

YEAR IN REVIEW 2004 Sunday, December 26, 2004

(Feb. 22 Estonia)

Jan 1. - Lake Superior State University included the term "handcrafted latte," submitted by county resident and lexicographer Orin Hargraves, in its annual list of banished words. The university has been compiling its list since 1976.

Jan 2. - William "Jeff" Spaulding was sworn in as the new chief of the Westminster Police Department. Spaulding replaced Roger Joneckis, who retired in August 2003.

Jan 3. - More than a dozen Baltimore Ravens fans traveled to M&T Bank Stadium for the day's playoff game in a purple, gray and black bedecked bus owned by Kyle Pritts of Westminster. Pritts had been taking the bus to Ravens games since 1999.

Jan. 4 - Charles Zepp, 23, of Eldersburg, believed by police to be a member of the Pagans motorcycle club, was shot in the chest at a strip club in Baltimore County. Police described the incident as part of a turf struggle between the Pagans and Hells Angels.

Jan. 5 - The Mount Airy Town Council approved a \$1.4 million bid from Fort Worth, Texas-based Landmark Structures to build a new 1-million-gallon water tower.

Jan. 6 - The Board of County Commissioners approved the purchase of a new computer-aided dispatch system, designed to provide more detailed information to county emergency services personnel.

Jan. 7 - Carroll County Public Schools received the third highest scores among all counties in the state on the 2003 Maryland High School Assessments.

Jan. 8 - The Board of County Commissioners expanded the number of county fire companies, providing emergency medical services 24 hours a day and seven days a week, to nine. The companies in Mount Airy, Hampstead, Union Bridge, Reese and Winfield joined the program. Westminster, Manchester, Sykesville and Taneytown already provided this service.

Jan. 9 - Westminster Police arrested 19-year-old Godfrey Miller III on charges of killing Richard Atkins Jr. in the victim's East Main Street apartment Dec. 27, 2003.

Jan. 10 - County children gather at Bear Branch Nature Center to learn how to make birdfeeders from park naturalist Matthew Lustig.

Jan. 11 - The Bookcrossing Book Club, an offshoot of the book swapping Web site bookcrossing.com, meets for the first time at the Pour House Café in Westminster.

Jan. 12 - Attorneys for former Carroll County Public Schools Superintendent William Hyde appeared in court to request a new trial for their client. They argued that he was wrongly convicted of child abuse and rape following his August 2003 trial.

Jan. 13 - Melissa Baumgardner Shipley was sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison

after being convicted of conspiring to murder her husband, Scott Shipley, in an attempt to collect nearly \$100,000 in life insurance.

Jan. 14 - Westminster resident Randall Matthews, 48, pleaded guilty to charges of sexual child abuse and eight counts of providing alcohol to a minor at a December 2002 party at his house. The party also had resulted in the suspension of nine players from the Westminster High School girls basketball team.

Jan. 15 - Carroll County Circuit Court Judge Luke K. Burns Jr. sentenced former Carroll County Public Schools Superintendent William Hyde to 15 years in prison on several child abuse charges, but suspended all but 18 months.

Jan. 16 - Maryland State Police Trooper Scott E. Zimmerman was honored as the Westminster barrack's Trooper of the Year for 2003.

Jan. 17 - More than 500 people attended the 17th annual Central Maryland Farm Toy Show and Sale at the county Agriculture Center.

Jan. 18 - Bear Branch Nature Center Naturalist Melissa Boyle taught county children how to track animals, taking advantage of the day's snowfall.

Jan. 19 - The Carroll County Arts Center hosted a public celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The event featured children's workshops, an African dance performance and a showcase featuring the work of black artists.

Jan 20. - Maryland's General Assembly overturned Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s veto of three bills from the 2003 legislative session. This was the first time in 15 years the legislature overturned a gubernatorial veto.

Jan 21. - McDaniel College began constructing a new building to house the school's education and psychology programs, as well as academic services for students.

Jan 22. - Carroll County's Cable Regulatory Commission voted to retain additional legal counsel after failing to resolve ongoing financial disputes with Adelfia Communications Corp.

Jan 23. - Carroll County Circuit Court Judge Luke K. Burns Jr. retired after 25 years on the bench.

Jan 24. - County resident DJ Payne displayed his customized 1995 Camaro Z-28 at the World Of Wheels Motorsports Expo at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Jan. 25 - A chili cook-off at Trinity Lutheran Church in Smallwood raised \$596.30 for the Lutheran Church's World Hunger Appeal.

Jan. 26 - Carroll County's first major snowstorm of the year deposited approximately 7 inches of snow on the county, closing schools and other county services.

Jan. 27 - Carroll County Circuit Court Judge Raymond E. Beck Sr. sentenced 38-year-old Anthony Hughes to life in prison for the attempted murder of his ex-wife, Ellen Redifer, in 2002.

Jan. 28 - Westminster's Board of Zoning Appeals heard more than four hours of testimony on the possibility of opening a drug addiction treatment clinic on East Main Street. Residents opposed the clinic, arguing it would disrupt the community.

Jan 29. - Carroll County's delegation unanimously rejected a bill authorizing a transfer tax for the county. The Board of County Commissioners had requested the authority to impose the tax so it could fund programs including emergency medical services for 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Jan. 30 - Robert Foor-Hogue, a South Carroll High School teacher, was named teacher of the year by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. He was selected for his work as an environmental educator and author of environmental articles and curriculum guides.

Jan. 31 - Carroll County Cub Scouts competed in the annual Pinewood Derby contest, sponsored by the Carroll District of the Boy Scouts of America. Westminster resident Kurt Wonilowicz won the competition.

Feb. 1 - A hectic scene took place an hour before kickoff on Super Bowl Sunday at Domino's Pizza in Westminster. Three people answered phones, five people worked at an assembly line piling toppings on raw dough, delivery drivers sprinted in and out of the store, and everyone else filled in wherever needed so the operation could run smoothly.

Feb. 2 - Children at the Carroll County Family Center didn't have to travel to Punxsutawney, Pa., to get a Groundhog's Day prediction.

Elaine Finck, a child development associate at the center, helped the children create paper groundhog puppets.

Feb. 3 - Carroll County's resident trooper program will remain as is but any expansion of a countywide policy will likely come from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office.

Maryland State Police Superintendent Col. Thomas E. "Tim" Hutchins told county officials that he couldn't add any more troopers to the program.

After the meeting, Steve Powell, county chief of staff, said the county would have to look to the sheriff's office to keep up with growth.

Feb. 4 - Frederick Keys mascot Keyote appeared at Mount Airy Elementary School to kick off "Keys For Reading," a reading-incentive program in which the Baltimore Orioles Class A Carolina League farm team provides free tickets to all Carroll elementary students who read four books in eight weeks.

Feb. 5 - The Board of County Commissioners agreed to pay for the state-funded Transitional Emergency Medical and Housing Assistance program, which Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. had temporarily suspended to help balance the state budget.

Feb. 6 - Carroll County Circuit Court Judge Francis Arnold sentenced Donna Tucker to three years for negligent homicide with all but 18 months suspended and a consecutive four-year term for heroin possession with that entire sentence suspended.

Tucker, 42, was convicted in November of negligent homicide and possession of heroin after a head-on crash on Md. 140.

Feb. 7 - Michael Hornbaker, his father and some 100 other hobbyists showed up at a flea market in Westminster to buy and sell model airplanes and parts as well as talk about their hobby. The Westminster Aeromodelers club sponsored the event in its 15th year.

Feb. 8 - Emma Sigrist, brother Nathan, and several other children made animal masks to get ready for a Chamber Music on the Hill concert. Only the children weren't performing, they were preparing for the intermission parade of animals during the Keyboard Karnival performance at the Carroll Community College Scott Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

Feb. 9 - Carroll County legislators voted to submit to the General Assembly a \$19 million bond bill requested by the Board of County Commissioners following their meeting with the Maryland State Police superintendent.

Feb. 10 - The Board of Carroll County Commissioners approved a policy in which the county's roads bureau will remove obstacles such as basketball hoops, hockey nets, skateboard ramps, untagged vehicles and overhanging shrubs from county-owned rights of way along roads.

Feb. 11 - Board of Education members voted to make up two of their snow days as soon as possible. Carroll County Public Schools students had to attend classes from Feb. 16 to 17 to make up for two canceled school days

Feb. 12 - To prevent the spread of an avian influenza outbreak into Maryland, the Maryland Department of Agriculture ordered the Westminster Livestock Auction to stop all sales of live poultry.

Feb. 13 - Representatives from the University of Maryland, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture came together to give state farmers an update on bovine spongiform encephalopathy or mad cow disease.

Feb. 14 - A puppet show took place at the Bear Branch Nature Center that included six volunteers. Before performing, the puppeteers, who ranged from 11 to 14 years old, read the script, attempted to memorize their lines and figured out what kind of voice to assign each of their animal puppets.

Feb. 15 - The Board of County Commissioners considered adding Carroll County to a bill that

would ban people from soliciting money or donations from motorists on state roads.

Feb. 16 - A highly contagious stomach virus swept through the community, prompting officials to recommend that anyone with symptoms stay relatively isolated until the symptoms pass.

Brenda Kitchen, infection control coordinator at Carroll Hospital Center, said the hospital experienced an increase in patients with stomach virus symptoms that continued through the weekend.

Feb. 17 - The county's Planning and Zoning Commission approved an ordinance that will establish a building permit cap to help control growth.

Feb. 18 - The Carroll County Education Association reached a tentative agreement with Carroll County Public Schools for a new teacher's contract. Terms of the contract were not released.

Feb. 19 - The Board of Education cut \$2.7 million from its 2005 fiscal year budget in hopes of closing the gap between the school system's and county government's fiscal expectations.

Feb. 20 - The Board of County Commissioners began gathering information about establishing a fire and emergency medical services tax.

After Carroll County's state delegation rejected the board's bid for a transfer tax in January, the county began looking for alternative ways to fund its plan for emergency medical coverage, 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Feb. 21 - Agencies like the Winfield Volunteer Fire Department began preparing to lobby for additional county money. Winfield's leaders expect to receive roughly \$60,000 less than they had requested - money that they will have to make up through fund-raisers and donations, said Scott Legore, Winfield's public information officer.

Feb. 22 - The sounds of Western civilization's Middle Ages came to life on the Winters Mill High School stage, all in the name of cultural exchange. Rondellus, an Estonian band, performed traditional European music from the 12th through 16th centuries as part of Westminster's ongoing sister-city program with Paide, Estonia.

Feb. 23 - In hopes of providing relief to student overcrowding at North Carroll High School, Superintendent of Schools Charles I. Ecker released a preliminary plan that included building a new school, redistricting and expanding North Carroll High's capacity and implementing double sessions.

Feb. 24 - A large crowd celebrated the annual Shrove on Tuesday at Westminster United Methodist Church's Jubilee Hall. Some of the money from the breakfast, the only fund-raiser for the church's senior social group, offsets the cost of in- and out-of-state trips, said member Elliott Burgher. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of the 40-day Lenten season.

Feb. 25 - Third-, fifth-, eighth- and 10th-graders were the initial students to feel the brunt of the Maryland School Assessments testing, as they took the first part of the reading portion of the assessment.

Feb. 26 - Operators of International Minerals and Raw Materials Inc. were ordered to stop a foundry sand-processing facility in Keymar after the Carroll County Board of Zoning Appeals voted to uphold the county zoning administrator's decision that the facility was operating in the wrong zone.

Feb. 27 - For the second year, the Maryland Senate voted to pass a bill legalizing slot machines in the state, and for the second year, that bill's fate now rests in the House of Delegates.

Feb. 28 - Teenagers took part in several science-related games at the 12th Annual Central Maryland Physics Olympics Saturday at Liberty High School in Eldersburg. North Carroll freshmen and the host school did not place in the competition. Northern High School grabbed first place and received \$1,000. One local team from South Carroll High School placed third.

Feb. 29 - The 29th and final day of Black History Month was recognized with a dinner of traditional Southern food and a celebration of community. The McDaniel College Black Student Union hosted the dinner.