The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL VI, No. 5

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

March 1, 2007

Frederick County receives \$900 million capital budget

Town planner files ethics complaints against O'Neil

Special pull-out in this issue:

THE DISPATCH

Your 2007 guide to local area businesses.



Colorfest was a much smaller festival in 1974.

-See page 9

New development could double size of Emmitsburg in 30 years

By James Rada Jr.

News Editor

jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. - A potential development west of Emmitsburg could double the size of the town over the next 30 years or

During a workshop about Emmitsburg's draft comprehensive plan on Feb. 22, Andy Mackintosh with Mackintosh Realtor spoke with the town planning and zoning commissioners about how a development he would like to build could also benefit the town.

"We are trying to work with the town to deal with the traffic problem," Mackintosh said in an interview.

Mackintosh offered to build the proposed parkway that would

help take southbound traffic from Pennsylvania southwest around Emmitsburg to South Seton Avenue. He estimated that the cost of construction would be around \$10 million for the parkway, which he projects would be slightly longer than

"I can't build the road first and not have any houses," Mackintosh said. "The road and the houses need to happen together."

Mackintosh has two pieces of property totaling about 200 acres. The project involves properties known as the Frailey and Keepers farms, bounded by Frailey and Annandale

The property as medium-density residential could have 5 to 10 houses per acre or roughly 1,000 to 2,000 houses total. Mackintosh told the

planning and zoning commission, he would expect the project to have about 1,100-1,200 houses.

Chris Jakubiak, the town's planning consultant, told the commission, "If we do nothing, by 2008, we'll have 1112 (households)." This means Mackintosh's proposed development would double the size of Emmitsburg over the next generation.

If 50 houses a year were constructed, this would mean buildout of the development would take about 24 years. This does not take into account the time needed to get to the construction phase.

"If everything went smoothly with no hiccups, it would take 5-6 years before you would see a house,"

-See **Development** on page 3



BROOKE VINYARD / THE DISPATCH

Digging out

The Valentine's Day snowstorm in the region caused problems not so much because of the snow that fell but because that snow froze into ice. Emmitsburg used plows and front loaders to clear the main streets downtown amid the traffic.

This Issue

Commissioners don't want school edition delayed

- see page 6

Lawsuit against commissioner continues

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Getting rid of junk cars - see page 7

Town may have to wait for new Main Street

- see page 7

Frederick County

The county's \$900 million capital budget

-see page 8



Getting the point of acupuncture

- see page 10

Town planner files ethics complaint against commissioner

By James Rada Jr.

News Editor

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EMMITSBURG, Md. - Emmitsburg's former town planner has filed an ethics complaint against town Commissioner William B. O'Neil Jr., accusing him of using his office for personal benefit, lying to the commission and defaming town

On Feb. 1, former Emmitsburg Town Planner Michael Lucas sent an ethics complaint to Emmitsburg Ethics Commission Chairman Ted Brennan "outlining how Emmitsburg Town Commissioner William B. O'Neil Jr. while serving as a Town Commissioner did violate Section 2.32.030 of the Emmitsburg Municipal Code (conflicts of interest) in an attempt to influence public policy that would directly impact him as a private citizen. Moreover, the complaint demonstrates how Commissioner O'Neil did violate his oath of office, by providing deliberate and demonstrably false testimony before officials of the Town of Emmitsburg.

"Furthermore, the complaint demonstrates how Commissioner O'Neil engaged in a deliberate and malicious campaign designed to undermine and injure the credibility of the Town's Planning and Zoning Department which had rightfully stood in opposition to Mr. O'Neil's attempts to subvert the policy pro-

At the core of the complaint is whether on-street parking should be allowed in the Pembrook Woods Subdivision. O'Neil, who lives in the subdivision, wants the restriction

-See **Ethics** on page 3

Carroll Valley and citizens wrestle over athletic "head tax"

By WILLIAM K. REINKE Contributing Writer

CARROLL VALLEY BOR-OUGH, Pa. - The weather was cold and snowy outside for the Feb. 13 borough council meeting, but inside the issue of a user fee for Carroll Valley's athletics programs was hotly debated. The 2007 budget calls for an annual \$10 fee for every participant in Carroll Valley's softball, soccer, and football programs.

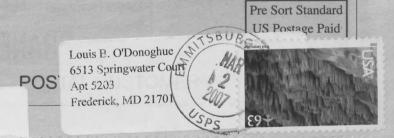
The council was discussing lowering that fee to \$5 for Carroll Valley residents. Representatives are run through the hard work of do not correlate with services the of the athletic programs objected to any fee, saying the additional cost was not justified based on the services the borough provides for the programs. Representing the girls' softball program, Carroll Valley resident Ron McClain objected to what he called a "head tax" which would increase softball's registration fee by up to 40 percent.

Representing American Youth Soccer Organization, Carroll Valley resident Carol Herl also objected to the new fees. The athletic programs

"some good people trying to keep kids off the streets and giving them a place to play. These fees are taking the wind out of our programs," Herl said. She too objected to paying fees

borough provides. Other than grass cutting, which the borough would do in any case, the athletic organi-

-See **Head Tax** on page 3



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.

Emmitsburg elementary needs attention now!

ter to the editor of The Frederick News-Post and it was published. I am not satisfied though. I am writing in concern of the lack of funding for the elementary School. Your paper is called the "Emmitsburg Dispatch." Well Emmitsburg Elementary needs your help. Do a report on the over

I have already written a let- crowding and condition of Emmitsburg school compared to other schools in the county and see what you find. Question why is Thurmont getting funding for an upgrade/addition to one of their secondary schools? They have 4 schools, little old Emmitsburg only has one and can't get any funding. WHY????? I am angry,

disgusted with Frederick county. WE NEED TO QUIT DEVEL-OPING EMMITSBURG. WE DO NOT HAVE THE ROOM IN OUR SCHOOL FOR MORE CHILDREN. DOES ANYONE CARE???? I KNOW I DO!!!!!

> - Kim Andrew Emmitsburg

Keep Eylers Valley Road open

When I moved here twenty years ago, I discovered the scenic drive along Eylers Valley Road. It is one of my favorite places to take out-of-town visitors to show

mountains. Why should the taxpayers of Maryland be deprived of the use of a county road to provide a private retreat for an out-of-state resident? If this possibility conthem the beauty of the Maryland cerns you as much as it does me,

then I would urge you to contact Commissioner Charles Jenkins at chjenkins@fredco.md.net.

> - Betty Lucier Emmitsburg

County commissioner takes *The Dispatch* to task

I feel compelled to respond to a recent article titled, "Tension Growing between Towns and County." (The Dispatch, Feb. 15, 2007) This article does not fairly represent the relationship between the Frederick County Commissioners and the elected officials of the county's 12 municipalities.

The county commissioners host a monthly meeting with municipal officials. Any municipality can place an item on the agenda for discussion. The county

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commissioners regularly add municipal items to our weekly work session agendas. This Board of County Commissioners has never refused to meet with the officials of any municipality. In the recent article, the

Mayor of New Market, Winslow Burhans, stated that the county and myself has refused to meet with the town. This is simply untrue. I met individually with Mayor Burhans in December and also scheduled a meeting between the town and the county the week before Christmas. This meeting was scheduled on short notice at the request of Mayor Burhans. It was televised. The county commissioners have scheduled a meeting

Kai are all about working with us while running a referendum through the Town." I have attended no town meetings on the annexation issue in New Market and have absolutely no involvement with the citizen referendum. These statements are simply untrue. To publish statements that the county commissioners will not meet with town officials is simply wrong and these comments should not have been published without verification.

The Frederick County Commissioners work hard to maintain positive and productive relationships with elected officials from the 12 municipalities in Frederick County. We are committed to working together for the betterment of Frederick County.

- Jan Gardner President of the Board, Frederick County Commissioners

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

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

March 1907

Town Progresses

Ground has been broken for the new grain elevator which the Emmitsburg Railroad Company will build on their land at the Station. The buildings and the machinery are to be ready for use by the first of April. Mr. Daniel Davidson, the local representative of The Wolf Company, of Chambersburg, has the contract for the machinery. The elevators, of the most improved design, will have a capacity of 400 bushels per hour and the bins will hold 5000 bushels.

With the completion of this new enterprise Emmitsburg, hitherto handicapped in this respect, will have the facilities with which to compete on an equal footing with any of this part of

The Emmitsburg Railroad will give the management of the elevator to Messrs. Frizzell and Boyle. This new firm it is to be hoped will receive the patronage of the farmers, and the trade that has been sent to Taneytown will then come where it rightfully belongs.

A Clogged Switch Causes Wreck

On Monday morning the first train out from this place took to the woods a short distance this side of Rocky Ridge. The snow had clogged the switch at the Y and the engine jumped the track. Word was immediately sent to Union Bridge and an engine was brought to Rocky Ridge, and after several hours work traffic was resumed. The first mail did not get to Emmitsburg until eleven o'clock.

Harney News

The enjoyable Smoker given by the members of the Patriotic Order of Sons of America some weeks ago was repeated last Monday night. The affair was equally as enjoyable as the former one. Rev. Wheeler, of Taneytown, was the guest of honor.

The ice on Myers' dam fourteen inches thick. Many of the young people are to be seen skating on its smooth surface. There is some apprehension as to the condition of the breast of the dam. A sudden thaw and a freshet would undoubtedly carry away the dam.

Ran over a child

Master Raymond Shriver made a narrow escape on Wednesday evening while coasting with some other boys. The lads were warned several times not to sled down the alley back of the Emmit House, but as this particular place seemed to be the best for their purpose they persisted in using it. The young man in question came down the hill at a good speed and when he got out in the street it was too late to avoid an approaching wagon. The team, M. F. Shuff's furniture wagon, ran over the boys leg and, it is said, the driver never stopped to see whether the boy was seriously hurt or not. By rare good fortune there were no bones broken, but the boy was so badly shaken up that he was confined to the house for a day.

This should be a wholesome warning to the children not to use these cross alleys for coasting. It is impossible for teams to avoid them on an occasion like this, but it seems that it would have only been common decency for the driver to have stopped after he knew he had run over a child.

Fairfield Items

Inquiry at the Chambersburg hospital Friday afternoon elicited the information that Harry Calimer, Beartown, who was injured severely by a dynamite explosion near this place, is improving very satisfactorily. He has, however, lost the sight of one eye. Out of the other eye he can see a little light.

Irvin Eyler, who was injured at the same time as Mr. Calimer, is also recovering. He can see slightly with both eyes and the condition of his eyes is a little better than that of Calimer.

Development

-Continued from page 1

Mackintosh said.

Mackintosh envisions the project having a mix of condominiums, townhouses and single-family houses, but also commercial uses. There might also be trails and parks.

"We could have a linear park along the parkway," Mackintosh said. "We could have a mountain bike trail with a bridge over Toms Creek."

He also suggested the stone house on the property could be turned into a bed and breakfast and Emmitsburg's Main Street appearance could be carried through to the new development.

Mackintosh knows there will be some opposition to his proposal, but he plans to hold a number of public meetings with residents to hear their comments and concerns and discuss them.

Ethics

-Continued from page 1

lifted, but the town has consistently decided not to do so.

Lucas states that O'Neil spoke in favor of lifting the restriction at the July 2004 Emmitsburg Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Lucas wrote in his complaint, "In an attempt to sway the Commission, Commissioner O'Neil stated that guests at his house had on two separate occasions received a total of 23 parking tickets issued by the Town of Emmitsburg, a deliberate falsehood."

Lucas points out that a review of the tickets issued by the town showed no tickets issued from the first Use and Occupancy Permit to the date O'Neil made his statement. Further, all tickets were accounted for and found to be in sequential order.

In response, Lucas cites a Dispatch article from September 2004,

in which O'Neil said, "I would think the town destroys them (once they are contested or rescinded)."

Then in an Aug. 25, 2004 e-mail to Town Manager Dave Haller, O'Neil wrote, "I would like to know why my residence is apparently being targeted for the issuance of tickets."

By that time, the first ticket in Pembrook Woods had been issued on Aug. 9.

Lucas wrote in his complaint, "the conduct of Commissioner O'Neil lies far outside the bounds of acceptable ethical behavior..."

When contacted by *The Dispatch* for a comment on the complaint, O'Neil wrote in an e-mail, "It is a violation of state and municipal ethics ordinances for anyone, Mr. Lucas or myself, to comment in relation to a complaint or review by the committee until the matter is resolved."

Calls to Lucas and Brennan were not returned.

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Head Tax

-Continued from page 1

zations are self-maintained. Herl said she couldn't count the number of times she has reseeded and rolled the soccer fields.

Regional Athletic Commissioner and Carroll Valley resident Jason Hoffman also objected to the new fees, saying, "We are not opposed to paying something that's reasonable, but to impose a fee per child is morally wrong."

Borough Manager David Hazlett explained that a per-child fee was an effort to spread the cost equitably among the sports, which range from 30 to more than 200 participants.

Citing the fact that the borough has not raised taxes in 10 years, Borough Council President Thomas Wolf said that while he was sympathetic to residents' opinions, the borough had to find other revenue sources in the face of increasing expenses. "We have to charge something," he said.

Sympathetic to the plight of the athletic organizers, who only became aware of the new fees about a month ago (after their program fees were already set), Councilman Daniel Patton moved to waive the user fee for 2007 and negotiate one for the coming years, allowing the organizers time

to plan for these costs. Wolf did not ask for an immediate second to the motion and the ensuing discussion brought forth another motion before Patton's could be seconded.

The new motion, made by Councilman Thomas Fitzsimmons, proposed waiving the user fee temporarily until the athletic organizers and Hazlett could negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. Fitzsimmons and Patton voted in favor; Wolf and Councilman John Van Volkenburgh were opposed. Mayor Ron Harris broke the tie, siding with Wolf and Volkenburgh.

After the motion was defeated, Mayor Harris suggested the user fee be temporarily waived until all parties could reach an agreeable compromise. McClain asked, "Wasn't that the motion you just killed?"

Harris responded, "No, it wasn't," while Fitzsimmons, who made the motion, nodded and said, "That's exactly what it was."

Debate continued and finally a motion was approved to lower the user fee for Carroll Valley residents to \$5, keeping the non-resident fee at \$10, with the understanding that Hazlett and the athletic organizers would try to work out a more agreeable compromise. Before the vote, McClain told the council, "You're going to lose us if you pass this,"

alluding to a potential move of his teams to Fairfield where there is no surcharge.

Patton responded, "I want you to know that I seconded this motion not because I support it, but because it is the lesser of the evils." The motion passed unanimously.

After the meeting adjourned, McClain confirmed that his teams would play in Fairfield this summer, which is too bad, he said, because "Carroll Valley's field is the best in the county."



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EDITORIAL

Commissioner offers classroom space but no teachers, books

Say what you want about him, Frederick County Commissioner John "Lennie" Thompson Jr. has always been a consistent politician. Even other commissioners joke that he votes for nothing. One of Thompson's consistent motions each year at budget time is to freeze the county's contribution to the Frederick County Board of Education operating budget at the maintenance-of-effort level. This is the state-mandated amount that the county is required to fund the board each year, though most years the commissioners fund

more than that amount.

Thompson has, in essence, not wanted to increase funding for students that would allow the board to hire more teachers, purchase more books, computers and supplies or implement programs to help students succeed.

Fine. It's not necessarily an opinion we agree with, but at least Thompson has been consistent with his position.

prise to see Thompson making motion after motion during what was supposed to be an overview

of the county's capital improvement program to cut items and use "whatever county monies were saved for schools."

It appears while Thompson is willing to build new schools to ease overcrowding, he isn't willing to give the comfortable students in those schools the needed materials and teachers to make the most-effective use of the additional room.

What good is having more So it came as a bit of a sur- classrooms in a school to reduce class sizes when you can't use those classrooms because there is no teacher to teach in it?

While there is certainly fat in the board of education budget, this is not a question about what cuts the board could make to target money more toward students. It's about consistency.

If Thompson thinks the board can cut costs from its operating budget and still maintain an adequate level of service, why doesn't he expect the same thing from their capital budget? If he feels the board needs more money for capital costs to meet student needs, then he should be willing to add more money to the operating budget.

A Word from a Town Commissioner Keep Emmitsburg elementary renovations on track

Town of Emmitsburg, I'm very concerned with Frederick County staff's proposal to delay the design and construction funds necessary for improvements to the Emmitsburg Elementary School. The current staff proposal will delay these improvements a further three years from 2008-09 to 2012-13. Every year there is increased competition for budget resources since demands are always greater than the funds available. Therefore, it is critical that we all express to our

As a commissioner for the county commissioners our desire asked each of our county commisto maintain the 2006 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) timeline of 2008-09.

Unfortunately, it's necessary to campaign every year to maintain your place in the queue. Resources are slim, existing priorities can change, and new projects can come about and jump ahead in line. Our proposed design and construction improvements were already delayed by one year as a result of last year's CIP. Therefore, as an individual commissioner, I have

sioners to maintain the 2006 CIP schedule as requested by the Board of Education in September 2006. As a body, the town's mayor and board of commissioners have also approved my proposed resolution requesting the same. I recommend that all concerned citizens also contact our county commissioners to express their desire to maintain the 2006 CIP schedule regarding improvements to the Emmitsburg Elementary School.

We are all aware of the exaggeration and multiple sets of facts and figures that usually accompany discussions about schools, student counts, and "portables" so I would advise care in quoting 'facts' and in making accusations.

There's no sense throwing around hand grenades when we are all already aware of the greater conflict between resources and needs. In our case, the need to conduct renovations at Emmitsburg Elementary School has previously been recognized by all parties AND funded by the county board of commissioners. In addition to any action by the town's mayor and board of commissioners, the citizens of the Emmitsburg area need to demand that our county commissioners maintain the 2008-09 funding schedule that was previously approved and get the job done.

> - Chris Staiger Emmitsburg Town Commissioner

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Town news

Streets Committee presents budget requests to town commissioners

By JAMES RADA JR.

News Editor

jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The Emmitsburg Streets Committee presented the town commissioners with its budget requests for the next fiscal year which begins July 1.

Catherine Forrence, committee chairperson, summarized what the group hopes to have included in next year's budget during the commissioners' meeting on Feb. 19.

The requests include:

- Thermoplastic markers in the streets and alleyways. "We feel it's important to budget for these markings for traffic calming measures," Forrence said.
- More of a police presence in town, particularly in the morning.
- More enforcement of the speed limit, particularly with trucks.
- Additional use of the county's ra-

dar trailer to let drivers know how fast they are traveling.

- Planting the hill next to the Jubilee Foods with Maryland-native trees and flowers. Forrence said this project would be eligible for a Maryland Transportation.
- Improvement Program matching grant.
- Cable broadcast reminders of the fines for not stopping at a crosswalk.
- · An alternate entrance/exit to

Service and Civic Participation, cre-

ated by President George W. Bush.

The awards recognize those who

have donated a specific number

of hours over a 12-month period.

The council is currently chaired by

two-time Super Bowl Champion

Darrell Green, with Bob Dole and

John Glenn serving as honorary cochairs. For specifics on awards and

hours required for each, see www.

presidentialserviceawards.org.

Northgate that's not in the 100-year flood plain.

• A drainage study of the roads that could alleviate the sidewalk buckling problem. Forrence said that the state might be willing to pay for the initial engineering study.

· A better traffic flow for parents

dropping off and picking up students at Emmitsburg Elementary.

Commissioner Cliff Sweeney asked Forrence if the committee was recommending any street paving. She told him it was not included in their requests.

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St. Catherine's holds first Presidential Awards Dinner

By Brendan Weeks
Contributing Writer

EMMITSBURG, Md. – On Feb. 19, St. Catherine's Nursing Center held its first Presidential Awards Dinner at the Carriage House. The dinner, held in conjunction with President Bush's Council on Service and Civic Participation, honored volunteers at the nursing center who had gone above and beyond throughout the year.

"When I think of volunteers, I think of making a difference," said St. Catherine's Administrator and CEO Louis Vogel III at the opening of the ceremony. "We are so very, very grateful."

In total there were nine recipients. The number of hours a person donated determined whether they received a bronze, silver, or gold award. Bronze winners: Pat Adams-Flessner, Kathleen Cogan, Mary

Fogle, Garnette Grimes, James Lowrie and John Wyvell; silver winner: Clayton Bogart; gold winners: Francis Harbin and Elaine Schmidt; President's Call to Service Awards (for 4,000 or more hours of volunteer service over a lifetime), Francis Harbin and Elaine Schmidt.

John Wyvell, who not only donates his own time, but also that of his two dogs, received a bronze award. "It's just a pleasure to work with the people at St. Catherine's," Wyvell said. "It's really a great group of people and I'm privileged."

Elaine Schmidt, receiving both gold and a lifetime gold award, was nothing but smiles that evening. "Did you ever feel that you were just doing something really right? That's how I feel when I'm at St. Catherine's," Schmidt said. "I feel like it's my calling."

The President's Volunteer Service Awards were established in 2003 by the President's Council on

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P&Z commissioner wants vibration study

By James Rada Jr.

News Editor

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EMMITSBURG, Md. – When the large trucks roll down Main Street, the windows shake and the doors move in Catherine Forrence's house.

"Knowing my windows are moving, I want to know what is causing my windows to move like that," Forrence said.

Forrence, who is a member of the Emmitsburg Planning and Zoning Commission, recently asked for town support in applying for a grant from Preservation Maryland for a vibration study of her house to see what the impact of vibrations caused by traffic on the town's historic homes is.

"If we're looking to preserve the historic character of the town, we need to start with the houses," Forrence said.

The National Park Service Technical Preservation Services cautions against vibration damage to homes, writing, "Historic structures may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of vibrations generated at an adjacent site. Deferred maintenance and past alterations may have produced structural weak points that are susceptible to damage. Historic finishes, such as plaster walls and ceilings, lack the flexibility to accommodate abnormal movement, while shallow foundations (common in historic buildings) may

lack the rigidity to resist vibration induced movement."

Forrence said one possible solution to rattling would be to make the roads smoother, but that only serves to increase traffic.

While many studies say that vibrations, traffic and other, cause damage to buildings, the solutions aren't so apparent. "Reducing vibrations to an acceptable level could be difficult and expensive. For existing buildings, the most practical remedial measure is road maintenance. For new developments, increasing the distance between buildings and roads, improvement of soil structure, and in-ground pile barriers could prove effective," according to Osama Hunaidi in his article, "Traffic Vibrations in Buildings" for the National Research Council of Canada.

This frustrates Forrence who said, "If damage is being done to historic structures, who's going to reimburse us?"

One possible way to reduce vibrations on historic buildings in town would be to remove the truck traffic by diverting it around town on a bypass.

"Main Street is not wide enough, just not wide enough for two tractor trailers to pass," Forrence said.

A route for a bypass is in the town comprehensive plan and the Frederick County's region plan, but the project will be an expensive undertaking.

TOWN NEWS

Town commissioners don't want school addition delayed

By James Rada Jr. News Editor

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EMMITSBURG, Md. - The Emmitsburg Town Commissioners have formally asked Frederick County Commissioners not to push the addition to Emmitsburg Elementary School back any fur-

The commissioners voted during the town meeting on Feb. 19 to support a resolution to the county commissioners.

"They want the renovation to

be delayed three years after a one year delay last year," Commission President Chris Staiger said who proposed the resolution.

While he had expressed his concerns to the county as an individual commissioner, Staiger said he want to get a "team effect" by having the town officially support the position and to encourage citizens to speak out about the proposed delay.

The \$9.9 million addition would add 184 seats to the school, which has a state-rated capacity of 316. The 45,080 square-foot

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school was originally built in

The addition was scheduled for 2009, but the staff-recommended capital improvement program for the county recommended pushing it back until 2013. Though other school projects were also recommended for delay, this was the longest delay of any project.

The total student enrollment as of Sept. 30, 2006 was 317, which is slightly below the 14-year average of 319 students. The equated student enrollment is 292, which means that the school is considered to be 92.4 percent

The commissioners want citizens to contact the county commissioners now before the CIP is

its really going to be too late to get it changed. The time is now."

finalized. Though county commissioners are holding a public hearing on the CIP on March 27, Staiger said, "If we wait until March 27

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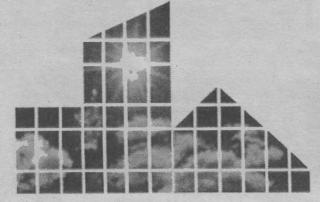
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Commissioners' motion to dismiss claims denied

By Brendan Weeks Contributing Writer

EMMITSBURG, Md. - Town commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr. was denied a motion to dismiss allegations brought against him by former Emmitsburg residents David and Donna Runkle.

The Runkles' suit was filed in September 2006 against O'Neil along with Arthur Elder and Lisa Elder, and Jim Hess, seeking compensatory and punitive damages totaling \$2.7 million.

On Feb. 7, the U.S. District Court decided that claims against O'Neil would not be dismissed despite his argument that he was acting under the jurisdiction of his public office at the time. The court said that even if O'Neil were acting as a public official, which is uncertain, immunity is negated if he was acting with malice, which the Runkles "adequately allege."

Runkle claims that O'Neil acted acrimoniously and with a desire to see his business fail. O'Neil is currently being sued for tortuous interference with prospective advantage, malicious use of process, and civil conspiracy.

Troubles first arose when Runkle filed for bankruptcy after claiming that Chronicle Press Inc., a business he purchased from Arthur Elder, had failed as a result of difficulties with Elder and inappropriate investigation on the part of O'Neil.

A year after Runkle filed for bankruptcy a complaint was filed against him by the U.S. Trustee Office, but was dismissed after being

"We filed motions to dismiss their lawsuit because it was erroneous," said David Runkle. "But I guess that's not the case from their point."

Claims against property owner James Hess will be "dismissed without prejudice" if the plaintiffs do not show good cause otherwise within 14 days.

Town will remove snow from Ramblewood Court

By James Rada Jr.

News Editor

jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. - The Town of Emmitsburg has resolved the issue of snow removal from Ramblewood Court in Brookfield. Some residents were upset when the town didn't plow their court after the Valentine's Day snow storm. The issue dates back to an agreement with the developer than when the developer brought the roads up to a certain standard they would be accepted into the town's road system. The developer did this, but during a

staff changeover in the town two years ago, the town didn't bring the court into the town system. Then last year, there was no snow that needed plowing, which would have served as a reminder to the town.

"A couple of residents brought it to our attention," Town Manager Dave Haller told the Emmitsburg commissioners during their Feb. 19 meeting. "We met with the mayor and we met with the developer.'

As a result of that meeting, Ramblewood Court is now part of the town road system and it was heavily salted to break up the ice. The town also plowed the court after the Feb. 25 snow.





REGIONAL NEWS

Taneytown troubled with junk vehicles

By Brendan Weeks
Contributing Writer

TANEYTOWN, Md. – At the Feb. 12 Taneytown City Council meeting the continuing issue of unlicensed vehicles was addressed.

According to zoning administrator James A. Wieprecht, the issue was originally addressed as part of a health and sanitation ordinance. The ordinance stated that a vehicle could be deemed aban-

doned if "it is without a currently valid license." But "Just because (a vehicle) doesn't have a tag, it isn't necessarily a health issue," said Wieprecht, and so that portion of the ordinance was removed.

Currently the town has little power in ordering the removal of a vehicle if it simply is unlicensed. "I have certainly seen some that could be deemed a health and sanitation issue, but more often than not it would be considered an eyesore," said Wieprecht.

Failure to remove an unattended or abandoned vehicle is considered by the city to be a municipal infraction. An owner of a vehicle will be sent a letter asking them to remove the vehicle and if they fail to comply, fines can be issued and eventually the city can have the vehicle towed at the owners' expense.

"Usually people will remove the vehicles themselves," said Wieprecht. "It's not a huge issue, but certainly you go around town any given day and see unused vehicles."

Thurmont has similar methods for dealing with violations, although their rules seem a bit less stringent. The town permits two vehicles on a property in disrepair provided they are stored "behind a sight-obscuring fence or vegetative buffer that blocks view from a public street or adjacent property".

Thurmont Police Chief Gregory Eyler reports that since he took over in December 2005 he has only had to deal with two incidents, one of which is currently in court.

The town of Emmitsburg does not permit any unlicensed vehicles unless they are stored in a garage. Senior inspector Frank Henry said there were 18 infractions in 2006, but does not consider it a problem. "We don't have much of a problem with it because we strictly enforce it," said Henry. "Most people in the town know what our policy is."

Taneytown may have to wait for new Main Street

By Brendan Weeks
Contributing Writer

TANEYTOWN, Md. – Taneytown may have to wait a little longer than expected to begin their Streetscape Project, which will completely renovate the town's Main Street. Returned bids showed that costs for the project were much higher than anticipated.

The project was originally estimated to cost somewhere around \$16 million, with the state paying \$11.2 million and the town paying the remainder. But bids received at the beginning of February showed the total cost to be between \$20 million and \$25 million.

According to Taneytown's economic development coordinator Nancy McCormick, the town was approached by three bidders. One didn't qualify and the other two came back with prices a lot higher than expected.

The plan for the town's new main street calls for improved road structures, new road beds, water and sewer pipes, lighting, curbs, and sidewalks. "There was a lot of redesign and reengineering going on," said McCormick.

"From Harney Road all the way up to the circle, that's a lot of work," said McCormick. "You're looking at a major amount to be done."

According to Maryland State Highway Administration spokesperson David Buck, this would be the largest streetscape project in Maryland. "That is the largest streetscape project, based on the estimate we had" he said

"When the bids came in, they came in very high," said Buck. "The lowest bid was more than 25 percent higher."

According to City Manager James Shumacher, estimates were higher than expected not only from bidders but also the city. Taneytown intends to pay for the replacement of the water and sewer lines. "Our engineer's estimate was somewhere between \$5 and \$5.7 million," said Shumacher. The final price came back at least \$1.2 million higher than anticipated.

The next step will be for the town to sit down with the SHA and reevaluate the project. Buck explains that anytime a bid comes in

10 percent higher or lower than the estimate, a bid justification is required. "We have to compare what they bid to what they estimated and see where the discrepancies are," he said. They will look at figures and various categories of improvements and decide whether or not to re-bid the program as is, or cut it down.

"We're going to be asking the state to re-look at the design and perhaps tweak it and re-modify it and even if we have to, to reduce the scope," said Shumacher. The town also plans to re-advertise the project in hopes of finding a cheaper price.

One thing the town won't be cutting out of the project is the replacement of water and sewer lines. Though the systems will last awhile longer, "They are at a point where they should be repaired," said Shumacher. "We need to replace both of them."

As a designated Heart of the Civil War Area, the city was able to receive a grant for \$52,000 to be put toward street lighting for the project.



- PHOTO COURTESY OF SATCH-CLINE AND SON EXCAVATING

Site work begins on regional library

(Above) Satch-Cline and Son Excavating has started the site work on the two-acre lot for the new 25,000 square foot Thurmont Regional Library on East Moser Road. Waynes-

boro Construction will do the actual construction on the new library, which is scheduled to open in spring 2008.



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REGIONAL NEWS

Around the County

The following are some of the happenings around Frederick County reported by the Frederick County Office of Business and Economic Development.

Frederick County

A forum on business incubators, sponsored by the Office of Economic Development at the Cozy Inn, was widely attended by municipal officials. Information on how to start an incubator and the available resources were presented by a panel of experts. More than 50 people attended the forum.

Board of County Commissioners President Jan Gardner has been installed as President of the Maryland Association of Counties for a one-year term.

As part of their commitment to improving the environment, the Board of County Commissioners approved the addition of five hybrid SUVs to the fleet of vehicles operated by county government. Compared to conventionally powered vehicles, the new SUVs have innovative technology capable of greater fuel economy and reduced emissions.

Mount Airy

A moratorium on building permits is being considered by town officials due to water availability issues.

Middletown

In order to fund infrastructure improvements, town officials have raised water and sewer rates between four and 10 percent per quarter.

Myersville

A new town hall is opening at the recently constructed Myersville Municipal Center. The \$4.5 million facility is 34,000 square feet and also houses the volunteer fire and rescue squad.

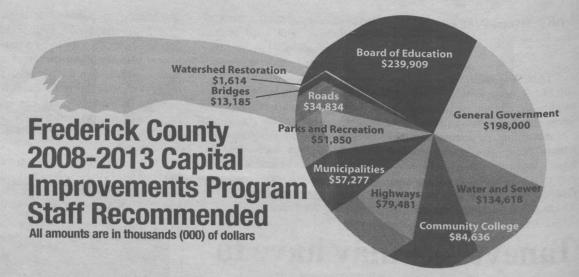
Woodsboro

William Rittelmeyer has been appointed to the town commission, succeeding Dennis Kline, who recently resigned.

Thurmont

The resident vote tally on a proposed annexation (Myers farm) that if approved would allow 350 homes to be built on 210 acres of farmland came in with 66 percent against the project, 30 percent for and 4 percent indifferent of nearly 1,500 votes cast.

County gets \$900 million capital budget



By James Rada Jr.

News Editor

jrada@thedispatch.us

FREDERICK, Md. – The Frederick County Commissioners got their first look at the 2008-2013 capital improvement program and immediately began trying to reallocate the \$895.4 million.

Frederick County Assistant Director of Finance John Kroll presented the commissioners with a capital program about 20 percent larger than last year when collections are beginning to decline. Finance staff pared \$1.2 billion in requests for 213 projects down to 172 projects totaling \$895.4 million.

"This compares to 152 projects and \$750 million last year," Kroll

A large factor in the higher number is increases in construction costs. The recommended budget notes that county project construction costs have increased 10 percent and board of education construction costs have increased 13 percent. This pushed back the timing on many projects.

Kroll said the CIP was a "very challenging CIP for staff to put together to this point. Obviously it doesn't meet everybody's needs."

Where's the money coming from?

Bonds (county-issued debt) continue to make up the largest source (30 percent) for capital projects. State and federal monies make up the second-largest source (21 percent) of funding.

"Our current collections are down from past collections," Kroll told the commissioners.

Though the slowing of new construction in the county has reduced some of the county's revenue

streams, Commission President Jan Gardner said impact fees are "not a key component in the funding of the CIP."

Where's the money going?

The board of education will receive the largest share of the county's CIP (26.8 percent) with \$240 million. However, this is a reduction in the amount the board received this fiscal year.

General Government will get \$198 million or 22.1 percent.

More for the board of education

Following Kroll's presentation, Commissioner John Thompson Jr. began making motions to reallocate funds from Frederick Community College, municipal projects, fire stations and libraries to school projects.

Thompson said the projects needed to be cut. "They get on here and the onus is on us to pull it out. Then it's the evil, mean commissioners who are not for somebody's pet project for whatever reason," Thompson said.

The commissioners will have three scheduled workshops in March to hear from each agency and let them make their cases for their funding.

Thompson asked that the Arts Center Renovation and the Advance Workforce Training Center projects be pushed off the CIP into years further out than 2013.

Gardner said she was supportive because, "I don't know how these new projects came in at a higher priority than the projects that have already been in there."

County Manager Doug Browning said the projects had become a higher priority because state funding had been accelerated in the state's CIP.

Thompson was doubtful, but he said, it was the responsibility of Frederick Community College to make the case for the projects and present information to support moving them up.

"The best way to get that information is to vote for this motion," Thompson said.

The commissioners voted to reallocate the county money for these projects.

Thompson's motions that the Jefferson Technology Park Fire Station be moved beyond 2013 and that all county funding for the Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick be reallocated met with success.

His other motions to push back the FCC Science Technology Hall renovation and Carroll Creek Linear Park project failed to get support. A discussion about nursing home funding was quickly curtailed.

Though a motion to remove county funding for Thomas Pool Renovation in Frederick City failed, it was apparently made as an act of retaliation because the city charged out-of-city pool users more than city users.

"That wasn't smart on their part," Commissioner David Gray said. "Because look at what we're doing."

Thompson justified his motion not to use county funding for library construction because his children don't use the libraries.

"The number of times they have been in a Frederick County Public Library, I can count on one hand," Thompson said.

Gray supported the motion because he would rather see the money go to schools. However, Gardner was quick to point out that circulation and visitors to county libraries had increased despite Thompson's personal experience.

Following the votes, Commissioner Charles Jenkins said, "I think this whole board realizes there are other needs out there for other than schools."

Commissioner Kai Hagen agreed, saying, "Transportation and traffic are clearly major issues for people around the county."

The commissioners have scheduled three workshops this month to hear testimony from various agencies that want their projects funded.



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For all your crane, skid-loader, backhoe, and snow removal needs

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Cozy Restaurant & Inn Rt. 806, Thurmont 301-271-7373 Pub, appetizers, dinners, buffet, catering, banquet, carry-out, teas & fondue hide-away

Dave & Jane's Crab House 2989 Tract Rd., Fairfield, PA 717-642-6574 One More Tavern & Catering
135 Chesapeake Ave.,
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301-447-6749

The Ott House 5 West Main St., Emmitsburg 301-447-2625

Palms Restaurant 16-20 W. Main St., Emmitsburg 301-447-3689 Good home cooking!

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Village Book & Table Restaurant 29 W. Main St., Fairfield, PA 717-642-5650

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Gene's Towing
9139 Old Kiln Rd.,
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Parking lots, driveways,
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T&M Crane Rental, Inc.1 Creamery Way, Emmitsburg
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Catoctin Mountain Spa & Tub 14135 Graceham Rd., Thurmont 301-271-4704

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489 Crum Road, Fairfield
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Pepperidge Farm 1863 Gettysburg Village, Gettysburg, PA 717-339-0499 We sell Godiva Chocolates 44% off retail.

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Music at the Crossroads 2 Frederick St., Taneytown 410-756-9235

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Jump starts, flat tires, lock outs,
motorcycle transport, snow removal, lots, driveways, sidewalks

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TREE CARE

Kidd Professional Tree Care Fairfield, PA 717-642-5595 Adams County and surrounding areas

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Mount St. Mary's University 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd., Emmitsburg 301-447-6122

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PPL Gas Utility 1-800-652-0550; www.pplgas.com Serving Emmitsburg and its surroundings areas with natural gas.

EMERGENCY

(Fire, Accident, Poison) 911

NON-EMERGENCY THURMONT POLICE 301-271-0905

EMMITSBURG POLICE 301-447-2312



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June 1 thru September 1
12 weeks of beautiful fresh cut flowers!
489 Crum Road, Fairfield, PA 17320

Wholesale & Retail field grown, fresh cut flowers
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Quality and Dependable Service

SERVICE - COVERS - ACCESSORIES

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14517 Holstein Court Thurmont, MD 21788 Ph: 301-271-6978 Fx: 301-271-4787

· THE DISPATCH BUSINESS DIRECTORY ·

CHARITABLE RESOURCES

Catoctin Pregnancy Center 301-447-3391, In case of emergency dial 1-800-492-5530, 502 East Main Street, Emmitsburg. Monday 7 - 8 p.m., Tuesday 7 - 8 p.m., Wednesday 1 - 3 p.m. & Friday 1 - 3 p.m..

Community Action Agency

301-694-1506 Mike Campbell

Community Agency School Services (CASS)

240-236-1770, Emmitsburg Community Center. Frederick Emergency Hot-line 301-662-2255

Emmitsburg Food Bank

Free Food and Support for Emmitsburg residents 717-642-6963 or 301447-6891, 502 East Main Street, Emmitsburg. Tuesday & Wednesday, 7-8 p.m., Friday, 1-2 p.m., Saturday 10-11 a.m. When schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Food Bank will also be closed.

Emmitsburg Senior Citizens 240-629-6350 Linda Umbel, Emmitsburg Community Center, South Seton Avenue, directly behind the Ambulance Building

The Infants and Toddlers Program

301-694-1611, 350 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD

Mission of Mercy

Free Medical, Dental, and Prescription Drugs www.amissionofmercy.

Thurmont clinic – 301-631-2673 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 103 North Church Street; Taneytown clinic - 410-857-2999 St. Joseph Catholic Church, 44 Frederick Street; Taneytown; Gettysburg clinic - 717-337-6469 Gettysburg College, Musselman Stadium, West Lincoln Avenue extended

Religious Coalition for Emergency & Human Needs

301-631-2670 Rev. Brian Scott Executive Director. 22 South Market St. Suite 6D Frederick, MD 21701. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Seton Center Outreach Program 301-447-6102, 16840 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m. Monday thru Fri-

Thurmont Clothes Closet

301-271-4511, Thurmont United Methodist Church 13880 Long Road.1st Monday of every month at 6 p.m. & 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m.

Thurmont Food Bank

Free Food and Support for Thurmont residents 301- 271-2802, St. Johns Lutheran Church, North Church St. (next to firehouse) Tuesday evenings 5 - 7:30 p.m., Fridays 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Thurmont Senior Center 301-271-7911, Anna Rollins, 806 East Main Street, Thurmont

Up-County Family Center 301-447-2810, 303 West Lincoln Avenue, Emmitsburg

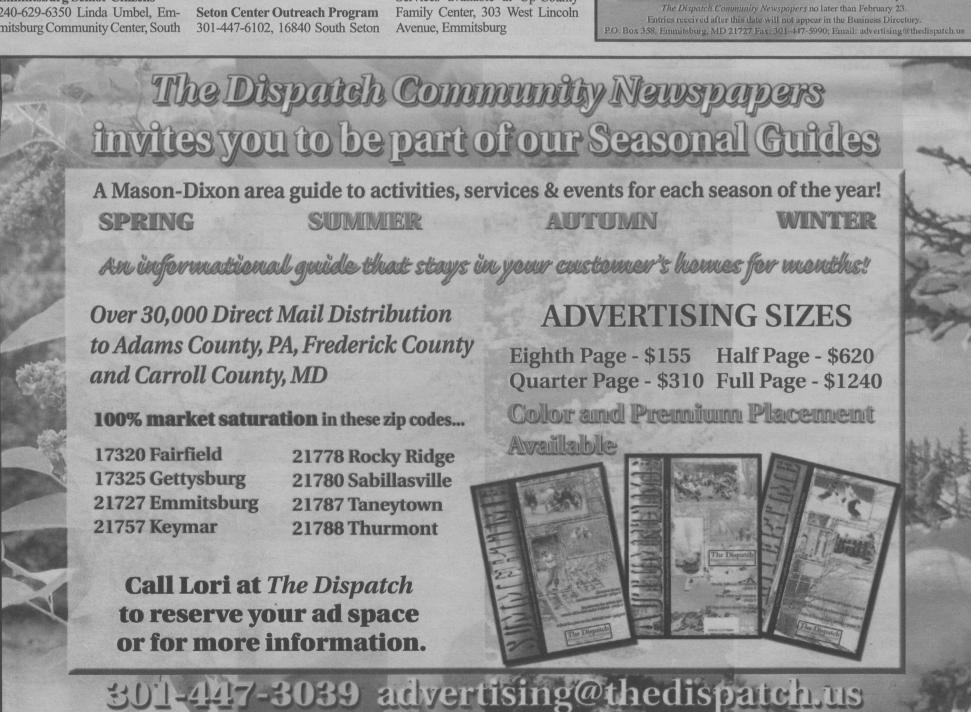
Villa Maria Catholic Charities 301-694-6654 or 301-447-2810. Services available at Up-County Family Center, 303 West Lincoln Avenue, Emmitsburg

Business Directory FREE business listings Don't miss out on the opportunity to be included in this useful reference tool businesses between Gettysburg Frederick. ADVERTISING SPACE ALSO AVAILABLE CALL LORI FOR DETAILS AD FOR ONLY \$120 City

Please mail, fax or e-mail business information for the directory to

Category Listing:

Promotion line



REGIONAL NEWS

1 Remember When...

Colorfest was a much smaller festival in 1974.

I remember when I first arrived in Thurmont on June 1, 1974. My neighbors kept talking about Colorfest, and I was so curious about what Colorfest was. They told me I'd see what it was like, and I never really found out much more than that until October finally got here and I saw for myself.

I thought Colorfest was just wonderful. The timing was perfect for this event, because the leaves were turning colors, and autumn was revealing its true beauty. Most of the community came out, it seemed, and some out of town visitors came to the festivities, too. That year there were 87 booths in the community park and 37 in the carnival grounds. Back then, there were no yard sales or any other kinds of activities on the streets. Everything was concentrated in just those two areas. There was one part of the community park which had only artists. The rest of the booths there were mostly crafts. The carnival grounds had some flea market-type booths, and some of our local businesses also



Beverly Zienda

had booths there.

In 1976, we had very heavy rains, and on Saturday of Colorfest, many streets in town were flooded. It was impossible to have any festivities that day. However, Sunday arrived, the water subsided, and it was business as usual. Even though it could only be held one day, everyone had a great time.

All my life I loved to sew as a hobby, and when I saw Colorfest, I thought it would be such fun to have my own booth and sell some

of my handicrafts. In 1975, I applied for a space, and I've had my own booth there ever since.

Colorfest has changed so much over the years. Where everything used to be concentrated in just two areas, it now spreads all over town, and it is hard to find any little space that isn't rented out that weekend. To me, it is a time when everyone in the community can work together to help support their local churches and organizations, because this event has become a major fund raiser for every church and civic organization in our town. It is also a "must-see" for many people all over the East Coast and beyond. Many people plan their vacations around Colorfest, because they don't want to

For the past several years, Colorfest has been voted one of the top 100 contemporary craft shows in the country. That is quite an accomplishment for a small town of 6,000 residents. This event draws an annual attendance of well over 100,000 people.

Mayor to ask for ethics opinion about county commissioner

By James Rada Jr.

News Editor

jrada@thedispatch.us

THURMONT, Md. – Thurmont Mayor Martin Burns is planning on asking for an ethics opinion from the Frederick County Ethics Commission on County Commissioner Kai Hagen's voting as a commissioner on the Myers Farm annexation, after expressing his opinion at a public meeting and voting on the issue as a planning commission liaison.

"I don't feel Kai Hagen is being overtly unethical," Burns said. "I am looking for a clarification as to whether there is a conflict of interest."

Besides the positions Hagen has taken on the Myers Farm annexation, Burns also has concerns about Hagen's involvement with the Frederick Regional Action Network after his election and other advocacy groups in the county.

"I don't think I've said anything or even had any thoughts that would keep me from rendering a fair and impartial judgment on a point of law," Hagen said. He said what Burns is really complaining about is that a county commissioner is weighing in on a town issue.

Burns says that a 1997 Maryland Attorney General's opinion

on a similar situation in the City of Frederick and Thurmont's town attorney letter of caution to members of the town's planning and zoning commission indicate that there could be a conflict of interest in this situation.

"They both say a person should be have a fair and unbiased hearing when it comes before the commissioners," Burns said.

Burns said this is not an attack on Hagen. He supported Hagen during the recent election and appeared in Hagen's campaign ads. Nor is it an attempt to gain a vote of approval by disqualifying Hagen. Burn doesn't believe that Hagen's vote will change the outcome of the county commissioner's role in the annexation request, which is to determine consistency between the developer's proposed zoning and the current county zoning on the property.

The issue is one of perception and seeking clarification on the issue. Burns had asked Hagen to request the opinion on his own, but Hagen chose not to do so.

"I checked into it and I don't think there's any validity in it," Hagen said.

Hagen said he had done nothing wrong. Nor had he said anything involving the case that

"If he's so sure I'm wrong, then ask for the opinion," Burns said.

However, Hagen said he doesn't know what question Burns would want him to ask. Since the issue was still unresolved with Burns, he was left with no choice but to seek the opinion himself.

"A mayor has asked a county commissioner to ask for an advisory opinion and he has refused," Burns said. "The responsible thing should have been to request it. The most disappointing thing is that this even borders on arrogance."

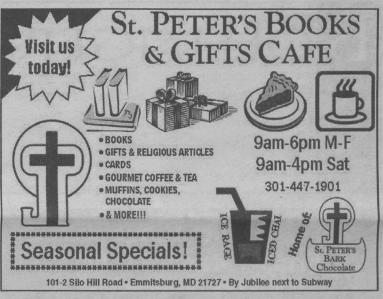
He said you can't have other officials and individuals expected to abide by ethics regulations and allow the county commissioners to make their own determinations on what is ethical. Hagen said he isn't trying to do that.

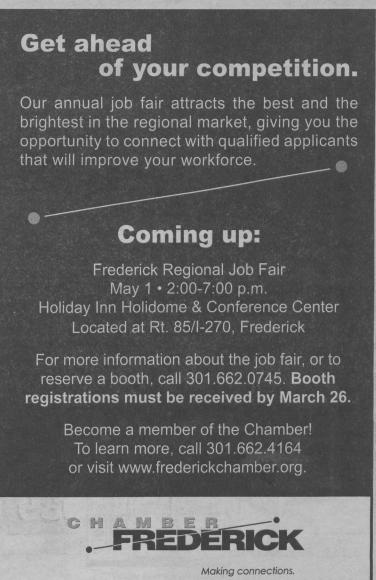
"I have been civil in my discussions and thorough in my research. I have encouraged people to attend meetings and participate. I'm proud of that and stand by that," Hagen said.

Hagen said he has not asked Burns not to ask for an opinion.

"Marty and I have a point of disagreement," Hagen said. "In the end, either I will ask the question or he will, but it will get answered."







10

BUSINESS

The point of acupuncture is natural healing



BOLLINGER

CUSTOM HOMES
DECKS

REMODELING ADDITIONS Josh Bollinger, President

140-A South Seton Avenue P.O. Box 929 Emmitsburg, MD 21727 301.447.6917 Fax 301.447.2704 By James Rada Jr.

News Editor

jrada@thedispatch.us

THURMONT, Md. – Fred Wolfson takes a small plastic tube and puts one end against a patient's arm or leg or other area of the body. He taps the end of the tube and slides the tube off. What's left behind is a thin needle no wider than a hair sticking out of the patient's body. With a slight adjustment to the needle, the patient begins to feel relief from pain.

That's acupuncture and this ancient Far Eastern medical treatment is now available in Thurmont.

Wolfson, a licensed acupuncturist, has opened a second office in Catoctin Wellness Center on East Main Street.

"I've always loved this area," Wolfson said. "I've come up here

for the last 25 years to hike and always thought it was great."

Now he spends Wednesdays and Fridays in Thurmont treating patients with a form of medicine that seeks to balance the energy flow in the body to promote healing.

"In Asia, it is used to treat a wide range of conditions – hypertension, digestive, fertility, each point has a specific function," Wolfson said.

Most treatments use about a dozen of the hair-thin needles to treat the body and the needles may not always be placed near where the problem is.

"The goal is to use the body's energy to speed the healing and help with pain management while it is healing," Wolfson said.

While some patients may worry about having needles in their body, Teresa Burger, a massage

therapist and patient of Wolfson's, said she didn't feel anything when the needles were inserted.

"Most people leave feeling better," Wolfson said. "Once I put the needles in, I usually leave them alone to relax. Many of them fall asleep."

Patients also feel better because Wolfson's rates are cheaper than the standard rate. "The current rates nationwide average \$65-95 an hour," Wolfson said. "At that rate, just a small percentage of people can afford a series."

His clinic is one of about two dozen nationwide that use a cheaper, flexible fee plan to make acupuncture more accessible to those who need it.

For more information about acupuncture in Thurmont, call (301) 788-9451 or visit the Internet at www.HealwithAcupuncture. com.

Space Crafters celebrates twenty-fifth anniversary

Basket Bingo Friday, March 23, 2007 Benefit CHS Marching Band

Doors open at 5:30pm
Games begin at 7pm
Carnival Grounds Thurmont
Guardian Hose Co. Activity Building

Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door For tickets call 301-271-0663 or contact any CHS Marching Band Member By Brendan Weeks
Contributing Writer

Sometimes the path of life is filled with unforeseen twists and turns, as Space Crafters founder Bill Eyler has come to understand. But he also knows that those turns can more often be for the better.

"I taught school for 17 years and the last 6 years I decided I want to do something else," said Eyler.

When Eyler realized it was time for a career change, he thought about furniture making, moreover, custom furniture reproductions. He quickly realized that wasn't a lucrative field and started looking for something a little more innovative. "I discovered these closet systems, which was a brand new idea that had developed in California," he said.

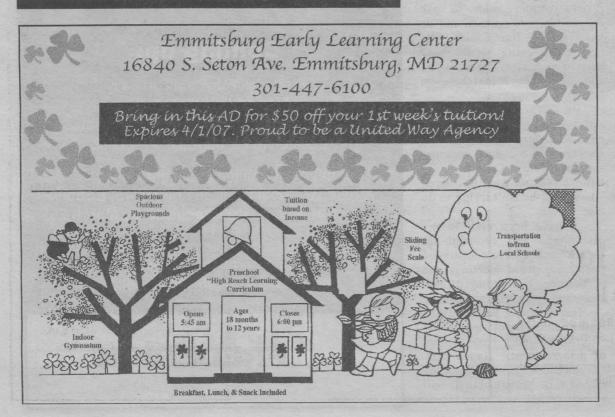
Eyler installed closet systems on the side for six years before he felt confident plunging in full-time, but once he did, business just kept getting better. "It was just a matter of one step at a time," said Eyler, "My motto was not to get too big too quickly."

Today Space Crafters offers a showroom in both Thurmont and Williamsport, Md. Space Crafters recently acquired Neikirk's of Hagerstown. "Jamie Neikirk was my college roommate, so we've known each other forever," said Eyler. According

to Eyler, with everything becoming Internet based, it has become harder for businesses like his to compete. "We got together and we both had the same idea at the same time to combine forces," said Eyler.

Space Crafters will be appearing at both the Frederick and Washington County home shows in March. They will also be hosting open houses in the spring for their new Thurmont showroom as well as the one in Williamsport.

Aside from closet systems, Space Crafters also offers garage and office storage systems, glass shower enclosures, interior door hardware, mirrors, blinds, shutters, and shades. More information can be found at their Website, www.spacecrafters.biz, or by calling (301) 663-1134.





EDUCATION

Emmitsburg elementary holds largest canned food drive



Emmitsburg Elementary School held its largest canned food drive ever, from Jan. 29 through Feb. 16. Kindergarteners challenged each grade level to bring in 100 cans by the 100th day of school. The students collected 916 cans that were donated to the Emmitsburg Food Bank. Shown above, L to R, Will Bingman, Lucy Crampton, Joel Cranston, and Katelyn

Concerns about EES addition construction schedule

By Susan Allen Contributing Writer

EMMITSBURG Md. - The proposed addition to Emmitsburg Elementary School is one of eight school construction projects that the staff of the Board of County Commissioners recently recommended delaying. Emmitsburg's addition could be pushed back from a projected completion in 2009 to 2013.

On Friday, Feb. 24, Frederick County Public Schools sent a "Find out First" e-mail, "Several school projects deferred." BOCC president Jan Gardner has called the e-mail "misleading" and stated that the recommendations are only preliminary. Gardner said that the commissioners already plan to delay two construction projects at Frederick Community College and pull funds from renovations to Harry Grove Stadium in order to re-direct money to the eight FCPS

A day earlier, EES principal Wanda Severance stressed that "this is a staff-prepared recommendation [her emphasis]"and not a final decision by the BOCC. "A lot will depend on local parents and community representatives coming to budget hearings with informed comments."

The budget hearing will be held March 27. Severance has been updating parents about the proposed addition in newsletters, providing facts about the school's facilities and a list of elected officials who will ultimately make fund-

In previous years Emmitsburg parents and students have attended BOCC and Board of Education hearings to speak in favor of funding for the EES addition. Shelby Maly, now enrolled in Thurmont Middle School, is willing to speak again about cafeteria crowding - "we were squushed" - and having to hold band class on the stage, interrupted by sounds from gym and music classes on either side.

The proposed addition will help to remedy the cafeteria space issue. "We need a larger cafeteria, with at least one more serving line," says Severance. "Right now it's not a cafeteria, it's a big foyer." The cafeteria is part of the "traffic path" to the gym and the music and art classrooms. In the middle of the day, some classes move through the area on their way to music and fiscal year in June

art, others are having lunch, and still others are lining up to go outdoors for recess. Students go through the gym to reach the playground. Potential safety and security problems can arise when so many students are congregating in one area, especially an area near the building entrance.

School not at capacity

Enrollment at EES this year is 312, which is 94 percent of the state-rated capacity of the building. There are four portable classrooms at the school, housing grades four and five.

Severance wants the community to know that these classrooms do not indicate overcrowding. They were added because of additional programs and staff needs. Emmitsburg was one of the first Frederick County schools to change to full-day kindergarten, which required extra classroom space. Within the main building there is a computer lab, a pre-kindergarten classroom, and special education classrooms that were never part of the original "open-classroom" design of the school, built in 1974.

During the past 15 years Severance and her predecessor, Dr. Linda Burgee (now Frederick County school superintendent), have created 'semi-enclosed" classrooms on a design "which does not allow for the standard classroom space

some are smaller, some are larger," notes Severance. Pre-kindergarten in particular needs a larger classroom. Younger children need bathrooms close by, and only one room in the building has its own facilities. Additional student bathrooms are needed for the whole school.

According to Severance, the original plan for the addition will bring "the equivalent of eight classrooms" to the building, along with improved heating, cooling and ventilation. It will allow for a larger health room and increased space in the

The Board of Education approves a schedule of new school construction, additions and renovations each year, and submits the schedule to the BOCC for funding approval. Frederick County officials rely in part on the Maryland General Assembly to provide money for school projects, and the amount will not be known until the close of the legislative session in April. Final county budget decisions are made closer to the end of the

Nominations sought for 'Teacher of the Year'

gible, Thurmont, Lewistown and Sabil- by the Thurmont Lions Club.

Nominations are being accepted for lasville. Forms are available in any of the the 2007 Teacher of the Year. Fulltime schools or by contacting Shirley Long at teachers of pre-k through grade 12 in the (301) 898-7004. All nominations are due Catoctin feeder system schools are eli- no later than 5 p.m. on April 3. Sponsored

MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR TO HOST SCREENING MARCH 15

Martin Doblmeier, founder and president of Journey Films, will screen and discuss his documentary "The Power of Forgiveness" at Mount St. Mary's University on Thursday, March 15. This is one of a series of special screenings at various venues across the country to encourage discussion around the idea of forgiveness. The event will be held in the Marion Burk Knott Auditorium on the main campus at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

"The Power of Forgiveness" is a new and powerful documentary that includes stories and interviews with people from many faith traditions: Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh; Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel on forgiveness in the Jewish faith; Azim Khamisa on forgiveness and Islam; and best-selling author Thomas Moore ("Care of the Soul"). It also offers features on the Amish and the school shooting last fall, Ground Zero, Beirut, Belfast and others.

Doblmeier combines a lifelong interest in religion with a passion for journalism. Over the past 20 years, he has traveled on location to more than 40 countries to profile numerous religious leaders, religious communities, heads of state and Nobel Laureates. His documentaries examine how spiritual faith leads individuals to extraordinary actions; how spirituality creates and sustains communities; and how religion evolves to meet the needs of a changing society.

In the last two years he has been a featured speaker or presented films and led discussions in more than 75 churches, synagogues and theaters across America. He has been a guest on numerous programs including NPR's "The Diane Rehm Show," "The Scott Simon Show," "Eye to Eye with Connie Chung" and CNN's "Showbiz Today."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For a complete schedule of events visit www.msmary.edu/calendar and for more information on any of the events below call

CELEBRATING THE 2007 SEASON FOR NONVIOLENCE WITH ARTHUR ROMANO

March 13, 2007

Knott Auditorium, 7pm Honor this international 64-day educational, media, and grassroots campaign dedicated to demonstrating that nonviolence is a powerful way to heal, transform, and empower our lives and

SURVIVING THE HOLOCAUST WITH **NESSE GODEN**

March 14, 2007

communities.

Knott Auditorium, 7pm Nesse Godin is a survivor of the Shauliai, Lithuania Ghetto, the Stutthof Concentration Camp, four labor camps and a death march.

LOVELY SOUNDS, BEAUTIFUL SPACES March 18, 2007

Immaculate Conception Chapel, 2pm Faculty members, Jennifer Rundlett and Candice Mowbray will be joined by Cellist Frank McKinster for a flute guitar and Cello recital, featuring music from around the world.

JAPANESE TIKO PLAYER - KENNY ENDO March 22, 2007

Knott Auditorium, 7pm The Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble features master drummer Kenny Endo on Taiko (Japanese Drum) and Japanese percussion. Synthesizing traditional Japanese drumming techniques, world music rhythms, and western jazz percussion styles, taiko master Kenny

ATHLETICS

For a complete schedule, athlete profiles and live stats visit www.mountathletics.com

MEN'S BASEBALL HOME GAMES Wed, Mar 14, Navy, 2:30 p.m. Sat, Mar 17, Buffalo, 2 p.m.

MEN'S LAX HOME GAMES Tue, Mar 6, Delaware, 1 p.m.

Sat, Mar 10, Bucknell, 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S LAX HOME GAMES

Thu, Mar 1, George Washington, 3 p.m. Sat, Mar 24, Saint Francis (Pa.), 3 p.m.

NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTO OF LOURDES

"PREPARING FOR THE PASSION AND **RESURRECTION OF CHRIST"**

Sun., April 1: 5 p.m.; Mon., April 2: 7:30 p.m.; Tues., April 3: 7:30 p.m. Lenten Retreat conducted by Rev. Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland, Mass & sermon each night.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Senior Events

We've been blown into March by late February's incredible winds, so the first day of spring will be welcome indeed. We are planning to bring AARP's 55 Alive Driver Safety Program to the center. This 2-day program runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. The course teaches defensive driving techniques and driving adjustments necessary due to age-related changes in vision

and reaction time. Fee is \$10. Anyone interested in taking this course should call Linda, (240) 629-6350.

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

Special events

March 13 - spaghetti lunch prepared by Linda and our volunteers March 15 – a special St. Patrick's

March 20 - meeting day, blood pressure checks with nurse Steve

Regular activities

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

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

Bingo: March 14 & 28.

Cards, 500, and Bridge Group: March 7 & 21.

Bowling: Monday afternoons

Men's Pool: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Pinochle: Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

Card Games: Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

Shopping at Jubilee Foods: Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

Frederick Shopping: Second Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.

Programs are held in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. Call for lunch reservations 24 hours in advance. The Senior Center will close whenever county offices are closed. To register for special events or for information, call program coordinator Linda Umbel, (240) 629-6350.

Library Events

A Celtic Celebration. All ages. A night of Irish music with Maggie Sansone, Sue Richards and Andy Garte. Co-sponsored with the Thurmont Library. Hospitality Room of Knott Arena, Mount St. Mary's. Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

Storytimes **Babies with Books**

(birth-24 months with an adult) March 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10:30 a.m. Special celebration all day March 24.

Two-Terrific Storytime (age 2 with an adult) March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7 p.m.

Family Storytime (all ages) March 7, 14, 21, 28 at 7 p.m.

Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5 with an adult) March 8, 15, 22, 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Children's Programs **Head Start Storytime**

For children attending Emmitsburg Head Start and their caregivers March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 9:45 a.m.

Bookmark Art Contest (all ages) Design a bookmark for the summer reading club. Enter between March 7 and April 7.

Reading Rocks! (ages 10-12) Choose either "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo or "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll. March 12 at 4 p.m. Registration re-

Global Groove Storytime (ages 6-12) Learn about Ireland through facts, folktales and crafts. March 16 at 4 p.m.

Registration required.

"Did You Know?" Series

(ages 6-12) Celebrate Youth Art Month with local potter Daniel Blackmore. March 17 at 11 a.m. Registration re-

March at the Emmitsburg Library

Teen Programs Movie Makers Club (grades 6 and up) March 6 at 7 p.m.

Animé Club (grades 6-12) March 9 at 6 p.m.

Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club (teens and adults) March 20 at 7 p.m. "Crown Duel" by Sherwood Smith

Adult Programs

Just Mousin' Around Ongoing one-on-one computer lessons.

Call to arrange a time. Leaving a Legacy

Write about your life. March 5 at 1:30 p.m. Non-Fiction Book Club

Tuesday Evening Book Club March 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Knitting Nook (teens and adults) March 15 at 4 p.m.

March 8 at 1 p.m.

Genealogy Focus Group (teens and adults) March 22 at 7 p.m.

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



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w/bank barn.

Needs TLG.

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4BR Frederick home on quiet cul-de-sac in Kingsbrook community, includes access to pool & tennis courts. \$449k

LHHH ==



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Frosty the snow giant



After the recent Feb. 25 snowfall, the Knox family built a 10foot tall snowman on Tract Road. From left to right the builders of the giant snowman were: Dreama Know, Justin Knox, Marci Gately, Kaylee Knox and John Knox.

Upcoming Catoctin High School Safe and Sane **Events**

March 17 - Dinner Dance. Thurmont AMVETS Post #7. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7. DJ following until midnight. \$15 per person. Tickets: contact Tina Delauter at (301) 271-

April Restaurant Raffle. Tickets are on sale now, \$5 each. Good for the entire month of April. 30 days of winners! To buy or sell tickets, contact Tina Delauter at (301) 271-3078.

Safe & Sane March 14 Committee Meeting, 7 p.m. at the MSM Hospitality Suite.

Volunteers are needed. Senior parents, remember this is to benefit your child. Junior parents you'll want this experience to make next year's event even better! As always, if you are unable to volunteer, monetary donations would be graciously accepted.

March 2007 **Specials**

Up-County Family Center 303 West Lincoln Avenue Emmitsburg MD 21727 (301) 447-2810

March 6 at 11 a.m. "Choices" Discussion Group with Tammy Keener, Community Educator, from Heartly House

March 15 at 10:30 a.m.: Critter Visit. UpCounty from Catoctin Mountain Zoo (Today is Absolutely Incredible Kid Day!)

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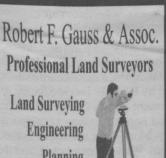
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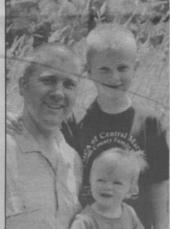
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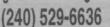
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14

Community Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD

March 2-4 – Vocation Discernment Retreat. 8 p.m. Friday until 1 p.m. Sunday. Elizabeth Ann Seton Retreat Center and Shrine, 333 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. Sponsored by the Daughters of Charity. Information: Sr. Mary Catherine Warehime, 410-646-1074, dcvoc@doc.org or Sr. JoAnne Goecke 301-447-2554 srjoanneg@yahoo.com

March 3 – M.S.H.S. 1st Annual Train Show. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities Building, Arcadia, Md. carnival grounds in western Baltimore County just off Route 30 approximately one mile east of the Baltimore/Carroll County line on Arcadia Avenue. Sponsor: Maryland Steam Historical Society, Inc. To become a vendor, contact Bruce Warch (Pa.), 717-417-3318 and/or Dave Miller (Md.) 443-375-2926. Fees: \$20 per table, checks only. Forms also at www.marylandsteam. org.

March 3 – Shrimp & Chicken Feed. 5 - 8 p.m. Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company. Tickets: \$20. Drinks included. Information: contact info contact Marylou 301-447-2073 or Diane 301-748-6894.

March 3 – Annual spring supper and bazaar. Begins at noon. Elias Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg. Crafts, Home-baked products, white elephant table. Adults \$9; children 6-12 \$3; carryouts \$10.

March 3-4 – Historical Winter Market. Lynfield Event Complex, 10142 Hansonville Rd., Frederick. Merchandise and supplies for all types of historical re-enactors: Colonial, French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, Native American, Mountainman, Civil War. Free evaluations of antique weapons. Information: David Mantz, 101 Birdell Rd., Honey Brook, Pa. 19344, 1-888-846-4676.

March 3-4 - 3rd Annual Adams County Fishing and Outdoor Expo. Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Buchanan Valley Fire Company, Route 234, approximately 2 miles off Rt. 30 between Gettysburg and Chambersburg. Admission: \$3 for adults, free for children under 12. Proceeds enable the Watershed Alliance and Trout Unlimited to help preserve the water quality of Adams County. Free parking.

March 4 – Catoctin Youth Wrestling Mason Dixon "B" Division Qualifying Tournament. Begins at 9 a.m. Catoctin High School, 14745 Sabillasville Road, Thurmont.

March 5, 12 – Overeaters Anonymous weekly meetings. 7-8 p.m. Catoctin View Seventh Day Adventist Church, 15601 Catoctin Mountain Hwy. A, U.S. Rt. 15, Thurmont. Information: call 301-694-3554 or visit www.frederickregional.org

March 8 – Moms' Club. 1 p.m. UpCounty Family Center, 303 W. Lincoln Ave., Emmitsburg. 301-447-2810.

March 9 – Basement Coffee House. 7-10 p.m. Elias Lutheran Church, 100 W. North Avenue, Emmitsburg.

March 10 – 12th Annual Women's Conference. All day event. Gettysburg College. Information: 717-339-2018.

March 10 – All you can eat Slippery Pot Pie Dinner. Noon to 6 p.m. Trinity United Church of Christ, 101 East Main St., Thurmont. Sponsored by the Thurmont Little League baseball and softball. \$8.50 per person. Carry outs available. Information or advance tickets: contact Brian Smith, 301-748-6230.

March 12 – Friends of the Emmitsburg Library. 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Library.

March 12 – Depression or Bipolar Disorder Support Group. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Emmitsburg. Sponsored by the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance. Meets the second

Monday of each month. No charge. For more information and location, call Paul at 301-447-2207.

March 14, 26 – Thurmont Lions. 6:30 p.m. Cozy Restaurant.

March 19 – Taneytown Chamber of Commerce. Networking begins at 6 p.m. Hesson-Snider American Legion Hall, Post #120, Taneytown. Information: 410-756-4234.

March 19 – Emmitsburg Historical Society. 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center.

March 23 – In God's Hands Coffee House. Weller United Methodist Church, 101 North Altamont Ave., Thurmont, 301-271-2802.

March 23,24 – Turkey and Oyster Supper. Friday from 3-7 p.m., Saturday from 1-6 p.m. Graceham Moravian Church. 8231-A Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont. Adults, \$12; children (5-10) \$6; under 5 free. Information: call the church at 301-271-2379.

March 24 – Buffet Breakfast. 6-11 a.m. Tom's Creek United Methodist Church on Tom's Creek Church Road (off Route 140 between Taneytown and Emmitsburg). Adult \$6, ages 5-10, \$3. Advance orders for meat: call Ernie Staub 301-447-6384, Dottie Davis 301-447-2403 or Rose Knox (local for Taneytown) 443-605-2675 by Sunday, March 18.

March 24 – 24th annual Emmitsburg Lions Club health screening. 7:30-10 a.m., Mother Seton School, 100 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg. Features several low cost hematology services made available by Gettysburg Hospital. Registration required: call WellSpan at 800-840-5905 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 24 – Yard, Bake and Lunch Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. St. Joseph's Parish Hall, corner of DePaul and N. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. Sponsored by the parish council.

A&E Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD .

Events

March 6 – Pulitzer Prize winning poet Claudia Emerson. 6:30 p.m. Frederick Community College, JBK Theatre, F Building. Emerson will read from her award-winning book, "Late Wife: Poems," which received the 2006 Pulitzer for Poetry. Information: contact Suzanne Beal, at sbeal@frederick.edu or 301-846-2491.

March 13 – Arthur Romano, international peace worker and scholar. 7 p.m. Mount St. Mary's University, Knott Auditorium. Free and open to the public.

Concerts

March 9 – Ladysmith Black Mambazo. 8 p.m. Enjoy the powerful, soul-stirring music of this internationally-acclaimed South African group. The Majestic, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg. 717-337-8200 or www.gettysburgmajestic. org.

March 10 - "An Evening with Eartha Kitt." 8 p.m. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 West Patrick St., Frederick, www.weinbergcenter.org, 301-228-2828. Tickets: \$30-\$50.

March 11 – Frederick Chorale. 4 p.m. Evangelical Lutheran Church, 35 East Church Street, Frederick. Free performance of Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" and the Dave Brubeck Mass, "To Hope! A Celebration." Information: www.frederickchorale.org. or call 301-662-8506.

March 28 – Innovations in Irish Music. 8 p.m. Lunasa and Dervish. Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 West Patrick St., Frederick, www. weinbergcenter.org, 301-228-2828. Tickets: \$21-\$26.

June 23 - "The Fabulous Hubcaps." 8 p.m. Lodge at Blue Ridge Summit, Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. Only 120 tickets available. Tickets: \$60; available through Habitat's online store at www.frederick-habitat.org. All concert proceeds will benefit Habitat of Humanity of Frederick County.

Stage

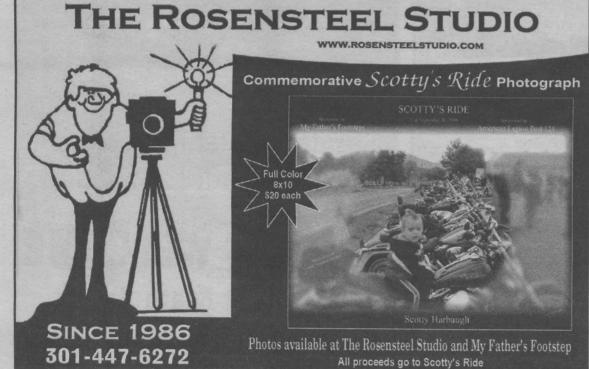
March 9, 10, 18 – "Moon over Buffalo." A farce-comedy by Ken Ludwig. Carroll Valley Resort, Carroll Valley, Pa. Friday show at 8 p.m.; Saturday dinner theatre at 6 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Theatre tickets: \$10; dinner theatre: \$30. Information: 1-491-1096 or visit www.brtg.ws.

Through 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.

March 25 – "Bach...Broadway... and Boots!" 3 p.m., St. Timothy's Church, Walkersville. The Vincent-Ayres, a mixed chorus directed by Rev. Dr. David Shaum, will present a wide variety of classical and popular songs. Accompanied by Mary Lou Schwartz (piano), Tim Wolfe (saxophone) and Jeff Hiner (bass). Free will offering to benefit St. Timothy's building fund.

April 20-22, 27-29 – "Nunsense." Comedy. A talent show staged by the five survivors at the Little Sisters of Hoboken, the rest of the sisterhood having succumbed to botulism. Tickets: \$12 for students and senior citizens; \$15 for adults. Reservations: 301-271-7613.

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