

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL VI, No. 2

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

JANUARY 18, 2007

Town may trim costs from tree replacement

BY JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — If commissioners use town staff to repair some of the damaged sidewalks, Emmitsburg may save some money from the original cost estimate and may more quickly make sidewalks safer for walking.

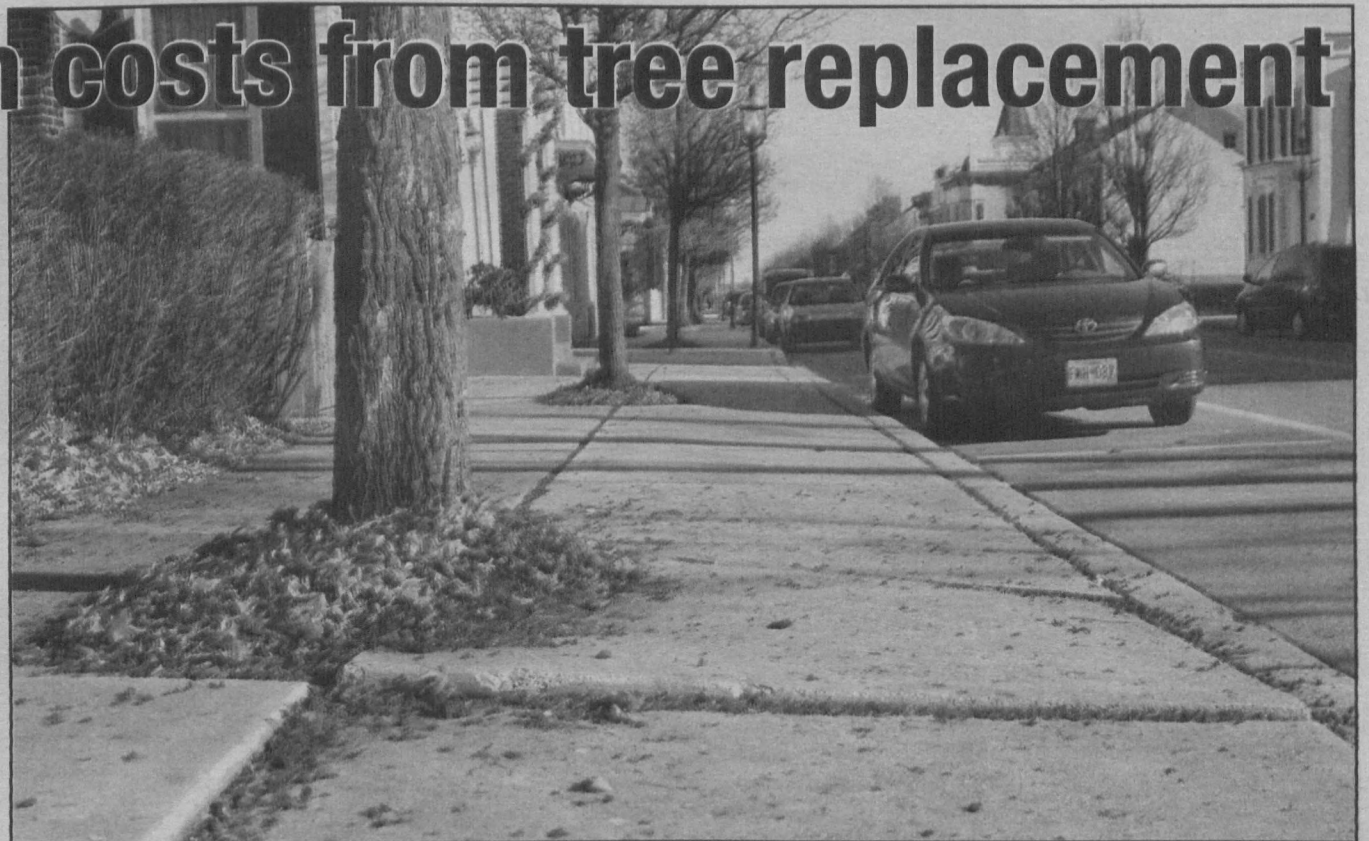
"We've already had people fall," said Commissioner Cliff Sweeney. "One lady who is a music teacher tripped over the sidewalk. She fell and had to have surgery on her hands. She almost lost her livelihood."

The commissioners decided at their Jan. 2 meeting to have town staff make cold patch repairs to the worst sections of sidewalk now and then next fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2007) start the actual sidewalk repair.

Removing the concrete was part of the \$271,350 cost estimate for the entire project, but if town staff does the work, a potential for some cost savings may exist.

"We have the material, the equipment and the labor force," Sweeney said. "It will definitely save the town

-See **Trees** on page 3



- RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

This Issue

Making a Difference
Larry Barnes

-see page 4

Emmitsburg
Town gets \$50,000 grant for sewer upgrade

-see page 5

Water main break

-see page 5

Thurmont
Co-op closing after almost 80 years

-see page 6

Hamiltonban
Residents discuss conservation planning

-see page 7

Feature



Vigilant Hose Company Annual banquet and awards

-see page 8

Regional
Tranquility Farm rescues horses and humans

-see page 9

Religion
"Voices of Faith" heats up visionary controversy

-see page 10

Communications may be impeding town planning

BY JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Emmitsburg Mayor and Board of Commissioners met with their planning consultant on Jan. 17 to try and figure out why town planning projects don't seem to be progressing.

"I'd like to see what he thinks he's doing for us because the impression isn't real favorable," Board President Chris Staiger said at the town meeting on Jan. 2.

The commissioners agreed with Staiger and added an update meeting to the agenda on Jan. 17.

The town hired Christopher Jakubiak of Jakubiak and Associates, Inc. of Annapolis in March 2006 to fill the hole left when Town Planner Michael Lucas resigned in 2005. Some of the projects on his table are the update of the comprehensive plan, an adequate public facilities ordinance and a town ordinance.

Staiger described his attitude on the 17th as "agitated." "I think part of what I reacted to is asking for contact and not getting a response," said Staiger.

He said there seemed to be a communications problem between the town and Jakubiak. Staiger

-See **Planning** on page 3



-ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL, SR. / THE DISPATCH

Two traffic light town

The new Silo Hill traffic light was installed on Wednesday, Jan. 17, but it will still be another month before green and yellow lights will join the familiar flashing red light. Construction of the new traffic light began late last month and is running a little ahead of schedule, according to the State Highway Administration. Once the light becomes active in February, it is hoped the large number of accidents at that intersection will diminish.

Taneytown to get \$11 million Main Street makeover

BY BRENDAN WEEKS
Contributing Writer

THURMONT, Md. — With the new year comes a new Main Street for Taneytown. Beginning in March, construction will begin on the town's streetscape project.

"This project actually started in 2002," said Taneytown's economic development coordinator Nancy McCormick. The town brought together a focus group and decided that the project would

greatly benefit the community.

Following the focus group the town approached the Maryland State Highway Administration.

"The towns are looking to do some sort of improvements; normally we have a consolidated transportation tour, and hear their priorities as far as transportation projects," said Kellie Boulware from the Maryland SHA Office of Communications.

The SHA shifted priorities for a period of time and the project fell to the wayside. "Then in 2005 it

resurfaced, and it resurfaced to the tune of 11 to 13 million (dollars)," said McCormick.

According to Boulware, streetscape projects in Maryland typically cost between three and

five million dollars. In Taneytown, a lot of underground work will be done on utility lines, which explains the increased cost of the project.

-See **Streetscape** on page 5

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The 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 Dispatch reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

Opportunity to improve streetscape

I've been watching with great interest the public dialogue on what to do with the sidewalks and trees on Main Street. Capital improvements don't happen very often. Let's not pass up this opportunity to make downtown Emmitsburg a prettier place to visit and shop.

If Emmitsburg is going to spend huge sums of money replacing the sidewalks, replace them with a more historically appropriate material - brick. Also, the cross walks at the intersection of Main Street and Seton Avenue should be redone in complimentary brick pavers. It sets the crosswalk apart from the street, which reminds drivers to keep an eye out for pedestrians.

Regarding the trees, it is a miracle the ornamental pear trees have survived at all. The sidewalk openings are well below standards set by the landscape industry and urban planners. They do not need to be replaced. It will be a waste of taxpayers' money and the new trees will take years to grow large enough to provide shade and look nice. Any proposed work should take measures to protect the trees during construction. If they cannot be saved, they should be replaced with Ginkgo biloba trees. Ginkgo trees are popular street trees because they have deep roots less likely to heave sidewalks.

The tree boxes need to be made

larger. You can do this without sacrificing foot traffic space. Historically appropriate iron grates meet all ADA standards for pedestrian traffic. They allow the tree to grow without impairing the sidewalk, and they improve the health of the tree by allowing more rainwater and oxygen to reach the roots.

There is no need for Emmitsburg to reinvent the wheel; if you look at other historic towns and cities; this is the approach they are taking. Let's not take the "improve" out of capital improvements.

- Will Morrow
Emmitsburg, Md.

Call for mediation conference about Our lady of Emmitsburg shrine

My Op Ed in the June 1, 2006 issue of *The Dispatch*, "Da Vinci Code and Lady of Emmitsburg," challenged all concerned persons to immediately plan to acquire land between the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Seton and the Mount's National Grotto of Lourdes for the express purpose of erecting a National Perpetual Adoration Chapel/Shrine dedicated to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lady of Emmitsburg. Little

or no public reaction ensued.

A logical conclusion would be for me to put the matter aside. Yet recent news coverage has once again stimulated my continued interest in the Marian apparitions in Emmitsburg.

Gianna and her followers continue their monthly prayer meeting at the Lynfield Complex. The pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Emmitsburg advises his parishioners not to attend these

meetings. It is expected that Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, may eventually act to forbid Catholics from attending future prayer meetings. A new perpetual adoration chapel has been dedicated at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fairfield. As recently as Sept. 15, 2006, Dr. Courtenay Bartholomew, the outspoken Christian believer in the Blessed Mother's coming to Emmitsburg, continued to call upon all who believe in Our Lady of Emmitsburg to consecrate themselves and their families to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary and petition parish priests to so consecrate their parishes.

I make a specific call for a mediation conference of all involved parties—church and laity—(Archdiocese of Baltimore; St. Joseph's Catholic Church; Mission of Mercy; Our Lady of Emmitsburg-OLOE; Mount St. Mary's University; National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Seton) for the express purpose of "airing publicly" all the facts relating to the Marian Apparitions in Emmitsburg and move forward together to make the National Shrine of Our Lady of Emmitsburg become a reality in the near future.

- Dr. Paul A. Clarke Ed. D
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.

Christmas Ball

On Friday night, Dec. 28, "Rose Hill," the charming home of Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Beam, was thrown open to about fifty guests who were invited by Miss Barbara Beam to meet Miss Worthington and Miss Tabitha Beam who were spending the holidays with this hospitable family.

The spacious rooms were decked with holly and evergreen and many lights shed their glamour on pretty faces and the beautiful and effective costumes of the happy throng.

Outside the night was dark and inclement, but the gay scene within proved that nothing could overshadow the blithe spirits of those who formed this cheerful coterie. Beautiful programs of the dance, printed in gold and ornamented by a holly-wreath design, were the souvenirs of the pleasant occasion and these were soon filled out by Knight and Lady, Queen and Peasant, who, to strains of entrancing music, danced far into the night, ceasing only to partake of a bountiful and delicious collation.

The music for this occasion was furnished by Messrs. Landsinger, Eyler and Gelwicks, of the Emmitsburg Band.

Fairfield Items

Mr. Harry Waddles, the popular huckster, made a large shipment of turkeys last week. On consignment of 225 birds was sent to Reading.

Mr. F. Shulley has in his possession a half-penny coined in 1806. These coins have been out of circulation for over 50 years.

New Lake Completed

The work of constructing Lake Wastler, which is located 100 yards further up the stream from the head of Lake Royer, near Pen-Mar Park, has been completed. The new lake, like Lake Royer, is owned by the Buena Vista Ice Company, and has a surface extent of over eight acres, with a capacity of 5,000,000 gallons. It is 1,360 feet above sea level and

13 feet above the level of Lake Royer. Ice will be harvested from the lake during the winter and in the summer season it will be used for boating and fishing purposes.

Harney

The excitement aroused by the wounding of Mrs. A.G. Lambert, wife of Constable Lambert, has somewhat quieted down the disorderly element in this town. No arrest has been made of the person who committed the act. Mr. Lambert, profiting by this experience, has put outside shutters on his house as a precaution against a repetition of the act. Mrs. Lambert's wound is not all serious.

Samuel A. Groff, who was recently released from the Moundsville Penitentiary where he served a sentence on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the Government in connection with the sale of letterbox fasteners, died of melancholia at his home, brought on by the shame he felt over his imprisonment.

Other Items of Interest

One day this week a bull belonging to Patterson Bros., tired and worn out sought rest in Mr. Michael Hoke's saloon. It is not known whether it was the verdant smell of corn or just because, that led the animal to walk down the narrow way, but whatever it was he made the attempt. After getting as far as the barroom door, upon the earnest solicitation of Mr. Hoke, ably seconded by his son, Mr. Cleveland Hoke, and not being able to turn around, the bull politely backed out.

Condemned to Death

William Eyler, of near Emmitsburg, who was convicted of murder in the first degree in the Adams county court at Gettysburg, Pa., for the killing of Howard Miller, was refused a new trial Tuesday last, and was sentenced by Chief Judge Swope to be hanged. It is said the case will be taken to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

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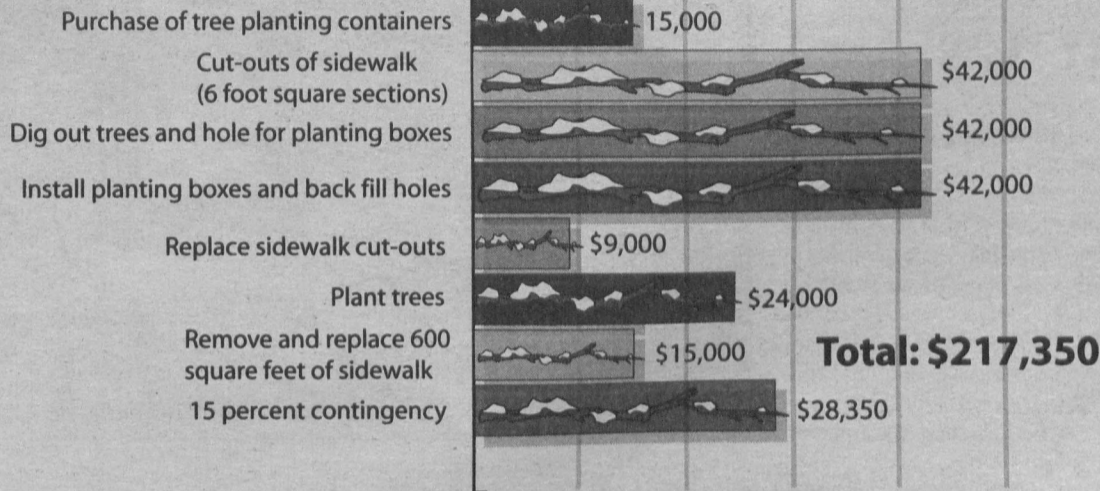
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Estimated Costs for Emmitsburg Sidewalk Repairs

For replacing 69 trees (29 on East Main Street, 40 on West Main Street):



Trees

-Continued from page 1

money. Why should we spend money when we have a maintenance crew in town that can help?" Mayor James Hoover was more reserved in his estimate. "While there may be savings, it will probably be at best 25 percent (of the concrete removal estimate)," he said.

Town Manager Dave Haller doesn't think there will be any

savings. "What we're doing is minimal," he said. "It's a stop gap. We're eliminating the trip paths."

The three were in agreement that the main reason to have town staff make temporary repairs now was to improve safety. However, while the cold patch may make the sidewalk safer, it won't look good until the final repairs are made.

"It will look like hell," Hoover said. "It will look horrible, like a checkerboard sidewalk."

This is because cold patch is a

dark color while the sidewalk cement is a light color.

Haller added that the sidewalk repair also creates a chance to fix another problem the trees can cause. Now that the trees are maturing, their branches are beginning to hit the roofs of nearby houses and could potentially cause damage. Haller said the town is considering purchasing smaller "almost dwarf" trees. They would still provide shade and look nice, but wouldn't grow as large.

Planning

-Continued from page 1

said when he sent Jakubiak an e-mail the next day asking him to attend the meeting and provide the commissioners with an update, Jakubiak responded quickly and positively.

"Might be unfair to blame it all on him," Staiger said. "I think I want to find out what he thinks he's responsible for and what he thinks his timelines are."

Commissioner Cliff Sweeney agreed that the problem might not lie entirely with the planning consultant. "Some commissioners on the board feel we shouldn't

have a town planner," Sweeney said. "They think it's a waste of time, but we don't have anyone with planning experience on the planning and zoning commission. We might have a couple people who think they know, though." Mayor Jim Hoover said, "I'm not convinced we're getting everything in a timely manner, but not convinced it's all his [Jakubiak's] fault."

He said he has seen debate go back and forth with planning projects with no decisions being made.

Sweeney said he doesn't know if a planner will be needed in the future, but one is needed now to help the town update its

comprehensive plan.

Staiger said he's not sure what the problem is, but the commissioners will be careful about how they proceed. "Ideally what we have a town manager for is to manage," Staiger said. "They shouldn't need us to micromanage."

Hoover added that the slowness of communications has put the town behind schedule with getting things accomplished, but it hasn't caused the town any harm.

Since the meeting took place after *The Dispatch's* deadline, for this issue, you can read about the meeting on *The Dispatch's* Web site, www.thedispach.us, and in the Feb. 1 issue of the paper.



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EDITORIAL

Making a Difference
Larry Barnes

BY JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
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EMMITSBURG, Md. – Larry Barnes made a difference.

He dreamed of developing a woodturning club for woodworkers in Frederick County. He wanted to bring them together so they could learn from each other and benefit from each other's experience.

Barnes, who lives in the mountains above Emmitsburg, has been involved in woodworking since he was a child living on a farm. wHe became involved in woodturning, carving wood as it turns on a lathe, several years ago. He has a small shop at his home where he works on his projects.

In December 2004, he gathered 12 men and one woman to establish the Mid-Maryland Woodturners Club, a chapter

of the American Association of Woodturners. Throughout 2005, the club met in Hardwoods, Inc. and obtained a \$1,000 corporate scholarship from Ashley Furniture that allowed the club to purchase a high-quality lathe for use by members.

In April 2006, the club became affiliated with the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center in Frederick.

At the club's January 2007 meeting, incoming President Walt Bennett presented Larry with a special service award for his dedication and service in establishing the Mid-Maryland Woodturners Club. Larry served as vice president from December 2004 to December 2005 and President from January 2006 to December 2006.

Thanks to Larry's enthusiasm for woodturning, the club now has over 25 members, rep-



-PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT STEINLE

Larry Barnes, one of the founders of the Mid-Maryland Woodturners Club, receives an award for his service to the club from Club President Walt Bennett.

resenting all ages and skill backgrounds.

Anyone interested in attending a club meeting is most welcome. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Center in Frederick, (301) 698-0656.

Editor's Note: Mr. Barnes was nominated by Robert Steinle. We invite you, our readers, to submit nominees for this feature, with specific details about why they should be recognized. By highlighting people's good works we hope to encourage others to do the same.

A Word from the Mayor

Clear focus is needed to complete APFO

Last week an article appeared in an area newspaper saying I felt the town's planning commission was causing the town's proposed

APFO to be delayed. That was not the comment I made. The reporter and I talked about many issues and concerns of mine. The reporter was

informed that the APFO is currently in the hands of our planning consultant for his review. Comments are expected to be provided to the town council in the next few weeks. The planning commission has not been tasked with reviewing the proposed APFO.

I did tell the reporter I believe that the sign ordinance and the comp plan should have been completed by now. I attributed the lack of completing these items to several issues including the lack of commitment on behalf of the planning commission and the planner. Most importantly, I believe the delays are related to the lack of focus. In many meetings, both items, the sign ordinance and the comp plan, are being reviewed multiple sections at a time. It is more efficient to review each item

section by section and approve each section as you go.

With the assistance of staff and or consultants the planning commission has the primary responsibility for these items. However, these two issues have been on the planning commission's agendas for as long as three years. Therefore, when I speak of the planning commission or planner, I am not speaking of just those who are in those current positions.

Members of the planning commission provide a lot of their time and talent and it is appreciated.

I hope to see both of these projects completed within the next six months.

- Mayor James E. Hoover
Emmitsburg

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TOWN NEWS

Town gets treatment plant design grant

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The State of Maryland awarded Emmitsburg a \$50,000 grant for the design of the upgrade of the town's water treatment plant.

"We need the upgrade to meet the state's new nutrient removal standard," Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover said.

The grant, which comes from the state's "flush tax," is expected to pick up all of the costs for the plant design and bid packages should be going out in the next few weeks.

"We are also anticipating monies for construction," Hoover said.

The construction will begin in

about a year and is expected to cost more than \$1 million. State funding would pay about 75 percent of the construction costs.

Once the project is complete, Hoover said, "I would not anticipate that the project will have any major impact on the current rate structure." *-J. Rada*

Streetscape

-Continued from page 1

Beginning at the intersection of Harney Road and Route 140, and ending at the town's traffic circle, improved road structures and walkways will replace the old, including new water and sewer lines, roadbeds, sidewalks and curbs. Stoplights will be added at two troublesome intersections on Rt. 140 at Trevanion Road and Baumgardner Road. Trees and decorative lighting will add an aesthetic appeal to the town's Main Street.

The project is expected to take about two years. The town has placed advertisements for contractors and is currently accepting bids on the project. The contractor will meet with the town to go over what the town would like to see done.

"The contractor is actually going to call the shots on this thing," said McCormick. "The city team will sit down with him and go over all the mechanisms with him."

In Frederick County, two streetscape projects are already planned for 2007, one in New Market and the other in Jefferson.



Water main break causes loss of pressure

An Emmitsburg work crew, led by Jim Click, cut through the macadam on Annandale Rd. in an effort to locate the 10-inch water line that broke Saturday Jan. 13. Earlier in the morning, John Eiker spotted water gurgling up from the side of the road and suspected there might be a water main break. He called Click who confirmed the problem. Mayor James Hoover said the pipe was in good condition with no corrosion and that shifting ground may have caused the problem.

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<p>February 12 - 16</p> <p>M - Hamburger steak, parsley potatoes, green beans T - Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut W - Spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread Th - Pot roast, biscuits, applesauce F - Meatloaf mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes</p>	<p>February 19 - 23</p> <p>M - Lasagna, tossed salad, dessert T - Beef stroganoff over noodles, peas, applesauce W - Slippery ham potpie, green beans, fruit Th - Roast pork, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut F - Salmon loaf, macaroni & cheese, peas</p>

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REGIONAL NEWS

Co-op coming to an end after almost 80 years



- ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL SR. / THE DISPATCH

The Thurmont Cooperative will be closing for good after serving the local farm community for almost 80 years. The co-op survived three fires, the most recent of which occurred on New Year's Day 2006.

By BRENDAN WEEKS
Contributing Writer

THURMONT, Md. — After nearly 80 years and having survived three fires, the Thurmont Cooperative, at 36 Walnut Street, will be closing its doors for good.

"Between the farming economic conditions and considerable financial problems, we are closing down definitely," said co-op board president Jack Heflin.

With ever-improving technologies and a society dominated by big business, local farms continue to fall by the wayside.

"It's a tight market out there, especially with the agricultural economy," said Heflin. "A lot of our business lately I call 'hobby farmers.'"

Catoctin Mountain Orchard owner and former board president Robert Black recognizes the pressure that has been put on small operations. "There have been a lot of changes in the farming structure of Frederick County," said Black, "because there are so many large farms and not as many small farms."

The co-op first opened in 1928. In the mid-thirties area farmers sold stock to town residents to raise money for the co-op. Around 1944 the co-op caught on fire and farmers had to solicit residents once more to gain the money to rebuild. The primary source

of income of the co-op came from dairy farmers, which has since declined and is practically non-existent.

In the first half of the century the co-op flourished. At one point there was a facility in Rocky Ridge as well as in Union Bridge. "As the years went by it wasn't feasible to operate one in Rocky Ridge and one in Union Bridge at the same time." The Rocky Ridge co-op closed down in the '50s and the Union Bridge co-op had the same fate in the '60s.

Both Heflin and Black identify the New Year's Eve fire last year as another catalyst for the closing.

On New Year's Day of 2006 a disgruntled employee, William L. Coats, set fire to the co-op in retaliation for not receiving workman's compensation. "That guy has absolutely no idea what he has done to this community," said Black.

"We were getting things turned around," said Heflin. "It was the fire that really put the crunch on it."

"I thought the special niche that the co-op had was the grinding facilities that could make custom mixes for the local farmers and patrons. It was all of that area and facilities that was badly damaged."

As far as whether or not there may be another co-op in the future for Thurmont, Heflin says things look bleak. "It will probably not

open as the co-op as it was in the past," said Heflin.

"If somebody thought that they could come into the market, I would say that everybody has an opportunity to start a business. At present I don't see anyone doing that. I'm almost positive that the Thurmont co-op will not come back into existence," Heflin concluded.

Rodman Myers, a local farmer and former co-op director for 42 years stands behind the decision to close shop. "I think this is the right move at this time," said Myers, "I'd rather see it go out with a good image rather than a tarnished image."

Heflin hopes that the co-op and farmers will be able to break even after the close. "We're hoping to settle all of our debt," said Heflin. "It's a possibility, not definite, but a possibility. The farmers may share in some of the sale of the assets, but we have to get through all of our debt."

No specific date for the final closing of the cooperative has been set, but the board expects it will be sometime in March or April. In the next two months the co-op will stop ordering supplies.

"It was a locally owned co-op that was one thing about it," said Black, "You hate to see something like that close down."

"It's not a happy day."

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For further information contact Tom Hudson at (301) 651-1481

SOUTH ADAMS COUNTY NEWS

Hamiltonban hosts 'Conservation By Design™' open house

BY WILLIAM K. REINKE
Contributing Writer

FAIRFIELD BOROUGH, Pa. — Hamiltonban officials were quite pleased with the attendance of over 100 citizens at their Conservation By Design™ open house at the Fairfield Fire Station on Jan. 10. The event was the culmination of nearly one and a half years of work between the township and its engineer, Martin and Martin, Inc. of Chambersburg.

Current regulations call for subdividing agricultural land into two-acre lots, transforming the rural farmland into something like suburban sprawl. Conservation By Design™ calls for clustering an equal number of allowable lots onto smaller (1/2 acre or less) parcels while permanently preserving open space on at least 50 percent of the tract.

The approach is "a good concept, a wise use of land, and makes sense," said Hamiltonban Zoning Officer Milton Nickles, adding, "The plan would be tailored to the unique features of each specific area."

Guidelines for the Conservation By Design™ ordinance call for removing "primary sites" from the inventory of developable land in any given proposed subdivision. Included would be streambeds and wetlands, steep slopes, some woodlands, historical sites, and other sensitive areas. Then, 40-60 percent of the remaining land would also be set aside as permanent green space, utilized for trails, meadowland, or wild land.

According to Hamiltonban Planning Commission Secretary Pamela Wiehagen, this plan would dramatically reduce the amount of developable land, but not necessarily the number of homes a developer would be allowed to build. For example, a 100-acre parcel of farmland, which could traditionally have been developed into 50 two-acre homesteads, might instead be left 60 percent green with 40 acres dedicated to half-acre homesteads. A developer could actually build more units on a given piece of land while preserving the area's rural characteristics.

Martin and Martin representative Timothy Cormany indicated that this concept benefits everyone involved. Aesthetically and environmentally the plan is better because homes are built in an environmentally and visually sensitive manner. Asked whether this concept is harder for developers because home sites are potentially carved out of niches in the woods rather than plopped every two acres across open farmland, Cormany said that infrastructure clustering actually saves developers money.

"We had a 60-acre plot that, under the traditional method would have resulted in over four miles of roads, as well as sewers and gas lines. With this concept, there was less than a mile and a half of roads." The increased costs of building envi-



— RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE DISPATCH

Hamiltonban Township supervisor Coleen Reamer speaks with township resident Tom Steinberger who attended an open house Jan. 10 to find out more about what's going on in the township and learn about its planning for development. Timothy Cormany, a planner with Martin and Martin, Inc., an engineering firm that consults for the township, was on hand to speak with attendees about planning strategies the township hopes to use. More than 100 people attended, coming and going throughout the evening.

ronmentally sensitive homes would be more than offset by the reduced infrastructure costs, he said.

"We want to retain the rural character of the area," Cormany said. "We don't want a Baltimore or Washington here."

Asked whether public feedback has been supportive, both Cormany and Wiehagen indicated a general resistance to development, but an acceptance once citizens learn about the Conservation By Design™ concept. Nickles said that no one likes development, but it's coming, "so we need to manage it wisely."

Cormany said the Conservation By Design™ approach is rela-

tively new to this area, but has been implemented in communities in eastern Pennsylvania "for years and years." "It all started in Shrewsbury, south of York, 25 years ago," Nickles said. Locally, Martin and Martin worked with Antrim, near Greencastle, to implement the concept about a year ago, Cormany noted.

Hamiltonban officials hope to adopt the conservation ordinance in the first half of 2007, after proceeding through proper channels, including public hearings.

Editor's Note: For more information about Conservation By Design™ efforts in Pennsylvania, visit the Natural Lands Trust Web site, www.natlands.org.

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Vigilant Hose Company's 123rd Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet

BY JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The Vigilant Hose Company held its 123rd annual award banquet at the Mother Seton School on Saturday, Jan. 6. Of-

ficers for 2007 were announced and awards were given for length of service, top responders, chief's award and member of the year.

Four members of the Vigilant Hose Company and Auxiliary passed away in 2006: Doris Stouter, Anna Marie Koontz, Richard "Dick" Myers and

E. Eugene "Gene" Myers. A memorial service was conducted during the program by the Reverend Tim May.

2007 Fire Police

Paul Krietz - *Captain*
Samuel Cool - *1st Lieutenant*
Tom Myerly - *2nd Lieutenant*

2007 Auxiliary Officers

Dorothy D. Davis - *President*
Sharon Hane - *Vice President*
Jo Ann Boyd - *Treasurer*
Joyce E. Glass - *Secretary*
Helen E. Topper - *Financial Secretary*
Wanda E. Myers - *Historian*

Length of service awards

5 years: JoAnn Sloane,
Chris Ryder
10 years: Paul Krietz,
Glenn Swain

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Length of service awards

5 years: JoAnn Sloane,
Chris Ryder
10 years: Paul Krietz,
Glenn Swain
15 years: Frank Rauschenberg
20 years: John Glass,
Bob Rosensteel Jr.,
Dave Vaughn
25 years: Hugh Boyle and Steve Hollinger (and awarded life membership)
30 years: Herb Click Jr.
35 years: Larry Glass
40 years: Mike Orndorff,
Roland Sanders,
Bill Weidner
55 years: Patrick Boyle
60 years: John S. Hollinger
65 years: Tom Hoke
2007 Administrative officers
Arthur Damuth - *President*
John Damskey - *Vice President*



Vigilant Hose Company President Art Damuth (far left) and outgoing Fire Chief Robert Rosensteel Jr. (far right) congratulate John Hollinger (left) on 60 years of service and Tom Hoke (right) on 65 years of service with Vigilant Hose Company.



Vigilant Hose Company's top 10 responders receive their awards: (left to right) Tony Kelly (9th), John Glass (7th), David Stonesifer (6th), David Smith (5th), VHC President Art Damuth, Vance Click (2nd), Randy Myers (1st), Frank Davis (3rd) and outgoing Fire Chief Robert Rosensteel, Jr.

Steven W. Valentine - *Secretary*
Thomas Vaughn - *Assistant Secretary*
Steven M. Hollinger - *Treasurer*
Frank Davis - *Assistant Treasurer*
William Boyd Jr.
Timothy M. Clarke,
John S. Hollinger,
Robert A. Rosensteel Sr.,
David Smith, David Stonesifer,
- *Board of Directors*

2007 Line Officers

Douglas D. Orner - *Chief*
James E. Click - *Deputy Chief*
Clifton Shriner - *Assistant Chief*
Christopher Stahley - *Captain*
Jason Powell - *Lieutenant*
Dave Stonesifer - *Lieutenant*
Chad Umbel - *Lieutenant*
Carl White - *Lieutenant*



Jim Click gets emotional as he is announced as the newest inductee to the Vigilant Hose Company Hall of Fame. Click was selected for the honor by his peers.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Tranquility Farm rescues horses and humans

BY BRENDAN WEEKS
Contributing Writer

THURMONT, Md. — There is an old adage about how “the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man,” which is something Sarah Transeau knows very well. As founder of Tranquility Farm Equestrian Education and Renewal Center in Thurmont, she has spent the past 16 years introducing this truth to others.

Transeau has been working with horses for as long as she can remember. “I have been on horses since I was a little girl,” said Transeau. “I rode before I could walk.” She attended the Guilford Riding School as well as the Yorkshire Riding School in England.

She has worked breeding, racing, training and showing horses. But she has an intuitive skill for rescuing. “Where I really excel is in the rescue side of it,” said Transeau.

In 1990, Transeau founded Tranquility Farm in Boyds, Md. In 2002 when more space became a necessity, the organization relocated to Thurmont. The farm serves as a refuge for abused horses as well as a therapy center for people with physical, mental, and emotional difficulties.

Transeau has realized the impact a horse can have on humans. “The rescued horses are very intuitive,” said Transeau. “The Chinese believe that if you have been through something you can become a healer.”

“I believe when a person has been through a lot of grief, the horse can understand that,” she said.

Transeau gives riding lessons to people living with cancer. She also has several students from the Maryland School for the Deaf. She has witnessed children who are unable to hear and speak communicate with the animals.

One of the most heartwarming stories about the farm’s impact comes from a Wheaton, Md. family. Betty Bahadori’s son Cyrus is severely disabled with autism. “He is very heavy. I was unable to find a farm to take someone with his size and disability,” said Mrs. Bahadori.

“People laughed at me when I

said I was going to introduce him to horses, but I said I was going to give this a try.”

Mrs. Bahadori and Cyrus began visiting the farm, gradually acquainting him with the environment. “Sarah worked with me and Cyrus at a very slow rate,” said Bahadori. “First we just visited the farm.”

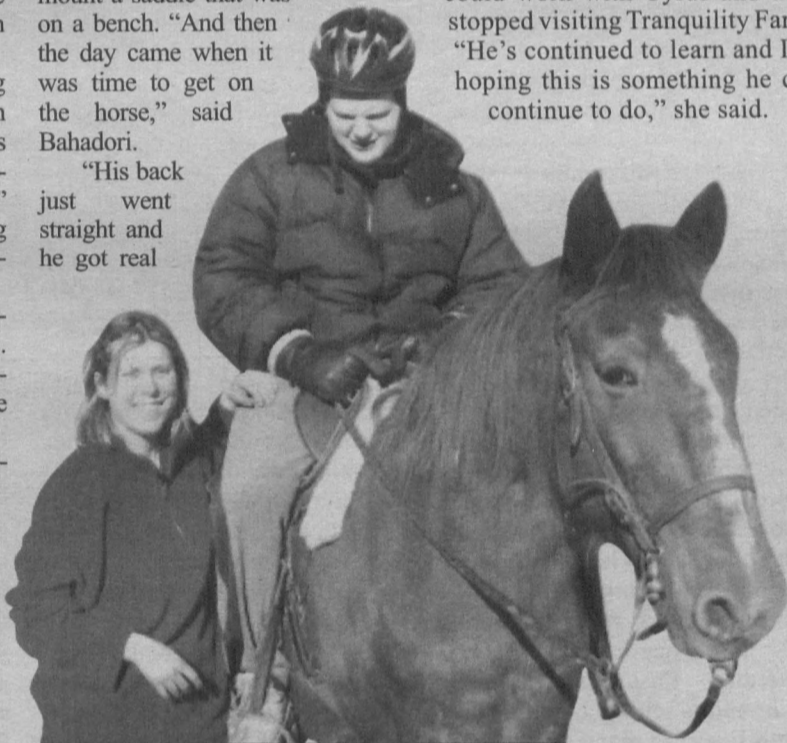
Transeau first began teaching Cyrus by instructing him on how to mount a saddle that was on a bench. “And then the day came when it was time to get on the horse,” said Bahadori.

“His back just went straight and he got real

happy and looked comfortable. He didn’t jump up and down and he didn’t hurt the animal. He just loved it, just as calm as can be.”

Though Cyrus has been non-verbal his entire life, only having spoken three or four times, Sarah heard him say the word “horse” while he was riding.

Bahadori was eventually able to find a farm closer to home that could work with Cyrus and they stopped visiting Tranquility Farm. “He’s continued to learn and I’m hoping this is something he can continue to do,” she said.



Even though nobody thought it could be done, Sarah Transeau at Tranquility Farms was able to teach 18-year-old Cyrus Bahadori how to ride horses. Cyrus has lived his entire life with severe autism and up until that point had been afraid even to go near a dog.

Tranquility Farm is currently home to 12 rescued horses. It is also a haven for eight rescued cats, three rescued dogs, a rescued cow, and a donkey. Transeau has no plans to bring anyone else into the family anytime soon.

“My goal is to eventually see an indoor riding arena,” said Transeau, “I believe that will happen.” At some point this year Tranquility Farm will be having a fundraiser for the arena.

For all of her success, Transeau has nothing but thanks for everyone around her. “I have been blessed in my life to have so many people helping me out,” she said. “I just want to thank the community for all their help.”

Tranquility Farm is located at 11819 Whates Lane, Thurmont. Volunteers and donations are always welcome. For more information about the farm, visit www.tranquilityfarmequestrian.com, or call (301) 271-3400.

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 -Benjamin Franklin

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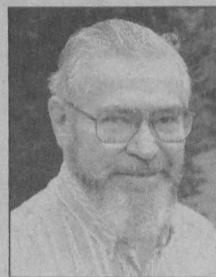
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The (retired) Ecologist
Walking with open eyes



BY BILL MEREDITH
 Dispatch Columnist

"The eye is the window to the soul." ...
 -Leonardo da Vinci

"If you don't look, you won't see." ...
 -Meredith's First Law

"An idle mind is the Devil's playground." ...
 -Meredith Willson

Every discipline has its collection of myths, and science, that bastion of logic and rationality, is no exception. One of the myths we perpetuate is that to be a scientist you have to be an exceptional observer. I must plead guilty of perpetuating that myth; on field trips my students always were amazed that I "found" so many things they had never seen before. I constantly reminded them if they hoped to understand nature they had to keep their eyes open and pay attention to anything that they didn't recognize, and early in my career this became "Meredith's First Law." I never got around to telling them that the reason I saw so many things was that I had walked over the same area hundreds of times before. And they didn't stop to think that I saw things because I had spent my life studying what should be there, so I knew what to look for.

Away from the woods, I am no better at observing than the average person on the street. My wife confirms this regularly as I stand in front of the refrigerator searching in vain for the jar of mayonnaise that she assured me was on the left-hand side of the second shelf, or when I return empty-handed from the produce aisle she sent me to on the rare occasions when she gets me into a store. Of course a lot of what passes for observational ability is really just being familiar with the territory; we prove this on the even rarer occasions when I get her to go for a walk. She can

spot a bargain from a mile off in a shopping mall, but constantly tramples wildflowers underfoot in the woods. My students used to say that "If you've seen one flower, you've seen them all" was Mrs. Meredith's First Law.

This all came to mind when I took my first walk to Toms Creek for the new year. A lot of the birds that usually come south for the winter haven't arrived because of the warm weather, so my list was not growing very fast. Observation, to a biologist, includes listening, and I did hear a robin; but otherwise not much was happening. Nevertheless, I was in a good mood as a result of a random act of kindness ... two young men in the town's maintenance truck stopped and handed me the glove I had dropped when I paused to look at some bluebirds a couple hundred yards back. That doesn't always happen.

Thinking of things I had seen on other walks, Meredith Willson's prediction came true. My mind wandered off on its own and began a surreal free-association conversation with itself inside my head. As best I can recall, it went something like the following: What does it take to be a good observer? Eyesight is important, but it can't be the only requirement; E. O. Wilson, arguably the foremost living biologist and one of the great observers of all time, has only one functional eye. Are some people simply born with exceptional ability to observe? Probably, but surely anyone can learn. Do certain tools help? Well, I carried a walking stick to poke at things long before my arthritic hip required its help ... binoculars are good for seeing birds, of course, and if you look through them backwards they make a useful magnifier for small things. I'm never without a pen-knife to cut things open with ... it's a shame cigars aren't good for you, because they always seem to put me in a more observant mood ... And at that point my conscious mind reasserted itself.

I had just got to the end of a fine Macanudo that a friend had given me for Christmas. Maybe that had nothing to do with it, but

just as I ground out the last spark with my heel the proverbial light bulb came on above my head, and I realized that it is the frame of mind that makes an observer. Everyone sees things, but true observers have a mindset that drives them to think about what they see, and to be curious about how it might relate to other things. Scientists have no monopoly on this; I have walked with biologists who spend their lives in laboratories and are no more perceptive in the woods than my wife. On the other hand, in spite of their own myths about being unworldly, artists and poets depend for their livelihood on being good observers.

So the rest of the walk was spent fantasizing about whom I would like to go for a walk with. Ed Wilson appeared, and borrowed my hand-lens to squint at some ants with his one good eye. Leonardo da Vinci made me wait while he sketched the intricate pattern of grooves engraved on the trunk of a dead elm tree by the beetles that killed it. The bank of the creek was lined with little bare pathways where beavers climb out; Paul Errington, who spent his life trapping, kneeled down in the mud to show me their tracks. At one point where the creek used to divide and flow around an island, debris from a flood last fall blocked one side and now the other bank has eroded some 30 feet northward; Loren Eiseley leaned on a cane beside me and mused about the timelessness of such changes, and how insignificant human history is by comparison. Walt Kelly materialized by some possum tracks, hobbling on his artificial leg and chuckling about what Pogo would think of George W. Bush. Linnaeus crashed happily through the underbrush, spouting Latin names left and right. By an old sycamore tree that had broken off in a storm, Charles Darwin looked at younger sycamores growing nearby and spoke of how thankful he was that modern DNA research provided a mechanism to confirm his theory. And W. B. Yeats sat beside me on a log from the same fallen tree and talked about the meaning of life and death.

Toward the end of the walk, the fantasies were replaced by memories. From the time I could walk, I went into the woodlot every summer evening with my father to bring the cows in for milking. He would never say, "There's the cow by that tree;" rather, it was "There's Old Midget under that pin oak, and her calf is just behind that black walnut." He never actually told me it was important to know the particular kinds of things; he simply showed by his actions the practical importance of knowing and noticing. That is where the habit of observing got started. I have walked with open eyes ever since, and life has been richer because of it.



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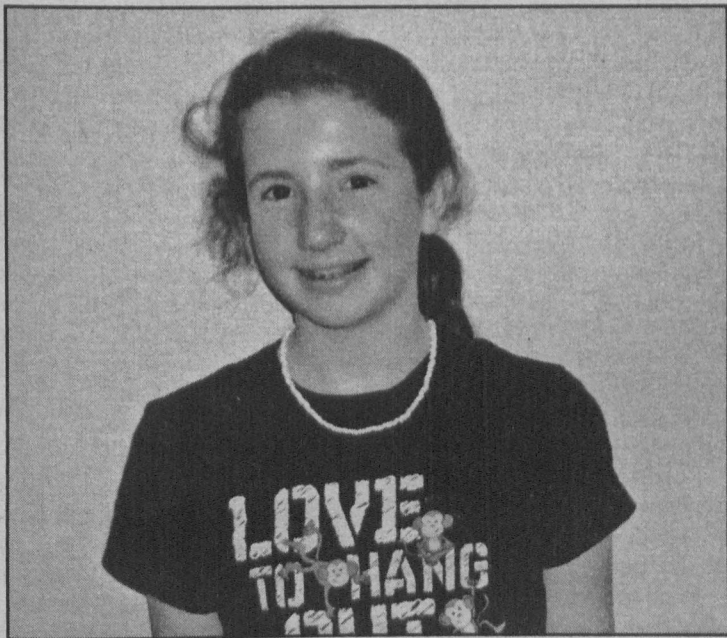
St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, MD
beginning January 7, Sundays at 7pm

For more information call:
 Mary Myers (301) 447-2712 or Bill Steo (301) 447-3220

Catholics Returning Home
No one who comes to me will I reject. John 6:37

EDUCATION

Trevorrow receives second King award



-PHOTO COURTESY OF THURMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fifth-grade Thurmont Elementary School student Brienne Trevorrow represented the school at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Award Ceremony held Jan. 11.

THURMONT, Md. – Thurmont Elementary School is sending Brienne Trevorrow as its representative to Frederick County Public School's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Award Ceremony.

The school confirms that, as a student, Brie exemplifies the leadership qualities characteristic of Dr. King. As well as being a classroom small group leader, Brie is also a member of the school's safety patrol. In the community, Brie regularly visits a local nursing home where she and her family lead a worship service for the residents.

During the holiday season, Brie purchases materials and packs gift boxes for distribution by Samaritan's Purse, an organization that distributes Christmas gift boxes to needy children worldwide. Brie has been selected, for the second time, to receive this prestigious award. - J. Demmitt

King commemorative events at the Mount

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Mount St. Mary's University is hosting a series of events commemorating the life of Martin Luther King Jr. All are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (301) 447-5366.

Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m., Knott Auditorium
Keynote Address: "This Little Light of Mine": Remembering the Civil Rights Movement," by

Dr. William Heath, award-winning Civil Rights novelist and professor in the Mount's Department of English

Monday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Purcell Lounge

Film Screening: "Martin Luther King Jr.: The Man and the Dream," followed by a discussion facilitated by Dr. Michelle Patterson.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 8 p.m., Knott Auditorium
"Martin's Story" – Storyteller and

performer Shindana Cooper will illustrate King's life and times through stories and drama. Cooper recently produced her own radio program, "Keepers of the Culture," for WCCN in Baltimore and hosted her own television special, "Stories from 'Round the World."

Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 5 p.m., Faculty Lounge
Student Activists Speak Out!

- J. Demmitt

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Lions Club announces essay contest

THURMONT, Md. – The Thurmont Lions Club has announced it is accepting entries in its American Heritage Preservation and Patriotism Essay Contest for students. Awards will be given in the following categories: elementary school, middle school, high school, home school and high school graduates.

For more information, call James Spahr at (301) 271-2049 for the topics and rules. Entries are due by Jan. 30. Winners will go on to compete in the district competition. - J. Rada

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RELIGION

"Voices of Faith" heats up visionary controversy

BY RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER
 Publisher
 publisher@thedispatch.us

The controversy surrounding Gianna Talone-Sullivan is back in the news with a recent article published in *The Frederick News-Post* (FNP) on its front page Jan. 8, titled "The Voices of Faith." She is the wife of a medical doctor who herself holds a doctorate in pharmacology, and claims to see and receive messages from the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Through most of the 1990's in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, she reported "public" messages allegedly from Mary on Thursday nights. The church was packed with visitors, some from distant seaboard states. The overflow filled the parish's hall.

In 2003 William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, who has jurisdiction here, forbade her to present her messages on property belonging to the archdiocese. In the beginning there was a discussion over whether Talone-Sullivan sees apparitions of Mary. Now the controversy

surrounds how the Catholic Church has been dealing with the issue.

Church's position on the apparitions

Pastor Vincent J. O'Malley, C.M., pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Emmitsburg, responded to the FNP article with a letter to his parishioners. His response attempts to correct two errors in the article and offers his comments about the apparitions. He writes, "Both the archdiocese and the Holy See have decreed that 'nothing supernatural is occurring here.' The investigation is over. The Church has spoken. We Catholics are to move forward, as best as possible, in unity of mind, heart, and soul."

Keeler had assembled a commission of experts in theology, canon law, and behavioral sciences to assess the nature of Talone-Sullivan's visions and locutions. After more than a two-year investigation, the group, in 2002, "unanimously concluded that there is no evidence of supernatural intervention in the Emmitsburg messages."

Keeler issued a formal decree on June 7, 2003, "that in this case, *constat de non supernaturalitate* (nothing supernatural is occurring)" banning Talone-Sullivan's messages and visions from Archdiocesan churches and property and said that he had received "appropriate authorization" to make such a decision from the Holy See. This had been given by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI), then head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In his recent letter O'Malley wrote, "Throughout history, numerous saints have experienced opposition within the Church. These saints acquiesced to the authority of the Church. Their sanctity was verified by their humble acquiescence. No holy person ever persisted in defiance of the Church."

"To act otherwise," O'Malley declared, "i.e., to believe in the validity of the alleged apparitions is to act contrary to the teaching of the Church."

Believers do not think they are disobedient

Raymond Sanders, a St. Joseph's parishioner and one of those interviewed by the FNP, disagrees with O'Malley and says he can be a faithful Catholic and still believe in the apparitions. "The diocese didn't condemn the apparitions; there just wasn't enough evidence to prove their validity," said Sanders, "therefore it's not a matter of sin or disobedience."

Sanders also noted that Ratzinger's Congregation itself did not investigate the apparitions as O'Malley alleges. It examined the report but in the end, "simply gave it (Keeler's decision) a rubber stamp."

Further, Keeler's decree did not restrict the release of any new public messages. Since the church found no proof, the decree was a way to distance itself from the apparitions, Sanders said. "Until the church condemns it, it's okay to believe it."

Sanders believes the apparitions to be true because, "the messages point or reflect the truth. They reflect the gospel message love of neighbor and use of the sacraments. An authentic apparition always points back to the gospel, points back to Christ."

Robert Coli, another believer interviewed by the FNP, said, "Fr. O'Malley is very wrong and misleads people. He implies that the Emmitsburg apparitions are condemned. Emmitsburg is not condemned."

Coli said he understands that any Catholic has the right to believe in private revelation except for the ones that are condemned, because there is "irrefutable proof that there is some type of fraud or they are of a demonic origin."

Coli told *The Dispatch* that he believes in the apparitions because, "God performed a miracle in my family as a result of the family being present at the Thursday night prayer group that was so profound that it could have only been performed by God. To me and my family, it is absolutely impossible for us to doubt this."

Call for a more thorough investigation

Believers like Sanders and Coli think a more thorough investigation should be conducted.

The Rev. John B. Wang, one of Talone-Sullivan's spiritual advisors, characterized the work of

the earlier commission as "biased, fallacious, and flawed in many aspects." Believers in the alleged messages want the matter appealed to the Holy See and want Rome to review the work of the Baltimore commission.

Susan Torborg of Fairfield, Pa. wrote in a Jan. 11 FNP letter to the editor, "Dr. Sullivan is completely obedient to the Catholic Church and yet the... Baltimore Diocese has not done a very thorough investigation like the Diocese of Phoenix did years ago."

Torborg calls for a new investigation and says, "Rome needs to get involved and have a proper investigation done... one that includes Marian theologians and learned scholars who will be able to evaluate these apparitions properly."

Our Lady of Emmitsburg followers not only believe that the Archdioceses of Baltimore's investigation was poorly done because it lacked Marian theologians, but also because it lacked the testimony of the visionary's primary witness, Fr. Alfred Pehrsson, C.M., former pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Pehrsson was present for the apparitions from 1993, when they began, until he was reassigned in 1996. During that time he kept Keeler informed about the apparitions, but was not called to testify before the investigative committee.

Pehrsson wrote about the apparitions in 1996, and recently updated his testimony (both found at www.centeroftheimmaculateheart.org) in an effort to complete his work of recording the history of what took place at that time. He declined to speak with *The Dispatch*.


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OBITUARIES

Mr. John Humerick

Mr. John Gerald "Jack" Humerick, 92, of W. Main St., Emmitsburg, died Jan. 6, 2007, at St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg.

Born Sept. 23, 1914, in Altoona, Pa., he was a son of the late Jackson A. and Annie Taylor Humerick.

Surviving are his wife, D. Eleanor (Mingel) Humerick; two sons, John Michael Humerick of King Salem, Alaska and Thomas William Humerick of Emmitsburg; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Hilda Mahoney of Florida and Dorothy Seiss of Emmitsburg.

A memorial Mass of Christian Burial was held Jan. 13 from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with his pastor, the Rev. Stephen P. Trzeciecki, C.M., as the celebrant. Inurnment will be at the convenience of the family in Altoona, Pa.

Mr. William Ott Jr.

Mr. William Joseph Ott Jr., 64, of Kelbaugh Road, Thurmont, died Jan. 12, 2007, at home.

Born Oct. 3, 1942, in Emmitsburg, he was a son of the late William J. and Clara Mae Cool Ott.

Surviving are four daughters, Tracy Wiles and Victoria Phelps, Gettysburg, Pa., Kimberly Dicks, Lawton, Okla., and Stefanie Rines, Fairfield, Pa.; eight grandchildren; and one sister, Frances Strausburg, Dayton, Ohio.

Funeral services were held Jan. 16, 2007, with a Mass of Christian Burial from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with his pastor, the Rev. Stephan P. Trzeciecki, C.M., as celebrant. Interment was in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

Mr. K. Jeffrey Yingling

Mr. K. Jeffrey Yingling, 51, of 11942 Simpsons Mill Road, Keymar, died Jan. 12, 2007, at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

Born Dec. 6, 1955, in Gettysburg, Pa., he was the son of the late Kenneth F. and Ruth Weddle Yingling.

Surviving are his wife of 15 years, Cathy (Hawse) Yingling; two daughters, Leslie Michelle Yingling and Rachel Nicki Yingling, both of Frederick; two sons, Sean Lewis Sr., Woodsboro and Neal Lewis, Keymar; a sister, Elaine Study, Finksburg; two brothers, Tony Yingling and Freddie Yingling; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Jan. 16, 2007, at Hartzler Funeral Home, Union Bridge, with the Rev. Stanley Diehl, a former pastor, officiating.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Thurmont Lions Club inducts new members

The Thurmont Lions Club recently inducted five new members (L to R) Francis Herbert, Lynn Herbert, Wesley Hamrick, Beverly Frushour, Russell Favorite. Lions Club membership is open to anyone over 18 years of age. For more information, visit www.thurmontlionsclub.com, or telephone membership chairman Jenny West, (301) 271-7845.

Emmitsburg baseball & softball registration for the 2007 season

Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball will hold spring 2007 baseball season registration at the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company, 300 South Seton Avenue:

Thursday Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m.
 Saturday Jan. 27, 1-3 p.m.
 Sunday Jan. 28, 1-3 p.m.
 Saturday Feb. 3, 1-3 p.m.
 Sunday Feb. 4, 1-3 p.m.
 Tuesday Feb. 6, 6-8 p.m.

Costs per player:
 Tee Ball (boys 4-6 & girls 4-7) \$30
 Minor League Baseball (boys & girls 7-8) \$30
 Major League Baseball

(boys & girls 9-12) \$50
 Senior League Baseball (boys 13-18) \$50
 Girls Softball (6-8) \$40
 Girls Softball (10 & under) \$50
 Girls Softball (12 & under) \$50
 Girls Softball (14 & under) \$50,
 with enough registrants

Maximum registration fee: \$100 per family. Financial aid available. Birth certificate copy required at registration. Forms also available at www.emmitsburg.net. Registration deadline: Feb. 16. Late fees: \$15 per player. No registrations after March 1. Information: contact Theresa Topper (301) 447-6653.

Center of Life supports food bank

Dr. John Hagemann of Center of Life Chiropractic in Thurmont presented a check for \$1,725 to Pastor Jeffrey Gehris of the Thurmont Food Bank. The funds were collected during the center's ninth annual *Love and Gratitude* Holiday Open House, where community members made a donation in exchange for chiropractic care. Funds have previously been donated to the food bank, to Katrina relief in Waveland, Miss., and to Frederick Cultural Arts in memory of Steve Bomango. In all, the center has donated over \$10,000 in nine years of fundraising.

Wivell family hold annual Christmas party

The descendants of Ray and Helen Wivell held their annual Christmas party at Mother Seton School on Dec. 31, 2006. Attendance was 225; the family now totals 467 people.

Prayer for blessing of food was led by Jeff Wivell; Therese Topper led the prayer for our deceased family members.

Paul Wivell, our emcee, welcomed everyone and gave an update for 2006. We welcomed 3 babies, Vincent Reaver III, Julia Wivell and Eryka Damico; anniversary recognition was given to the 5, 10, 15 etc. years, and to Jim and Lorraine for celebrating their 55th in May 2006. A tribute was given in memory of Charles Wivell, who died in August 2006.

Betty Wivell and Jenny Little were welcomed into our Roses 'n' Thorn club (over 60).

Highlight of the year was given by Helen Reaver gave the highlight of the year, thanking everyone for donating to the restoration of St.

Anthony Shrine vestibule window in honor of Roy and Helen Wivell.

Joan Matthews, Dick, Sam and Roy Wivell Jr. and their families provided entertainment this year. They presented a skit, "You Might Be a Wivell if..." very funny, and brought back many childhood memories. Stephanie Harrington composed and created a disc called "All Because Two People Fell in Love" representing all the Wivell brothers and sisters and their families, oops it started with their mom and dad. Stephanie did a super job and we all were very thankful.

The following received door prizes: \$10, Mary Wivell, April Rigby, Sara Hoff, Kayla Williams, Erica Orndorff; \$5, Dennis Wivell and Ronnie Little; Surprise gift (2 dozen brown eggs grown in Paul's chicken house), Michael Foder; fruit basket, Mark Wivell; box of candy, Danny Reaver and Andy Wivell.

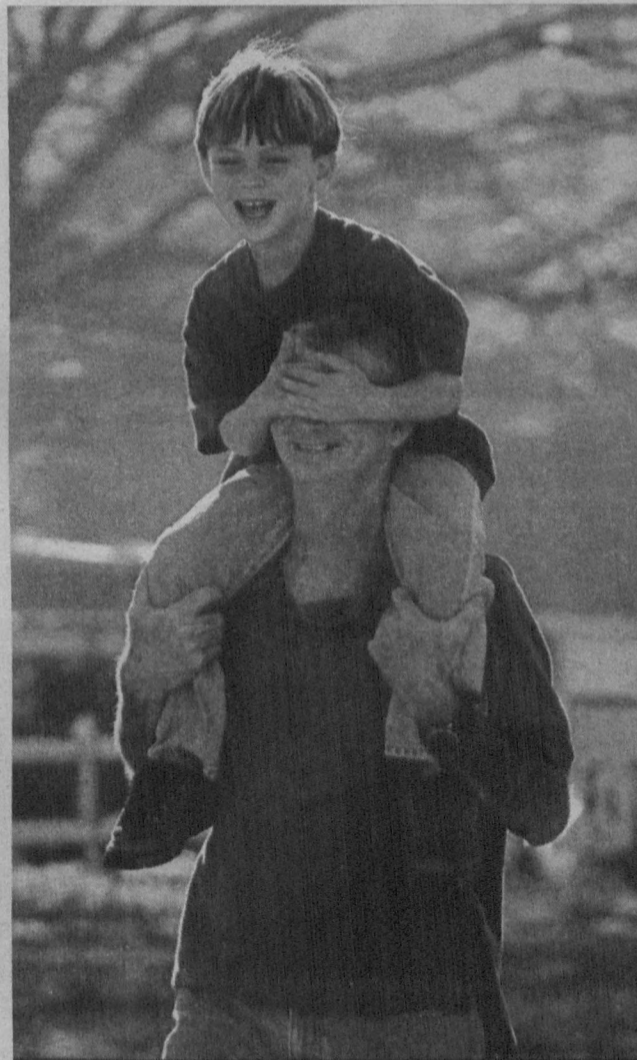
The Wivell great-grand children portrayed the nativity scene.

Carolyn Shields and Emily Kelly gave readings. Carrie Wivell carried the "Star of Bethlehem;" Mary - Jenna Wivell; Joseph - Terry Wivell; Jesus - Julia Wivell; Shepherds - Nick Reaver, Noah Wivell and Philip Davis; Angels - Kimberly Shields, Elizabeth Bisbee, Maria Kelly, Carrie Reaver, Chelsea Dawson, Jennifer Cornbrooks, Taylor Wivell, and Casey Wagman carrying the "littlest angel," Bethany Weaver; Kings - Luke Kelly, Jarrett Cornbrooks and Jacob Wivell. Kathy Yoder directed. Great job and great costumes.

Mr. & Mrs. Santa then arrived to an anxious group of children waiting for their gifts.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and the abundant buffet brought by all family members. As always the Wivell family wishes everyone a happy, healthy and most of all a holy new year.

- Helen Reaver
 Emmitsburg



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Community Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 18 – Third Thursdays at ThorpeWood. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 12805-A Mink Farm Road, Thurmont, MD 21788. Join Stacey and Kesra for storytime fun. Reservations: 301-271-2823.

Jan. 18 – Emmitsburg sign ordinance meeting. 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center.

Jan. 19 – Business incubator forum. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Cozy Inn Restaurant, Thurmont. A variety of guest speakers will provide information and resources for municipal leaders throughout Frederick County on how business incubators help improve the economic vitality of towns and communities. Information: contact Randy Gray at 301-631-2341 or e-mail rgray@fredco-md.net.

Jan. 19 – Thurmont Lions Club Basket Bingo. GHC Activities Building. Doors open at 5 p.m.; games begin at 6:15. Dinner available at 5 p.m. Admission: \$20. Contact Susan Favorite at 301-271-4020.

Jan. 19 – Owl Prowl. 5-7 p.m. A guided hike through the woods at ThorpeWood, searching for native owls. Outside program. For ages 8 and up. Fee: \$3, \$2 members. Registration deadline: Jan. 17. Call 301-271-2823.

Jan. 22 – Literacy Day. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. UpCounty Family Center, 303 W. Lincoln Ave., Emmitsburg. 301-447-2810. Come dressed as your favorite book character – for the whole family.

Jan. 23, 30 – Moms' Club. 1 p.m. UpCounty Family Center, 303 W. Lincoln Ave., Emmitsburg. 301-447-2810.

Jan. 23- Disaster preparedness meeting. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Firemen's Activity Building, Thurmont. Business community will meet to learn how to prepare Thurmont citizens for disasters. RSVP: 301-662-5131 by Jan. 22.

Jan. 25 – Habitat for Humanity annual awards and recognition dinner. 6 to 10 p.m. Lynfield Event Complex. Live and silent auction will precede dinner. Auction donations accepted until mid-January; contact Habitat office at 301-698-2449 or e-mail info@frederickhabitat.org. Advance reservations only. Tickets: \$75.

Jan. 26 – In God's Hands Coffee House. Weller United Methodist Church, 101 North Altamont Ave., Thurmont, 301-271-2802.

Jan. 27 – Annual Spaghetti Dinner. 4:30 to 7 p.m. St. Joseph's parish hall, Emmitsburg. All you can eat pasta, salad, bread, with choice of sauces, beverage and dessert. Adults \$7; children \$3; 5 & under free. Sponsored by The Catocin Pregnancy Center.

Jan. 30 – Cribs for Kids. Noon to 2 p.m. Gettysburg Hospital. Education on safe infant sleeping as well as the distribution of free Graco Pack "N" Play cribs. Information: call Cynthia Romero, 717-337-0044 ext. 402.

Jan. 31 – New Year's Eve Service. 11:30 a.m. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8619 Black's Mill Road, Thurmont. Kick-off of the 275th anniversary of the congregation. Information: 301-898-5290.

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

Events

Jan. 20 – 20th Annual Central Maryland Farm Toy Show. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Westminster Agriculture Center, 700 Agriculture Center Drive. Information: 410-848-3247.

Jan. 21 – Winter Photography Seminar. 1:30 p.m. Catocin Mountain Park Visitor Center, 6600 Foxville Road, Thurmont. Learn to capture the winter landscape using time-tested techniques for photographic success during winter. Information: 301-663-9388.

Jan. 21 – Wyeth Lecture. 2:30 p.m. Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 91 Key Street, Hagerstown. Illustrated lecture covering three generations of the Wyeth family by Dr. Jim Curtis, an independent art educator living in Chadds Ford, Pa. Reception following the program. Information: 301-739-5727.

Jan. 21, 28 – Frederick County Society of Model Railroad Open House. 1 to 4 p.m. 423 E. Patrick Street, Frederick. Visit a working HO scale model railroad, located in an authentic Chesapeake and Ohio railroad car. Information: 301-668-6371.

Jan. 27 – History of Rug Hooking. 2 p.m. C. Burr Artz Public Library, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick. Jean Tynan, noted artist and teacher, will discuss this North American art. Participants are encouraged to bring their own rugs for discussion. Information: 301-600-1630.

Concerts

Jan. 19 – Women of Windham Hill. Barbara Higbie, Lisa Lynne and Liz Story. The Majestic, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg. 717-337-8200, gettysburgmajestic.org.

Jan. 20 – The Hot Club of San Francisco. 8 p.m. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick Street, Frederick. Music of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grapelli's pioneering Hot Club de France, accompanying a collection of silent surrealist films. www.weinbergcenter.org or 301-228-2828.

Jan. 21 – Aulos Ensemble. Five Julliard graduates play Baroque music on original instruments. The Majestic, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg. 717-337-8200, gettysburgmajestic.org.

Jan. 23 – Nordic Choir of Luther College. Music. Gettysburg! Gettysburg Seminary Chapel, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, Pa. 717-334-6286, ext. 2100. info@lts.edu.

Jan. 26 – The Fabulous Hubcaps. 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Dinner served from 6-8 p.m. Carroll Valley Resort, 121 Sanders Road, Fairfield, Pa. Call 717-642-7009 or 800-548-8504. Tickets: Hubcaps, \$20; dinner, \$25.

Jan. 28 – Jeffrey Fahnstock, tenor. 4 p.m. Music, Gettysburg! Gettysburg Seminary Chapel, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, Pa. 717-334-6286, ext. 2100. info@lts.edu

Stage

Through Jan. 21 – "Frosty." Way Off Broadway Children's Theatre, 5 Willowdale Drive, Willowtree Plaza, Frederick. Tickets: 301-662-6600, www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Jan. 19 to March 10 – "Forever Plaid." Four young, eager male singers, killed in a car crash in the 1950s on the way to their first big concert, are miraculously revived for the posthumous chance to fulfill their dreams and perform the show they never did. Way Off Broadway Dinner Theater, 5 Willowdale Drive, Willowtree Plaza, Frederick. Tickets: 301-662-6600, www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Jan. 26, 27, and Feb. 2, 3, 4 – "Amadeus." Jack B. Kussmaul Theatre, Frederick Community College. The classic confrontation between the mediocrity of Antonio Salieri, established composer in the court of the Austrian Emperor, and genius and child prodigy Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Fredericktowne Players. Tickets: \$6-\$20. Information: 240-315-3855, www.Fredericktowneplayers.org.

Art Classes

Jan. 22 – Leaf Printing. 6:30 p.m. Emmitsburg Library, Community Center, Seton Avenue. Use traditional monotype printing using leaves and lace with artist Dorothea Barrick. Limited to 10 people. Registration required: 240-629-6329.

Feb. 1-March 8 – Pulp to Paper: The Art of Japanese Paper Making. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Adams County Arts Council, 18 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg, Pa. Ages 11 through 15. Discover the art of Japanese papermaking and create artworks using paper screening, molding, and binding. Students will incorporate nature into 2D and 3D mixed-media projects such as Japanese lanterns, sculptures, collages, Japanese-style books, and more. Information: 717-334-5006.

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lorieyler@hotmail.com

Thespians to hold "Nunsense" auditions

The Thurmont Thespians has scheduled auditions for its upcoming spring production of the Broadway musical hit "Nunsense" by Dan Goggin to be staged in ¼-round at the Thurmont American Legion Auditorium for six performances April 20-22 and 27-29.

Auditions will be held in two locations. On Sunday, Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. and on Monday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. they will be in St. John's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 15 North Church Street, Thurmont (next to the new fire house under construction). On Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. they will be held in downtown Frederick at the Cultural Arts Center of Frederick County, 15 W. Patrick Street in the conference

room. Steve Ross will be directing, Ann Rausch will be musical director, and Jennifer Buchheister will choreograph the production.

All five roles are open for casting without age, race or sex restrictions. Auditions will include cold readings from the script as well as a simple music and choreography demonstration. Bring 16 bars of music (not from the show) and come dressed to try some synchronized movement and/or tap steps.

Sister Mary Regina, Mother Superior - Senior, robust woman who can't resist hogging the spotlight.

Sister Mary Hubert, Mistress of Novices - 2nd in command, al-

ways competing with the Mother Superior.

Sister Robert Anne - Street-wise nun from Brooklyn. Always an aggravation for Mother Superior.

Sister Mary Amnesia - Sweet nun with memory loss after a recent blow from a crucifix.

Sister Mary Leo - The novice who does not speak but expresses herself through dance and ballet.

Callbacks, if needed, will be held Sunday, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. All rehearsals up to the week before opening will also be held there. For more information, e-mail Ross, steve1971@gmail.com, or call him at (240) 308-1280 after 4:30 p.m. weekdays or anytime on weekends.

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The Thurmont Thespians, a non-profit community theatre troupe, is seeking a keyboard musician for rehearsal and live performance at their two annual musical productions. Working knowledge of a Yamaha Clavinola with bass/percussion accompaniment features would be helpful but not required. Small stipend possible, pending grant funding. Please contact Beth Royer Watson, Artistic Director, at 301-416-0864 for audition and additional information.

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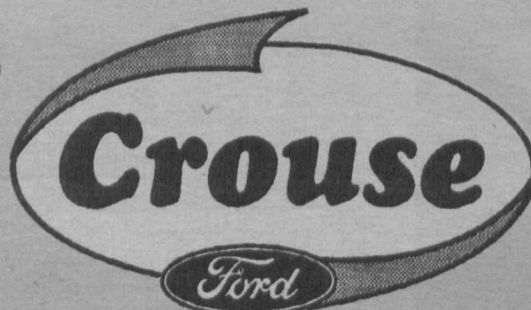


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