

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL V, No. 6

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

MARCH 16, 2006



-PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN MURRAY & DAVID AND DAWN WEDDLE

Catoctin girls win first state championship

The Catoctin High Lady Cougars celebrate their Maryland 1A Basketball Championship after its 61-45 win over Southside Academy at UMBC Mar. 11. Pictured are: Coaches – Amy Murray, Hayley Howe, Rick Wastler, Mike Valentine. Players – Hanna Dubois, Katie Stackhouse, Ashley Metal, Brittany Cole, Amber Kline, Kate Robinson, Carrie Mathews, Emily Firor, Connie Cuddahee, Kasey Gladhill, Becky Cuddahee, Lauren Wildasin, Monie Cuddahee. Manager – Julie Hagelin. Cougar – Erin Hogan. See our next issue of *The Dispatch* for a feature story on the Lady Cougars and their championship season.

Voters will elect fifth commissioner

Two candidates have officially filed

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON
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rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The board of commissioners reaffirmed at their March 6 meeting that voters will be electing a fifth commissioner for the first time in the town's charter history during the upcoming April 25 town election.

At the Jan. 18 town meeting, the board voted to amend the town charter to create a seat for a fifth commissioner. The decision could have been challenged by a referendum petition had one been filed with the required number of signatures by Feb. 28. Since no petition was filed, the commissioners' decision stands.

Voters will also be electing an individual to fill the board seat being vacated by Commissioner Arthur Elder, whose term is ending. Elder recently told *The Dispatch* that he had not decided whether to run for reelection.

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MARYLAND SPORTS CARE & REHAB
Physical Therapy:
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SPECIAL PULLOUT

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Something sweet on Emmitsburg's town square
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Guardian Hose Banquet
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Town officials confident with comp plan

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON
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EMMITSBURG, Md. – Although a large chunk of time has been lost in the movement to produce a draft comprehensive plan, town officials stated at

the March 6 town meeting they believe they can salvage the effort and move forward quickly.

The original comprehensive plan, adopted in 1974, represented the first effort to establish planning and zoning controls in Emmitsburg, and was most recently updated in the mid-90s. The current review is

part of a periodic revision process.

Producing the initial draft of the town's soon-to-be-updated comprehensive plan has taken more than a year and a half, with the first workshops dating back to 2004. The late-2005 resignations of Town Planner Michael Lucas and Zoning Technician Jennifer

Joy brought the process to a near halt and resulted in no final draft being produced.

Senior Inspector Frank Henry and planning commission Chairman Rich Kapriva both

-See **Plan** on page 5

Pa. House votes to ban Gettysburg casino

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON
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HARRISBURG, Pa. -- A bill proposed by Rep. Stephen Maitland to ban stand-alone casinos in Adams County unanimously passed in the state House of Representatives March 14, and will now head to the senate.

The representative's proposed bill would ban stand-alone casinos in Pennsylvania counties with a

population of between 91,000 and 92,000, which would include Adams County. Maitland told *The Dispatch* his amendment casino to the 2004 slots regulations which would ban an Adams County casino had only been before the House less than 10 days before it was adopted.

"The bill should be in the Senate now," he said, "and they could take action today," but he felt it was more likely nothing would be done until the April session.

Maitland said the state Senate faces several options. It can agree with the House version, which was "unlikely;" do nothing and letting the House bill "sit there and whither;"

amend the House version; send the bill to a conference committee; or vote it down, which, he said, was

-See **Casino** on page 3

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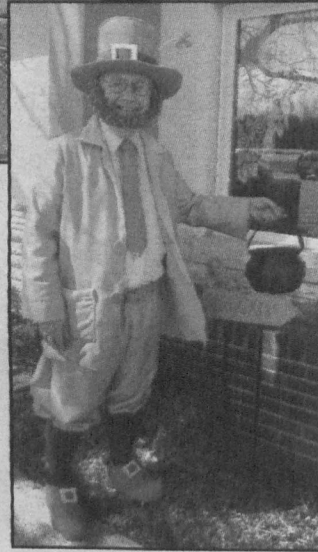
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-RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

'Leprechaun' O'Malley visits Shamrock Restaurant

The Rev. Vincent O'Malley of St. Joseph's Catholic Church makes an appearance as a leprechaun at the Shamrock Restaurant, U.S. 15, Thurmont on March 14, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. O'Malley gave out candy to Mount Airy Christian Academy third-graders who were having lunch at the restaurant in conjunction with studying Ireland. Their teacher, Carrina Hammond, parents and guests were present as well.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Which words of wit hit home?

Not running for public office in Emmitsburg, Manchester, or Thurmont, I wonder what the ulterior motive is for bandying my name about in the public press. I refer to the letters to the editor written by Messrs. John Preston and Martin Burns. The first I could

not understand. The second, though far from civil, was all too clear. Methinks the gentleman doth protest too much. Even so, I am pleased to learn that the writer is literate.

Perhaps these gentlemen will inform the public which of my many written words of wit and

wisdom hit home and why. A civil response in this newspaper would be greatly appreciated, not only by me but the general public who must be wondering what they are talking about.

- Harold C. Craig, Jr.
Emmitsburg

Stottlemeyer wants the facts A response to Thurmont Mayor Burns

The reason I'm writing you instead of returning your call is that I might say something I would regret. I most certainly would forget to say something I wish I had said.

I've been out of town for a while so this morning I finally opened up *The Dispatch* to see where you raked me over the coals pretty good.

My only real criticism of you over the years is that you don't take criticism very well.

I would think that being in politics you would learn and

improve on that a little bit not only for your job performance, but for your health as well.

Shame on you, sir, for scolding a constituent for calling into question a most serious decision that is about to be made that will effect our town so drastically.

If I didn't have the facts right, I truly apologize.

The question still remains though why do we need a referendum to the voters or such a massive explanation regarding these houses and now a potential Wal-Mart, when that was

answered back in the November elections.

Finally, regarding the article in the March 2 *Dispatch* titled, "Thurmont expecting annexation request," at the end of the story it says that Burns and other town commissioners have met with the developer's representative.

Burns says, "There's been no plans, no discussions, no nothing."

How can I get my facts straight when I get none at all?

- Paul Firor Stottlemeyer
Thurmont, Md.

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.

March 9, 1906 Harney News

Mr. Truman Heck, of York, formerly of this place, and Miss Alma Fox, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fox, of this place, were quietly married last Saturday evening, March 3, at Emmitsburg, Md.

Mr. John Waybright and Miss Lillie Valentine, both of near this place, were married on last Thursday, March 1.

The shooting match was a failure last Saturday owing to inclement weather.

Mr. Ohler is digging out the foundation to erect his new house in the near future.

Mr. and Mrs. James Kebab, of Littlestown, spent one day last week as the guest of Mr. G.I. Shriver.

Mr. Abraham Hesson sold his driving horse "Joe" to Mr. Scott Smith.

March 16, 1906

SUSAN B. ANTHONY PASSES AWAY

Aged Woman Suffragist Dies at Rochester, N.Y.

Rochester, N.Y., March 13 - The long and eventful life of Susan B. Anthony is closed. The end came peacefully. Miss Anthony had been unconscious practically for 24 hours, and her death had been momentarily expected since Sunday night. Only her wonderful constitution kept her alive. She was 86 years of age.

Dr. M.S. Ricker, her attending physician, said Miss Anthony died of heart failure induced by double pneumonia. She had had serious valvular heart trouble for the last six or seven years. Her lungs were practically clear and the pneumonia had yielded to treatment, but the weakness of her heart prevented her recovery.

The first results of the labors of Miss Anthony and her coworkers was the passing of laws giving women various property and other rights. When they began there was not a state in the Union in which the mother could be the guardian of her own children. Now there are six states where

the mother owns her children. In 1851 there was not a state in which a woman had a right to her own wages. Now there is hardly a state in which the law has not been changed in this regard.

New Bridge Over Monocacy

The commissioners of Carroll and Frederick counties viewed the fording on the Bullfrog Road across the Monocacy, between Harney and Bridgeport, on Wednesday of last week, and were of the unanimous opinion that a bridge was badly needed. It is said that there is no question that it will be built, but whether it will this year will depend on finances. The bridge, including abutments, will be about 150 feet. It will be placed on the left of the present fording or down stream, probably 200 yards and the necessary land will be donated by the Clabaugh brothers. This road is traveled a great deal between Maryland and Pennsylvania, to both Carroll and Frederick counties, and the present fording, especially to those not acquainted with it, is very dangerous even when the waters are not very high.

March 23, 1906 PERSONALS

Mr. C. Corbin Cretin, of Philadelphia, Pa., attended the funeral of his uncle, Mr. John Henry Cretin, which took place at St. Anthony's Church, Monday morning.

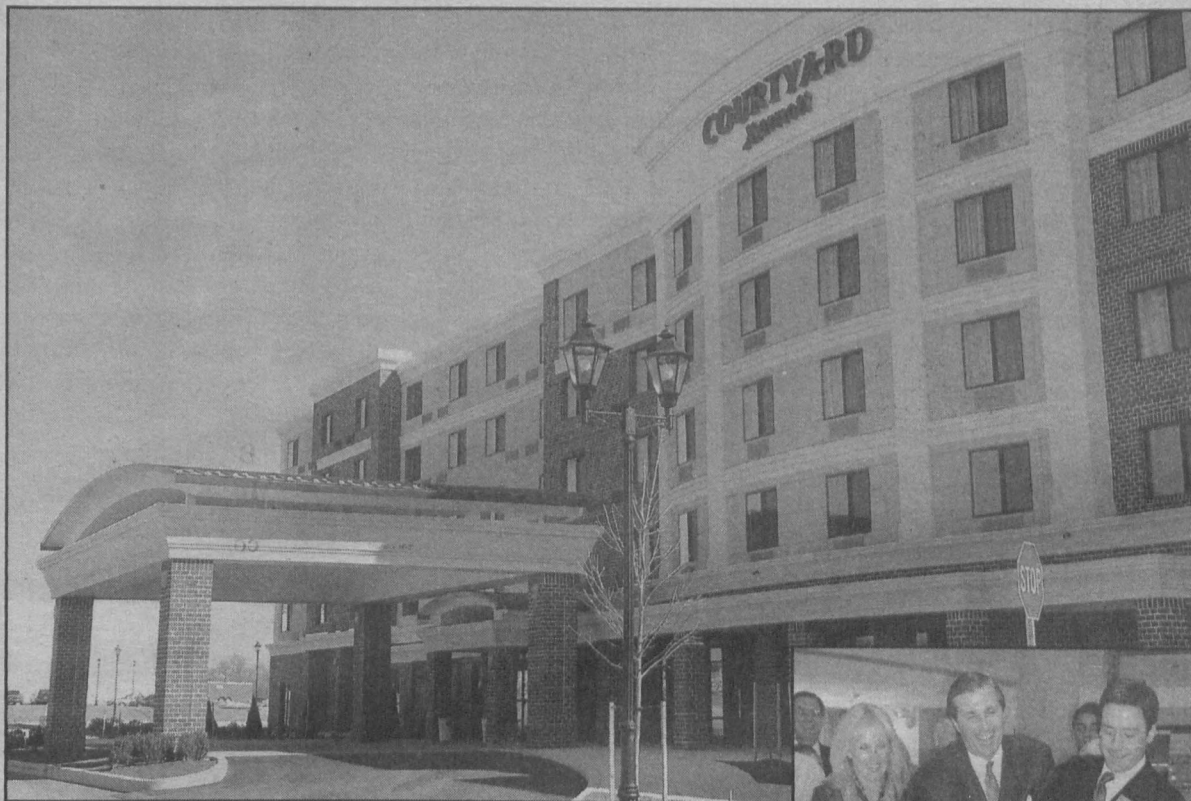
Mr. Victor E. Rowe, of Washington, D.C., is visiting his parents in this place.

Mrs. Catherine McClain, of Baltimore, is visiting Mrs. O.A. Horner.

Misses Grace and Aurelia Shriver spent last Saturday and Sunday with their cousins, Myrtle and Bessie Shriver, of Barlow, Pa.

The pupils of Oak Grove School of Harney, assisted by the teacher Walter C. Wolfe gave a very delightful and most successful entertainment on last Friday evening. The program consisted of singing Dialogues, Recitations, a Tableau, etc., and all are to be complimented.

First of four new hotels opens at Gateway Gettysburg on Rt. 30



-RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

The 152-room Marriott Courtyard Gettysburg officially opened Feb. 1 at Gateway Gettysburg on Route 30, Straban Township. The hotel, under construction since early 2005, will employ about 70 individuals. *Insert:* Robert J. Monahan, Jr. (center), president of The Monahan Group, and Ryan Lee (right), general manager of the Courtyard, "cut the ribbon" at the Feb. 1 grand opening of the Marriott Courtyard located in the 180-acre Gateway Gettysburg project. Joining Monahan is his wife, Laurie, (left). The Courtyard is the first of four hotels planned for the site.



-RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON
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GETTYSBURG, Pa. — The build-out of the 180-acre Gateway Gettysburg project officially began with the Feb. 1 ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of the 152-room Marriott Courtyard Gettysburg.

About 50 Monahan Group and Courtyard staff, management and guests gathered for the opening of this first of the Gateway Gettysburg facilities. Robert J. Monahan, Jr., president of The Monahan Group, and Ryan Lee, general manager of the Courtyard, jointly "cut the ribbon" and the hotel opened for business at 3 p.m. that afternoon.

The Courtyard represents the first in a series of facilities planned to open this year at Gateway, including an eight-screen theater, another hotel and a conference center.

In addition to its 152 guest rooms, the hotel offers guests complimentary high-speed Internet access, an indoor pool and whirlpool, an exercise room, business center, valet dry cleaning, guest laundry, two meeting rooms and a boardroom.

Food service is available in a café and a 24-hour food market. Guests can also relax in a lounge and bar area equipped with a plasma screen television and fireplace. Near the lounge is an area equipped with computers with

Internet access for patron use.

Monahan told *The Dispatch* that the new hotel, whose construction began in early 2005, would employ about 70 individuals. Asked about bookings, Monahan said, "We already have 94 reservations for the weekend (following the ribbon-cutting)."

Another 250 rooms will be added to the total available accommodations at Gateway Gettysburg in August when the six-story Wyndham Gettysburg is completed, according to Monahan. Work on the Wyndham started last summer.

That hotel will feature a 10,000 square foot ballroom with banquet seating for as many as a thousand guests at one time for dinner, and 20,000 square feet of flexible meeting space. The facility will also offer a lobby bar lounge, private dining rooms, a gift shop, laundry and laundry services, safe-deposit boxes and room service.

Monahan said that the land for the entire Gateway Gettysburg project was acquired in late-1996 from Adams County. When everything is finished, the entire development will have cost around \$300 million, Monahan told *The Dispatch*.

Gateway Gettysburg will ultimately have four hotels when completed, as well as two restaurants and possible retail establishments. Work on the third hotel is slated to commence during the latter part of this year.

"We will be the fifth largest

hotel facility for meetings and conference space in the Gettysburg area, Monahan noted, adding that, in addition, the entire complex will employ a projected 1,000 individuals.

"Gateway Gettysburg will offer a new dimension to tourism in Gettysburg. In addition to the two million tourists (the town and battlefield normally experience), there will be more interest among the business community" to take advantage of the new facilities, Monahan stated.

Casino

-Continued from page 1

also "not likely."

Chance Enterprises, Inc., headed by local CEO David LaVan, is proposing to build a slots casino called Crossroads Gaming Resort & Spa (formerly the Gettysburg Casino & Spa) which would be located in Straban Township on Route 30 near the U.S. 15 interchange.

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) has set April 5 as a public hearing date for Chance Enterprises' proposed Crossroads Gaming Resort & Spa (formerly the Gettysburg Casino and Spa) in Straban Township. The public hearing will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the ballroom adjacent to the student union at Gettysburg College, 300 N. Washington St.

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The Dispatch

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

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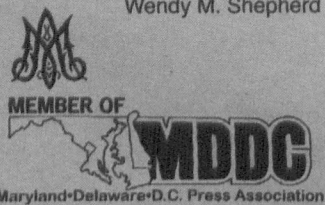
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Graphic Design Shannon Cooley

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Published twice monthly,
 1st & 3rd Thursday
Next Publication: Apr. 6

TOWN NEWS

Last spring election and end of mayoral voting

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON
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EMMITSBURG, Md. — The April 25 town election marks the end of spring elections in Emmitsburg. From then on, town elections will be held in October every year.

The board of commissioners voted Nov. 3, 2003, to change

the town's election dates from the Tuesday preceding the first Monday in May to the Tuesday preceding the first Monday in October, beginning in 2007, as a way of separating the election and budget process.

The board felt that incoming commissioners were unfairly faced with participating in the budgetary process before they had even had time to become acquainted with

the running of the government.

Part of the incentive for establishing a fifth commissioner on the board was to create an environment where tie votes would be less likely, unless, of course, a member were to abstain.

In addition, Mayor James E. Hoover had begun to vote as a board member based on the town attorney's interpretation of the charter regarding mayoral participation in board meetings. Hoover stated he did so to increase

the efficiency of the conduct of town business, in part by ensuring that tie votes would be unlikely.

The board adopted a charter change that both prohibited the mayor from voting as a board member and created the fifth commissioner seat. O'Neil and Hoover co-sponsored the package.

The first meeting in April will likely be the last meeting where the mayor will be able to legally vote as a member of the board.

Voters

-Continued from page 1

Both available seats are for terms expiring in October 2009. Two candidates have formally filed: former commissioners Joyce Rosensteel and Clifford Sweeney. Sweeney filed on Feb. 13 and Rosensteel on Feb. 15.

Rosensteel previously served as a town commissioner from 2002 to 2005; and Sweeney served from 2001 to 2004.

Candidates who file by March 27 will appear on the printed ballot. To run as a write-in candidate, individuals must file with the town by noon, April 18. Votes cast for any write-in candidates who file too late, or do not file, will not be counted.

Candidates must file a financial

disclosure form upon submitting an application for candidacy, and an expense report, due sometime in late March (contact Town Clerk Donna DesPres at 240-629-6300 for deadline information). Following the election, an election expense report addendum is due by May 1.

The town is still short one election judge and asks that volunteers contact town hall (240-629-6300) by March 20. Three regular election judges and one alternate are needed. The town has only received applications for two regular judges.

Last day for residents to register to vote with the Frederick County Board of Elections is April 7. The election poll on April 25 will be old town hall (now community deputy office) at 22 East Main Street from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Emmitsburg Commissioner Elections

Numbers from the past three elections show a significant increase in voter participation.

	2003	2004	2005
Total votes cast * (*including votes for mayor)	459	844	1049
Candidates (winners in bold)			
Glenn E. Blanchard	-	-	214
Theodore Brennan	126	-	-
Harold C. Craig, Jr.	-	179	101
Arthur Elder	275	-	-
Catherine Forrence	-	-	125
Frank Henry	50	-	-
Dr. Stanley C. Mazaleski	-	109	-
William B. O'Neil, Jr.	-	201	-
Joyce A. Rosensteel	-	-	199
Christopher V. Staiger	-	-	221
Clifford L. Sweeney	-	174	189
Dianne L. Walbrecker	-	181	-

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TOWN NEWS

Borderline may help fund student art contest

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON
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EMMITSBURG, Md.—A proposed art contest for area students, initiated by Commissioner William B. O’Neil, Jr., may be partially financed by contributions from a local organization.

In response to concerns expressed by resident Catherine Forrence over where the money would come from to provide proposed savings bonds to award-winning students, Larry Little, co-owner of One More Tavern and a

member of an off-road sporting group called the Borderline 4X4, told the town not to worry about the money.

Suggesting Borderline might contribute monies to support the contest, Little told the board, “I don’t think you have to worry too much about moving stuff around (re-allocating funds) in the budget.”

Little told *The Dispatch* that the 14 or so members of Borderline have contributed to many causes, especially those that are youth-oriented. They donated “thousands of dollars” to the little league, he stated.

The competition would be open to all school-age youth in the area, likely within a given zip code to allow home-schoolers to participate as well. The board directed town staff on Feb. 20 to put together a plan for the art competition, which could carry prizes up to \$1,000 in savings bonds.

O’Neil suggested that the contest have a theme, recommending the board consider the 100th anniversary of the Emmitsburg Library. The contest would be divided into age groups to ensure that competition is fair.

Plan

-Continued from page 1

stated March 6 that the proposed draft appeared further along than they had thought, and the pace of completion should pick up.

Town Manager David Haller agreed with Henry and Kapriva’s assessment of the plan’s status, stating, “It looks like it (the draft) is not too far away. Possibly, it’s almost ready for completion.”

Board President Christopher V. Stagier said the plan should be completed under the guidance of a planning consultant. “We will need to use the resource of a consultant to pull this plan together. I think we will be in better shape once we have a consultant,” he stated.

The town staff and board have been discussing ways to compensate for the resignations of

Joy and Lucas and are considering hiring a consultant in lieu of a full-time planner. (See “Town will seek planning consultant” in the Feb. 2 issue of *The Dispatch*.)

Former Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker told the board more than just a revision of the comprehensive plan must occur. “We have to make sure we get it incorporated into our ordinances,” she said. Commissioner William B. O’Neil, Jr. agreed that producing a completed comprehensive plan should only be the first step, saying, “The plan shouldn’t be a paper tiger and should be tied to the ordinance. Often they (municipal comprehensive plans) are never really connected to law.”

O’Neil also wants to make sure the comprehensive plan includes the “Heart of the Civil War Heritage” management plan, which would qualify the town

for a number of grants and loans applicable to the historic assets of the community.

Commissioner Glenn Blanchard warned that extra steps should be taken to ensure “there are no loopholes,” saying developers and their attorneys are known for seeking out weaknesses in planning regulations.

Walbrecker placed the blame on the draft’s delay squarely on the shoulders of Haller at a recent meeting of the New Forest Society, but also stated at the March 6 town meeting that she had typed revisions to the comprehensive plan and passed them on to Lucas to assist in expediting the process.

Commissioner O’Neil asked Haller at the March 6 town meeting about the cause of the continuous delays. In response, Haller said much of the failure to produce the draft lies with former Town Planner Michael Lucas. “I met with him (Lucas) several times. It was always ‘next week’ or it was always ‘next month,’” Haller said, adding, “I told him he had to get it done.”

The planning commission will continue to review the draft comprehensive plan to ensure recommended changes have been made before submitting the draft to the board of commissioners.

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Election Judges Needed for 2006 Election

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners are seeking persons to serve as election judges for the April 25, 2006 Town election. In accordance with the Emmitsburg Town Code, judges must be registered and qualified voters and not hold or be a candidate for any other Emmitsburg public office.

All judges are compensated for Election Day work and meals. To apply, or for more information, call 240-629-6300, or e-mail mayorhoover@emmitsburgmd.gov.
Deadline to respond 4pm Monday, March 20th.

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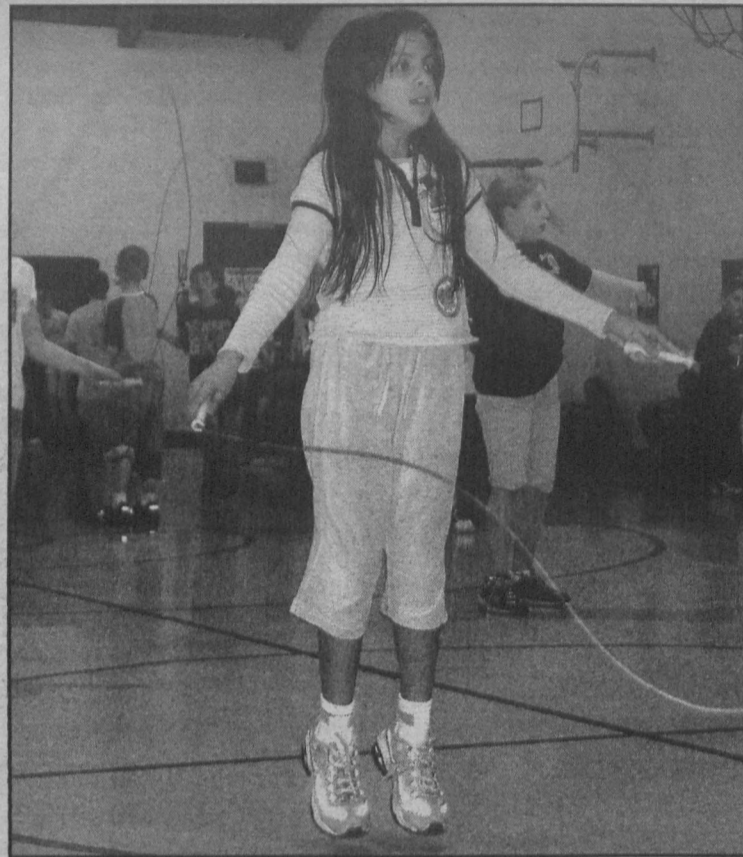
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TOWN NEWS

Emmitsburg students raise thousands

Emmitsburg Elementary School fourth-grade student Zabrina Morales jumps rope as part of a fundraiser held at the school March 3. Students at the elementary school participated in a jump rope marathon to help raise money for the American Heart Association. By March 6, the students had raised over \$7,000, with additional monies expected.



-RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

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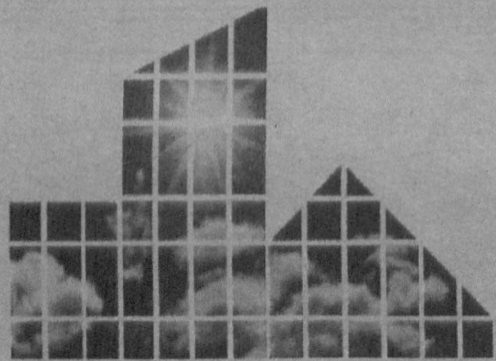
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Playing may be more fun



-RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

A Playground Specialists construction crew works on preparing the site for a new middle school playground at Mother Seton School Elementary at 100 Creamery Road. The school had inherited playground equipment going back to 1965 when the school was established. Because much of it did not meet modern safety codes, the school raised funds to upgrade the playground with new equipment.

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Town News Briefs ...

APFO draft considers water supply

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The board of commissioners continued reviewing the proposed adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) at their March 6 meeting, considering including requirements to ensure that developments would not negatively impact water supplies.

Commissioner Arthur Elder, who also serves as the board's liaison to the town water committee, said that the water system, presently costing about \$1 million a year to operate, could likely not allow for more than another 200 taps before it is maxed out. At the point, he said, the facility "won't be able to produce any more water" for additional taps, based on available water supplies and treatment capacities.

The board decided not to include specific constraints or requirements regarding water conservation and planning in the APFO draft, but instead to insert references to industry standards or state regulations in the applicable sections.

Additional review of this and other sections of the APFO, sponsored by Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr., will occur at an upcoming town meeting. – *R. Fulton*

Pools in good shape for summer

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The repairs and improvements planned for the town pool and baby pool have been completed and they are both ready for the coming season.

Town Manager David Haller told the board of commissioners Feb. 20 that the "baby pool repairs are completed and the main pools seems to be fine." In addition, new fencing has been installed around the pool area. "All the major stuff (problems) should be well in hand," he stated.

– *R. Fulton*

Parks makes pool-related recommendations

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The parks committee could not reach a consensus at their February meeting on whether or not the pool and environs should be available for rental to groups or individuals for events.

Board of commissioners President Christopher V. Staiger, who serves as liaison to the parks committee, said he was not in favor of allowing individuals to rent the facility and deprive others the use as a result, although he was not also prepared to rule out organization rental.

The committee did recommend to the commissioners that they consider offering swimming lessons and life saving instruction at the pool, maintaining the parking area, following up on pool-side furnishings, and seeking volunteers to landscape areas outside the pool area. – *R. Fulton*

Televised meeting contract awarded 4-1

EMMITSBURG, Md. –The board of commissioners voted March 6 to approve a \$38,000 contract with Connectivity Group LLC, Adamstown, Md., to install equipment that would allow the town to broadcast town meetings.

Commissioner Arthur Elder voted against the measure, saying, "I've been hearing a lot about how much we've been spending so I don't know if I can support it (the contract) at this time."

The installation work could begin as soon as arrangements are made with the contractor.

Town administrators plan to broadcast municipal meetings on Adelphia Cable Channel 99. – *R. Fulton*



–RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

Something sweet on the square

Main Street Sweets owners Wendy Glass (right), and Jennifer and Michael Wisner (center and left) stand next to a display case of homemade cakes and pastries in their new coffee and baked goods shop located at 1 West Main Street on the town square. Although the shop opened for business on March 2, the owners are planning a grand opening on April 18. Main Street Sweets offers a variety of coffees and other beverages, as well as cookies, cakes, pies, muffins, buns and bagels. The shop will also fill custom orders for wedding and event cakes.

Emmitsburg Area Historical Society meeting. March 20

7 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center. Join the group as they kick off a season dedicated to documenting the lives of local WWII veterans.

Polarity Energy Balancing Workshop March 28

7-8:30 p.m. Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Avenue. Sponsored by Women Networking 2 B Healthy. Kathy Delaney, Certified Polarity Practitioner Free. RSVP to jeanneangleberger@yahoo.com by March 24.

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REGIONAL NEWS

County tax cut coming

BY JAMES RADA, JR.
Thurmont News Editor
jrada@thurmontdispatch.com

FREDERICK, Md. — The Frederick County property tax rate appears headed for its first cut since 1993, though how large that reduction will be is still up for debate.

On Mar. 14, the Frederick County Commissioners had their first look at next year's operating budget, which starts on July 1. County staff based the property tax rate at 93.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The current rate is \$1.

The \$427.4-million budget is \$40.1 million greater in revenues than the current budget. Even with an anticipated tax rate cut and a new 5-percent cap on taxable assessments, property tax receipts will still increase nearly \$8 million.

"We've had the growth at a minimal in property taxes," said Acting Budget Officer Mike Gastley.

Other large increases are projected in income taxes (\$8.2

million) and recordation taxes (\$4 million).

Even with these reductions and caps, the new budget has a \$14.6-million overall surplus. The complication is that this surplus is one-time money that can't be relied on to continue. Looking at only the on-going revenues, an operating deficit of \$7.1 million remains. The deficit is covered by one-time funds this year, but it may not be in the future and this concerned the commissioners.

Commissioner Jan Gardner said, "Our task, if we want to be fiscally responsible, is to wipe out that operating deficit."

She also said she is interested in allocating the surplus one-time funds to the capital budget in order to maintain the school construction schedule.

To close the operating deficit, on-going items need to be cut or the tax rate will need to be increased above the proposed 93.3-cent rate. However, even increasing the rate to offset the operating deficit would still allow a 3-cent rate cut.

"These (budget) surpluses

will continue to grow, and will continue, unless it is addressed in the tax rate," said Commissioner Mike Cady.

Although revenues increased \$40.1 million, most of the increase was allocated to increased costs and prior commitments in the budget. County departments are budgeted for an \$11-million increase, most of which will pay for increase in salaries, health insurance and pension commitments. The board of education could receive \$10.3 million more or a 5.4 percent increase.

In terms of a percentage increase, the county library system could see the largest increase. The system could receive \$1.6 million more or a 24.2-percent increase, which will help open two new libraries in Urbana and Thurmont.

A portion of the decrease in the property tax rate will be offset by the new system benefit charge enacted to offset landfill operating costs.

County tax rates are scheduled to be adopted on May 16 during a 7 p.m. meeting.

Township grants road crew 30 percent pay raise

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON
Emmitsburg News Editor
rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP, Pa. — Township supervisors voted unanimously March 8 to give two quasi part-time road department employees a pay increase of approximately 30 percent, retroactive to Jan. 1.

The two employees, Michael Wenschhof and Edward Wenschhof, do not work regular hours for the township, but report to duty as needed, with responsibilities including snow plowing and other maintenance-related duties.

Both men had tendered their resignations in January, resulting in the town board taking action to increase both workers' take-home pay.

The pay raise will yield an average monthly increase of about \$85 per month for the two men. Without the increase, the town would risk losing both employees, both of whom have more than

15 years experience with the township.

Edward Wenschhof's salary would increase from \$16.49 to \$22.50 per hour, while Michael Wenschhof's salary would go from \$14.43 to \$21.50 per hour.

When a resident asked if the impending increase were excessive, board member Paul Kellett said, "I'm not comfortable for one to save you \$85 and lose a taxpayer (from having lost responsible road crewmen to maintain the safety of the roads)."

"I don't part with a penny easily," Kellett said, adding, "Don't expect this kind of raise to occur next year."

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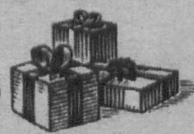


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REGIONAL NEWS

Hamiltonban may opt out of FREMA

By WILLIAM K. REINKE
Contributing Writer

FAIRFIELD BOROUGH, Pa. – In his monthly report to the Fairfield Borough Council on Feb. 28, Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman II reported that Hamiltonban Township has tentatively decided to opt out of the Fairfield Regional Emergency Management Agency (FREMA).

The withdrawal would leave Carroll Valley and Fairfield boroughs, and Liberty Township as the remaining participants.

In spite of this setback, Hileman

indicated that Harrisburg was watching FREMA as an example of how small municipalities can pool their limited resources to “do it right. This committee is well on its way to doing it right.”

Fairfield Solicitor Matthew Battersby concurred, adding, “The last thing you want is to have a disaster, and to do it wrong and have to answer to the public for that.”

Pennsylvania law requires every municipality to have an emergency management agency coordinator. Carroll Valley FREMA representative and Mayor Ron Harris, attending the Fairfield Council meeting, indicated

that Hamiltonban’s decision to opt out was strictly financial.

FREMA’s \$6,000 budget is divided on a per capita basis among the participating municipalities. Hamiltonban’s share would be approximately \$2,000, but the township figured it could accomplish the necessary goals on their own for about \$50.

Asked if the remaining municipalities would absorb this deficit, Harris said no. His feeling was, “We have money and we’re going to get started.” Hamiltonban will finalize its decision at the March 6 council meeting.

Fairfield News Briefs ...

Fairfield Fire Department requests input

FAIRFIELD BOROUGH, Pa. – Fairfield Fire Chief Bill Jacobs addressed the Fairfield Council Feb. 28 requesting more input in the initial stages of proposed developments in the borough.

This request comes on the heels of their review of developer David Sites’ proposed Fairfield Commons project last month. The compact nature of this development raised several safety concerns that contributed to Sites’ withdrawal of the plan.

Jacobs did not fault the council for any oversight, but pointed out that the fire department is more qualified to make specific recommendations regarding safety issues of new developments including: minimum road widths, hydrant capacities, and building height and spacing.

“The local zoning board doesn’t necessarily know these constraints, and many of the ordinances they’re following were written during the horse and buggy days,” he stated. – *W. Reinke*

Fairfield Commons back to square one

FAIRFIELD BOROUGH, Pa. – As previously reported in this paper, local developer David Sites has withdrawn his proposal for the 22-unit infill development on Main Street known as Fairfield Commons, due to numerous zoning and public safety concerns.

At the Feb. 16 meeting of Fairfield’s Historical and Architectural Review Board (HARB), Sites tentatively

unveiled an alternate plan, which replaces the 10 contiguous townhouses on East Main Street with five duplexes separated by narrow, gated alleyways.

The new plan calls for the demolition of the building on 26-28 East Main, as well as 20 East Main, the former First National Bank of Fairfield. Initially, the bank building was to be renovated and converted into a community center for the project, but a feasibility study determined this approach was not possible.

If he cannot obtain a demolition permit for 26-28 East Main, Sites indicated he would proceed with the demolition of the bank building anyway – he already has a permit – and “continue to rent 26-28 East Main.”

Sites previously indicated that he would not be prepared to resubmit a formal application for Fairfield Commons until April. – *W. Reinke*

Home mail delivery coming to Fairfield?

FAIRFIELD BOROUGH, Pa. – The new area post office is slated to open in March without sidewalk access because of concerns surrounding private property and wetlands.

In response, Fairfield Mayor Bob Stanley and Solicitor Matthew Battersby have committed to drafting a letter to the postal service requesting door-to-door mail delivery to Fairfield residents.

The new post office location, at Carrolls Tract and Fairfield Roads on the northeastern edge of town, provides no safe pedestrian access, and is too far for many elderly townspeople to walk. – *W. Reinke*

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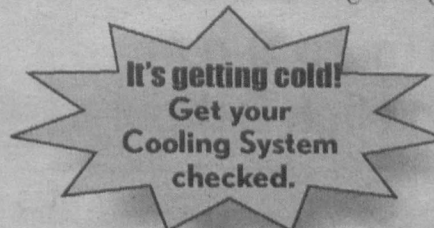


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GUARDIAN HOSE COMPANY

Guardian Hose Company recognizes its volunteers

THURMONT, Md. – Guardian Hose Company celebrated its service to the community at its annual banquet on Mar. 4 at the Lewistown District Volunteer Fire Department.

Acting United States Fire Administrator Charlie Dickinson presented the company with a grant check for \$119,700 through the Assistant to Fire Fighters Grant Program. The money will purchase and exhaust removal system, personal protective equipment for company members and an extractor cleaning system for firefighting gear. Dickinson said fire departments are taking on unprecedented challenges since 9/11.

President Wayne Stackhouse recognized long-time member and former chief James Mackley for 60 years of active service to Guardian Hose Company. Delegates Paul Stull and Joe Bartlett presented Mackley with a governor's citation in recognition of his service. Robert Jacobs of the Maryland State Fireman's Association and Judith White, president of the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association also gave Mackley certificates recognizing his service. Chip Jewell recognized Mackley and Guardian Hose Company in his recent book about the history of firefighting in Frederick County. Reverend Chuck Mackley spoke about what it was like being the son of the fire chief and his son is going to the station with his grandfather.

Chief Chris Kinnaird presented the top 10 response awards to: Steve Strickhauser (72), Matt Dellinger (77), Seth Ambrose (78), Tim Bentz (83), Josh Bentz (89), William Willhide (95), James Coyle (112), Sean Donovan (113), James Mackley (143), and Joe Muller (146).

Top training awards went to: Blaine Schildt (127 hours), Beth Lybarger (129 hours) and Will Gue (190 hours). Top five driver awards were presented to Mike Duble (107), Larry Duble (164), Richard Willhide (204) Robert Willhide

(221) and Wayne Stackhouse (230).

The top responding fire police of the Guardian Hose Company were also recognized as follows: Ed Schwairian (75 calls), Ray Adkins (83) and Ray Brown with 169 calls.

The 2005 Firefighter of the Year Award was given to Joe Muller for his rescue actions on a house fire on West Main Street, while Robert Willhide received the Chief's Award for his tireless work on the grant application and the work on the new squad.

Stackhouse gave a plaque to Bill Sanders for his assistance with the tax form preparation and for helping to procure the loan for the building.

Service award certificates were presented to the following members: 5 years, Josh Bentz and James Demarais; 10 years, Randy Demarais, Abbey Valentine and Agnes Stitely; 15 years, Victoria Bollinger and Jody Miller; 20 years, Tim Bentz; 25 years, Judith White and Dave Valentine; 45 years, Franklin Keeney and Robert Willhide; 60 years, James Mackley and Roy Clabaugh. Lifemembership (25 years) was confirmed for Greg Woelfel and John Woelfel II.

MSFA Past President Robert Jacobs installed the following officers for the year 2006: President Wayne Stackhouse, President Emeritus Don Stitely, Vice president Bob Willhide, Secretary Bob Oxendale, Assistant Secretary Judy White, Treasurer Russ Schantz, Assistant Treasurer Bill Zentz and trustees Ray Brown, Dave Fogle, Terry Frushour, Don Stitely and Dick Willhide. Operations officers are Chief Chris Kinnaird, Assistant Chief, Joe Ohler, Captain Mike Duble, lieutenants Tom Bentz and Will Gue and sergeants Charlie Brown, Blaine Schildt and Kevin Welch.

Reverend Ruth Ann Ward, pastor of Weller United Methodist Church, assisted with the program by leading the memorial service for Ruth Schafer as well as delivering the invocation and benediction.



-PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN KINNAIRD

The 2006 Guardian Hose Company operational officers are: (seated, left to right) Chief Chris Kinnaird, Assistant Chief Joe Ohler, Captain Mike Duble, Lieutenant Tom Bentz and Lieutenant Will Gue. (standing, left to right) Sergeant Kevin Welch and Sergeant Blaine Schildt. Not pictured is Sergeant Charlie Brown.



-PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN KINNAIRD

The 2006 Guardian Hose Company administrative officers are: (seated, left to right) President Wayne Stackhouse, Vice president Robert Willhide, Secretary Robert Oxendale, Assistant Secretary Judy White and Treasurer Russ Schantz. (standing, left to right) Assistant Treasurer Bill Zentz, Trustee Dave Fogle, President Emeritus Donnie Stitely, Trustee Terry Frushour, Trustee Ray Brown and Trustee Richard Willhide.

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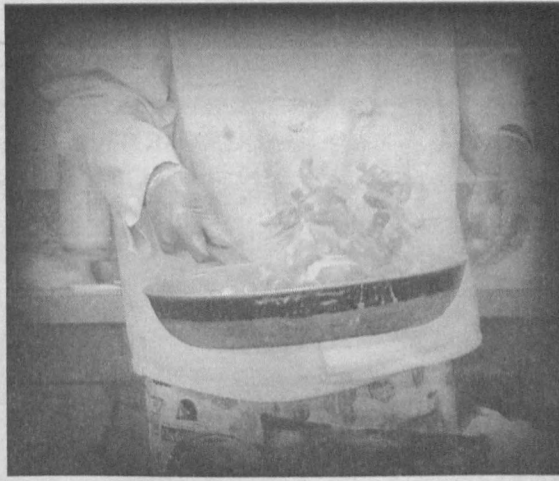
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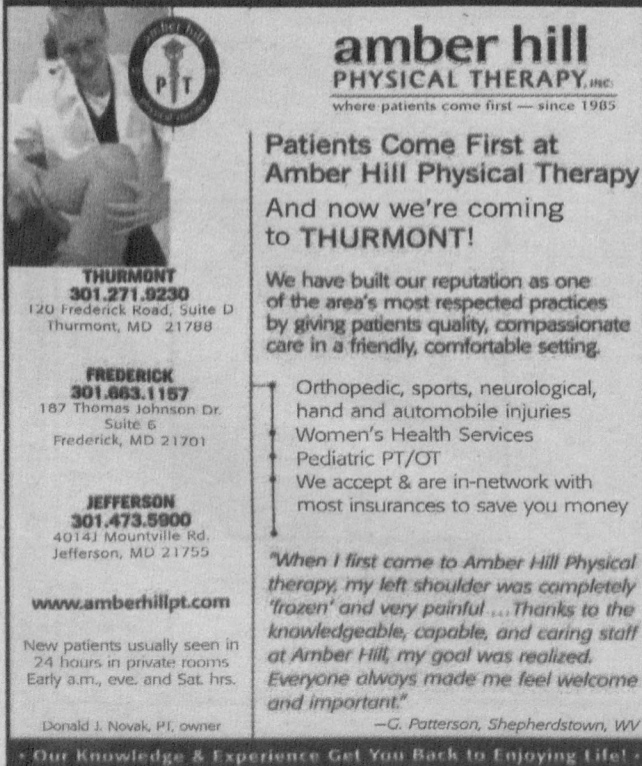
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Clerks Office
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Light & Water
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Public Works
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Water Department
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Town Office
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Land Records
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Emmitsburg Catholic Charities
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St. Joseph's Rectory
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St. Vincent's House
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Pioneer Baptist Church
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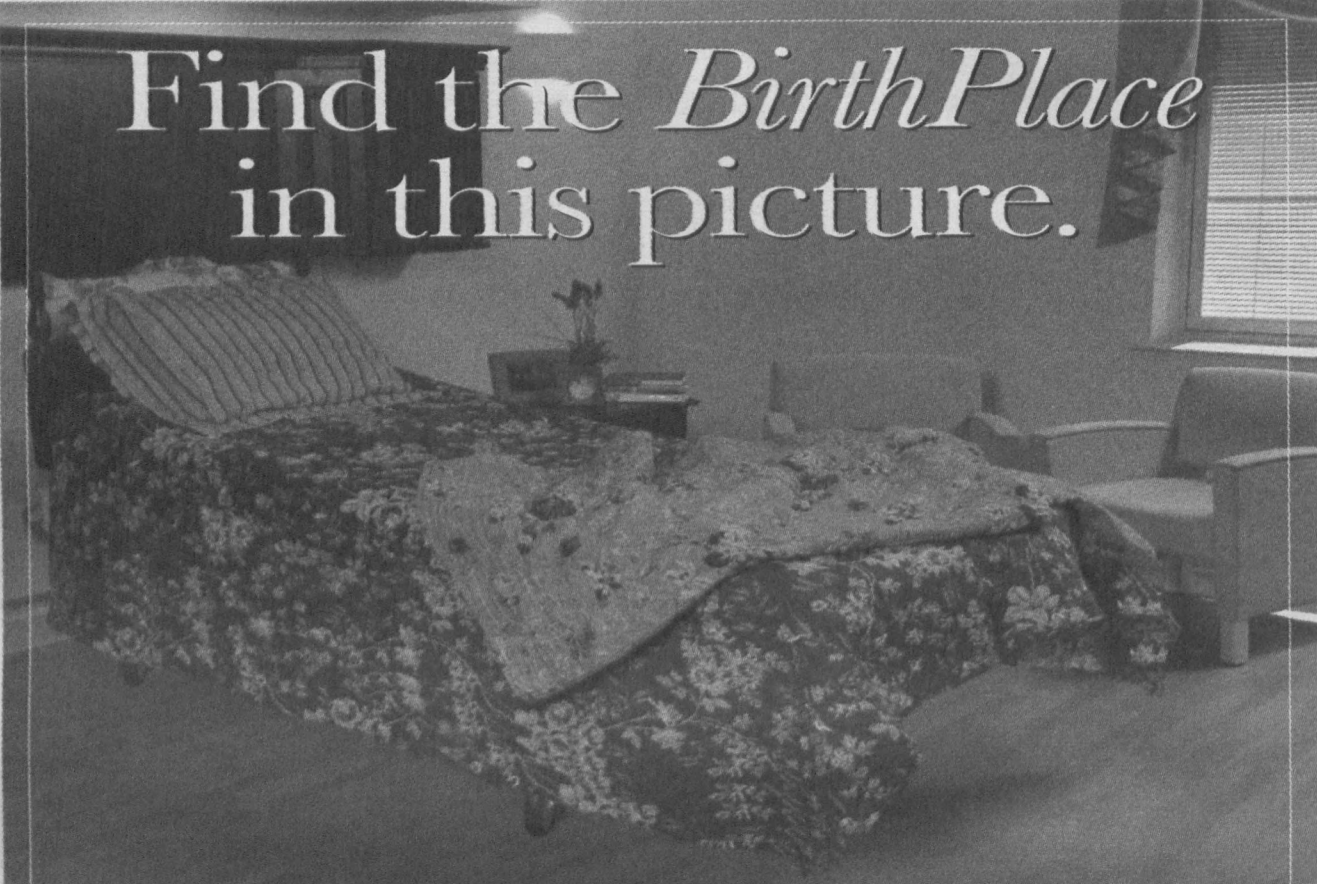
Church Victory Tabernacle
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Harriet Chapel
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First Baptist Church of Thurmont
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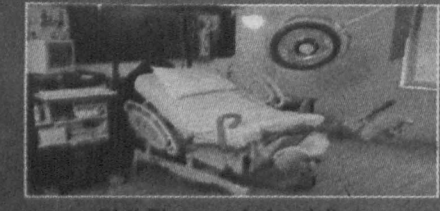
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Catoctin High School
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Mackley's 60 years of service recognized

BY JAMES RADA, JR.
Thurmont News Editor
jrada@thurmontdispatch.com

THURMONT, Md. — The year World War II ended, James Mackley of Thurmont was just starting his firefighting service.

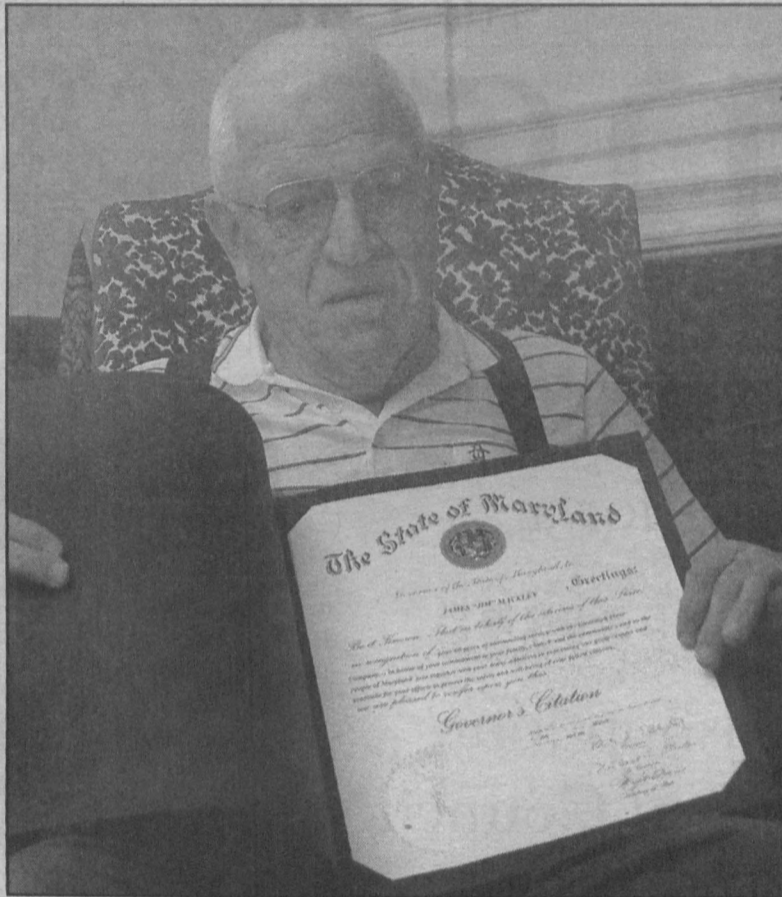
"I was 16," Mackley said. "It was during the war and a lot of the men 18 and older had been drafted and they needed people to help."

He joined the Guardian Hose Company in December 1945 and has been active in the company ever since, including serving as chief from 1977 to 1987. Even when he was in the U.S. Navy, he would respond to calls when he was in town on leave.

"I guess it was sound of that siren going off that attracted me," Mackley said. "It's in my blood now."

He said a lot has changed with firefighting since his start, but the biggest difference is firefighting equipment. When Mackley started fighting fires, firefighters didn't have flame-resistant turnout gear, breathing masks and other safety gear.

"When that siren went off, you answered the call in whatever you were wearing," Mackley said. "I ruined my first suit putting out a barn fire. It collapsed and sent sparks into the air and they came down on me."



-DICK BLOOM / THE DISPATCH

James Mackley of Thurmont shows the certificate he received from Governor Robert Ehrlich congratulating him on 60 years of active volunteer service with the Guardian Hose Company.

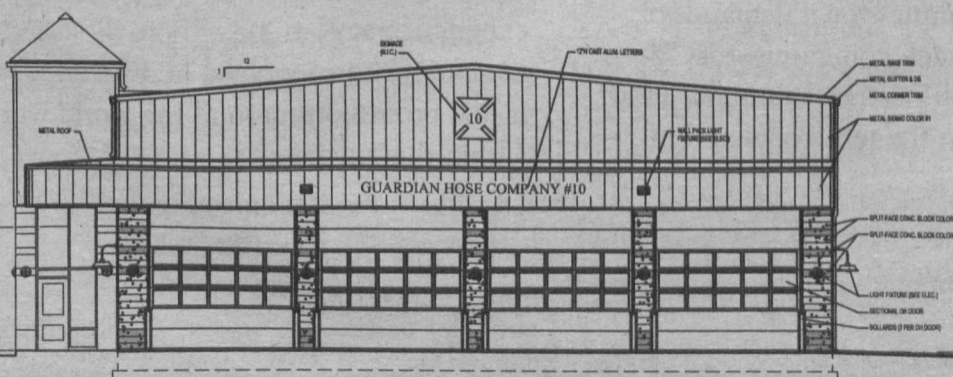
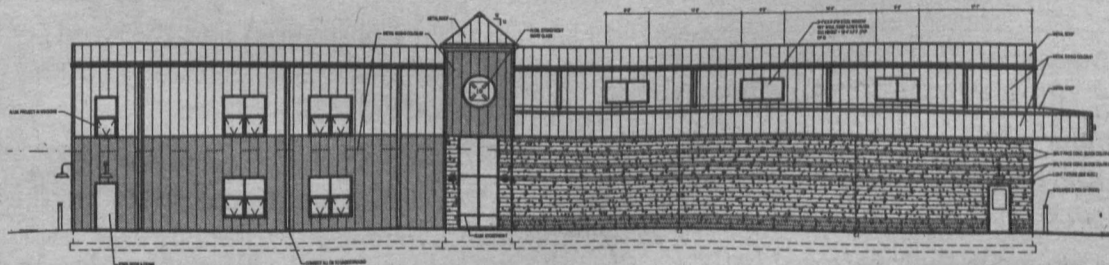
Though not as active as he used to be, Mackley will still run calls when he is needed.

"I can still drag a hose on the scene if they need me," Mackley said.

At Guardian Hose's annual banquet on March 4, Mackley's 60 years of service were recognized with plaques and certificates from Frederick County and Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich.

The New Guardian Hose Fire Company Fire Hall

- Cost: \$2.2 million
- Size: 14,740 square feet.
- Groundbreaking is scheduled for June 2006.
- Opening is scheduled for January 2007.
- The station will have 4 bays in front, a lounge, kitchen, radio room, bunkroom, restrooms, showers, storage, 2 office spaces and a large meeting/training room.
- A Guardian Hose historic display is planned for the entrance area.
- The new fire hall will replace the existing 3 buildings.
- Because the new building will be wider, some parking space will be lost, but additional parking will exist where the metal and brick buildings now sit.



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Foley, President of the Pontifical Council
for Social Communications? ...

If you answered no to any of these, you should attend the Callings Conference at Mount St. Mary's University. The conference runs March 30-April 1, 2006. You can attend the whole conference for a fee or attend any of the keynotes at no charge. Register online for one event or several at www.msmary.edu/callings or call 301-447-5368.

Thursday, March 30

7:30 P.M.—KEYNOTE: "IT TAKES A COMMUNITY: SUPPORTING VOCATIONS TO THE ARTS AND MEDIA"

BARBARA NICOLOSI, screenwriter and founder/executive director of Act One, Inc.

Knott Auditorium

Nicolosi maintains that the arts are genius-driven. In this talk she will explore how to identify, develop, and sustain this genius in a community of faith. Using Act One, the successful Hollywood mentoring program, as a test case, Nicolosi will examine the nature of a truly creative community and explore how such communities might be multiplied in the Church.

Nicolosi is a screenwriter and the founder and Executive Director of Act One, Inc. She wrote "The Work", a full-length feature for IMMI Pictures of Hollywood, and is co-writing a biblical feature, "Myriam," with Benedict Fitzgerald, who co-wrote "The Passion of the Christ." She has been a director of development and a reader for the Humanitas Prize and a consultant on many film and television projects.

Reception to follow.

Friday, March 31

9-10:15 A.M.—PANEL 1: HOW DO THE MEDIA PORTRAY FAITH?*Knott Auditorium*

An exploration of religious faith and morals in the mainstream media. What are the challenges for Christians seeking to articulate the good through the mainstream media?

PANELISTS:

- JANIE HARDEN FRITZ, Associate Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, Duquesne University
- ED MURRAY, President and CEO of Faith & Values Media

10:30-11:45 A.M.—PANEL 2: HOW DOES YOUR FAITH SHAPE THE WAY YOU DO YOUR JOB?*Knott Auditorium*

An examination of how professional communicators working for secular organizations reconcile their personal faith convictions with professional demands of media. How can such communicators "do good" and "do well" at the same time? How does faith figure in the newsroom and in public discourse?

- JAMES FARRELL, Associate Professor of Rhetoric, University of New Hampshire
- GARY FIELDS, National Reporter, *The Wall Street Journal*
- THOMAS KUNKEL, President, American Journalism Review, Dean, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland

3 P.M.—KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "SILENCE AND WORD: TRINITY, RECIPROCITY AND COMMUNITY AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF COMMUNICATION"

MICHELE ZANZUCCHI, Managing editor of *Città Nuova*, magazine of the Focolare Movement
Knott Auditorium

Zanzucchi observes that out of the dynamics of silence (that is, listening) and the word (that is, using language), something new and inspiring comes out: light (that is, the message). Zanzucchi submits that the first model of this communication is the "Trinitarian dynamics:" reciprocity and agape. In his address, he will present the experience at NetOne of how thousands of communicators involved in different arts and media professions around the world work within these dynamics.

MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



In the newsroom ... in the classroom ... in the movies we see ... how do faith and vocation shape the field of communication? Conference attendees and panelists will explore universal and individual experiences in media and communications, where the decisions made shape our view of the world.

The Mount is proud to host the Second Annual Callings Conference. Please join us for a stimulating exchange of ideas on a topic that touches all of our lives.

This conference is made possible through a national Lilly Grant for the theological exploration of vocation.

7-9 P.M.—FILM: "THE HEART HAS ITS REASONS"

Knott Auditorium

Martin Doblmeier is a producer, writer, cameraman and the founder and president of Journey Films. He will present and discuss his documentary film about Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche, an international organization of faith-based communities that creates homes and day programs with people who have developmental disabilities. This film won a Gabriel Award for outstanding religious programming.

9 P.M.—CALLINGS COFFEE HOUSE

Purcell Hall

Through a combination of singing, storytelling, and martial arts, Father Leo Patalinghug presents an entertaining, personal message on being called.

Saturday, April 1

9-10:15 A.M.—PANEL 4: HOW SHOULD FAITH SHAPE THE STUDY OF COMMUNICATION?

Knott Auditorium

An examination of the role of religious faith in communication scholarship at both public and religiously affiliated institutions of higher learning. Should such scholarship be essentially the same in both settings, or should religious

affiliation produce distinct communication study? Does religious faith have a place in the study of communication at public universities?

PANELISTS:

- JANIE HARDEN FRITZ, Associate Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, Duquesne University
- MARTIN MEDHURST, Distinguished Professor of Rhetoric and Communication, Baylor University
- JAMES FARRELL, Associate Professor of Rhetoric, University of New Hampshire

10:30-11:45 A.M.—KEYNOTE: "COMMUNICATING THE TRUTH: LIVING THE FIRST COMMAND OF JESUS IN MODERN MEDIA"

ARCHBISHOP JOHN FOLEY, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications
Knott Auditorium

Archbishop Foley will speak on how and why he became involved in communications, the work of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the purpose of its policy documents, his experiences during the papal transition of April 2005, and experiences of the Church in communications around the world.

Mass following at 12:15 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception Chapel.

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

Instant Admissions for the Mount's Accelerated Bachelor's Programs!

The Mount's Division of Continuing Studies will be offering Instant Admission Nights 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 business, education or criminal justice completion program if you meet the program criteria. Questions? Call 301-682-8315.

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

Sat., March 18, 9-10 a.m., Thurs., March 23, 5-6 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kathleen Rosenfeld, Soprano & Violin and Dr. John Wickelgren, Pianist

Tuesday, Mar 21, 7:30 p.m. in Knott Auditorium

"A Tribute to Rosa Parks, A Woman who Dared..."

a performance lecture by Kimberly LaMarque from Tennessee State University. Thurs, Mar. 23, 7:30 p.m. in Knott Auditorium

"Tsunamis, Hurricanes and the Sociology of Disasters."

Lecture by Dr. Hank Fischer of Millersville University. Wed, Mar. 29, 3:30 p.m. in Laughlin Auditorium

GROTTO OF LOURDES

Sacred Arts & Spirituality Lenten Series

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March 18

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fr. Regis Jordan, "Prayer & Holiness"

March 25

11 a.m., Grotto Film,

"The Grotto in Beauty and Holiness"

April 1 & 8

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

ATHLETICS (home games)

Softball—MSM tournaments

Sat., Mar 25, 11 a.m. vs. Coppin State

Sat., Mar 25, 3 p.m. vs. Colgate

Baseball

Sat., Mar 18, Noon, vs. Canisius (DH)

Sun., Mar 19, Noon, vs Canisius

Men's Lacrosse

Sat, Mar 18, 2 p.m. vs. Siena

Sat, Mar 25, 1 p.m. vs. Manhattan

Women's Lacrosse

Sat, Mar 18, 11 a.m. vs. Fairfield

Fri, Mar 24, 3 p.m. vs. Denver

The (retired) Ecologist

The plagues on all our houses



BY BILL MEREDITH
Dispatch Columnist

When I was a child, about this time of the year I would go to my grandmother's house every day to wait for the mailman. Eventually the day would come when he would not just pop letters into the mailbox and drive on; he would get out of his car and bring a large, flat box to the door. Opening the box was an adventure; it would be full of newly-hatched baby chickens. Grandma would put them in the corner behind the kitchen stove for a few days to keep them warm until they were sturdy enough to be transferred to the henhouse, where they were warmed by a light bulb. A few of them would die, but most survived to provide eggs and drumsticks for the following year. That scene was repeated in homes all over the country.

As the population grew and society became more urban, patterns of raising poultry had to change. Now, instead of running about in

small flocks on farms, birds are raised by the millions in large, crowded commercial poultry houses. This has made it possible to increase meat and egg production to meet a worldwide demand; but it also has become a disaster waiting to happen if diseases such as avian flu break out.

Bird flu has been known to exist for a long time. It is caused by a virus, and like all viruses, this one undergoes random mutations which cause new forms of the disease. Formerly, this was only of academic interest. A new virus would appear and kill a lot of wild birds, and the birds that survived would become resistant; then another mutation would occur and the whole process would be repeated. Recently, though, two circumstances have become different.

The first difference is in the manner poultry is raised; keeping birds in crowded conditions causes diseases to spread more rapidly. The second is in the virus itself. The latest mutant form sometimes can be transferred to humans who handle infected birds. So far, only a small number of people have become infected, but several of them have died. And given what is known about viral mutations, it is only a

matter of time before more virulent forms appear.

Public health officials have been warning for the past several years that bird flu will be the next great pandemic, and the recent spread of bird flu from Southeast Asia into Europe and Africa supports their predictions. This is news of the first importance, and it has been published in various media in recent months; but it has been pushed off the front page by more sensational topics such as the Katrina fiasco, escalating violence in Iraq, the scandal over control of U. S. ports, and the vice president's prowess at quail hunting. So, while "fair and balanced" newscasts keep us informed of those topics, each passing day brings us closer to a potential disaster.

We have had a few pandemics in my lifetime; most were outbreaks such as the swine flu virus, which spread rapidly over large sections of the world and killed thousands of people, mainly in countries whose medical standards were less effective than our own. But there are still people who can remember history's worst pandemics, the "Spanish Flu" of 1918. In World War I, an estimated 20 million soldiers and civilians were killed in fighting between 1914 and

1918; but in just one year, 1918-19, it is estimated that between 20 and 40 million people died of the flu. That year, 28 % of all Americans got the flu, and 675,000 of them died ... ten times the number of American war deaths. The 1918 flu killed more people than the bubonic plague did in the 14th century, albeit the world's population was much smaller then.

The thing that may be different with the next pandemic is that we know it is coming and we have the opportunity to prepare for it. From all appearances, most political leaders haven't given it much attention, but the U.S. Center for Disease Control and its counterparts in most other countries have been working hard to characterize the latest viral mutants, prepare new vaccines, and develop logistics for dealing with large numbers of sick people if an outbreak should occur. It is a time for serious concern, but not for panic.

Before the advent of modern medicine, the human race survived pandemics repeatedly throughout its history. Cholera was found to be caused by bacteria in contaminated drinking water in the late 1800s; before then, regular outbreaks of it killed millions of people in Europe and North America (President James Polk was among them). Mortality on such a massive scale results in natural selection; individuals who have any genetic resistance are less likely to die, and the genes that gave them their resistance are passed

on to their children. But we pay a price; people who have one copy of a certain gene in their body cells are resistant to cholera, but children born with two copies of that gene will develop a fatal disease called cystic fibrosis (CF). So, ironically, although cholera is mainly a thing of the past, it has produced one of the most common hereditary diseases in the U. S. About one person in 30 carries the single CF gene, and one child in every 3,600 is born with the fatal condition resulting from two CF genes. Numerous other cases are known where hereditary diseases have originated as adaptations to major diseases.

While we know our bodies will develop some form of resistance whenever a new disease appears, it is impossible to predict what the side effects of this adaptation will be. As is the case with many modern drugs, the cure may be worse than the disease for some individuals. So let us hope the impending pandemic can be averted. Perhaps then we will only have to deal with the economic disruption resulting from destruction of the poultry industry.

Addendum: In last month's article I was unable to name the play in which Shakespeare mentioned starlings. Since then, two friends have told me the statement was made by Hotspur in "Henry IV, Part I." I thank Mrs. Dolores Thomas of Rocky Ridge and Dr. Kurt Blaughter of Mt. St. Mary's for finding it.

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EDUCATION

Erin Warner goes to Annapolis

Catoctin High senior selected as House of Delegates page

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Contributing Writer

Erin Warner, a 17-year-old senior at Catoctin High School (CHS), is finishing her second week (March 13-17) as a page in the Maryland House of Delegates. She is one of five Frederick County seniors (and one alternate) selected to participate in the 2006 Maryland Page Program.

Warner has been "very interested in politics and government" since she was in middle school. Her interest led to offices in student government at Thurmont Middle School and CHS and membership in the mock trial team. She is an active member of the Frederick County Association of Student Councils.

She learned about the page program during her junior year, and with the help of David Gadra, transitional education teacher at CHS, filed her application in September. The selection process included a group interview and question-and-answer session with Michael Bunitsky, Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) Social Studies curriculum specialist. Each student also prepared and delivered a three-minute speech. Warner was notified of her selection in a letter from House Speaker Michael E. Busch and the Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller sent in late October.

Each page spends two weeks working in Annapolis, one week during the first eight weeks of the legislative session and during the last five weeks. Warner is assigned to the House of Delegates, and her first week was Jan. 23-27. "I was there for the State of the State address," she said, "and the press conference on stem cell research, so it was a really exciting time to be in Annapolis." Her duties include keeping the members' bill

books up-to-date, running errands, delivering messages and materials to members, answering phones, and assisting visitors. She expected her experience to be "straight business," but "I've met so many other students from throughout the state," and they have explored Annapolis together.

Most pages, except for those who reside in Anne Arundel County, live in private homes with host families in Annapolis (two to four pages per home.) Warner's housemate was Sarah Black from Harford County. They pay \$20 per night for lodging and purchase all their meals. Breakfast and lunch are available at the State House cafeteria. Each page receives a stipend of \$44 per day after they have completed their work. The program is funded by the Maryland legislature. Each page is issued an official blazer which must be worn at all times while working in the State House and other legislative buildings. They also must adhere to a dress code for work hours, and follow specific procedures and rules, including a curfew.

Warner will carry her appreciation of "this great opportunity" back to CHS. "It's kind of an unknown program," she says, and she wants to raise awareness of the page program, and try to get more students involved in student government. She has been accepted at Mount St. Mary's University and will major in political science. Law school is one of her goals, and "I wouldn't mind becoming a delegate or state senator myself one day."

The Maryland Page Program began in 1970. 120 high school seniors (plus 36 alternates) are selected statewide each year. More information can be found online at http://dls.md.us/top_pgs/students/student_pages.htm.



- SUSAN ALLEN/THE DISPATCH

Catoctin High School Senior in House of Delegates

Erin Warner, Catoctin High senior and president of the student government association, spent two weeks as a page in the Maryland House of Delegates. Each county is allocated at least one page and one alternate and receives additional positions based on high school senior population. Warner (left) is shown here with fellow page, Erin Stone, from St. Mary's County.

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A&E

Thurmont Thespians bring life to "Peanuts"

THURMONT, Md. - Linus, Lucy, Charlie Brown and, of course, Snoopy are live on stage in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" presented by the Thurmont Thespians. The show, based on Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" will run at the Thurmont American Legion Thursday, March 30, through Saturday, April 1, at 8 p.m. Weekend matinees on both Saturday and Sunday are at 2 p.m. Saturday night's performance is a dinner theater, featuring shrimp and turkey, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" features teens that have worked through the Thurmont Thespians summer program. This production uses 13 young people, utilizing more than the stated six characters called for by the script.

Woodstock joins Snoopy on stage for this production and the Little Red-Headed Girl is very visible on stage. In an unusual staging of "My Blanket and Me," the blanket comes alive and dances with Linus. Other unusual staging will take place for the kite flying and the drop of the leaf from a tree that has a life of its own.

The cast features: Ben Flanick,

Trevor Flanick, Kyle Flanick, Becca Richards, Kim Krouse, Heather Kokowski and Lindsay Puvel, all from Thurmont; Becky Sees, Sean Collins, Lilah Moss and Steve Ross, all from Frederick; Jimmy Brown from Waynesboro and Becca Corbell from Fairfield.

Katie Urian of Thurmont stage-manages this production after serving as stage manager for "Best Christmas Pageant Ever" this summer for the Thurmont Thespians.

Beth Royer Watson directs this production. Eileen Dwyer Winston is the musical director and Jen Buchheister is the choreographer. Doug Benson of Catocin Recording will be doing the music for the production.

This is the first time the Thurmont Thespians have offered a production in the 3/4 round, which offers plenty of front-row seating for small folks. Understudies will perform the Saturday matinee.

Tickets are \$10 and reservations may be made at 301-271-7613. Dinner reservations must be made prior to March 26. The dinner theater is only available Saturday night April 1 and it is \$25.

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CALL 301-271-7613 for reservations & complete ticket information.

A&E Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

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.

Concerts

March 25 - Frederick Catoctones Annual Show. 2 & 7:30 p.m. An Acapella musical performance presented by quartets and a men's chorus. Jack B. Kussmaul Theater, Frederick Community College, 7932 Opossumtown Pike. 301-607-4093.

March 26 - Fred Garbo Inflation Theatre Co. 3 p.m. Fred Garbo and Daielma Santos share their unique inflatable inventions. Comedy, juggling, dance, lots of air, and even a little mischief makes this show a must-see for all ages. Fast-paced, energetic, universally engaging and theatrically clever, Garbo and Santos mesmerize their audience with imaginative imagery and artistic foolishness. \$10-15. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick Street. 301-228-2828.

March 26 - Frederick Regional Youth Orchestra Spring Master Class Concert. 7:30 p.m. A nonprofit organization dedicated to providing quality orchestral music opportunities for students in and around Frederick County. The orchestra is composed of students from public, private, and home-school settings in the tri-state area who are interested in the opportunity to meet fellow dedicated musicians, and who wish to gain experience performing through concert programs. \$6-10. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick Street. 301-228-2828.

Galleries, Exhibits, Art Shows

March 18, 19 - "36th Annual Maple Syrup Making Demonstration." 9:30 - 2:30. Park staff will demonstrate the process of making maple syrup from tree tapping through boiling and packaging. A sausage and pancake breakfast will be served for an additional charge. Cunningham Falls State Park William Houck (Lake) Area. 301-271-7574.

Through March 18 - "The Red Umbrella." An exhibition of observations of life by Judith Einstman, featuring colorful and charming works in pastels and serigraphs. Washington County Arts Council Gallery, 14 West Washington Street. Private showings also available. 301-791-3132.

Through April 5 - "Dave Bottini - For Gabriel." Sharp focus romantic landscapes - acrylic on canvas and panel. The artist dedicates this work to his grandfather and is intrigued by the dynamic nature of landscapes. Frederick Community College, Mary Condon Hodgson Art Gallery, 7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick. 301-846-2513.

Through March 26 - Exhibits at Delaplaine Visual Arts Center. Including the Frederick County Public Schools student exhibits, new works by popular local artists, Calvin Edward Ramsburg and Jeff Smith and "Sirens and Serpents" by nationally-known artist Allison Merriweather. 40 S. Carroll St., Frederick. 301-698-0656.

Stage

March 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 - "The Women of Lockerbie." 8 p.m. The themes of love and reconciliation abound in Deborah Brevoort's award-winning play based on true stories associated with the 1988 crash of the ill-fated Pan Am 103, which killed 258 passengers in Lockerbie, Scotland. The play, set seven years later, on the weekend of a memorial service, dramatizes the efforts of the village women to obtain, wash and return to family members, the clothing recovered from victims of the disaster. \$15-20. Maryland Ensemble Theater, 31 W. Patrick Street, Frederick. 301-694-4744.

March 18, 19 - "Don't Dress for Dinner." 7 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. By Marc Camoletti. Arendtsville AVS Community Center, Arendtsville, Pa. \$10.

March 23 - "A Tribute to Rosa Parks - A Woman Who Dared." 7:30 p.m. Kimberly LaMarque, an actress and assistant professor at Tennessee State University, will bring to life the courageous woman who became known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement." Through a self-written performance lecture, LaMarque recreates the life and character of Rosa Parks, who was arrested in 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her bus seat. Knott Auditorium, Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg.

301-447-5330.

March 28 - Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Mikado" - Carl Rosa Opera. 8 p.m. Britain's oldest opera company presents an authentic recreation of the comic operetta's first performance run in 1885 at London's Savoy Theatre. In addition to a full orchestra and cast of 40 performers, the lavish production features original sets and costumes from the Academy Award-winning film, "Topsy Turvy." \$37-45. Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. 717-337-8200.

March 30-April 1 - "The Wizard of Oz" Fairfield High School production at the school. Adults \$7. Students/Seniors \$5. Tickets: 717-642-6106.

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

March 17 - "Son of the Sheik." 8 p.m. 1926 silent film starring Rudolph Valentino in the dual role of the older Sheik and his son Ahmed, who falls in love with bejeweled dancing girl Yasmin. \$4-6. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St. 301-228-2828.

March 24 - "Lady and the Tramp." 8 p.m. This film represented two "firsts" for Disney: the studio's first Cinemascope animated feature, and their first full-length cartoon based on an original story rather than an established "classic." This 1955 classic features a pampered dog that meets a stray from the wrong side of the tracks. \$4-6. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick Street. 301-228-2828.

March 31 - "Amores Perros." 8 p.m. Three stories of life along the margins in Mexico City converge in this inventive thriller. Octavio is sharing an apartment with his brother, which leads to serious problems when he falls in love with Susanna, his sister-in-law. \$4-6. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick Street. 301-228-2828.

QUILTERS

Make quilt histories



BY MARY ELLEN CUMMINGS
Dispatch Columnist

While browsing through a recent quilting supply catalog, I saw a "notebook" with sheets to record your quilt works. The sheets (pages) were pre-printed with vital categories to record your quilts, categories like "Frame of Quilt," "Maker's Name," "Dates," etc.

Anyone who has a computer and printer could make a notebook and could decorate the pages - "to boot." Any good three-ring binder and plastic pockets (letter size) would be suitable. I can't emphasize enough that every quilt should have a written history. Many of us still do it the "old fashioned" way - tell someone the vital facts about a quilt, and expect the individual to pass the information on. In two or three generations, families are no longer sure of the details of a quilt's life.

An addition of a color photo of the quilt(s) would aid the quilt owner (or maker) in keeping track of the histories. After all, a red and

white quilt, pattern name unknown, could be confused with another of the same colors. However, a photo could eliminate the confusion. A small fabric label could be attached to the back of a quilt with a number corresponding to the number page in the record book.

Remember, record those quilts - the old, the new, fancy or utility. And "yes," record the one the dog sleeps on and the one in the cat's bed. After all, they were once living with a family and deserve to have a written history.

Tips -

For quilters who use a large frame in hand quilting - Do not leave a pair of scissors lying on your quilt with tips slightly open. Most people squeeze the scissors as they pick them up - sometime resulting in a snip in the fabric. I've seen that happen more than once.

An observation about using colored thread for quilting - Unless the quilting is done by machine it probably won't show up on the quilt. Our group has used colored threads twice, and the tiny hand stitches give only a hint of color. I have seen several new-method quilts, finished by machine, and the continuous seams show the color, making the color a vital part of the design.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Mother Seton School students "walks the walk"

BY SUSAN ALLEN
Contributing Writer

Samuel Blake, nine years old and a fourth grade student at Mother Seton School (MSS), is a young man who keeps his promises.

In January he received first place for elementary school students in an essay contest sponsored by Mount St. Mary's University to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In his essay, written on the theme of what Dr. King would change if he lived in today's world, Blake stated that he believed Dr. King would help children orphaned by the war in Iraq. He also wrote that he, too, would like to help these children, and he pledged to hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail to raise money to send to them.

On a cold and blustery Saturday, Feb. 18, Blake and his brother Lewis hiked six miles up and around Chimney Rock. His sponsors pledged "just over" \$600, according to the boys' mother, Moira Blake of Waynesboro. The funds will be donated to Save the Children Foundation, which is working with the U. S. Agency for International Development to assist orphans in smaller communities in Iraq.

When told of Blake's effort, MSS Principal Sister Mary



Samuel and Lewis Blake, two brothers from Waynesboro, recently hiked six miles of the Appalachian Trail to raise money for the Save the Children Foundation to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. The brothers raised more than \$600.

Catherine Conway commented, "I think it's marvelous. We have to give our children hope that they can make a difference in the world ... just as Dr. King did. This child has caught that spirit."

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Emmitsburg Community Lenten Services

The Emmitsburg Council of Churches has announced the 2006 Community Lenten Services schedule.

Services will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings, beginning March 5 and running through Palm Sunday, April 9. The Easter sunrise service will be held at the Grotto Chapel, with the time still to be determined.

The ecumenical Lenten services this year will be based on the film, "The Passion of the Christ." Each week will include viewing a scene from the film, followed by reflections from a guest speaker.

Services will move from one community church to another, with local pastors speaking from pulpits other than their own. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the services.

March 19 Tom's Creek U. Methodist Rev. Reginald Rice	March 26 Incarnation U.C.C. Rev. Jon Greenstone
April 2 St. Joseph's Catholic Church Rev. Ben Jones	April 9 Emmitsburg Presbyterian Rev. Bill Warehime

Easter
Grotto at MSM
Rev. Reginald Rice

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Community Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

Fridays through April 7 – Lenten Fish Bakes. 5-7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church parish hall, Thurmont. Adults \$8, children 4-12, \$4; free for age 3 and under. Information: 301-271-4439

Through March 31 – Women's History Month Exhibit. Visitor Center, Catoctin Mountain Park. An exhibit that tells the story of Bessie Darling and Mazie Bowman, two women who played important roles in the local tourism industry in the early 20th century.

March 19, 24, 26 & 28 – Evangelical Bible Church 15698 Albert Staub Ct Thurmont, MD 21788 301-271-3633. Announces the following Events to be held at the church: Sunday March, 19 10:30 AM Membership Service Friday March 24-Sunday March 26 Rev Pat Schatzline will be ministering. Tuesday March 28th Rev Jonathan Garlock will be Ministering.

March 18 – Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring program. Breakfast 9 a.m. to noon, Mount Hope Methodist Church. Adults \$5; children 6-12, \$2; children 5 and under free. Maple sugaring program at 10 a.m. and noon for the public. No charge for members; non-members, \$3. Sponsored by Strawberry Hill Nature Center, 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. Reservations required. Call 717-642-5840.

March 18, 19 and 25 – Orienteering (Map and Compass Reading). 1:30 p.m. Visitor Center, Catoctin Mountain Park. Indoor and outdoor activities. Free, limited class size, reservations required. Call 301-663-9388.

March 19 – Third Sunday Service of Praise. 6:30 p.m. Graceham Moravian Church, Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont. Music: The Walk; Message: Pastor Jon Greenstone, Elias Lutheran Church.

March 20 – Taneytown Chamber Electric Co-op meeting. 7 p.m. Hesson-Snyder American Legion Hall, Post #120, intersection of Broad Street and Roberts Mill Road, Taneytown. CQI Associates, LLC will present information on the Electric Co-op for business-rate customers now being formed. Information: 410 756-4234.

March 20 – Creative tips and techniques for container gardening. 7-9 p.m. Maryland Cooperative Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. Bethany Dellagnello, Frederick County Master Gardener. \$10. Registration: www.agnr.umd.edu/frederick/MG, call 301-694-1595,

or visit the Cooperative Extension office.

March 20 – Emmitsburg Area Historical Society meeting. 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center. Join the group as they kick off a season dedicated to documenting the lives of local WWII veterans.

March 21 – Spring Fling Luncheon. Noon, Thurmont Senior Center. Reservations by March 20. 301-271-7911.

March 22 – Keep Adams Green public meeting. 4 p.m. Agricultural & Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. The group will answer questions, solicit suggestions, and enlist support for a \$25-million bond issue from municipal officials, community organizations, and the public. Information: 717-642-9404.

March 24 and 25 – Turkey and oyster supper. Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday 1-6 p.m. Graceham Moravian Church, 8231-A Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont. Adults \$12, children 5-10 \$6, under 5 free. Information: 301-271-2379.

March 25 – ThorpeWood Hilltop Garden Clean Up. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ThorpeWood, 12805-A Mink Farm Road, Thurmont Volunteers wanted. RSVP: cindy@thorpewood.org or 301-271-2823.

March 25 – Shrimp Feed. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thurmont Community Ambulance Service Activities Building. Cost: \$15 per person. Benefits the ambulance fund.

March 26 – Bingo Bonanza. 1 p.m. Emmitsburg Firehall. Tickets \$25. Call 301-271-1107, 301-447-2401 or the fire hall at 301-447-2728 for tickets.

March 27 – Hands-on cement garden trough workshop. 7-9 p.m. Maryland Cooperative Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. Elaine Feinberg, Frederick County Master Gardener.

\$10. Registration: www.agnr.umd.edu/frederick/MG, call 301-694-1595, or visit the Cooperative Extension office.

March 28 – Polarity Energy Balancing Workshop. 7-8:30 p.m. Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Avenue. Sponsored by Women Networking 2 B Healthy. Kathy Delaney, Certified Polarity Practitioner Free. RSVP to jeanneangleberger@yahoo.com by March 24.

March 31 – Soup and Sandwich Sale. Graceham Moravian Church, 8231 A Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. Place orders by March 27: 301-271-2379. Pick up Friday, March 31 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. All proceeds benefit the senior high college youth mission trip.

March 31 – Thurmont Business Expo. 6-9 p.m. Catoctin High School. Call Thurmont Main Street Manager Vickie Grinder at 240-626-9980 or 301-271-4301 for more information.

April 1 – Emmitsburg Lions Club Health Fair. 7:30 - 11 a.m. Mother Seton School, 100 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg. Blood screening services courtesy of Gettysburg Hospital. Advance registration required for blood tests: 1-800-840-5905.

April 1 – Totem Pole Dedication. 2 p.m. Camp Greentop, Catoctin Mountain Park. Dedication of the latest artistic creation by local artist Erin Aylor. Totem poles and the associated symbolism have been a prominent fixture at Camp Greentop since its construction in 1937.

April 1 – All-you-can eat shrimp feed. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Guardian Hose Activities Building. \$15 per person. Sponsored by Thurmont Community Ambulance Services, Inc. Tickets: 301-271-7138 or 301-271-2391.

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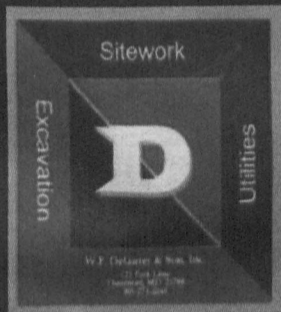
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Births

- * Bridget and David McCarthy, Emmitsburg, a son, Feb. 16.
- * Lori and Shawn Snyder, Carroll Valley, Pa., a daughter, Feb. 23.
- * Shelly and Jason Hahn, Emmitsburg, a son, Feb. 24.
- * Mr. and Mrs. George Hutchinson, Keymar, a son, Feb. 25.

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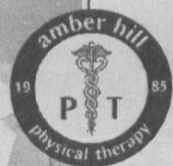
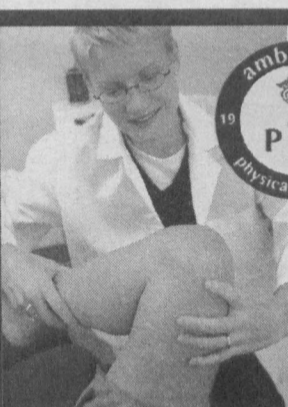
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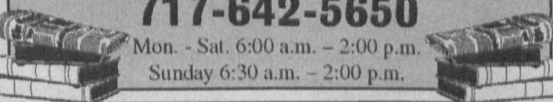
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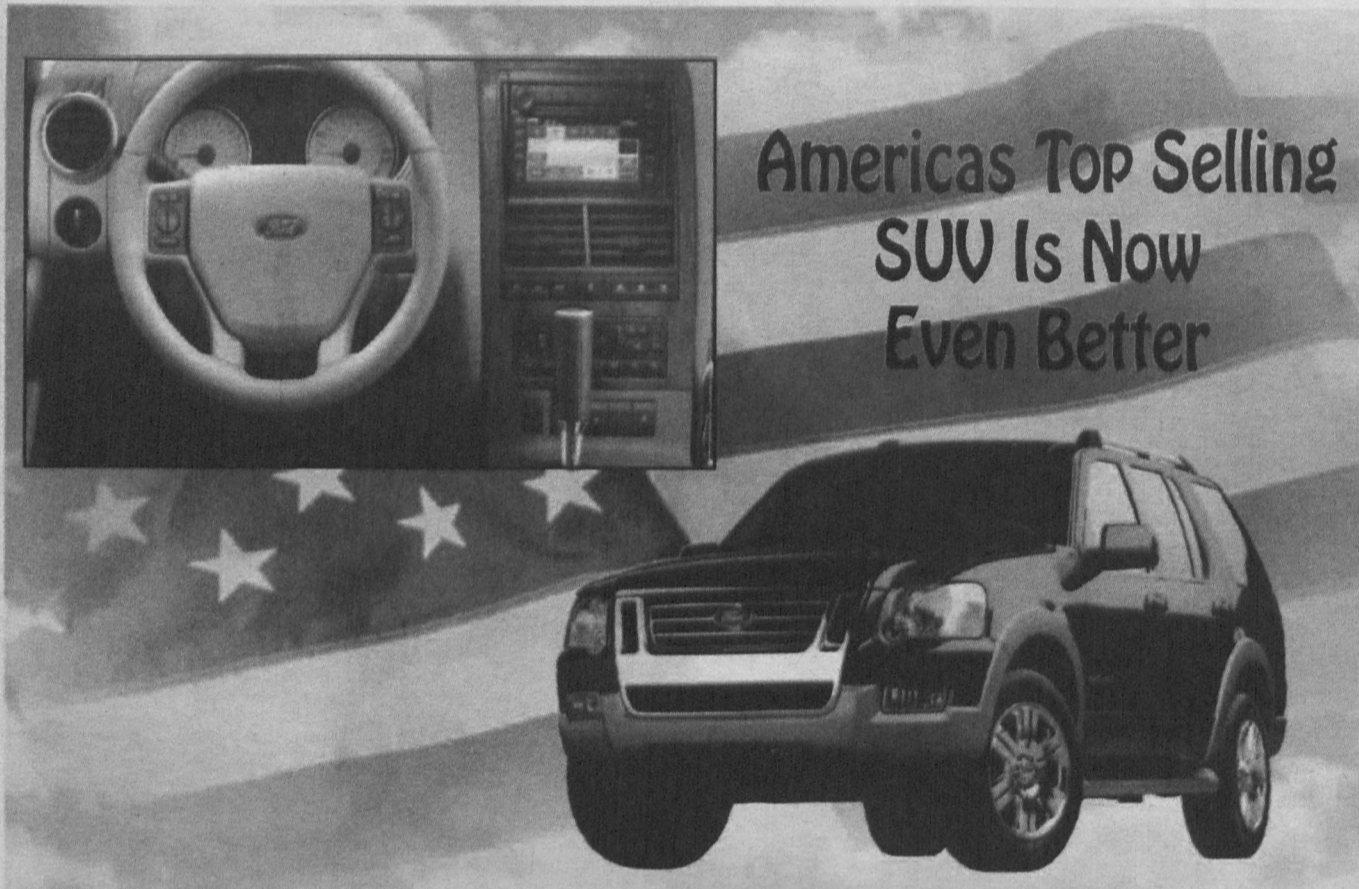
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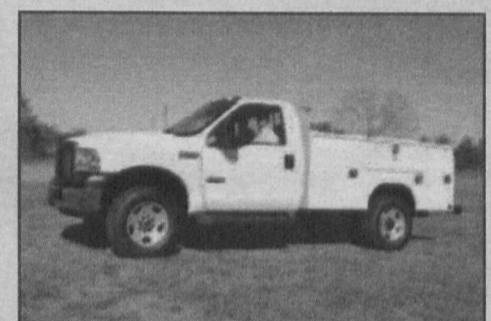
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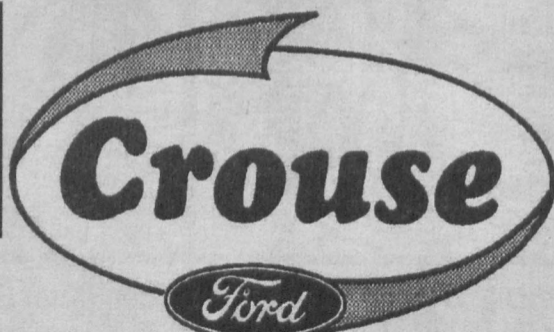


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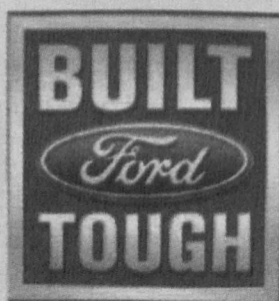


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