Tanning Products

301-271-0011
106B Frederick Road,
Thurmont

Located across from
Cozy Restaurant in Cozy Village

Swag making tradition continues in Emmitsburg

EMMITSBURG, Md. — For more than 30 years, making live evergreen swags to decorate the town's lampposts has been an annual tradition in Emmitsburg.

Initially a small group of women made the swags, without a lot of help. But this year, at least 30 people gathered in the town garage on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, including several children. The group made more than 100 swags between 9 and 11 a.m.

Joe Royer, Thurmont, and Jim Smith, Sabillasville, donated the greens to the town this year. The town maintenance crew collects the evergreens and then hangs the finished swags throughout the town.

Prior to 1973 or 1974, Emmitsburg used artificial decorations for the holidays. According to a Dispatch interview with Ann Gingell in 2001, using fresh greens was the idea of the late Jane Bollinger, a town commissioner at the time.

In the early 1970s, a group of local women began meeting in Bollinger's home after Thanksgiving to make pine swags to decorate the old lampposts in Emmitsburg. Then,

according to Ann Gingell, the group worked in "the little room at the bottom of the town office."

Around 1989 the town garage became their workspace, which, Gingell added, was "heaven for us." She continued, "But we were sort of alone and didn't have many people to help. Everyone thought it was beautiful but nobody wanted to help." There has always been a regular group of women working on the swags, but early on, never more than ten.

Emmitsburg Mayor James E. Hoover provided the names of those who worked on the swags this year. He explained why he had put children's names (those under age 19) in boldface type. "I mention this because I am happy to see that we have been able to get the kids interested and involved. Making the town decorations has been a long-lasting tradition, but unless the kids get involved it will become a thing of the past," Hoover said.

Those helping this year were

- ✶ April Adams
- ✶ Dale Adams
- ✶ Denny and Cindy Adams

- ✶ Steve and Pat Adams
- ✶ Guy and Betty Ann Baker
- ✶ Mary Jo and Elbert Botham
- ✶ JoAnn and **Jennifer** Boyd
- ✶ Mathew Boyd
- ✶ Bill (Doc) and Chata Carr
- ✶ Dottie Davis
- ✶ Frank, Julie and **Katie** Davis
- ✶ Tom Hoke
- ✶ Jim and Diana Hoover
- ✶ Bea and Vernon Keilholtz
- ✶ Karl, Patty, **Kellie** and **Emily** Kuykenrdall
- ✶ Carol Maddox
- ✶ Eva Miller
- ✶ Dottie Phelan
- ✶ Annetta Rapp
- ✶ Linda and Austin Umble
- ✶ Rodney, Laurie and **Tracy** Wivell

Look for a reminder about the town swag making in *The Dispatch* next November, but for those of you who plan far ahead — reserve the morning of Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006.

Town sponsors Christmas decoration contest

The town of Emmitsburg is sponsoring a Christmas decoration contest, with official judging taking place the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 20 between 6 and 7 p.m.

Prizes will be given in three categories: best decorated, children's choice and best decorated business. Prizes for the first two categories: first - \$50; second - \$30; third - \$20. Honorable mention certificates will also be awarded. Winners in the business category will receive certificates.

The town hopes to make this an annual event, and encourages everyone to participate.

Emmitsburg Community Chorus



—JENNIFER BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus shown here was one of the groups performing at the Carriage House on Dec. 5 during the town's Christmas tree lighting. The chorus also performed "A Glorious Night of Miracles" at St. Joseph Provincial House on Dec. 11.

Great Holiday Gifts

The Rebecca Pearl Gallery

Original Oil Paintings
Limited Edition Prints
Custom Framing
Greeting Cards

Now thru Christmas

306 W. Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD
301-447-2004

New Gallery Location
January 2006
3 East Main Street
Downtown - Thurmont

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10-5 or by appointment

"Clydesdale Groom" original watercolor 13 x 16

*Still time to order for
Christmas Gifts*

"A glimpse of yesteryear" (Thurmont Circa 1929)
by Rebecca Pearl for the 75th anniversary
of The Thurmont Lions Club.

This is a limited edition print - once the current inventory is depleted, it will not be possible to re-order - Prints available at \$50 each + tax.

Phone 301-271-4020 or 301-898-7004

North Pole

The Ott House

Luncheon Specials Daily.
Weekend Specials: Prime Rib,
All-you-can-eat Crab Clusters,
plus many other dinner specials

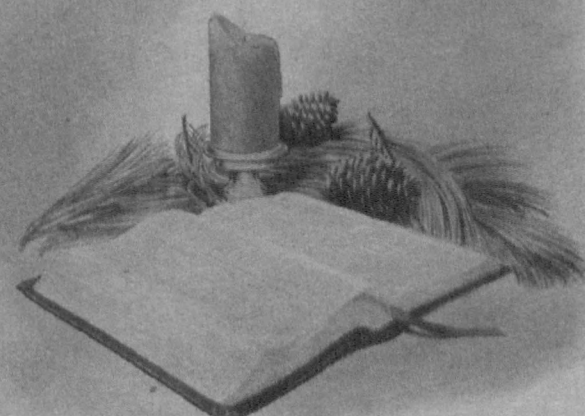
Fabulous Weekend Entertainment!

Dec. 2-3 Stick Time
Dec. 9-10 Georgia Lee
Dec. 16-17 Red Line
Dec. 23 Bloo Stoo
Dec. 30 Red Line

*Happy Holidays from everyone
at The Ott House*
5 West Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD 301-447-2625

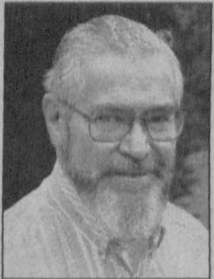
CANDLELIGHT & CAROLS CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

7pm Saturday, December 24th
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
110 Mt. Hope Road
Fairfield, PA



For More
Information,
Call 717-642-6767

The (retired) Ecologist With apologies to 2005: A Christmas card, with explanation



BY BILL
MEREDITH

Dispatch
Columnist

*The gentle journey jars to
stop; the drifting dream is done,
And now we'll walk as men
have walked through years not yet
begun.*

*For Christmas is a life-long
hope, and hope the stuff of years ...*

*The gentle journey wanders
on, through laughter, love and
tears.*

...Walt Kelly

Time speeds up as you grow older; December is here already. By the time this issue of *The Dispatch* hits the streets the winter solstice will nearly be upon us ... the shortest day of the year, and the official beginning of winter. It seems as if The Year of Our Lord MMV just got started, yet already

it is dying. Environmentalists will be glad to see it go.

We are fortunate to live in Emmitsburg, a part of the country that usually escapes the worst extremes of nature. The average low temperature drops only to 24 degrees, on January 24, and the average high, of 90 is reached on July 20. The actual extremes reached this year were 6 degrees in January and 100 degrees in July; both were bearable, if not comfortable, and each lasted only one day. We had some wet and dry spells, but no severe floods or droughts, and no killer tornadoes. The rest of the country was not so fortunate; drought, forest fires, floods, blizzards and hurricanes filled the national news.

Weather has always been variable on a short-term basis, and cyclic in the longer term. We all learned in grade school about the Pleistocene Epoch, when mile-thick glaciers covered much of the northern hemisphere. Since the last Ice Age ended, some 10,000 years ago, climate has fluctuated; the 13th century was warmer than it is now, and the early 18th century was cold

enough to be called the "Little Ice Age." The causes of these natural fluctuations are not universally agreed upon by scientists, but scientific opinion is nearly unanimous that human activities over the past century have caused the natural warming cycle to speed up. I first heard of the "greenhouse effect" when I was in college in the 1950s; since then, it has been documented so thoroughly that even politicians are aware of it. George W. Bush emphasized the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the 2000 presidential campaign, but as soon as he was elected he took the U. S. out of the Kyoto Protocol, and over the past five years his appointees and congressional allies have taken every opportunity to weaken EPA regulations on industrial emissions of greenhouse gases. The failure of our government to support the treaty now being negotiated at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Montreal is only the latest step in this record.

The reason given by the President for not supporting international efforts at climate

control is that it would be expensive enough to be a drain on the national economy. I am unable to decide whether this is hypocrisy or simple ignorance. If it is ignorance, the recent hurricane season should have been an instructive lesson. Hurricanes have always happened, of course, and the laws of probability guaranteed that New Orleans would be hit by one sooner or later; but the number and severity of them this year and the various other weather phenomena that have impacted the nation are not merely the result of random chance. The effect of these storms has already cost us far more than joining the Kyoto Protocol would have; the only difference is that the cost is being borne by the common tax-paying citizens rather than the industrial fat cats. Even without the billions wasted in the FEMA mismanagement fiasco, we will continue to pay for this year in higher insurance rates and energy costs for years to come. And those years to come will continue to exact payment from us in the form of the readily predictable disasters they will bring.

A casual reading of the comments above might suggest to some readers that I am angry about these matters. To avoid any misconceptions, let me state clearly that indeed I am angry; few things upset me more than duplicity and

hypocrisy. It is at times like this that I remember Walt Kelly, who also hated these evils and whose wit and wisdom helped many of us through dark times from the McCarthy witch-hunts of the 1950s to the social upheavals of the '60s and '70s. Kelly's comic strip character, Pogo, was his alter ego. Pogo was the most humane of possums: honest, gentle, caring, and understanding of human foibles. He was capable of getting angry when faced by injustice, but he never stayed angry and was always ready to forgive. I miss him at times like this.

When I was teaching, I used to put a panel from Kelly's cartoon on my bulletin board each year as my Christmas card to the students. It showed Pogo and his friend Albert pulling their boat to shore and walking off toward unknown future adventures in the Okefenokee Swamp, and it was accompanied by a Christmas poem entitled "With Apologies to the Year Gone By." I have mislaid it, so I had to write it out from memory; I may not have the words exactly right, but no matter. The thought is what I want to share. As we leave 2005 and wander on into the rest of our lives, it is certain that there will be tears; let us hope and pray that there will be some laughter and love also. So to all who read this column, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

FREE 10-Year Parts/Labor Warranty

with purchase of a new Trane XLi High Efficiency
Heating or Air Conditioning System.

Offer expires 1-31-06.

Not valid with any other offer or discount.

Holtzople



"Guaranteed same day
emergency service
for your broken home
air conditioning or
heating system, when
a call is placed by noon."

Heating & Air Conditioning

Family Owned and Operated

(301) 898-3494

A division of Holtzople's Inc.

1 (866) 500-HEAT

(MD-HVAC 02-21528)

Come visit us online at holtzople.com

See us at frederick.com keyword hvac

MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Mount St. Mary's Finishes Third in Nation IN COLLEGE FED CHALLENGE

A six-member team of Mount St. Mary's University economics students finished third in the nation in the Fed Challenge competition November 29, in Washington, D.C.

Three economists, including Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, presided over the national championship competition at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors Building. Northwestern, the defending national champion, took the title again this year, while SUNY at Geneseo was the runner-up.

Team members from the Mount included senior Jennifer Grim; juniors Katherine Herzog, Catherine Muething and Philip Bauman; and sophomores Brian Ogle and Matt Sanicola. Mount St. Mary's is the only school to have participated in all nine College Fed Challenge competitions. The Mount won the contest once (1999), and has placed second twice (1997 and 2001).

"I am delighted with this year's team performance. The Mount looks forward each fall semester to the Fed Challenge, since it gives our economics students an important project in which they can display their skills and knowledge," said Frank Zarnowski, professor of economics and moderator for the Mount squad. "To have the opportunity to compete for the national championship, against schools like Northwestern and SUNY at Geneseo, speaks very highly of the quality of our students, and the Mount's economics program."

The Baltimore Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond introduced the College Fed Challenge in 1996. The competition asks economics students to undertake research, analyze data about current and near term economic conditions, and make a 20-minute presentation to a panel of Federal Reserve judges—in which they recommend policy for the Federal Reserve—and defend their position.

The College Fed Challenge is intended to help students become more knowledgeable about the Fed and the



The Mount's winning Fed Challenge Team with a check for \$7,500 (the 3rd place prize) from the contest's corporate sponsor—Moody's Investment Service. Moody's designates that \$5,000 be split among team members for scholarship money and that the other \$2,500 go to the university. L-R: Dr. Frank Zarnowski, professor of business, accounting and economics; Matt Sanicola, '08; Dr. Christopher Blake, vice president for academic affairs; Catherine Muething, '07; Katherine Herzog, '07; Jennifer Grim, '06 and team captain; President Thomas H. Powell; Brian Ogle, '08; and Philip Bauman, '07.

decision-making process of the Federal Open Market Committee, the Federal Reserve's monetary policy-setting group.

Each team's presentation included a discussion of current economic and financial conditions, near-term forecast of economic and financial conditions that affect monetary policy, identification of risks that threaten the economic well-being of the country, and a recommendation as to the action the Fed should take with regard to short-term interest rates.

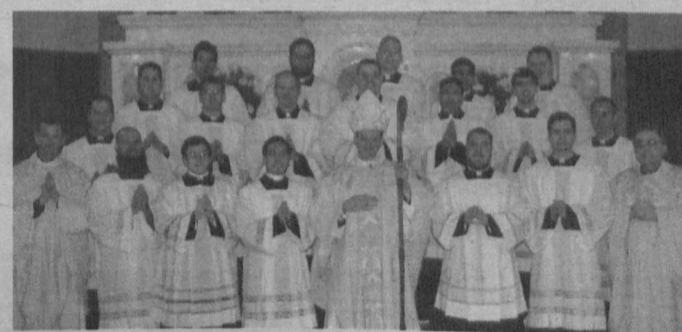
During the question and answer session, judges asked questions about arguments made or data addressed in the team's presentation, how policy-makers might respond to hypothetical economic scenarios, and the Fed's monetary policy-making and implementation process.

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY AT MOUNT ST. MARY'S SEMINARY


The Most Reverend William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, celebrated Mass with Admission to Candidacy at Mount St. Mary's Seminary November 18.

Among the 18 seminarians of the third theology class admitted to Candidacy were: Denis Marcel Beauregard (Brother Andrew) from the Archdiocese of Boston/Franciscans of the Primitive Observance; Jesse Bolger and Michael James Foppiano from the Archdiocese of Baltimore; Kevin Michael Butler, John Paul Lovell, and Josue Vargas-Lara from the Diocese of Rockford; Lawrence Daniel Carney, III and Matthew David Marney from the Diocese of Wichita; Richard Mario Esposito, Benjamin Paul Holdren, and Rafael Rodriguez-Fuentes from the Diocese of Lincoln; John Russell Johnson and David Alan Koetter from the Diocese of Savannah; Paul Dean (Phu Duc) Nguyen from the Archdiocese of Washington; Adam Andrew Streitenberger and Joseph Thomas Yokum from the Diocese of Columbus; Christopher Thomas Vaccaro from the Diocese of Arlington; and Peter Karl Zorjan from the Diocese of Peoria.

The rite of admission to candidacy for ordination as deacons and priests is celebrated when the candidates have reached a maturity of purpose and are shown to have the necessary qualifications.



National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes



The Nativity of the Lord
SUNDAY DECEMBER 25
11:30 Confessions, 12:00 noon Mass

Vigil of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
SATURDAY DECEMBER 31
8:00 p.m. 12 midnight
11:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
SUNDAY JANUARY 1
1:30 p.m. Confessions, 12:00 noon Mass

Noon Mass every Sunday
Group Pilgrimages please call: 301.447.5318
fax: 301.447.5917 | email: grotto@msmary.edu
web: www.msmary.edu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stay up-to-date with Mount events by visiting www.msmary.edu, click on "upcoming events" in the upper right corner. For athletic schedules, stats and player interviews, visit www.mountathletics.com

ADMISSIONS EVENTS

Admissions Transfer Orientation

January 12

In-coming transfer students have the opportunity to become officially acquainted with all facets of The Mount's campus.

ATHLETICS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

LAFAYETTE

January 3, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART

January 12, 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

PRINCETON

December 28, 7 p.m.

MORGAN STATE

December 30, 5 p.m.

SACRED HEART

January 16, 7 p.m.

QUINNIPIAC

January 19, 7 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Writing Contest!

Open to all students in the Emmitsburg, Thurmont, and Fairfield schools.

Topic: If Dr. King were alive today, what would be his dream?

The purpose of this essay contest is to encourage students to reflect on Dr. King's legacy of peace, activism, and social justice. In writing this essay, think about a particular issue of our time that Dr. King would want to change, why this issue is important, how YOU could be part of Dr. King's dream, and what YOU might do to realize this dream.

Rules

- The essay must be a minimum length of:
 - 750 words for High School students
 - 500 words for Middle School students
 - 150 words for Elementary School students
- Entries should be typed or handwritten legibly and are to be in English.
- The name, address, home/cell phone number, school name, grade, and age of the student must be submitted on a cover page accompanying the essay.
- All essays submitted become the property of Mount St. Mary's University and may be displayed in University's publications or in the local newspaper.

Deadline

On or before January 10, 2006

Award

1st prize—\$50

2nd prize (in each category)—citation.

The winners will be invited to read excerpts of their essay during our Annual Emmitsburg-Thurmont Dr. King's Commemorative celebration on the evening of January 18, 2006 at 7 p.m. at Mount St. Mary's University.

Contact

Please submit essays to Paulett McIntosh, Director of Intercultural Development at mcintosh@msmary.edu or Office of Intercultural Development, Mount St. Mary's University, 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. For additional information, call (301) 447-5720.

EDUCATION

Catoctin High senior arranges "Sounds of Frederick" benefit concert

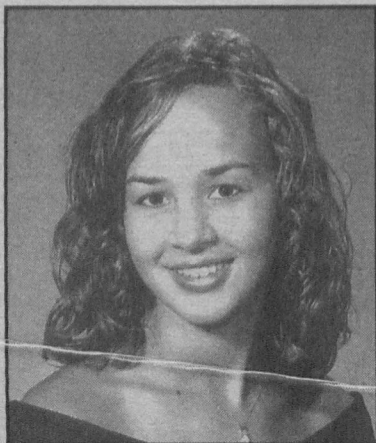
BY SUSAN ALLEN
Contributing Writer

Throughout Frederick County, high school seniors, and some juniors as well, are at work on required graduation projects. Whitney Crist, one of 237 seniors at Catoctin High School (CHS), was inspired by an aunt's battle with cancer to combine her musical talent and career goals to produce a public concert.

"The Sounds of Frederick," will be held Dec. 16 at the Frederick Church of the Brethren. All proceeds will be donated to support breast cancer research.

In April 2005 Crist's aunt, Mary Jane Roop, was diagnosed with breast cancer. During Roop's treatment, Crist, a trumpeter and CHS marching band drum major, became passionate about finding a cure for the disease.

When the school year began, she submitted her idea of holding a charity concert to the CHS Guidance Office for approval. Part of her objective was to create a community event featuring local talent. Organizing the concert would also help prepare her for her intended career in music education — she hopes to attend West Chester University in Pennsylvania — and would also "make a difference in the community." She already had an outline, including a list of musicians



Whitney Crist, Catoctin High School senior, organizer of "Sounds of Frederick," a benefit concert on Dec. 16, featuring a number of local musicians who are donating their time to help her raise money for breast cancer research.

she planned to ask to participate.

Crist asked Bill Caputo, a family friend who is a singer and sketch writer/director with The Frederick Catoctones men's chorus, to be her mentor. He encouraged her to interview her aunt (now cancer-free) about her experience as a breast cancer patient, "to use her close relationship and her passion about the issue to reach other people."

Finding a location for the concert was a big obstacle, and Caputo approached the Frederick Church of

the Brethren on Crist's behalf. The church, he says, "is very generous and open-armed" in allowing local music groups, including the Catoctones, to rehearse there free of charge, in exchange for giving occasional concerts at the church. "Whitney took on tremendous responsibility (in planning and organizing the project)," continued Caputo, which demonstrates "her maturity and serious character."

Those qualities are echoed by CHS Band Director Matthew Curran, who selected Crist as drum major for the band. "She is a natural leader ... very firm but friendly with band members, (and) an extraordinary musician." She has played with the Frederick Symphonic Band, Frederick Regional Youth Orchestra, and the Frederick County Performing Arts Company. Crist was selected as the outstanding drum major at the Tournament of Bands Chapter V Championships in November. (Chapter V includes high school bands in Frederick, Montgomery, Carroll, Howard and Baltimore counties.)

Crist has enlisted an impressive array of musical performers, all of whom are donating their time and talents. The concert will feature the award-winning Frederick Catoctones and The Frederick Chorale, both well known in Frederick County. Also appearing will be vocalist Lauren Eberhart, a music educator at Mt. Airy Middle School; Mom's



The A Cappella Showcase Chorus, a 25-member group begun in July 2005, is one of several musical groups performing in "The Sounds of Frederick" benefit concert on Dec. 16 at Frederick Church of the Brethren. The evening is being organized by CHS senior Whitney Crist to raise funds for breast cancer research.

Night Out, a Sweet Adeline quartet; and The A Cappella Showcase Chorus, a 25-member mixed chorus founded in July of this year. The CHS Band will take part in the concert, accompanying noted trumpeter Dr. John Pursell, a 21-year veteran of the U. S. Air Force Band and trumpet clinician for Yamaha Corporation of America. Crist will direct the band in

two selections from their 2005 field show and perform as trumpet soloist.

"Sounds of Frederick" will perform at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16 at the Frederick Church of the Brethren, 201 Fairview Avenue, Frederick. Tickets will be sold at the door for a \$15 minimum donation. Information: 301-898-3926.

Community Foundation scholarship fund honors George Randall

A new Community Foundation scholarship fund has been established by Elizabeth Randall in honor of her husband George, editor and publisher of *The Frederick News-Post*, who died in 2004.

Frederick County residents studying at the post-secondary level in journalism and/or photography are eligible for the scholarships. Preference will be given to Catoctin High School (CHS) graduates wishing to attend Frederick Community College. Randall and his family lived in the area of Frederick County served by CHS.

Tax-deductible contributions to The George E. Randall Memorial Scholarship Fund will be accepted at any time in any amount. Checks should be made payable to The Community Foundation of Frederick County and mailed to 312 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701. Insert "George Randall" in the check's memo line. Donations can also be made online through the Community Foundation's Web site at www.cffredco.org.

For more information, contact the Community Foundation at 301-695-7660.

Maze thanks supporters - attended National Young Leaders Conference

Catoctin High School Junior, Morgan Maze, recently attended the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference, which invites top-notch scholars from across the nation, introduces these future leaders to Congress, the Senate, the Supreme Court, and other aspects of today's government by allowing them to observe these groups in action. Students then create models and simulations of the Supreme Court making rulings, Congress passing bills, and the president and cabinet making crucial decisions in a time of threatened national security.

While attending the conference, Maze had the opportunity to meet some



of today's important leaders including Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Paul Sarbanes, Representative Roscoe Bartlett, and ABC News Correspondent Jonathan Karl. While visiting Capitol Hill, she watched Congress in action, sat in on a Congressional committee hearing, a briefing at the National Press Club, and observed the Supreme Court.

Maze was able to attend the

six-day conference with the help of local residents and businesses who provided financial assistance for her trip. She would like to thank the following people and businesses for their encouragement and support:

Paul and Joyce Orndorff, Creosote Affects, Emmitsburg Glass Co., Paul's Pit Stop, Knights of Columbus, Curly Sue's Hairworks, Emmitsburg Lions Club, Richard and Kathy Queen, Terry and Shelly Draper, Karen Draper, Doug and Ann Draper, Randy and Debbie Draper, Robert and Doris Maze.

After graduation, Maze would like to attend the United States Naval Academy where she hopes to pursue a career in law. Morgan is the daughter of Kelli Maze of Emmitsburg and Steven "Sam" Maze of Gamer, N.C.

"Relax and enjoy your Holidays"
TOTAL SPA REPAIR, L.L.C.
Quality and Dependable Service

Servicing All Makes and Models
SERVICE • COVERS • ACCESSORIES
— CERTIFIED & INSURED —

Delivery
Spring Check-ups and Openings
Maintenance

Relocation
Winterization
Drain, Clean & Fill

FREE Chemical delivery in the Thurmont, Emmitsburg & Lewistown areas with minimum \$10 order.

14517 Holstein Court
Thurmont, Md 21788

Ph: 301-271-6978
Fx: 301-271-4787

EDUCATION

Sabillasville Elementary students help hurricane-damaged school

BY LISA CANTWELL
Contributing Writer

Students at Sabillasville Elementary are sending books and small gifts to help a former classmate and his hurricane-damaged school in Kilin, Miss. this holiday season.

PTA President Janet Fogle and Vice President Amy Watson got the idea when they searched the National PTA Web site's "Adopt a school" program.

"We remembered that former student Sam Werschky moved to one of the areas that got hit and we contacted the school to see how we could help," said Fogle. Watson added, "We knew we couldn't

adopt the entire school because we only have around 140 students compared to their 600. I contacted Sam's first grade teacher and she suggested that we help his class by becoming pen pals and sending books."

Fogle and Watson then created the "Share the Joy of Reading" project for Sam's damaged school. Sabillasville Elementary students are collecting paperback books to send to East Hancock Elementary to replace library books lost in the flood. A decorated box in the lobby of Sabillasville school is filling up fast, but more books are needed.

Watson learned that East Hancock Elementary suffered little structural damage, but most

supplies inside the school were lost, and a private preschool a few blocks away was destroyed by the storm.

Watson spoke directly with Sam's teacher, Ms. Weissbohn, and found out that all the books she read in the classroom were destroyed.

"Many of the children's books at home were damaged as well. Because families are busy trying to replace the necessities in their homes, she fears that reading books for the children will be left out," Watson added. The teacher requested that books be sent for home use as well as for the classroom.

According to Watson, Weissbohn also requested small

novelty gift items, small action figures, cars, markers, toy jewelry, etc., which are given to students as incentives.

First grade teacher Melinda Bentz said that her students were very concerned about Sam after news of Hurricane Katrina's devastation. "They came to me asking about him and wanted to do something to help," Bentz said. The class will send letters and cards to Sam and his classmates.

The community is invited to participate by donating new or nearly new paperback books appropriate for grades K-6, along with small trinkets or novelty toys

and monetary donations to cover postage.

"It is a great cause and a great lesson in giving for our kids this time of year," Watson said. "I am a firm believer in reading and I believe our community will help out," she added. For more information, e-mail Watson at mtntopgang@yahoo.com.

Items can be left in the "Share the Joy" box in the Sabillasville Elementary lobby during school hours until Friday, Jan. 6. Please leave monetary donations with the office, with checks payable to "Sabillasville PTA." The school will be closed from Dec. 23 until Jan. 3, 2006.

Catoctin High School's 2006 graduating class 'Safe & Sane' needs volunteers, financial support

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Contributing Writer

Every year since 1990, parents of Catoctin High School (CHS) seniors begin planning "Safe and Sane" graduation celebrations well before the start of the school year.

Safe and Sane is a non-profit organization, dedicated to preventing drug and alcohol-related tragedies on graduation night. They are sponsoring two events, a senior class picnic in May 2006, and the graduation party following commencement on June 8, 2006. The theme for this year's party is "The Sky's the Limit."

Planning, orchestrating, and fundraising for an all-night chaperoned event for as many as 237 students is "a BIG project," says 2006 Safe and Sane president Carolyn Brown. Typically more

than 96% of graduates attend the party, which is held in Knott Arena on the Mount St. Mary's University campus. This is Brown's second consecutive year working on the committee, and she knows they need "all the help they can get." The group is actively recruiting more parents of seniors and other volunteers.

Although renting the arena is costly, it gives students access to a swimming pool and athletic facilities. There is additional space to accommodate other games and activities. Some of those games are also rented, and the committee provides the prizes. They rely on donations from individuals and businesses, and community support for various fundraising activities. According to Brown, last year's budget was nearly \$50,000.

Currently 2006 Safe and Sane and The Rosensteel Studio are

offering a gift certificate plan which will benefit the group. Brown is heading the effort (information: 301-447-2031.) They are selling custom-made teddy bears, outfitted in CHS sports jackets, at CHS wrestling matches and boys and girls basketball games (information: Kathy Delauter, 301-271-4280.) Two basket bingo parties are already scheduled, one on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m. and another on Friday evening, Apr. 21.

The CHS 2006 Safe and Sane committee motto is "Nothing is more important than keeping our kids safe." No CHS graduate has been involved in a drug or alcohol-related incident on graduation night since the organization was founded. Donations can be sent to CHS 2006 Safe and Sane, Attn: Jean Muth, 14745 Sabillasville Rd., Thurmont, MD 21788.

DOA urges caution when buying firewood

ANNAPOLIS, MD — The Maryland Department of Agriculture (DOA) issued an advisory Nov. 17 about the sale of firewood within the state.

Maryland regulations stipulate that firewood can only be sold by the cord, or fraction of a cord. Using any other term, such as truckload, rack, face cord, or pile, is *illegal*, according to DOA.

"Most consumers do not understand the meaning of a cord, or they are unaware of the many ways wood can be stacked to look like a cord when it isn't," said DOA Weights and Measures Chief Will Wotthlie. He added, "If the seller uses a term other than a cord or a fraction of a cord, consumers should be suspicious."

A cord is the amount of wood stacked and stowed in a well-compacted manner in a space of 128 cubic feet. The stack is

typically four feet wide, eight feet long, and four feet high, with no internal gaps.

Bulk sales of firewood must be accompanied by a delivery ticket containing the date of delivery, name and address of the seller and buyer, quantity of wood delivered, cost and type of wood, and the license number or other identifying number of the vehicle transporting the wood.

"We recommend that consumers contact the seller immediately if there appears to be any discrepancy and attempt to resolve the matter," Wotthlie said. "If the seller can't or won't correct the problem, consumers should call us before burning any of the wood."

Contact the weights and measures office at 410-841-5790 or 1-800-492-5590.

Light up your Holiday Season with a visit to
Creekside Café
210 N. Church St. • Thurmont, MD • 301-271-3794
Tues. & Wed. 11am - 8pm • Thurs. & Sat. 11am - 9pm • Sat. 3 - 9pm

Steaks • Seafood • Sandwiches • Cocktails

New Year's Eve Dinner Special
(Served 3 - 9 pm)
New York Strip Steak w/ petite crab imperial,
Creamy Red Potatoes, Soup/Salad, Roll/Butter
\$23.99
Make your reservations early!
For the perfect gift...
A Creekside Café Gift Certificate

We will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to spend time with our families.
Happy Holidays from all of us at Creekside Café

Larry Bishop
Licensed Master Electrician



L.W. BISHOP & SON
Electric

Commercial/ Residential
Licensed & Insured
717-642-9913

SPORTS & RECREATION

Registering high on the "me-meter"

BY A.J. RUSSO
Sports Editor

Terrell Owens can now do sit-ups in his driveway until his abs bust, because he won't be playing for the Philadelphia Eagles. The Eagles suspended Owens indefinitely, two days after he criticized the organization for not publicly recognizing his 100th career touchdown catch.

The Eagles issued a statement that said Owens was suspended "for conduct detrimental to the team." The All-Pro wide receiver apologized, but the damage was already done.

It's unlikely Owens will be paid for sitting out, the collective bargaining agreement of the NFL states that a player can be suspended for up to four games without pay for conduct detrimental to the team.

Which brings up the subject of this column. What type of behavior is detrimental to the team?

The answer: Any conduct,

which places the individual before the team and has an adverse effect on the team or organization.

It is the reason why the NFL restricts celebration in the end zone and the NBA now has a dress code. It is the reason coaches often employ the "team punishment" (when a player blunders the whole team is punished).

There's an important reason why coaches and managers place such emphasis on encouraging players to be selfless and discouraging them to be selfish. It's simple. The team is more successful when players are working toward a common goal — winning. In fact, the work ethic learned by players who are selfless is a valuable lesson in life. The success of a business, a scientific team, or a service organization often depends on many individuals working hard for the success of the whole group.

Sure there's room for a little selfishness. Many feel they need to be paid what they're worth and are not afraid to ask. Will asking affect

the success of the team? It will when the individual doesn't do his or her work in protest, or when the protest distracts from the focus of the team's preparation.

At the time of the writing of this column, the Eagles were 4 wins and 4 losses, coming off a loss to the Redskins without TO, and Owens and his agent were begging for the birds to reinstate him, claiming he had already apologized more than an unfaithful husband.

But, so far, the Eagles organization is holding firm. Even if arbitration results in the reduction of Owens' suspension from four games to two, they say they will still sit him

out for the remainder of the season.

Realizing that his late apologies were probably motivated by money, not sincerity, and lackluster football without Owens this season is better than a future with tumultuous TO, even the fans want him gone.

This is a test for owners and players around the league, a chance to take a stance — team or individual with talent, which do they value most? Owens is a great talent, but his "me-meter" registers off the charts.

But, let's face it, there are owners and coaches out there salivating at the prospect of seeing him streaking toward their end zone, wearing their

team colors. And, sadly, money talks in pro sports, so sports writers in cities like Atlanta are sharpening their pencils and charging their PC batteries.

A.J. Russo, Ph.D., is a professor at Mount Saint Mary's University and the author of nine novels and more than 30 scientific papers. He is the former head men's lacrosse coach at RIT and Mount St. Mary's University. Russo's novels, including his newest, "Lost Girl of the Sudan" and "Blacks of their Eyes" are all available at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of Mount Saint Mary's University.

High school winter sports preview

BY MEGAN ZIMMERMAN
Contributing Writer

High school winter sports are shaping up, and Fairfield and Catocin High Schools coaches told *The Dispatch* they have promising teams for the upcoming season.

Entering only their second season, the Fairfield wrestling team and coaches are looking forward to another year of needed experience. The school recently added a wrestling room, so the athletes will "now have an actual place to call home and work hard in," says Drake D'Angelo, Fairfield's Athletic Director. "The athletes are looking to compete more, learn more, and work harder," D'Angelo said.

The past few seasons have been rebuilding years for Fairfield boys' basketball team, and this season "there are a lot of young kids shaping up," according to D'Angelo. This winter, the boys' varsity team will allow 9th graders

to join, meaning the team will now consist of athletes from 9th through 12th grade. The team has advanced to state competition in previous years, and is looking forward to a successful season.

Although Fairfield girls' basketball team is relatively new this year, "It's an excellent team," D'Angelo said. The majority of last year's starters are back, including senior Lauren Beckley, who holds the title of Fairfield's all-time leading female scorer. "The girls have a lot of strength," D'Angelo noted, adding, "Overall, our athletics are strong for a small school."

As for Catocin, Tom Sherald, Athletic Director, thinks this will be a promising season. "There are high expectations for all of the teams," he said.

Amy Murray, Catocin girls' basketball team coach, agrees, "We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we're excited." She says they have a "solid group" of female athletes

for the basketball season who have been preparing all year with open gyms and summer leagues. "All of the girls work hard and are very dedicated," Murray added.

Sherald says the Catocin boys' basketball team may surprise many this season with their strength and quickness. "We try to instill strength in our athletes," said Ryan Oman, the boys' basketball coach. The team also has several seniors eager to step into the leadership position. "We've been the underdog, and I think it works to our advantage," Oman said.

Catocin's wrestling team has a "returning slim group of outstanding wrestlers," Sherald said. Currently, not all weight classes are filled, but the individual wrestlers have high potential. "The team is made up of young, good athletes," the coach said.

Watch the pages of *The Dispatch* for ongoing coverage of this winter's local sports season.

Happy Holidays

Carriage House Inn

Emmitsburg, MD

Give a Gift everyone can Enjoy
Holiday Gift Certificates Available

You're invited to our
Winter Wine Dinner
"A Celebration of Twenty Years"

Enjoy an Evening of
Fine Wines and Exquisite Cuisine
with soft Piano Music by Linda.

January 20th
Jo Ann's Ballroom
at 6:30 pm
Reservations Required

View menu at web-site
www.carriagehouseinn.info

301-447-2366

Happy Holidays from the staff of EELC

Learning starts here at:
Emmitsburg Early Learning Center
VALUABLE COUPON!

- Accepting ages 18 months – 12 years
- Hours of operation: 5:45 to 6:00 pm
- Preschool and School age Programs
- Full and Part-time Care
- Before & After School Care with Transportation to: Mother Seton, Emmitsburg Elementary, Fairfield Elementary & Middle.
- Nutritious Breakfast, Lunch and Snack
- Educational activities for all ages
- Featuring "High Reach" Preschool Curriculum

Sliding Scale based on Family Income

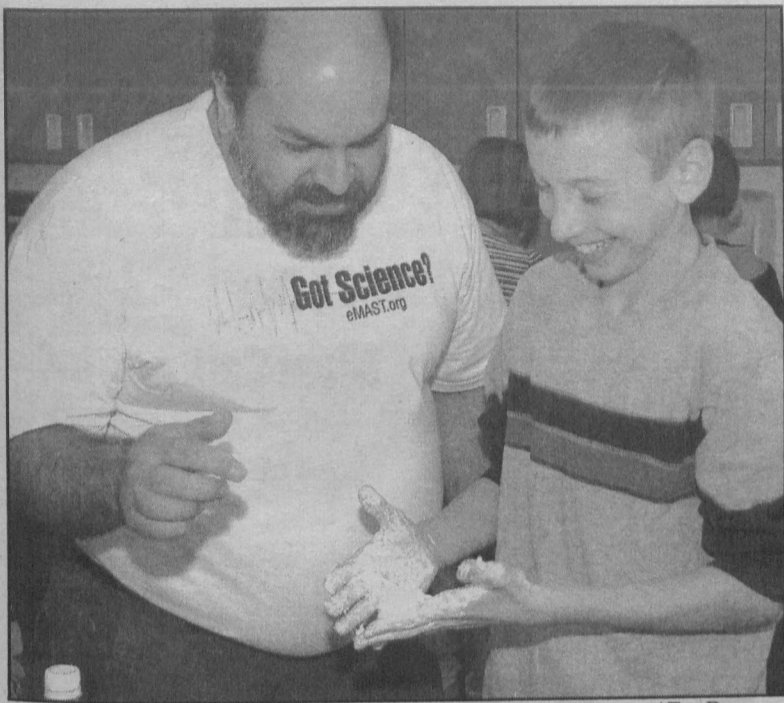
Stop by today at: 16840 South Seton Avenue or call 301-447-6100

Present this coupon and receive your first week FREE!

(Great Value * New Enrollment)

Proud to be a United Way Agency

CLIP 'N SAVE!



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

Hands-on chemistry

Walkersville Chemistry teacher Nusret Hisim (L) helps Christopher McKenna of Emmitsburg with his experiment that has gone awry. More than 20 children, along with 10 adults, attended the Emmitsburg Library's "Chemistry 101" program on Nov. 19. The hands-on chemistry workshop was hosted by the Walkersville Chemistry Club.

Girls' softball registration in January

Catoctin Recreation Council will hold signups for girls' softball on Jan. 18, 19 and 20, 2006 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Thurmont Middle School.

Signups will be for the following age groups: 8U (born in or after 1997), 10U (born in or after 1995), 12U (born in or after 1993), 14U (born in or after 1991), 16U (born in or after 1989). Registration cost is \$60 and you MUST have a copy of the player's birth certificate.

Games will be played in the Frederick County Girls Softball League. For more information or a copy of the registration form, contact Bob Marlow at 301-271-7063 or Mike Walters at 301-271-7040.

✓ Vigilant Hose Company Christmas Tree Sale ✓



We will be selling Christmas Trees starting November 26, 2005 at Noon.

Santa will be visiting December 3, 2005 from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

We will have 6 - 8 ft. trees for \$30.00.

Arts & Entertainment

Make room for some fun in your holiday calendar

It's beginning to look a lot like the holidays all across the area. To help organize your calendar and add a few "want to do" activities into the mass of the "have to do" ones, *The Dispatch* has developed a holiday lineup. While these are not all of the activities going on in the area, squeezing a few of these events into your schedule will help you find some merriment in the midst of all the hustle and bustle.

Christmas Exhibit at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Through Dec. 31. The exhibit focuses focus on 19th century Christmas traditions and covers the celebration of Christmas by both soldiers in the field and their families at home. 48 E. Patrick St. Frederick. 301-695-1864.

Mother Goose Holiday Sing-Along. Through Dec. 31. Presented by the Fun Company. When Mother Goose has to throw a holiday party, she enlists the help of Jack and Jill and many other story staples to create a delightful celebration. Maryland Ensemble Theater, 31 W. Patrick St. Frederick. 301-694-4744.

Gettysburg Yuletide Festival. Through Dec. 31. This event is one of Gettysburg's annual holiday highlights. Includes house tours, Christmas parade, holiday dessert tasting, caroling, holiday concerts, arts and crafts, fireworks and many other special offerings. Call 717-334-8151 for details.

An Old Fashioned (Radio) Christmas. Through Jan. 7 at Way-Off Broadway Theater. Set in the 1950s radio station of WWOB, join the on-air personalities as they get ready for Christmas. \$22-36. Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, 5 Willowdale Drive, Frederick. 301-662-6600.

Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree. Through Jan. 8 at Way Off Broadway Dinner Theater. The story begins with the arrival of the most beautiful tree, but Mr. Willowby finds that it is too small, so he cuts off the top and gives it to the maid for her tree. She also finds that it is too tall, so she cuts it off and gives it to the gardener. As the procession of people and animals bring the ever-smaller treetop into their homes, the tree is passed on. Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, Willow Tree Plaza, Rt. 40 West, Frederick. \$10.50. 301-662-6600. www.wayoffbroadway.com.

"White Christmas," Dec. 16, 8 p.m. See this holiday classic movie on the Weinberg Screen. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St., Frederick. 301-228-2828.

Kathy Mattea, Songs and the Season. Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Grammy Award-winning musician performs an evening of extraordinary music, including selections from her latest album, "Right Out of Nowhere." Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St., Frederick. 301-228-2828.

Rockapella, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Rockapella will celebrate with its completely original take on the holidays, adding its smooth edge to the season's warm heart. From very unexpected takes on classic favorites to brand new originals destined to be classics, audiences can expect to be tickled and touched by a holiday performance like no other. Eichelberger Performing Arts Center, 195 Stock St., Hanover, Pa. 717-637-7086.

The Weinberg Winterfest, Dec. 18, 3 p.m. Sing along with the Mighty Wurlitzer, enjoy a special film and see Santa's arrival/ Admission is free with canned food or cash donation for the Frederick Community Action Agency. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St. 301-228-2828.

A Christmas Offering, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. A sampler of holiday favorites by the region's favorite performers. The concert is free and open to the public. Offerings are appreciated. Chapel of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. 717-334-6286 (ext. 2100).

A Scottish Christmas, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. Featuring Scottish Fiddle champion Bonnie Rideout who play Scottish carols, wassail tunes, hymns and jigs. Celtic musicians and dancers will also perform. The Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg, Pa. 717-337-8200.

A&E Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

For Children

Jan. 14 through March 26 - Rumpelstiltskin. After a simple miller's daughter is imprisoned after he boasts to the king that she can spin straw into gold, a mysterious and magical little man appears to save the day. Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, Willow Tree Plaza, Rt. 40 West, Frederick. \$10.50. 301-662-6600. www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Galleries, Exhibits, Art Shows

Through Dec. 24 - Camera Clique and the Delaplaine Member's Cash and Carry Show. The Camera Clique hosts its annual photography

exhibit and the Delaplaine will exhibit small works which can be purchased on the spot. Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center, 40 S. Carroll St. 301-698-0656.

Concerts

Dec. 17 - Holiday Pops Concert: Sounds of the Season. 3 p.m. Works by Corelli, Respighi and seasonal favorites. JB Kussmaul Theater, Frederick Community College, 7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick. 301-663-8476.

Dec. 20 - Messiah Sing-Along. 8 p.m. Conductor Judy DeBose leads the Frederick Chamber Singers, orchestra, professional soloists, and all who want to sing along in Handel's Christmas masterpiece. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St. Frederick. 301-228-2828.

Jan. 21 - Legends of Yesterday: The Beatles, Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly. 8 p.m. They are all back in this unforgettable tribute to rock'n roll's early legends. \$25-30. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St. Frederick. 301-228-2828.

Dance

Dec. 16 - Swing Dancing. Music by the FCC Jazz Orchestra. Lessons 8-9 p.m. Band plays until midnight. Walkersville Town Hall, 21 W. Frederick St. Walkersville. \$12. 410-635-8974.

Dec. 17 - Ballroom Dancing. 7:30 p.m. Professional instructors lead a variety of ballroom dances. Walkersville Town Hall, 21 W. Frederick St. Walkersville. \$10. 301-339-2535.

Double Coupons
Thursday is
"Senior Citizens Day"
See Store
for Details

Jubilee

Emmitsburg, MD

301-447-6688

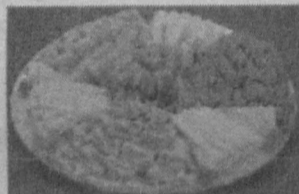
Home of the
Original
"1 Day"
Meat Sale

Jubilee is your Holiday Headquarters

The Staff of Jubilee Foods would like to wish all of our Customers
Happy Holidays and a Safe and Prosperous New Year
Remember Jubilee these hectic holidays for your food needs

**Vegetable Trays, Fruit Baskets,
Cheese Trays, Steamed Shrimp,
Oysters, Meat Trays & Much More**

The All-American



A TRUE ALL-AMERICAN CLASSIC.
PERFECT FOR ANY GATHERING.
DELUXE HAM, DELUXE ROAST BEEF,
OVENGOLD TURKEY BREAST,
IMPORTED SWISS CHEESE,
AND BLACK WAX CHEDDAR

Small \$39.99 Large \$69.95

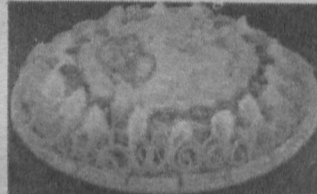
The Finishing Touches



THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF FIVE
CHEESES TO SATISFY EVERYONE!
AMERICAN, COLBY LONGHORN,
CREAM HAVARTI,
SMOKED BUTTERKASE, JALAPENO
JACK, IMPORTED SWISS, MUENSTER,
AND BLACK WAX CHEDDAR

Small \$36.95 Large \$59.95

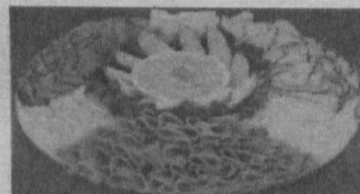
The Little Leaguer



DELIGHT THE WHOLE TEAM WITH THIS
SCUMPTIOUS CREATION!
MAPLE GLAZED TURKEY BREAST,
PORK AND BEEF BOLOGNA, BRANDED
DELUXE HAM, AMERICAN CHEESE,
AND COLBY LONGHORN CHEESE

Small \$33.95 Large \$59.95

The New York's Choice



ENJOY A TASTE OF THE BIG APPLE AT
YOUR NEXT GET-TOGETHER
TOP ROUND CORNED BEEF, TOP
ROUND PASTRAMI, PASTRAMI TURKEY
BREAST, IMPORTED SWISS, PICKLE
SPEARS, AND DELI-STYLE MUSTARD

Small \$49.45 Large \$78.45

Small size serves 12-18 People

Large size serves 24-28 People

The Fabulous Five



TREAT YOUR GUESTS TO FLAVOR!
PASTRAMI TURKEY BREAST,
MAPLE GLAZED HONEY HAM,
BAR-B-Q CHICKEN BREAST,
BLACK FOREST HAM,
AND MESQUITE TURKEY BREAST

Small \$39.99 Large \$68.85

The Sweet and Mild



A DELICIOUS BLEND OF SWEET AND
MILD BOAR'S HEAD FAVORITES!
VIRGINIA BRAND HAM, MAPLE
GLAZED HONEY TURKEY, OVEN
ROASTED CHICKEN BREAST, BABY
SWISS CHEESE, AND BUTTERKASE
CHEESE

Small \$37.95 Large \$67.95

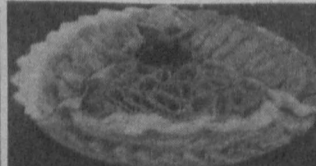
The Turkey Tablean



THE DISTINCTIVE SELECTION FOR THE
TURKEY AFICIONADO'S PALATE!
OVENGOLD TURKEY BREAST,
MESQUITE TURKEY BREAST, MAPLE
TURKEY BREAST, CRACKED PEPPER
TURKEY BREAST, AND CAJUN STYLE
TURKEY BREAST

Small \$43.45 Large \$72.45

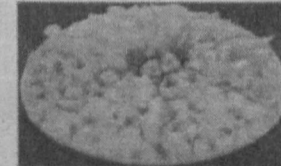
The Italian Symphony



A SYMPHONY OF FLAVORS
ASSEMBLED TO EXCITE AND DELIGHT
PESTO PARMESAN HAM, MORTADELLA
W/ PISTACHIOS, ITALIAN BRACIOLE
ROAST BEEF, GENOA SALAME,
PICANTE PROVOLONE, AND
MOZZARELLA

Small \$32.95 Large \$52.95

The Cheese Shop



FRESH CUT CHEESE CUBES FROM THE
MASTER CHEESEMAKER'S FAVORITE
SELECTIONS:
PICANTE PROVOLONE, BLACK WAX
CHEDDAR, CREAM HAVARTI W/ DILL,
JALAPENO JACK, IMPORTED SWISS
CHEESE

Small \$32.95 Large \$52.95

301-447-6688

QUILTERS

Quilting for hurricane survivors



BY MARY
ELLEN
CUMMINGS

Dispatch
Columnist

The year 2005 can't possibly be almost over. It seems like yesterday was Fourth of July. It's too late to make any quilted items for Christmas. There are a lot of craft shows and bazaars, but because of a minor accident I was able to visit only one. There were many small items like quilted scrapbook covers, jelly glass covers, pillows and wall hangings with seasonal designs.

I still think quilts are "linens" for the beds. They should be carefully cared for and used many years. Of course, there has to be one very special quilt that should only be looked at from time to time, and tenderly folded and stored out of sight.

Have you wondered how many special quilts were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina? Every time I'd see a news shot of the debris on the Gulf Coast, I would see only lumber, roofing, cars and furniture.

I am sure there must have been quilts too. The south has always been an area where heritage was treasured, and quilts qualify as treasured heritages.

And, following tradition, a number of quilters have already made and delivered quilts to the devastated areas. American Quilters Society sent out over 15,000 notices to members and quilts began coming to their warehouse.

Some ladies in Florida began making, collecting and delivering quilts to some of the devastated areas. Bread Basket Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas delivered quilts personally to evacuees.

I am sure local people have also sent quilts — our quilting group has. But, the people who lived around the Gulf of Mexico, many at least, have no place to call their own. Are they going to be able to keep and use these quilts? Another question haunts me — how do people know that quilts are available?

Every time I watch the news, the camera catches sight of piles of donations dumped on the ground because there is no building to store them in. I am not alone. I want to help, so what can I do? Hats off to those quilt makers who are trying to ease the suffering.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

Library Events

At the Emmitsburg Library

Monthly make it and take it craft (all ages)

Dec. 12-17 Create a gift bag for holiday gift giving or as a special decoration.

Global Groove (ages 6 and up)

Learn about other cultures around the world through facts, folktales and songs.

Third Thursday at 1 p.m.
Dec. 15

Chess Club (ages 6 and up)

Bring an adult if you are under 8.
Second and fourth Fridays

Dec. 23 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

"Did You Know?" series (ages 6-12)

Holiday decoupage craft
Materials provided.

Dec. 17 at 11 a.m.

Night Owls! (ages 9-12)

An evening of games. Snacks provided.

Dec. 27 6-8 p.m.

Storytimes

Babies with Books (birth-24 months with an adult)

First three Wednesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 21

Two Terrific! (age 2 with an adult)

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 20, 27

Family Storytime (all ages)
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Dec. 21, 28

Pre-School Story Time (ages 3-5)
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 15, 22, 29

Teen Book Club (grades 6-12)

Third Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Dec. 20 — "Ruby in the Smoke" by Philip Pullman

Programs, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Emmitsburg Library in the Community Center on Seton Avenue. Registration or information: 240-629-6329.

Editor's Correction: Incorrect hours for the Emmitsburg Food Bank were included in the Emmitsburg & Thurmont Charitable Resources information in the Nov. 17, 2005 issue of *The Dispatch*. The correct hours are Tuesday & Wednesday, 7-8 p.m., Friday, 1-3 p.m., and Saturday, 10-11 a.m. Information: 717-642-6963 or 301-447-6891.

Senior Events

Deck the halls and don your overcoats — December's here! There are lots of holiday programs and events on everyone's calendar, so please save these dates. **Dec. 21** brings our usual **Christmas bingo**: bring a wrapped Christmas item. Our **New Year's party** will be held **Friday, Dec. 30**, beginning at 6:00 p.m. **The center will be closed Dec. 23 & 26 and Jan. 2.** Happy holidays to you all!

We are looking for volunteers from the community, particularly "baby boomers," to be part of a focus group on new programs and activities for the senior center. Please contact

Linda Umbel, 240-629-6350 or lumbel@fredco-md.net.

The seniors encourage all eligible persons (50 years and older) to join them for regular program activities and special events. Our lunch program is open to those 60 and older. The center is lovely and the "natives" are friendly! Check us out!

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

Strength Training & Conditioning: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Dress comfortably, wear athletic shoes. Participants will use small weights. Led by Linda Stultz.

Bingo: Dec. 21.

Cards-500, and Bridge Group: Dec. 28.

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

Shopping at Jubilee Foods: Thursdays 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.

MHIC# 120669

Licensed & Insured

REAVER'S WOODWORKING, INC.
Quality Hand-Crafted
Cabinets/Furniture

Shop: 301-447-3386
Fax: 301-447-1750

Armoires, Hutches, China Cupboards, Computer Stations,
Entertainment Centers, Fireplace Mantels, Kitchens,
Vanties, Gun Cabinets, Children's Furniture,
Corner Cabinets, Bookcases, Dressers, End Tables

Brian P. Reaver, Sr.

Visit our website: www.emmitsburg.net/woodworking

MELISSA M. WETZEL, CPA, P.C.

Certified Public Accountant

Individual and Business
Tax Returns
Consulting
Payroll Services
Notary

301-447-3797

FAX: 301-447-3798

402 West Main Street, Emmitsburg



Emmitsburg's Florist

The Little Flower

In honor of St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Gifts, Cards & Flowers

20 East Main St.

Emmitsburg, MD

301-447-2700

Full Service Florist

Weddings, Funerals, All Occasions, Freshness and Quality guaranteed.

Store Hours: Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm; Sat. 9am - 2pm

Order Flowers 24/7 at our Websites.

Teleflora web site: www.thelittleflowermd.com

FTD website: www.thelittleflowermd.net

Poinsettias Available

Save 20% on all Gift Items

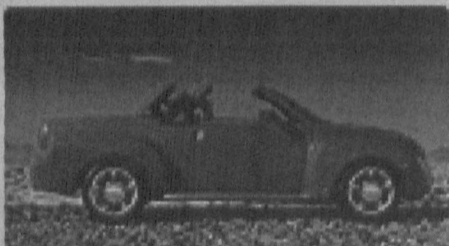
Catoctin Mt. Spa and Tub SERVICE
 14135 Graceham Rd.
 Thurmont, MD
(301) 271-4704

Authorized Emerald and Nordic Dealer
Hot Tubs starting at \$2,995⁰⁰

Special pricing on all in stock Emerald Spas
 Save up to \$500 on all options and upgrades

*Have your Emerald Spa delivered before Christmas
 Emerald Spa "It's where you want to be"*

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION



SEE RED/SAVE GREEN
 '05 Super Sport Roadster SSR
 Aqua Blue
 MSRP \$49,755.00
NOW \$41,925.⁵¹

WANTZ CHEVROLET
 1 CHEVRO DRIVE,
 TANEYTOWN, MD.
 410-751-1200 or 410-756-6006

WANTZ CHEVROLET
 CSV

MONROE
 TRUCK EQUIPMENT

COMMERCIAL
 SPECIALTY VEHICLES

Community Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

Through Dec. 31 - Sounds of Christmas. Noon and 7 p.m. daily. Christmas bells, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Thurmont.

Dec. 16 - Safe, Natural Solutions for Stress and Fatigue. 6 p.m. Fairfield, Pa. Topics include: identifying the causes, coping skills, and nutritional remedies. Presented by Dr. Linda Solomon. Limited seating, please call ahead: 717 642-5548.

Dec. 16 - "Sounds of Frederick." 8 p.m. Frederick Church of the Brethren. A benefit concert to support breast cancer research. Featuring The Frederick Catoctones, the Frederick Acapella Showcase Chorus, The Frederick Chorale, Mom's Night Out (a barbershop quartet), trumpet soloist John Pursell, vocalist

Lauren Eberhardt. No tickets required. Minimum \$15 donation per person at the door. Information: 301-898-3926.

Dec. 17 - Apple dumpling sale. 9 a.m. to noon. Thurmont Community Ambulance Service, Inc., 27 North Church Street. Stop by the ambulance building or call in your order: 301-271-7550.

Dec. 17 - Children's Christmas party. Begins at 10 a.m. Vigilant Hose Co. 6 Fire Station. Crafts, Maggie the clown, refreshments and an honored guest. Sponsored by the Emmitsburg Lions.

Dec. 18 - "Heaven Rejoices" Christmas Cantata. 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thurmont United Methodist Church. Features the Worship Choir, Children's Choir and a live Nativity at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets not required. 13880 Long Rd. Call 301-271-4511.

Dec. 18 - Christmas Caroling. 5:30 p.m. Meet at St John's United Church of Christ in Sabillasville. Snacks served afterward. Information: contact Pastor Janet Comings at 301-241-3488.

Dec. 18 - Third Sunday Service of Praise Christmas Concert. 6:30 p.m. Graceham Moravian Church, Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. Music by The Walk. Message: Pastor Warren Rice. Please bring an item for the Frederick Cold Weather Shelter.

Dec. 19 - Santa's Workshop. 6-9 p.m. Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company's old firehall. Ornament making, pictures and fire truck rides with Santa, face painting and more. Light refreshments. Information: 301-447-6864.

Dec. 19 - Greater Emmitsburg Historical Society meeting. 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center.

2006

Jan. 14 - Ned Dougherty book signing and talk. Author of "Fast Lane to Heaven." Book signing at 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Peter's Books & Gifts Café, 101-2 Silo Hill Rd., Emmitsburg. Talk at 3 p.m. at Lynfield Events Complex, 10412 Hansonville Rd., Frederick. Admission, \$10.

Jan. 19 - Potluck luncheon. 11:30 a.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville. Sponsored by Mountaintop Seniors. All senior citizens are welcome. Information: 301-241-3287.

Jan. 22 - Third annual all you can eat breakfast. 7 a.m. to noon. Mother Seton School, Emmitsburg. Adults, \$5; children, \$3; under 5, free. To benefit the Jack and Shirley Little Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Jan. 27 - Third Annual Emmitsburg Burns night. 6 p.m. Carriage House Inn. Benefits the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Clinic building fund. Tickets: \$50 per person - \$25 for the meal, \$25 tax-deductible donation to EOPCC. Information: call 301-447-5291 or visit www.burnsnite.com.

Singers Wanted

The Clustered Spires Chorus of Sweet Adelines International is seeking new members. The chorus is rebuilding under the new direction of Robin Blythe, certified director.

The chorus invites all women interested in singing to visit open rehearsals every Wednesday night at the Frederick Church of the Brethren. Women interested in learning barbershop music can sing with the chorus for the Christmas season at no cost.

Rehearsals run from 7-9:30 p.m. in the music room behind the fellowship hall. For more information, call 301-241-4207 or visit the Website for directions, www.harmonize.com/clusteredspires.

*"In appreciation for your support we are
 Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"*

Quality Tire Service
"TIRES AND BATTERIES"
301-447-2909
 17650 Creamery Rd, Emmitsburg Md 21727

VALVE TIRE SERVICE
 TIRES & BATTERIES

CLASSIFIED ADS

Employment

Facility Manager – Recreational Facilities. Part-time–On-Call Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Md. The successful candidate will assist in training and supervising of student employees; deal with member and customer service issues; ability to work varying hours and shifts is required. Applications are available at: Mount St. Mary's University, Department of Human Resources, Room 220 Bradley Hall, 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, MD, 21727 or you may apply on-line at resume@msmary.edu. Additional information is available at www.msmary.edu. EOE

For sale

Amana commercial size washer with stainless steel tub. Perfect working condition. If interested, call 447-3056. \$150

Beautiful oak dining room table and six chairs. 48" round pedestal table, 48"x72" with 24" leaf, in excellent condition. Perfect in kitchen or dining room. Originally \$1,200. Selling for \$500. Call 301-241-4610 or e-mail joycemay01@hotmail.com

GE convection range. White, extra-large oven, ceramic top, excellent condition. \$400. Call Rich, 240-285-3413.

Nuts to you. Hickory that is, picked and cleaned in time for your holiday baking. FREE hickory nut cake recipe. \$8.50 per lb. 717-334-8916.

Scandinavian style platform bed, queen size. Includes removable headboard with nightstand attachments and four very large under bed drawers on caster wheels. Solid wood. Original price \$600. Selling for \$300. Call 301-241-4610 or e-mail joycemay01@hotmail.com.

Free

Adorable baby rats, free to loving home. 301-271-2380.

Services

A+ and Microsoft-certified technician with 19 years experience with computer and printer repair. Computer service for home or small business. Consulting, training, repairs, upgrades, networking,

virus/spyware protection/removal, crash protection and custom-built computers. On-site or pickup and delivery available. Also available evenings and weekends. 717-642-9670 or e-mail btp1055@adelphia.net.

The Busy Bee Maid Service. A local (Thurmont) cleaning company has positions open for honest, dependable workers. Company vehicles, benefits after 90 days, and a great work environment. Please call 301-271-1170 to arrange an interview.

Clothing and food for local community available. Also need non-perishable food items donated. Please call Kathy at 301-271-3346 for drop-off times or to receive food and clothing as needed. Thank you! S.D.A. Church, Thurmont, MD 21788

Do you experience "hot flashes"? Relief is here! Call Jeanne at 301-447-3100 today!

Guitar Lessons. Acoustic/electric. Beginners to advanced. All styles. All ages. Taught by an instructor with over 20 years of teaching and performing experience. Call Brent at 301-271-0860 or e-mail at brent@brentpro.com for details.

If I could show you a way to get healthier, would you be interested in listening to what I have to say? Call Jeanne at 301-447-3100 today!

Ms. Steffi's Daycare, Thurmont. Ages 6 mos.-12 yrs. 6 a.m.- 6 p.m. Curriculum. Degree in Special Ed! Lic# 10-133386. Call 301-271-9916.

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? At Fellowship Baptist Preschool we have just what you and your preschooler are looking for. Small class sizes AM and PM classes, comprehensive curriculum and much more. Call Lisa Barron at 717-642-5424 for your application today. – Limited spaces available.

Private music lessons in piano, voice, organ and guitar available, for all ages. Highly qualified, experienced teacher. 301-271-2307

Town of Thurmont – Sewer System I & I Rehabilitation Project

Ross Contracting, Inc. is seeking qualified MBE's & WBE's for the Sewer System I & I Rehabilitation Project for the Town of Thurmont. Interested parties are to respond in writing within 10 days of this notice to the following address:

Ross Contracting, Inc.
1007 Rising Ridge Road
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

OBITUARIES

Bruce J. Bassett, Sr.

Bruce Joseph Bassett, Sr., 56, Carroll Valley, formerly of Berlin, N.J., died Nov. 12, 2005.

Bassett was born August 21, 1949, in Philadelphia to the late William Marshall Bassett and Dorothy (Bishop) Bassett, of Berlin, N.J.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Patricia (Chico) Bassett, and mother, is one son, Bruce J. Bassett, Jr., of Carroll Valley.

Funeral services were held Nov. 15 in the Monahan Funeral Home, Fairfield, with the Rev. Jay Zimmerman officiating.

Robert U. Neely

Robert U. Neely, 78, Fairfield, died Nov. 13, 2005.

Born April 7, 1927, in Fairfield, he was the son of the late Donald H. and Anna (Weaver) Neely.

Surviving are his wife, Carolyn (Blocher) Neely; two daughters, Margaret A. Metz and Elizabeth J. Gibney; two sons, Robert H. Neely and Kevin B. Neely; three sisters, Mary

Alice Eckert, Helen N. White and Hannah N. Teeter; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Nov. 19 at the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, Gettysburg, Pa., with The Rev. Dale Williams officiating. Interment was in the Lower Marsh Creek Cemetery.

Merry Christmas from everyone at



The Palms Restaurant

16-20 W. Main St.
Emmitsburg, Md 21727
(301)447-3689

Terry Ryder
Doug Long

*Serving Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner
*Daily Specials
*Homemade Soups
*Beer, Wine & Cocktails

Main Street Grill

"Dead Night"

Every Wednesday Night from 8:00pm-Close
Come hang out and listen to 4 hours of your
Favorite GREATFUL DEAD Songs

\$4.00 domestic pitchers

Live Music Saturday Nights from 9:00-1:00

www.mainstgrill.net for upcoming shows
304 East Main Street Emmitsburg, MD
301-447-3116



CRAB HOUSE
RESTAURANT &
LOUNGE

Steaks, Seafood
Chicken & Crabs
Private Parties
Crab Feeds

2989 Tract Road
Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-5025
717-642-6574

HOURS: Open Wednesday thru Saturday 11 am - 9:45 pm
Sunday 11 am - 8:45 pm, Monday & Tuesday 4 pm - 8:45 pm

Computer Services of Emmitsburg, Inc.

CSE

Thomas Osborne
A+ CERTIFIED

Phone: 301-447-2093
E-mail: cseinc1@verizon.net

DAVID E. LITTLE CUSTOM PAINTING

11530 Simmons Road
Taneytown, MD 21787
Phone: (301) 447-2315 MHIC # 41079

David E. Little
Owner

Residential & Commercial
Interior & Exterior

Free Estimates
Power Washing

Using Quality
DURON
PRODUCTS

Season's Greetings

LOG YARD 301-447-3000

**JOHN H.
COBLENTZ
& SONS**

LICENSE #14

Buyers of Standing Timber and Veneer Logs
Lumber Sawn to Order

15842 St. Anthony's Rd.
Thurmont, MD 21788

Dave 301-271-7587
Terry 301-271-4177

Merry Christmas

GRAIN-FED BEEF FOR SALE

Beef Processing
For The Home Freezer

NORMAN J. SHRIVER, JR.
16436 Four Points Bridge Rd.
EMMITSBURG, MD 21727

Monday to Friday
7 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Saturday 7 A.M. - 12 Noon
Phone (301) 447-2255

Jester's Computer Services

REPAIR • NETWORKING • UPGRADES • SUPPLIES
WEB HOSTING • INK • FAX • COPIES • PAPER
MON. - FRI. 10 - 5 SAT. 10 - 3

717-642-6611 OR 717-642-9790

email: jcs@jesterscomputers.com

Zora Village, 2 B Gingell Road, Carroll Valley, Pa 17320

Happy Holidays CROUSE FORD

Taneytown, Maryland

INTRODUCING THE Newly Designed 2006 Explorer 4 Door



Americas Top Selling
SUV Is Now
Even Better



LOWEST PRICES ON A GREAT SELECTION

of New and Pre-Owned Vehicles. Cars, Vans, SUV's, Trucks

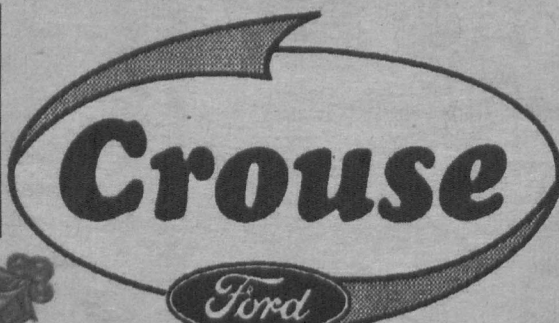


2006 Fusion



2006 Five Hundred

Parts & Service Hours:
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm;
Sat 8am-Noon



Showroom Hours:
Mon-Fri 9am-8pm;
Sat 9am-4pm



**Rt. 140 East
Taneytown, Maryland**
Only 10 minutes from Emmitsburg
www.crouseford.com



Escape Hybrid
31 MILES
per gallon

Serving the
Emmitsburg & Thurmont
Areas
for Over 60 Years

**Your Commercial Truck
Headquarters**



F650 STELLAR HOOK LIFTS



F550 Luxury Haulers



ECONOLINE UTILITY VANS



READING UTILITY TRUCKS

410-756-6655

TOLL FREE: 1-800-621-3673