

Thumbs up and thumbs down for Saturday, Feb. 28, 2004 Saturday, February 28, 2004

UP Many area churches took part in Shrove Tuesday, also known as Fastnacht Day and Fat Tuesday this past week. The Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of the 40-day Lenten season. The idea was to use up all the butter, eggs and lard in the house before Lent. Now the day marks the day before the start of Lent.

UP The group Rondellus brought the sounds of the Middle Ages to Carroll. The group performed as part of a cultural exchange. Westminster has a sister city program with Paide, Estonia. The group used old-fashion instruments and sang songs in the old languages of Europe.

UP Century's Chris Redmond and Westminster's Gordon Courtney have jumped head-first into the world of cheerleading. Cheerleading has long been a female group in the county. The two have shown they have thick skin and are able to turn the other cheek for the criticism they have received for their choice. Let's have a big yell for Redmond and Courtney. Go team.

UP One of the best signs that spring is around the corner is seeing that the Baltimore Orioles are in spring training. The team has added some new players and, along with some familiar ones like Rafael Palmeiro, is getting ready for a new season with opening day just around the corner.

UP The nature programs offered at Bear Branch Nature Center and Piney Run are a positive experience for children. You hear all the time about the time children spend in front of television and video games. The programs give the kids a chance to learn about nature and get them out of the house.

UP Many students in the Carroll school system are in the middle of taking the state assessment tests. The tests, which continue this week, can make for a long day but they are necessary because they provide important information about how the system is doing in teaching our youngsters.