

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL V, No. 3

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

FEBRUARY 2, 2006

Mayor rescinds veto: charter changes stand

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Mayor James E. Hoover has rescinded his attempted veto of the board of commissioners' decision to amend the town charter, allowing a fifth commissioner and removing the mayor's ability to vote as a member of the board.

According to board President Christopher V. Staiger, the mayoral veto was rescinded because state regulations prohibit the head of the executive body from vetoing approved charter changes. The mayor's veto was issued Jan. 24; the notice that the veto was being rescinded was sent out Jan. 26.

A special meeting of the board of commissioners set for Feb. 1 to discuss an attempt to overturn the mayoral veto has been cancelled.

In a memo to the staff and commissioners, Mayor Hoover stated, "After further staff review and verification with the town attorney, state law prohibits me from vetoing a charter resolution. Therefore, my veto of Resolution 2006-01R is hereby rescinded."

As a result, the only way to reverse the board's decisions approving the fifth commissioner and nullifying the mayoral vote on the board would be a petition for a referendum, which would allow residents to decide.

-See **Veto** on page 5



- ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL, SR. / THE ROSENSTEEL STUDIOS

\$656,000 grant awarded to Emmitsburg

Lieutenant Governor Michael S. Steele (second from left) and department heads present Mayor James E. Hoover (third from right) with a "check" representing an approved \$656,000 community development block grant. Emmitsburg will use the money to rehabilitate its wastewater system and connect the system to the new Emmitsburg Glass Company headquarters owned by Sheridan "Dan" Reaver (second from right) and brother Gregory Reaver (third from left). Also in this Jan. 30 photo are Heather Pinckney, State Department of Business and Economic Development and Secretary Victor Hoskins (far right), State Department of Housing and Community Development. More visit photos on page 3.

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Burns tells Emmitsburg, 'We feel your pain'

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The Dispatch hires Thurmont news editor

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West end annexation could be in the works

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Specific plans are yet to be made public regarding a possible annexation of 100 to 200 acres of land adjacent to the western boundary of Emmitsburg.

However, Andrew MacIntosh, MacIntosh Inc. Realtors, Mt. Airy, confirmed Jan. 26 that an informal meeting with town staff has been planned to discuss the annexation conceptually, but would give no specifics about the meeting or the project.

MacIntosh told *The Dispatch*, "We have a meeting set (with the

town) to discuss (the annexation plans) informally. We have a lot of ideas that we feel would be beneficial to the town, and we would like to come in with a unique plan ... something that might be a little bit different."

"We have met with Michael Lucas (former town planner) and we just want to go at a very slow

pace," he said, emphasizing that those involved are "just discussing" a proposal at this point. "We want to do it right," MacIntosh said. "We don't want to be the bad guys on the block."

Lucas confirmed the earlier meeting and told *The Dispatch*

-See **Annexation** on page 5

Police still looking for hit and run suspect

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

THURMONT, Md. — Police are looking for the driver involved in a hit and run accident Jan. 31 which caused the lock-down of Thurmont schools after it was reported that the suspect had fled the scene on foot.

According to police, Thurmont

Officer Christopher McLoughlin, using a stationary radar unit, detected a Dodge vehicle at 10:43 a.m. heading westbound on West Main Street, Thurmont, at 40 miles-per-hour in a 25 mile-per-hour speed zone.

McLoughlin attempted to pull the car over for the alleged speeding violation and for failure to wear a seat belt, but the driver, according to police, refused to stop.

Hit and run suspect flees on foot

In his report of the incident,

Thurmont Police Chief Gregory Eyler said the Dodge accelerated down

-See **Suspect** on page 5

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Emmitsburg Dispatch encourages its readers to express their thoughts and opinions about issues that appear in this publication or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to the *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.

Praise due Commissioner O'Neil

Commissioner William Brady O'Neil, Jr. is an extraordinarily intelligent, able and community-minded citizen of Emmitsburg. His many unrecognized efforts for the Town merit our unqualified praise. Instead of praise he was smeared by the Ethics Commission, who ignored the procedures in their

deliberations demanded by the Constitution (due process).

If the Town wants poor government, smearing good people is the way to go!

Emmitsburg should be grateful to Commissioner O'Neil. Beside numerous worthwhile legislative achievements, he was

instrumental in getting the Town nearly \$1,000,000 in grants. There could be more.

An old Virginia gentleman, Mr. George Henry Gough, said, "There is nothing lower than an ingrate." Think about it, Emmitsburg. I am sure you will then agree with Mr. Gough, Cicero, and me.

- Harold C. Craig, Jr.
Emmitsburg

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.

February 2, 1906

ALL AUTO
RECORDS SMASHED

Ormond-Daytona Beach, Fla., Jan. 20 - Victor Demegeot, of France, was crowned speed king of the world on the Daytona sands after driving his gasoline car two miles in the marvelous time of 58 4/5 seconds. Demegeot maintained a speed of 124 miles an hour to make this record.

On the first trial Marriott went first, but the best he could do was one minute and three seconds. Demegeot brought the crowd to its feet by reducing the time to minute 1 2/5 seconds. Renee Morrill decided to give each car a trial to see if the time could be brought within the minute. Marriott came first again, and this time faster. He made the two miles in 59 3/5 seconds. It seemed impossible that the clumsy-looking French car should beat this, but the Florida Times Union \$1000 trophy was lost to America a few minutes later when Demegeot thundered over the two-mile course in 58 4/5 seconds, the fastest time ever attained by an automobile. Demegeot was crowned with a laurel wreath by Miss Mary Shiprall, of Ormond, Fla., while several thousand persons cheered.

Wedding
Invitations Limited

Washington, Jan. 27 - The invitations which the President and Mrs. Roosevelt have sent out for the marriage of Miss Alice Roosevelt to Mr. Longworth are limited to the immediate family connections, a small official list and the intimate personal friends of Miss Roosevelt and Mr. Longworth.

FAIRFIELD ITEMS

Fairfield, Jan. 30 - January has been summer like. The dandelions are in bloom, other flowers are swelling their buds. The summer birds are not making their appearance yet.

Mr. Carl Reindollar, of Fairfield, made a business trip to Arndtsville, on last Thursday.

Mrs. John Butt, of Orrtanna, and Mrs. James McGrigan of York, Pa., were recent guests of F. Shalley and family of Fairfield.

Members of the Catholic church of Fairfield held a supper Saturday night.

Mr. Joseph Peters, of Franklin county, is a visitor to this place.

This is fine weather for January. Two weddings Wednesday, Miss Stonebraker and Robert Neely, to be a church wedding at 12 o'clock. One at 8 o'clock in the evening - Miss Bessie Waddles and Mr. Clarence Musselman, both of Fairfield.

PERSONALS

Miss Sarah Hoke has returned home from a visit to Carlisle, Pa.

Mr. F. M. Seltzer, of Baltimore, is visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Lansing, of this place.

Miss Margaret Guthrie, who was visiting in this place, has gone to Baltimore and Washington and will leave the latter place for her home in St. Joseph, Mo.

Mr. Charles C. Kretzer made a trip to Westminster and Baltimore, this week.

Mr. J. Thos. Gelwicks has returned from a trip to various places in Ohio.

Mr. H. K. Naill and wife, of Washington, D.C., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Gillelan.

Mr. William E. McNulty, of Garham, Virginia, is spending a few weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick E. McNulty, at Mt. St. Mary's.

Mrs. E.S. Kelly, of Waynesboro, Pa., visiting her brothers in this place, this week, stopping with Mr. George T. Eyster.

CATOCTIN
FURNACE SOLD

The Catocin Furnace property in Frederick County was sold Monday at public auction by the trustees, Messrs. L.B. Keene Claggett, of Baltimore; Jacob Rohrbreck and Charles C. Waters, both of Frederick. The purchaser was Hon. Joseph E. Thropp, former member of Congress from Bedford, Pa., The property, consisting of 10,667 acres of realty, brought \$44,950, and the personalty, consisting of plant, machinery, etc., brought \$6,185, making the aggregate for the whole \$51,135.

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-RICHARD BLOOM / THE DISPATCH

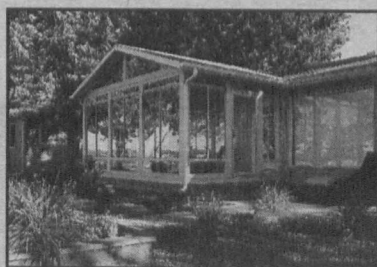
Lieutenant Governor Michael S. Steele greets students from Mother Seton School at Emmitsburg town hall during his Jan. 30 visit, part of the state's outreach program to assist local communities. Steele stopped by town hall, the Provincial House, Emmitsburg Glass, and the Up-County Family Center.

Correction

In the local history article, "The Bells of St. Joseph's" in the Jan. 19, 2006 issue of *The Dispatch*, the construction of the tower was listed as "1868 into 1969," rather than "1868 into 1869." In addition, the hymn entitled, "Come Holy Ghosts" in the associated story should have been titled "Come Holy Ghost."

Start Planning Now For Summer 2006!

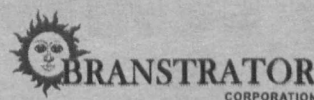
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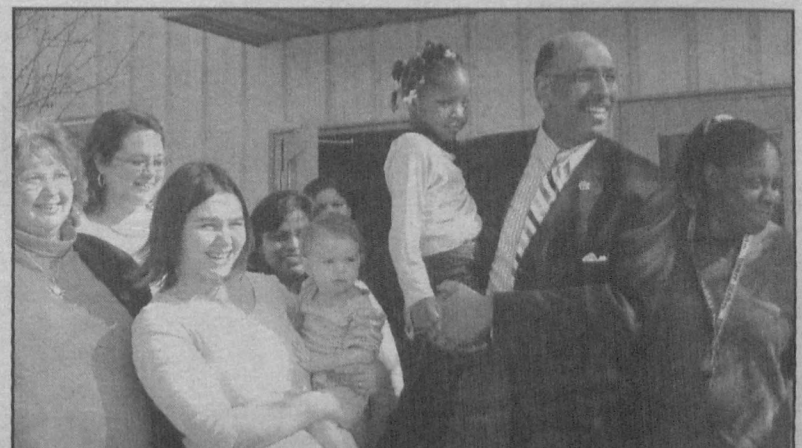
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-RICHARD BLOOM / THE DISPATCH

Emmitsburg Mayor James E. Hoover (left) and Maryland Lieutenant Governor Michael S. Steele (right) held an inter-agency information session at town hall on Jan. 30. Various state and county department heads attended the event to offer their assistance to the community. Mayor Hoover took the opportunity to present Steele with a "key to the city."



-RICHARD BLOOM / THE DISPATCH

Lieutenant Governor Michael S. Steele talked with staff and clients of the Up County Family Center in Emmitsburg during his Jan. 30 trip to Frederick County. Steele has visited 67 local municipalities out of the 157 in the state, and said he plans to visit all of them.

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TEL 301-447-3039 FAX 301-447-5990
www.emmitsburgdispatch.com
www.thurmontdispatch.com

Publisher Raymond Buchheister

E: publisher@emmitsburgdispatch.com

Managing Editor Joyce M. Demmitt

E: editor@emmitsburgdispatch.com

News Editor - Emmitsburg Richard D. L. Fulton

E: rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

News Editor - Thurmont James Rada Jr.

E: jrada@thurmontdispatch.com

Contributing Writers Susan Allen, Nicole Belanger, William Reinke

Column Writers Mary Ellen Cummings, William Meredith, A.J. Russo

Advertising & Business Manager Jennifer Buchheister

E: jbuchheister@emmitsburgdispatch.com

Advertising Sales Executive Amberlee Ohlsen

E: aohlsen@thedispatch.us

Advertising & Subscriptions Lori Stromberg

E: advertising@emmitsburgdispatch.com

Advertising Design Toya Warner

Graphic Design Shannon Cooley

Webmaster Wendy M. Shepherd



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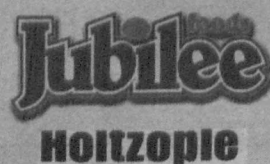
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TOWN NEWS

New industrial park seeks tax deferral

By RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Emmitsburg East Industrial Park (EEIP) LLC has asked the board of commissioners to defer taxes on a proposed annexation until the first lot is hooked into public services, or in three years, whichever occurs first.

EEIP briefed the commissioners on Jan. 23, before proceeding with their annexation petition. The town planning commission has recommended approving the annexation. The briefing did not initiate the commissioners' review process.

EEIP proposes to develop a 39-acre site (known as the "Waybright property"), located east of U.S. 15 off Creamery Road, as an industrial park, to be known as Emmitsburg East Industrial Park, Phase II. EEIP owners are Emmitsburg brothers Sheridan "Dan" E., Jr. and Gregory Reaver. The land is currently zoned agricultural. The developers are requesting a light industrial use zoning.

Tax base could be worth \$20 million

The proposed timeframe for the industrial park build-out is five to six years. Six lots have been planned, according to general comments submitted by the developers, but more were shown on a site plan presented on Jan. 23. However, Attorney Scott Miller, representing EEIP, said the number of proposed lots could still change.

A statement issued by EEIP indicated "at an assessed value of

\$75 per square foot, with a total build-out of 260,000 square feet, this development could yield an assessable tax base of \$20 million, plus or minus."

According to EEIP, Emmitsburg would need to permit construction of more than 50 homes costing \$400,000 each to achieve an assessed value equal to the proposed industrial park.

Town Manager David Haller said the town should start assessing taxes sooner, rather than later. "All

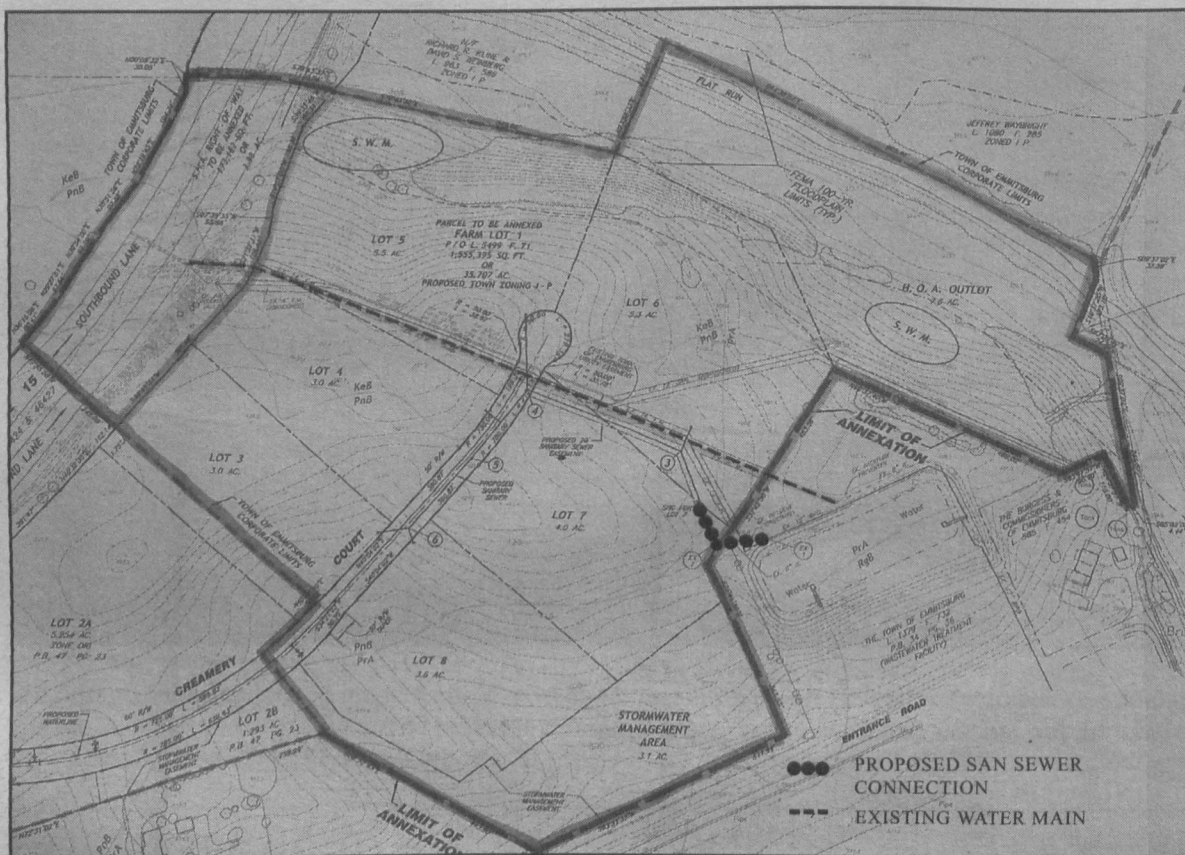
Town of Emmitsburg taxes and fees should begin not later than 365 days after the final annexation vote and approval," he said.

Highway improvements will be based on need

The Reavers want to postpone highway improvements until the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and the county decide they are necessary, based on traffic numbers as the industrial park fills in.

Miller said it would be premature to comment on what improvements would be needed or when, since they depend on how the project proceeds. He noted that the developers would pay for highway or traffic improvements, not the town.

According to Street Traffic Studies, Ltd., Glen Burnie, the annexed land "is expected to yield approximately 260,000 square feet of warehouse type uses," generating about 139 to 164 vehicular trips during peak hours when built out.



—RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

Map displayed at the Jan. 23 town meeting shows EEIP's proposed industrial park development on a 39-acre site east of U.S. 15 off Creamery Road, to be designated as Emmitsburg East Industrial Park, Phase II. EEIP owners are Emmitsburg brothers Sheridan "Dan" E., Jr. and Gregory Reaver.



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Veto

-Continued from page 1

Because adding a fifth commissioner requires a change in the town charter, residents have 40 calendar days to challenge the decision by filing a petition for referendum, forcing the issue to a public vote if enough signatures were gathered. If no such objection occurs within 40 days, the change will go into effect on the 50th calendar day from passage, in time for the seat to be open for the town's April 25 election.

The board of commissioners had voted 4-0-1 at the Jan. 18 town meeting, Hoover abstaining, to

amend the town charter to allow for the creation of a fifth commissioner seat on the board. And in a 5-0 vote, the board and mayor voted to amend the law to remove the ability of the mayor to vote as a member of the board of commissioners.

The mayor vetoed both actions on Jan. 24. Hoover said his reasons included the "lack of response" from board members when asked "how they thought amending the charter would change the role of the mayor," and because the issue of when the fifth commissioner would be elected was not addressed at the final vote.

Board President Christopher V. Staiger told *The Dispatch* Jan. 25, "I got the feeling after the

meeting the veto was impending. My goal was to remove some of this controversy. My opinion has always been the complications came from the (original) revisions to the charter (when the mayoral powers were inserted)."

"If we want a fifth vote to avoid tie votes, the way to do it is to have a fifth commissioner. We are even increasing the threshold of the votes necessary to overturn a veto. In the end all power is invested in the town council," Staiger said.

The mayor had said that he chose to use his voting power under the charter to break ties and to increase the board's efficiency in conducting town business.

Annexation

-Continued from page 1

that MacIntosh had presented a draft sketch plan, which he left with the town.

MacIntosh said he was not prepared to discuss any details at this time, pending the meeting with town staff, but did confirm that Gary D. Baker, Baker Architects, Frederick, was the architect on the project. Baker did not return a call from *The Dispatch* by deadline for this article.

According to information

received from an informed source, the land involved lies in the vicinity of Mountain View Road, and consists of 100 to 200 acres. Another realtor contacted speculated that the property might be, at least in part, the 114-acre Braverman property bounded by Frailey and Annandale roads.

As development on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line has increased, many commuters use roads through and around Emmitsburg to get back and forth.

Town staff recently recommended that the comprehensive

plan, presently undergoing revisions, include provisions to help establish a by-pass to the west of town. According to their recommendations, a by-pass could become a reality if properties in that area being annexed to the town were required to allocate land for that purpose.

This proposed revision to the comprehensive plan to allow a way to create a by-pass was presented to the town commissioners at their Nov. 7 meeting. There has been no formal acceptance of the plan by the board to date.

Suspect

-Continued from page 1

West Main and onto the southbound U.S. 15 ramp. The driver lost control of the car which collided with a pick-up truck on U.S. 15. "The driver of the Dodge exited the vehicle and fled the scene on foot," the chief said.

Thurmont police, sheriff's office deputies, a state canine unit and a state helicopter then searched the area for the suspect. A staff member at Thurmont Middle School confirmed that Thurmont elementary, primary and middle schools were locked down from 11:30 to 11:50 a.m. as a precaution during the search for the suspect.

According to Chief Eyler, the driver of the pick-up was identified as Kenneth Henry Bosc, Clear Spring, Md. Bosc declined medical treatment. No other injuries were reported. The suspect's vehicle was towed to an undisclosed location.

Suspect at large and linked to Jubilee theft

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Being sought by the Thurmont Police Department as a "person of interest" in the alleged incident is Robert Michael Buck, 23.

Thurmont Police said that Buck was from the Baltimore area, and described him as a white male, about 5'7" tall, 140 pounds, wearing a black, hooded parka and blue jeans.

Jennifer Bailey, Frederick County Sheriff's Office

spokesperson, told *The Dispatch* that Buck is also wanted by the sheriff's office on a warrant for the alleged theft of over \$500 from Jubilee Foods in Emmitsburg on Sept. 25, 2005.

Bailey said the warrant lists Buck's place of residency as Thurmont.

Anyone with relevant information is asked to call Thurmont police at 301-271-0905.



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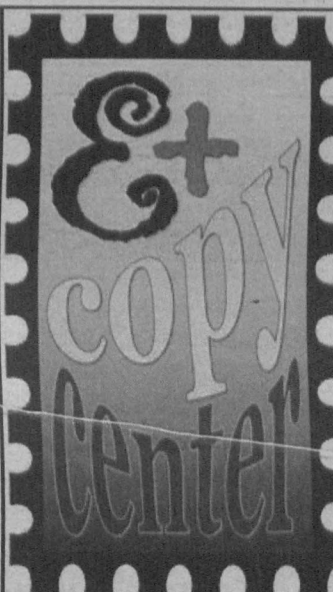
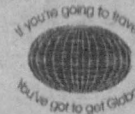
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TOWN NEWS

Commissioners seek Northgate road resolution

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Concerns about access into the Northgate and Emmit Ridge subdivisions off North Seton Avenue could result in relocating the road leading to those homes.

About 30 residents of the two developments attended the Jan. 18 town meeting to express concerns about reaching their homes when the road is flooded.

The current access road was apparently built within the Flat Run flood plain. The Emmit Ridge portion of the site sits at the rear of the land near Irishtown Road, but no access to Irishtown was ever built, forcing those residents to share

access with Northgate residents.

Concerns were voiced about emergency vehicles getting into and out of the development when the access road is flooded or iced-over, as well as the problem of children at home whose parents can't reach them. In some cases, emergency services workers who live in the development can't get out to the ambulance or fire companies to be able to respond to alarms.

Sabrina Paxton-Daily, president of the Northgate homeowners association, told the board that the intersection is closed officially two to three times a year due to flooded conditions, "but there are other times when it should have been closed."

"This (access, especially

emergency access in flooded conditions) is a serious problem," said board President Christopher V. Staiger. "I don't think it's one of those things we want to wait on."

Town Manager David Haller said he would present an alternate access plan for the developments at the Feb. 6 town meeting, as well as the status of land that might be acquired for an alternate route.

Responding to the suggestion that a second entrance be opened in addition to the existing one, Haller said he doubted that the state highway administration would approve two entrances so close together in the same development, but would recommend that the current one simply be abandoned.

Town News Briefs ...

Adequate public facilities review continues

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The board of commissioners continued reviewing the proposed adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) at a special Jan. 23 workshop.

The stated purpose of the ordinance, sponsored by Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr., is to adopt a means to ensure that infrastructure (roads, water, schools, sewerage treatment, recreational facilities, and emergency services) keep pace with or remain ahead of new development "so that orderly development and growth can occur."

The commissioners reviewed the roads and highways section of the proposed ordinance on Jan. 23. Additional review of this and other sections of the APFO will occur at an upcoming town meeting. — R. Fulton

Ethics procedures to be considered

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The board of commissioners will continue discussion at their Feb. 6 meeting of establishing a protocol for the town ethics commission to follow during any future ethics investigations.

Commissioners William B. O'Neil, Jr. and Arthur Elder, both determined in April 2005 by the ethics commission to have violated the town ethics code, have continuously protested that the ethics commission lacked any formal, written protocol for conducting investigations, and thus they had declined to participate in the investigation. — R. Fulton

Town will seek planning consultant

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The board of commissioners will evaluate hiring a planning consultant to work with the town on reviewing planning-related issues, especially since the county has said it can no longer assist.

The county had provided planning consultation to the town before Emmitsburg hired Town Planner Michael Lucas. The town staff and board have been discussing ways to compensate for the resignations of Zoning Technician Jennifer Joy and Lucas which took place near the end of 2005.

Zoning enforcement employee Amy Naill has assumed Joy's previous responsibilities, but hiring a new town planner to replace Lucas has generally been ruled out.

Mayor James E. Hoover told the board at the Jan. 16 meeting that he and Town Manager David Haller had met with county planning representatives and were told that the county no longer has the staff to resume their former role as consultants for municipalities.

Hoover said town staff would meet with several consultants to determine costs and learn what services they could offer. — R. Fulton

Wastewater plant still battling I&I

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The wastewater collection system experienced no spills in December in spite of more than two inches of rain.

However, the treatment plant exceeded its permitted treatment capacity on five days, including one two-day event and one three-day event due to excessive inflow and infiltration (I&I), also called "wild water."

Gallons over permitted plant limits treated in December:

- 966,000 gallons (Dec. 15)	- 1,368,000 gallons (Dec. 16)
- 807,000 gallons (Dec. 17)	- 880,000 gallons (Dec. 25)
- 859,000 gallons (Dec. 26)	

Generally, I&I gets into municipal wastewater collection systems through illegal sump pumps, broken pipes, and broken manholes. Exceeding permitted treatment limits does not necessarily result in a sewer spill. — R. Fulton

Well water production up; Rainbow Lake usage down

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The town increased its use of well water in December, from a little more than 45 percent to 59 percent of the water processed at the water treatment plant.


Conversely, less water was withdrawn from the Rainbow Lake reservoir, the amount dropping from over 43 percent to a little over 30 percent. The town purchased just under 11 percent (1,067,310 gallons) of its December water supply from Mount Saint Mary's.

The town consumed (used) an average of 308,267 gallons of drinking water per day in December. — R. Fulton

Town Meetings

- **Commissioners Meeting**
1st & 3rd Monday
7:30 p.m.
- **Planning and Zoning Commission**
Last Monday
7:30 p.m.
- **Parks Commission**
Feb. 21
7:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Emmitsburg Town Office, Emmitsburg Community Center, 300A South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. For information call 240-629-6300 or visit www.emmitsburgmd.gov.



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TOWN NEWS

Thurmont Mayor urges Emmitsburg to 'move on'

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

THURMONT, Md. — Board President "Mayor" Martin A. Burns expressed empathy for Emmitsburg at Thurmont's Jan. 17 meeting, telling Emmitsburg Commissioner Glenn Blanchard, "We feel your pain."

Commissioner Blanchard attended the meeting as part of an effort by various town officials in Frederick County to drop in on other town meetings to observe how they are managed. Burns had attended the Jan. 18 Emmitsburg town meeting.

Blanchard told the Thurmont board that the various towns should communicate with each other more

and share information and solutions to problems, and said he has observed "how much we have in common with these municipalities when it comes to issues such as water, sewer, annexations..."

Referring to the issues before the then-upcoming Emmitsburg town meeting, including establishing a fifth commissioner and removing the mayoral voting right on the board, Burns commented, "You have people in positions that are elected and feel passionate about what they feel passionate about. It's not wrong. It's not right. It's just different."

"We hope you find your level playing field like I feel we have here with this board, and previous

boards," Burns said. He added, "I'm still learning every day and if you're not, you are doing something wrong, to try and make things better."

"Still stay passionate," Burns recommended. "I hope you guys find common ground and move on because you guys need it."

Emmitsburg is also still dealing with the effects of an ethics investigation, concluded in April 2005, which found commissioners William B. O'Neil, Jr and Arthur "Art" Elder guilty of violating town ethics rules. Near the end of 2005, Elder filed a \$5.4 million lawsuit against town boards and officials for alleged damages he suffered from the investigation and its outcome.

Trails resolution passes 4-1 Commissioner concerned with terrorism

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — A resolution authorizing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a management plan for lands to be included in a proposed recreational trails project passed 4-1 at the Jan. 16 town meeting.

The proposal to develop a multi-purpose trail system for hikers, horseback riding and non-motorized vehicles in Emmitsburg and adjacent areas was initially put forward at the Aug. 15 town meeting by Emmitsburg Commissioner Glenn Blanchard. Tim O'Donnell, a member of the town parks and recreation committee, has been overseeing the development of the plan.

The proposed trail system incorporates a patchwork of tracts within Emmitsburg as well as on

and flanking College Mountain, southwest of town. It includes land owned by the town, Mount St. Mary's and properties with state preservation easements.

As a step toward using certain town property and lands with state conservation easements, DNR must develop a management plan to ensure protection of natural resources.

Voting against the resolution was Commissioner Arthur Elder, who expressed his concerns for the safety of Rainbow Lake, which serves as the town's reservoir for drinking water.

The proposed trails complex would utilize land owned by the town, including that on which Rainbow Lake is situated. In December 2005,

more than 30 percent of the town's water was drawn from Rainbow Lake.

Elder noted that since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, reservoirs have been generally "off limits," and "here we are opening ours (for recreational considerations)." The commissioner noted that the town water commission "does not support" the proposal. Elder is the board of commissioners' liaison to the water commission.

Commissioner Glenn Blanchard previously pointed out that reservoirs are commonly used for recreational purposes, but Elder stated he felt the lake "should be left alone. Terrorists could get into it."

Televising meetings may not be expensive

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Commissioner Glenn Blanchard suggested at the Jan. 16 town meeting having Thurmont Board of Commissioners President, "Mayor" Martin A. Burns, attend a town meeting to explain how Thurmont televises its town meetings.

Emmitsburg officials previously discussed hiring a contractor to set up the town meeting room for videotaping meetings, which would be telecast over Adelphia Cable Channel 99.

Thurmont, which began broadcasting its meetings about late 2000, did not hire a media contractor, but instead, turned to its cable provider to accomplish

its television objectives.

Richard K. May, Thurmont clerk-treasurer, told *The Dispatch* that the town acquired the studio equipment needed to provide the live televised service through the cable contract. "We put it together as part of our original (Adelphia) cable franchise," he said.

May said the town services the equipment as part of the agreement, and provides an operator. The current operator, he said, is a local high school student. "We normally try and get someone who is interested in that kind of project," but, he stated, "Our system is not state of the art."

Thurmont broadcasts its meetings live, and normally replays the video a couple of days after the meeting.

New Web site launched for reclaiming lost pets

The Pet Rescue LLC, www.thepetrescue.com, posts lists of lost and found pets in the U.S. and Canada. The site states that over 80,000 pets go missing every day and only 18% of them ever get returned.

The Web site advertises lost and found animals with photos throughout the U.S. and Canada, and includes a number of pet services: free listings of veterinarians, pet sitters, pet shelters, adopt-a-pets local to each state, and a pet owner forum for idea exchange. Included as well is a magazine, "Paw Prints Weekly," containing animal-related news and hints for maintaining healthy pets.

Mary Heiler, managing member, states, "I think the problem has been evident to many considering over 3,300 pets disappear every hour in the U.S. alone."

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REGIONAL NEWS

Town to begin \$1.7 million wastewater rehab

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

THURMONT, Md. — The board of commissioners voted 2-0 at their Jan. 17 meeting to begin spending up to \$1.7 million in state monies to remedy inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems associated with the wastewater collection system.

The commissioners approved

a resolution that would enable the town to spend up to \$1,731,100 in Maryland Water Quality Administration (MWQA) funds (administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment — MDE). Commissioners Glenn D. Muth and Ronald A. Terpko were absent.

"We have gotten permission from the state. We have the money lined up from the state. And what

we have to do now is spend the money and the state will reimburse us (by providing the town with a low interest loan)," said board President "Mayor" Martin A. Burns.

The money the state is providing is not a reimbursement, but rather a loan to help the town pay for what it does spend (up to \$1,731,100).

"That's good news which means the I&I sewer project will be under way very shortly and (we can) start getting those issues resolved," Martin said.

Gary Dingle, town water superintendent, told *The Dispatch* the problem with I&I has been going on for years, as it has been in many communities.

"When I got here in 1976, we were working on I&I and we have been working on it every since. It's just an ongoing thing unless you spend a lot of money (to address it in a major way)," Dingle said, adding that the unwanted water gets into the wastewater collection system through a number of means including illegal sump pumps, broken pipes, and broken manholes.

Once the treatment plant exceeds its capacity through a dramatic increase in I&I (also called "wild water), sewage spills

can result. "If the plant can't take it, then it (the wastewater) backs up and you have overflows," Dingle said.

Richard K. May, Thurmont clerk-treasurer, said previously that the town wanted to begin the work to address the I&I problems sometime in December. However, May told *The Dispatch* following the Jan. 17 meeting that procedures in reviewing the bids delayed

awarding the bid and beginning the work.

To date, the town has received two bids to perform the proposed work, according to May. He said the low bidder for the project was Ross Construction, Inc., Mt. Airy, which came in at \$1.6 million. W.F. Delauter & Son submitted the high bid at \$1,872,77. (See related story "Thurmont awards sewer contract" in this issue.)

Thurmont awards \$1.6 million sewer contract

THURMONT, Md. — The board of commissioners voted 3-0 at a special Jan. 19 meeting to award a contract to improve the wastewater collection system to Ross Contracting, Inc. Mt. Airy, Md. Commissioner Glenn D. Muth was absent.

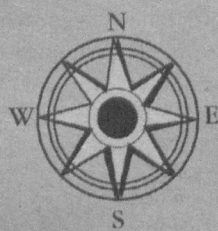
The contract, in the amount of \$1,648,575, represents the larger portion of \$1.7 million in state monies authorized by the state for the town to spend to remedy inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems associated with the collection system.

The original bid by Ross Contracting was \$1,660,575, but was amended to a final figure of \$1,648,575. W.F. Delauter & Son, Thurmont, submitted the high bid at \$1,872,77.

Board President "Mayor" Martin A. Burns noted that the contract had been put out to bid previously but the one bid received (from Delauter) "came in extremely high and we did not accept the bid." — R. Fulton

(See related story "Town to begin \$1.7 million wastewater rehab" in this issue.)

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Local businesses will join 'round robin' crime alert

BY RICHARD D.L. FULTON
News Editor

THURMONT, Md. — Vicki Grinder, Main Street Manager, announced at the Jan. 17 town meeting that a crime alert system would be set up to spread the word among local businesses when crimes have been committed.

Because of the potential for criminals in the area to target businesses, Grinder has decided to lead the effort to establish a notification network among local businesses to alert them when a

crime has been committed.

"If a business is robbed at gun point, you need to get this out," Grinder told the board. She said that by the time the last business is informed, the person could be gone. However, "the person could still be in the area."

Grinder's plan is to set up a network of businesses that would notify each other by phone when a crime against a business in town is reported.

The initial businesses contacted would call another set of businesses, and the process would continue until

every participant was notified.

"I'm going to take businesses and pair them," Grinder said. As soon as she is notified of a crime, "All businesses would be contacted ... the round robin would begin. Someone in another business could see something that could help somebody or simply be (made) aware" about a crime committed earlier.

Grinder said she developed the concept in collaboration with Commissioner William H. Blakeslee, and further consulted with Thurmont Police Chief Gregory L. Eyler. She expects that the alert system could be put into place within two months.

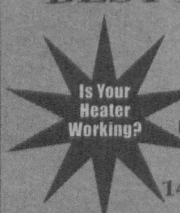
She told *The Dispatch* the Cozy had been robbed at gunpoint in February 2005 and also that week Super Eight was robbed by the same individuals (who were subsequently apprehended).

"Both were late at night. After the recent Blockbuster robbery is when we came up with the idea," Grinder said.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Jim Rada becomes Thurmont Dispatch news editor

The Dispatch is pleased to announce the appointment of James Rada, Jr. as the Thurmont News Editor, beginning Feb. 2.

Rada has worked as a professional journalist for six years, first with the *Cumberland Times-News* and then *The Frederick News-Post*. Before that he was a freelance writer creating newsletters and other marketing materials for regional, national and international companies.

He has won 15 journalism awards in six years from the Associated Press, Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, Maryland State Teachers Association and Community News Holdings, Inc. (CNHI). His awards were given for column writing, breaking news, sports features, investigative reporting, feature writing, religion writing, education writing, and public service writing.

Rada covered the Shanksville, Pa. crash on 9/11, has driven in a demolition derby, trained as a firefighter, and flown in a B-17 bomber that needed to make an emergency landing.

During his 1 1/2 years at *The Frederick News-Post*, Rada's stories led to the creation of a residency requirement for county commissioners, delay of a landfill tax, changes to how the board of education uses certain county monies, and the notification of residents in the New Market area about a road slated to cut through their properties.

He is the author of seven novels, many of



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James Rada, Jr. joined The Dispatch staff on Feb. 2 as the Thurmont News Editor. Rada is an award-winning journalist who most recently worked for The Frederick News-Post.

which are historical fiction about Western Maryland.

Rada currently lives in Gettysburg, Pa., with his wife Amy, and sons Ben and Sam. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and Franklin High School in Reisterstown, Md.

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Empire Homes will pay for traffic signal

BY WILLIAM K. REINKE
Contributing Writer

FAIRFIELD, Pa.— Empire Homes announced at the Jan. 24 council meeting that it would pay the full cost of a traffic signal needed because of McGinley's Choice housing development proposed for Fairfield and

Hamiltonban Township.

At a previous meeting, Empire Homes Project Manager Jamie Hannah indicated the developer was willing to pay 15 percent of the proposed \$85,000-\$100,000 cost for the signal.

When the council balked at that figure, Hannah came back with an offer to contribute up to \$50,000, to

which Councilman Dean Thomas replied, "There's not a resident in Fairfield interested in paying a penny for Empire's traffic light!"

Hannah indicated the signal, to be installed at the intersection of Tract Road and Main Street would be erected after the 200th unit of the 490 unit development was built, "or sooner if the need arises."

Council concerned about 'Fairfield Commons'

BY WILLIAM K. REINKE
Contributing Writer

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — Local developer David Sites continues to work closely with the borough to move forward with his Fairfield Commons infill project proposed for Main Street next to the vacant First National Bank of Fairfield building.

Responding to comments made by the Adams County Office of Planning and Development (ACOPD), Sites' architect, Zavos Architecture and Design, Frederick, unveiled revised site plans reconfiguring the placement of the 22 units.

The borough council shared

three areas of concern regarding the project. First was the lack of a storm water management plan, which Sites assured the council would be submitted by the end of January.

Some council members were concerned about fire truck and other emergency vehicles' ability to access the center units of the tightlypackedcommunity. Solicitor Matthew Battersby recommended the Fairfield Fire Department be invited to a planning commission meeting to comment officially on public safety concerns raised by this project.

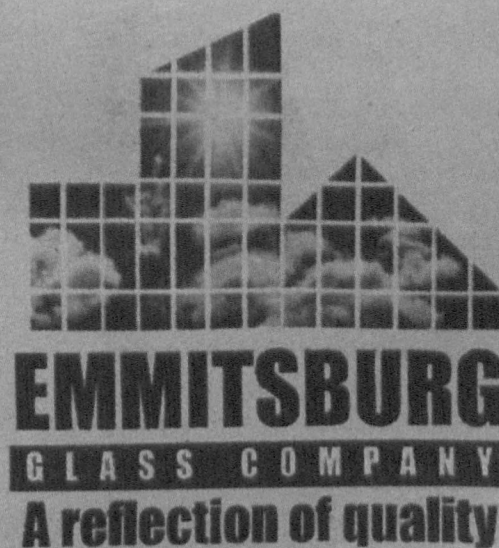
A third issue involved the zoning variances necessary for this project to proceed. Eighteen of the

22 proposed units are town homes, currently prohibited in Fairfield.

The proposal may also require an exception from the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) height ordinance that limits building heights to no more than 10 percent taller than adjacent structures.

Council member Carroll Smith pointed out that any variances for the Fairfield Commons proposal must be considered very carefully as they could set a precedent for future developments. Battersby agreed, "We don't want someone purchasing three adjacent properties and then leveling them to create another 'infill opportunity' like this one."

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EDUCATION

Schools will get only \$14.1 million from state

BY NICOLE M. BELANGER
Contributing Writer

Frederick County is slated to get \$14.1 million from the state department of education, all of which will be used to pay for school construction projects already complete or underway.

The funds are much less than the \$27 million the county has forward-funded for schools so far, but county commissioners are hopeful the state may cough up more.

"It's my hope and expectation that the county would receive \$20 million to \$25 million from the state. This is a reasonable and realistic share of the \$281 million. We will need something in this range to maintain our current schedule," said Frederick County Commissioner Jan Gardner.

The total earmarked for Frederick County schools makes up 5 percent of the state's \$281 million allocated for school systems across the state, a percentage that Commissioner Mike Cady says has

stayed consistent for the past several years.

"Overall this is affecting the county's ability to keep up with school construction. Our hope is maybe we'll get more money from impact fees," Cady said, referring to the fees developers pay for each new home.

The county's total request to the governor this year was \$56 million, in order to fully fund the projects commissioners have scheduled in their six-year Capital Improvement Project Budget.

"We are faced with a 21% increase in school construction costs, have already forward funded multiple school projects, and need the state to step to the plate to maintain what is currently in our Capital Improvement Project," Gardner said.

The \$14.1 million will reimburse the county for some of the costs toward the new Middletown primary school and Urbana Middle School scheduled to open this August, as well as Centerville

Elementary in Urbana that opened last August.

Thurmont Primary School is also slated to have an addition built in order to accommodate the state's mandatory full-day kindergarten by 2008.

Commissioners have also requested \$10 million to pay for a new school near Linganore, called Oakdale High School, a project that commissioners have identified as near the top of the list.

Cady believes that the county

has achieved some of its funding goals by having developers pay for school additions, including the one to Tuscarora High School and Crestwood Middle School.

"Developers make for a much better partner than the state in constructing new schools," he said.

The final word from the Maryland Department of Public Works on whether Frederick County will receive additional funds will probably come in May, Gardner said.

Scout adds bridge to EES outdoor classroom

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Contributing Writer

Eagle Scout candidate Steve Golay of Troop 1998 didn't let freezing temperatures or sometimes molasses-slow bureaucratic procedures get in the way of his plan to build a footbridge over Willow Rill stream in front of

Emmitsburg Elementary School (EES.) On Dec. 17 he, a team of friends, and assistant Scoutmasters David Young and Adrian Howell braved the wind and icy snow on school grounds to finish the project which fulfills his community service requirement for Eagle Scout rank.

Golay's engineering design work for the bridge also completes the research project required for

high school graduation in Frederick County. He will graduate from Frederick High School in 2008.

EES staff has been working with Community Commons of Frederick on the plan for the outdoor classroom/schoolyard habitat project for nearly two years. Betsy Johnson of Community Commons directed Golay's efforts and first visited the school site in February 2005.

Golay originally hoped to build the bridge before school started in August, but his plans were complicated by local and state regulations. Building anything on school property requires permission from the Board of Education's facilities department. Any structure built in Frederick County must have

-See Classroom on page 12

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Former Colts Star-Turned-Reverend TO SPEAK AT MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Former pro football star, Rev. Joe Ehrmann, will make his way to Mount St. Mary's campus in mid-March, but isn't coming to talk about sports. The one-time defensive lineman for the Baltimore Colts will discuss the ways in which the media and the sports arena perpetuate the lies of masculinity and femininity—characteristics he believes are better defined by relationships and the human capacity to love and be loved.

The lecture, "Building Men and Women for Others: A Coach Speaks Out," will take place March 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Knott Auditorium. Ehrmann will expose what he refers to as the three lies of masculinity: that competitiveness, physical strength and athletic prowess make a man; that as young men reach puberty, sexual conquests make a man; and that the accumulation of wealth and possessions make a man.

Buffalo, N.Y. native Ehrmann was a rising football star in his college days, and was named an All-American athlete while playing at Syracuse University. He was also named to the university's All-Century football team. During his 13-year professional football career (eight of which were spent with the Colts), Ehrmann was enrolled at the Dallas Theological Seminary and Westminster Theological Seminary, also in

Texas. After being ordained in 1985, Ehrmann left the football field to work among the troubled poor of Baltimore. He has since opened the city's chapter of the Ronald McDonald House, and founded a community-based group known as The Door. He is also dedicated to several organizations that deal with child abuse.

Rev. Ehrmann, who is a father of four and a volunteer high school football coach, also preaches at Grace Fellowship Church, and is the president of the group Building Men for Others. The Baltimore Business Journal named him the Renaissance Person of the 1990s, and he was featured on the cover of *PARADE* Magazine in 2004 as "the most important coach in America."

Pulitzer Prize winner Jeffrey Marx wrote the book "Season of Life" about Ehrmann, in which he is quoted as saying "where children are neglected or abandoned or abused, we as a human community must step up to help them reach their fullest potential and to participate in this world."

The lecture is free of charge and open to the entire community. All are encouraged to attend. For more information please contact the Office of Intercultural Development at 301-447-5720.

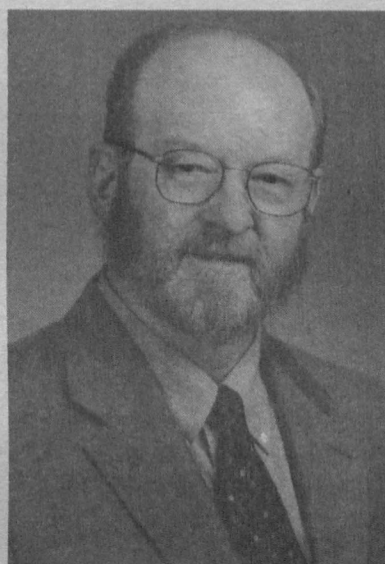
BOSTON UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR TO LECTURE ON "Two Senses of Religious Belief: Problems in the Culture Wars"

Professor Robert Cummings Neville, Dean of the Marsh Chapel at Boston University, will lecture on "Two Senses of Religious Belief: Problems in the Culture Wars" as part of the Delaplaine Professorship program at the Mount. The presentation will be held on February 13 at 7 p.m. in Knott Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Neville currently teaches philosophy, religion, and theology at Boston University. He also serves as the dean of Marsh Chapel there, and as campus chaplain. His preaching is based on a theological and philosophical system that demonstrates his "deep appreciation for metaphysics, cross cultural comparative religion, and biblical study."

He began his career as a professor at Yale University, where he is also an alumnus of their undergraduate and graduate programs. He went on to become the first Protestant to teach philosophy and theology at Fordham University, and later taught at SUNY College at Purchase and SUNY Stony Brook before making the move to Boston.

An accomplished author, he has published a number of titles, including *Behind the Masks of God: An Essay Toward Comparative Theology*, *New Essays in Metaphysics*, *The Puritan Smile: A Look Toward Moral Reflection*, *The Tao and the Daimon*, *Eternity and Time's Flow*, *God the Creator: On the Transcendence and Presence of God*, and the *Cosmology of Freedom*. His artist wife, Beth, has designed a number of his book covers, and contributed illustrations to his book, *The God Who Beckons*.



Professor Robert Cummings Neville
Photo courtesy of Boston University
Photo Services.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL
HOMECOMING
ST. FRANCIS (PA.)
February 4, 7 p.m.**

**LONG ISLAND
February 13, 7 p.m.**

**MONMOUTH
February 18, 1 p.m.**

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
HOMECOMING
ST. FRANCIS (PA.)
February 4, 3 p.m.**

**ROBERT MORRIS
February 6, 7 p.m.**

**LONG ISLAND
February 9, 7 p.m.**

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 Academic Major Day

February 10: Education and Undecided
February 17: Business

Get an in-depth look at what it is like to be a science, education or business major at the Mount through simulated classes, interactions with faculty and current students and discussions with the Career Center. If you are undecided as to your major, attend our program on February 10 to learn how our Freshman Experience and Core Curriculum can help you choose a major.

Instant Admissions for the Mount's Accelerated Professional Studies Program!

The Mount's Division of Continuing Studies will be offering Instant Admission Nights now through March. Bring your most recent college transcript (unofficial copies will be accepted) and receive an on-the-spot evaluation with a Mount advisor, with instant enrollment in the MPAS program if you meet the program criteria. Questions? Call 301-682-8315.

Location: Mount's St. Mary's University,
Frederick Campus

Before Session 3: March 13, 5-6 p.m.
March 15, 5-6 p.m.
March 18, 9-10 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Middle Eastern Film Fest

All events are free and open to the public. For more information on any of these events, please contact the Office of Intercultural Development at 301-447-5720

FOOD FOR THOUGHT DISCUSSION

February 8, Noon-1 p.m., O'Hara Room, Patriot Hall. Discussion of Islamic religion and Arab women's issues.

FILM SCREENING: Door to the Sky

February 10, 6 p.m. in Laughlin Auditorium. Directed by Farida Ben Lyzaïd, Morocco. This film tells the story of a Moroccan woman who returns from Paris to visit her dying father and subsequently begins a quest to preserve her cultural and religious identity.

SLIDE/LECTURE PRESENTATION Beyond the Pyramids: Modern Egyptian Architecture

February 15, 7:30 p.m., Laughlin Auditorium. Hossam Elouan, an Egyptian filmmaker and Fulbright Scholar at the Mount, who recently completed a documentary on the work of legendary Egyptian architect, Hassan Fathy, will speak on Fathy's designs and work in championing human rights and decent housing for the poor.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT DISCUSSION

February 22, Noon-1 p.m., O'Hara Room, Patriot Hall. A discussion of the politics of filmmaking and the significance of cinema in everyday life and culture in the Middle East

FILM SCREENING: Salaam Cinema (Directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Iran)

February 23, 7 p.m., Laughlin Auditorium. This Iranian docudrama is a humorous and heartbreaking story of the power of movies and the tyranny of moviemakers.

EDUCATION

Classroom

-Continued from page 10

a county building permit. Golay also learned that the Maryland Department of the Environment had to grant permission because he planned to build his structure over water on public school grounds. His design had to be approved by a licensed engineer because it will bear the weight of children and adults using the outdoor classroom.

Jeff Teagarden of Adtek Engineers was Golay's mentor for the bridge design. Golay had to research types of materials and structures and take measurements. They used a special computer program to draw up the plans for a wooden footbridge with concrete end supports. Teagarden and other Adtek staff donated their time to the project.

Golay received donations from other area businesses as well. TBH Concrete donated the concrete, and Wickes Lumber donated pressure-treated wood and other materials. Larry McGee and Sons helped design the concrete supports and poured the concrete.

Area students honored with 'King Awards'

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Contributing Writer

Students from the Catocin feeder schools were among those recognized at Frederick County Public Schools' (FCPS) recent celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., "Honor the Past, Imagine the

Future." One student from each county public school was selected for demonstrating leadership qualities similar to King's. Selection was also based on modeling responsibility, caring, fairness, trustworthiness, citizenship, and respect, the pillars of FCPS' "Character Counts!" program.

Receiving 2006 "King Awards" were Dahlia Kronfli (Emmitsburg Elementary School), Kate Arnone (Lewistown Elementary School), Rehan Tariq (Sabillasville Elementary School), Collin Schildt (Thurmont Primary School), Tyler Shuck (Thurmont Elementary School), Brittany

Ashe (Thurmont Middle School), Ashley Reaver (Catocin High School), and Warren Zentz (Career & Technology Center.)

Susanna Letora, Thurmont Primary School, received an award for her art project reflecting the theme of the celebration.

Emmitsburg Lions Club
announces memorial scholarships

The Emmitsburg Lions Club awards three \$1,000 scholarships annually to graduating seniors living in its service district.

The Dr. George Morningstar Memorial Scholarship, the Bob Gauss Memorial Scholarship, and the Emmitsburg Lions Club Scholarship, sponsored jointly with the Community Foundation of Frederick County, are available to high school seniors in the Emmitsburg Elementary School district and the 21727 zip code.

A signed cover letter and

only one application essay for all three scholarships must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, March 15. The essay should show how the lives of Dr. George Morningstar, Bob Gauss, and Dr. Harry Prongas relate to the applicants' goals and aspirations. (For biographies, visit www.emmitsburg.net/lions/scholarship.htm.)

Mail all cover letters and the application essay to Chairman, Emmitsburg Lions Club Scholarship Committee, PO Box 1182, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

The joint Emmitsburg Lions/Community Foundation scholarship also requires the completion of a foundation application, available online at www.cffredco.org, which must be received by the Community Foundation on or before March 15 at 5 p.m.

All scholarship winners will be announced at their high school awards assemblies and recognized for their merit at the Emmitsburg Lions Club Community Day on July 1.

Elementary gifted
and talented
meeting scheduled

FREDERICK, Md. — Nomination packets for the Frederick County Public School (FCPS) elementary gifted and talented program (children K through 5th grade) will be available starting Feb. 10 at all public and private county schools and online at www.fcps.org/content/gnt.cfm. Completed applications are due by March 10.

An information meeting about the program, for parents only, will be held Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Staff Development Center, 7630 Hayward Road, Frederick.

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Arts & Entertainment

LOOKING AHEAD

Area Valentine's events offer change of pace

BY NICOLE BELANGER
Contributing Writer

It's not too late to plan a Valentine's Day for that special someone, and area businesses are already gearing up for the big romantic day.

While many couples may still opt for dinner out and maybe a movie afterward, there are some unique local events that offer a memorable evening.

The word romance evokes a certain image and a white, horse-drawn carriage definitely fits. Although the Frederick Tour and Carriage Company is shutting down after 10 years, it will still be offering tours through downtown Frederick during the weekend of Feb. 10 and 11 as part of an early Valentine's Day event, said owner Tiffany Wilms.

"We're hoping to sell it because there are no other places in Maryland that offer carriage rides," she said. The company will continue to offer carriage rides for weddings.

Valentine's Day has been one of their busiest times of the year since many couples enjoy the coziness and memories that come with an old-fashioned ride through historic Frederick or secluded Baker Park. In fact, it's also been a popular venue for men to propose to their girlfriends.

"Men will call us ahead of time to ask about proposing or they'll ask us to stop at a certain point," Wilms said.

The 30-minute rides will start at 6 p.m. on Feb. 10 and 5 p.m. on Feb. 11, lasting until 10 p.m. Reservations are recommended since the rides book fast. The fee is \$75 per carriage. Each carriage holds up to four people, but couples can opt to ride alone.

"It's just a really nice way to see the town," Wilms said.

For reservations or more information, visit www.frederickcarriageco.com or call 301-845-7001.

Valentine's Day also evokes visions of chocolate for those with a sweet tooth and what better way to get the taste buds going than with

a visit to the 4th Annual Chocolate Gala, put on by the Frederick Sister Cities Association.

The gala, on Feb. 7 from 6 to 9 p.m., is the premiere event for area chefs and restaurants, competing with their best mouthwatering desserts, all made from chocolate.

The event is a professional competition and tasting event, open to the public. Tickets cost \$25 per person. Money raised goes to support the Frederick County Historical Society.

During the evening there will be live music, as well as a silent auction and champagne. Tickets are available at the Candy Kitchen on Market Street in Frederick or by calling 301-898-7647.

Many women dream of their partners offering to take dancing lessons so that they can enjoy an evening of elegant dancing together. The Gettysburg area Recreation Department is offering the perfect way to learn just in time for Valentine's Day.

On Feb. 9, the 14-piece National Apple Museums Dance Band will play for couples who want to learn or already enjoy ballroom dancing. The dance begins at 8 p.m., with lessons on this month's dance – the East Coast Swing – beginning at 6:45 p.m.

Tickets cost \$5 per person and refreshments will be provided. The dance will be held at the Gettysburg Area High School Cafeteria. For more information, call 717-334-2028.

For couples who prefer a quiet evening of live music, the West Side Café in Frederick offers a singer/songwriter showcase every Sunday night.

On Feb. 12, just in time for Valentine's Day, local and traveling singers will perform, starting at 7:30 p.m. The event is free. Musicians that night include Lori Grigsby, Wes Charlton, Sean Slattery, Wes Mann and Kathie Ko.

The café is located on 2nd Street in Frederick. For more information, call 301-418-6886.

For Children

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

Feb. 3 – Fred Garber Inflatable Theater Co. 7 p.m. Pneumatic wizard Fred Garbo and Brazilian ballerina Daielma Santos use physical comedy, dance, juggling, and their own creative, inflatable inventions to keep audiences entertained and amazed. Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. \$12-19. 717-827-3300

Feb. 12 – "I'm Glad You're Here" with David Parker. 3 p.m. Parker combines American Sign Language, live music, movement and visual comedy to create an energetic and interactive evening. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St. \$10-15. 301-228-2828

Stage

Feb. 3-5 – "Rounding Third." The kick off to the 2006 season of the Thurmont Thespians takes its audience on the tumultuous journey of two Little League coaches through an entire season, from their first tentative meeting to the climactic championship game. "Rounding Third" is an important lesson for coaches and parents with children participating in any competitive youth activity. American Legion Auditorium, 8 Park Place, Thurmont. \$10-25. 301-271-7613

Through March 4 – "Betty the Yeti." An absurd environmental farce concerns Russ T, an out-of-work logger who heads for the forest to find solitude and escape his failing marriage. But little peace is to be discovered when Betty, a female Sasquatch-like creature, discovers the pleasure of Russ T's company and the convenience of his keen camping gear. Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 W. Patrick Street, Frederick. \$15-20. 301-694-4744

Through March 11 – "La Cage aux Folles." The musical comedy on which the movie

"The Birdcage" was based. A couple's domestic tranquility is shattered when their son decides to marry a bigoted politician. When the future in-laws come to visit, the truth comes out. Way off Broadway, 5 Willowdale Drive, Frederick. 301-662-6600.

Concerts

Feb. 7 – Concert Pianist Leon Bates. 7:30 p.m. Internationally renowned concert pianist Leon Bates will perform the musical strains of America's legendary composer, Duke Ellington. \$10-20. Free for students under 18. Mount St. Mary's University, Knott Auditorium. 301-447-5308

Feb. 10 – U.S. Soldiers Chorus. 7:30 p.m. A rare Washington area performance by one of the nation's premier touring choirs. Free and open to the public. Chapel, Lutheran Theological Seminary, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. 717-334-6286

Feb. 10 – Maryland Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. Enjoy a birthday toast to Mozart, a celebration of the great composer's 250th birthday. The concert highlights two of his most charming works: Overture to Il Re Pastore and Symphony No. 41, also known as Jupiter. The MSO's own Beverly Butts is featured in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto. \$10-25. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St. Frederick. 301-228-2828

Galleries, Exhibits, Art Shows

Through Feb. 26 – Valley Art Association Exhibition. Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown. Works by members of this local organization, which evolved from the Society of Hagerstown Artists and will include landscapes, portraits, still life paintings, among other works, created in a variety of media. Many of the works will feature views of the region.

Through Feb. 26 – Photos by James W. Strongin, African Odyssey. An exhibition of 20 photographs by this Hagerstown resident will be on view in the Bowman Concert Gallery of The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. The images were taken in the Sub-Sahara and in Southern Africa.

Through Feb. 28 – "New York City Love Affair." Artist Kathy

Kershner presents a portrait of New York City as experienced over a period of 35 years. The exhibit will showcase artwork comprised of multiple images on transparent film as well as photographs, including images of Times Square, Coney Island and views from the World Trade Center. Hood College, 401 Rosemont Avenue 301-663-3131

Feb. 5 – Model Railroad Open House. 1-4 p.m. Frederick County Society of Model Railroads. Visit a working HO scale model railroad, located in an authentic Chesapeake and Ohio railroad car. Behind 423 East Patrick Street, Frederick. 301-695-9760

Feb. 5 – Opening Reception for Reuben Kadish Artworks. 2:30-4 p.m. Work in all of Kadish's media, from every stage of his legendary career – painting, sculpture, drawings and prints – show the intellectual and visual integrity of his life. The exhibit will run through April 23. Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 91 Key Street, Hagerstown. 301-739-5727

Dance

March 18 – "Spirit of the Dance." 8 p.m. Features performers from the Irish International Dance Company. Irish dance combined with Latino rhythms of tango, flamenco and salsa. Tickets: \$39-\$47. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St. 301-228-2828

Movies

Feb. 3 – "All that Jazz." 8 p.m. Bob Fosse's 1979 autobiographical musical about the troubled and self-absorbed director/choreographer Joe Gideon. \$4-6. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St. 301-228-2828

Feb. 8 – "A Night on the Trail – Stagecoach." 7 p.m. Presentation of John Ford's Western film, "Stagecoach." Cowboy snacks like beef jerky and trail mix will be provided. Free. Bowen Auditorium, 115 McCreary Hall, Gettysburg College. 717-337-6600

Feb. 17 – "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp" and "Saturday Afternoon." 8 p.m. 1926 silent comedies starring Harry Langdon, accompanied by the might Wurlitzer. \$4-6. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick Street. 301-228-2828

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ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

Library Events

At the Emmitsburg Library

Oaks and Acorns Book Club (grades 4-6)

Bring an adult. Light snack provided.
Second Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 13

Chess Club (ages 6 and up)

Bring an adult if you are under 8.
Second and fourth Fridays at 3:15 p.m.
Feb. 10 and 24

Monthly make it and take it craft (all ages)

Feb. 6-11 Decorate a special heart pocket to fill with treats or messages.

3rd Thursdays at ThorpeWood (ages 3-5)

Monthly preschool story program at ThorpeWood Environmental Center, Old Mink Farm Road, Thurmont, hosted by Thurmont and Emmitsburg libraries. Directions: www.thorpewood.org or 301-271-2823.

Feb. 16 from 1-2 p.m. Registration required.

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

Martial Arts for Children. Learn the background of Tae Kwon Do, a Korean form of martial art involving kicking and punching. Presentation by Ted Hillson, director of South Central Tae Kwon Do.

Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. Registration required.

Storytimes

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

First three Wednesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m.,
Feb. 1, 8, 15

Two Terrific! (age 2 with an adult)

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

Pre-school Storytime (ages 3-5)

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

Family Storytime (all ages)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

For Teens

Movie Makers Club (grades 6-12)

Join other teens to learn the basics of filmmaking. Share experiences and resources to make movies.

First Tuesday and third Thursday at 7 p.m.

Feb. 2 and 16

Animé Club (grades 6-12)

Second Friday from 6-8 p.m.

Movie, snack, other activities. Co-sponsored by Emmitsburg and Thurmont Libraries.

Feb. 10 Registration required.

Teen Book Club (grades 6-12)

Third Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Feb. 21 - "Eragon" by Christopher Paolini

Adult programs

Non-fiction Book Club

Second Thursday at 1 p.m.

Feb. 9 - "All Over but the Shouting" by Rick Bragg

Tuesday Evening Book Club

Second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 14 - "Angry Housewives Eating Bon-bons" by Lorna Landvik

Knitting Circle (adults and teens)

Third Thursday at 4 p.m.

Feb. 16

Genealogy Focus Group (adults and teens)

Fourth Thursday at 7 p.m.

Learn about resources and share tips with others engaged in genealogical research.

Feb. 23

Culler Magic Emmitsburg (all ages)

Magical performance and illusions by magician Frank Culler. Registration required.

Feb. 4 at 1 p.m.

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

Senior Events

It's February - brrr! - so we'll salute our presidents Washington and Lincoln, and send hugs and kisses to those we love on Feb. 14. We'll observe Valentine's Day on that date, with a party and a special meal. Meeting Day is Feb. 21, with blood pressure checks the same morning. We have a pool tournament every Wednesday at 1 p.m. and all interested persons are welcome to join in. It's time to make doughnuts at 8 a.m. on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 28, followed by a potluck lunch at 11:30 a.m.

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: Feb. 1 and 15.

Cards-500, and Bridge Group:

Feb. 8 and 22.

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

Shopping at Jubilee Foods:

Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

Frederick Shopping:

Second Wednesday, 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.

Food Bank announces new hours

The Emmitsburg Food Bank will be open each week during the following hours, effective Feb. 1: Tuesday and Wednesday 7-8 p.m., Friday 1-2 p.m., and Saturday 10-11 a.m. When schools are closed because of inclement weather, the Food Bank will also be closed.

The new mailing address is Emmitsburg Food Bank, P.O. Box 898, Emmitsburg, MD 21727-0898. For information, call 717-642-6939 or 301-447-6891.

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Feb. 4—Terra Rubra Lions Athletic Club Girls Fast Pitch Softball registration. 9-11 a.m. Taneytown McDonald's. For girls 6 through 14 years old. Season cost: \$65 per child with a family discount. Fee covers uniforms, insurance, equipment, etc. Information: 410-751-1673.

Feb. 4 — "Prom-ability." 1-4 p.m. C. Burr Artz Public Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick. A special event for teens preparing for Prom Season. Will include live entertainment, fashion show, hair and makeup techniques. Information: www.fcpl.org or call 301-694-1630.

Feb. 5 — Super Bowl Bingo. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., bingo starts at 1 p.m. Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Co., 400 South Seton Avenue. Tickets: \$35 for 47 games. Meal included. Tickets: call 301-447-2613 (EVAC) or 301-447-2073.

Community Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 5 — Mother Seton School Open House. 2 p.m. Register for the 2006-07 school year. Pre-K to grade 8, before and after school program.

Feb. 5 — Youth Service & Super Bowl Party. 7-8:30 p.m. service, followed by a Super Bowl Party hosted by the church. Elias Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg. Youth For Christ monthly event. Information: 301-271-0255.

Feb. 10 — Basement Coffee House. 7-10 p.m. Elias Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg. Free coffee, food

and live music. Local bands and a featured band.

Feb. 12 — Public Breakfast. 7 a.m.-noon. Union Bridge Fire Co., 8 West Locust Street, Union Bridge. All you can eat. Adults, \$6; children 6-12, \$3; under 6, free.

Feb. 12 — Country Style Breakfast Buffet. 7 a.m. to noon. St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 44 Frederick Street, Taneytown. Adults \$5.50; Children 7-10, \$3.25; 6 and under, free. Early bird special 7-8 a.m.

Feb. 14 — Valentine's Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight. Union Bridge Fire Co. \$15 per person. Music by Poison Whiskey. Must be 21 to attend. For tickets and information, call 410-775-7780.

Feb. 15 — Helping Kids with Anger

Management and Problem Solving. 6-8 p.m. Thurmont Primary School, 7989 Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont. Co-sponsored by Families Plus and CASS. Information or registration: call Families Plus! At 301-694-9002.

Feb. 18 — Country Butchering. Meat pickup and buffet breakfast from 6-10 a.m. Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company Activities Building. Advance orders must be received by Feb. 12. Call 301-271-4252, 301-271-2880 or 301-271-4253.

Feb. 19 — Bingo Bonanza. Guardian Hose Company, Thurmont. Doors open at 11 a.m. Advance tickets: \$35 — Feb. 4 and 11 at the Fire Hall from 9-11 a.m.; \$45 at the door.

Feb. 19 — Spaghetti Dinner. 3-6 p.m., St. Mary's Church, 256 Tract Road, Fairfield. Dinner \$6, children 6-12, \$3. Information: 642-8815.

Feb. 19 — Third Sunday Service of Praise. 6:30 p.m. Graceham Moravian Church Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. Music by The Walk. Message: Dave Fisher.

Feb. 20 — Emmitsburg Area Historical Society meeting. 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center.

Feb. 25 — Benefit Breakfast. 6-11 a.m. Sponsored by Trinity United Church of Christ, Thurmont. Proceeds to benefit Guardian Hose Company building fund. Adults \$6, children 5-10 \$3, under 5 eat free. Information: 301-271-4289.

Feb. 25 — Blacksmith shop demonstrations. 1-3 p.m. Camp Round Meadow, Catocin Mountain Park. Evolution of blacksmithing and demonstrations.

Feb. 28 — Fat Tuesday pancake brunch. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thurmont Senior Center, 806 East Main Street. \$5 per person. Call 301-271-7911.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Employment

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.

Driver wanted. Nights and weekends for towing. Call Frank: 301-447-3101.

Mount St. Mary's University located in Emmitsburg, Md. is now accepting applications for the following positions: Public Safety Department: Dispatch and Patrol Officer - Full-time and part-time; Physical Plant: Custodian - Full-time & part-time. Applications are available at Mount Saint 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. Mount St. Mary's University is the oldest independent Catholic University in the United States. Founded in 1808, the University is a vibrant academic community where the words Faith, Discovery, Leadership and Community are used to describe our vision for continuing a mission of distinction. Additional information about Mount St. Mary's University and complete job descriptions are available at www.msmary.edu. EOE

We are looking for good people to assemble wire and cable assemblies. Need to be able to follow both oral and written instructions and have the ability to learn and understand wiring and assembly drawings. Must

be willing to learn soldering. Good manual dexterity and neat workmanship are a must. Excellent health insurance and 401K retirement plan. Qualstat Electronics, 1270 Fairfield Road, Suite 50, Gettysburg, PA 17325. 717-334-8900 ext. 10.

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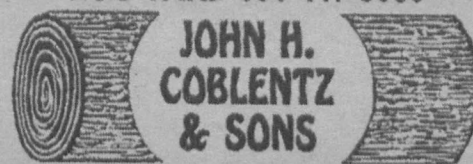
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Tuesday, February 14th

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