

Year in Review 2004 Tuesday, December 28, 2004

(June 27 Estonia)

MAY

May 1 - Hundreds of people gathered in Sykesville to celebrate the town's 100th birthday. Sykesville officially was born May 4, 1904, with the acceptance of a state charter by the General Assembly and the election of Edwin Mellor Sr. as the first mayor.

May 2 - A wall at the South Carroll Sports Arena on Progress Way in Eldersburg was blown out during a storm. Linda Price, co-owner of the sports arena, said a women's indoor soccer game was going on when the end wall collapsed around 8:55 p.m. No one was injured.

May 3 - At a public meeting in Woodbine, some residents who live around Gillis Falls Park said they supported a plan to build a network of trails in the park. Other residents were concerned about property values, traffic, park lighting and possible illegal activity in the park. Carroll County officials have been working for the last couple of years on a plan for a trail system for hikers, cyclists, cross-country skiers and horseback riders in the 1,200-acre park.

May 4 - A Carroll County Circuit Court judge agreed to reconsider whether the county has to pay almost \$20,000 in lawyer's fees to an adult-oriented store it unsuccessfully tried to close last year. Carroll County Circuit Court Judge Raymond E. Beck Sr. had ruled the previous week that the county must pay Love Craft, a Greenmount adult products store, \$19,953.76 in attorney's fees and court costs.

May 5 - Superintendent of Schools Charles I. Ecker said three students each from South Carroll and Liberty high schools would be suspended from their lacrosse teams for the rest of the season and banned from participating in or attending any extracurricular activities for the rest of the school year. The punishment was in response to the students' involvement in a bench-clearing brawl during a high school lacrosse game. Ecker said those students also were involved in starting the fight that broke out at a game between the two teams at Liberty High school the previous week.

May 6 - About 100 people gathered at the Vietnam War Memorial in Westminster at noon to take part in the National Day of Prayer ceremony. Leaders from many different churches came together to pray for churches, families, education, government and the media.

May 7 - A 40-year-old former Taneytown resident was released from jail after serving six months for child abuse. Donald Fritz Sr. was released after a plea agreement was reached that sentenced him to five years in prison, with all but the time he spent in jail awaiting trial suspended. He was convicted of having sexual contact with a teenage girl in the summer of 2001.

May 8 - Despite a rainy, cloudy day, Carroll residents attended the Westminster Flower and Jazz Festival. They listened to jazz bands, watched swing dancers and shopped for pottery, trinkets and knitted products.

May 9 - Roughly 1,200 people attended the Mother's Day Public Breakfast at Union Bridge. The

event was the last in a series of monthly breakfasts the fire company hosts from October to May.

May 10 - The Westminster City Council introduced three proposals to raise the city's version of impact fees. The fees are associated with the city's Capital Improvement Program and would pay for improvements to Westminster's water and sewer system, parks and recreation facilities and other city services.

May 11 - County health officer Larry Leitch told the county commissioners that the procedures outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for administering the smallpox vaccine are too cumbersome for the Carroll County Health Department to follow in an emergency. With the amount of paperwork required to administer the vaccine, and the amount of information recipients need to absorb, including a 25-minute informational video, it takes 45 to 50 minutes to vaccinate one person, he said.

May 12 - Leon Costley showed no emotion as a Carroll County Circuit Court judge told him that he would spend the rest of his life in prison for the murder of Helga Nicholls, his former mother-in-law. Nicholls' husband and daughter sighed in relief as they heard Carroll County Circuit Court Judge Michael M. Galloway impose the sentence. Costley was convicted of murdering Nicholls in October. On Aug. 14, 2002, Costley burst into Nicholls' home on Old Manchester Road and stabbed her to death. He was arrested at the house after a brief standoff with police.

May 13 - Mount Airy parents expressed support for a principal at both Parr's Ridge and Mount Airy elementary schools. Parr's Ridge is scheduled to open in the 2005-06 school year and includes kindergarten through second grade. Mount Airy Elementary will house students in third through fifth grade. Because the facilities are a relatively short distance apart, school officials were debating whether to have only one principal for the two schools, Mount Airy Principal Thomasina Piercy, or have a principal at both schools.

May 14 - Hundreds of people participated in Relay for Life at Westminster High School. The fund-raiser is the American Cancer Society's signature activity, said Keith Dillenbeck, spokesman for Carroll County's event. During a Relay for Life, teams camp out at a local high school, park or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event, which can last up to 24 hours.

May 15 - With the inauguration of its first board of officers in a ceremony at the Taneytown firehouse, the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association officially took its place as the voice of emergency workers in the county. The new association replaced three separate organizations representing volunteer firefighters, ambulance workers and fire chiefs.

May 16 - Roughly 100 people, listening to patriotic songs and speeches from members of the American Legion, attended a rally at Taneytown's Memorial Park to support U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

May 17 - Mount Airy Mayor James Holt nominated council members to fill spots on each of the town's committees: Parks and Recreation; Beautification; Water and Sewer; Economic

Development; Streets and Roads; Recycling and Sanitation; Zoning; Main Street Revitalization and Planning. Councilman David Pyatt, who was sworn in to his third term, said the meeting was the most heated reorganization meeting he's ever seen.

May 18 - Carroll County officials were in the early stages of preparing to defend county residents against the West Nile virus. The county decided not to test birds for West Nile virus; instead, it opted to try to kill off as many mosquito larvae as possible before the insects have a chance to reach breeding age. Carroll County's Department of General Services and Health Department partnered to implement a mosquito larvicide program in 80 of the county's 110 stormwater management ponds.

May 19 - Shirley Bosley, 70, of the 2800 block of Manchester Road, and Tammy Reindollar, 34, also of the 2800 block of Manchester Road, died when their Subaru Legacy station wagon was struck by a 1987 Corvette operated by Kathleen McIntyre, 46, at about 9:45 p.m. Reindollar was trapped in the vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene. Bosley was pronounced dead after she was transported to Carroll Hospital Center.

May 20 - The Board of County Commissioners stressed its commitment to improving the county's industrial tax base when it approved a \$2 million increase for economic development in the upcoming fiscal year's budget. The \$2 million increase for the Department of Economic Development, which is designed to draw businesses to Carroll County, will pay for job-training grants and infrastructure improvements for companies that set up shop in Carroll.

May 21 - Thunderstorms ripped through Carroll County, bringing with them lightning and pea-sized hail. They were part of a weather system that forecasters said could last as long as a week. Approximately 3.2 inches of rain had been recorded so far, which is average for May.

May 22 - Before they received their degrees, students hailing from 15 different countries were reminded of those who had walked the stage earlier and their successful careers after completing their requirements at McDaniel College. In front of a standing-room-only crowd, the college awarded 860 bachelor's and master's degrees at the Robert Joshua Gill Center on the campus.

May 23 - More than 50 people participated in the Arthritis Walk at the Carroll County Farm Museum to show the community that having arthritis doesn't mean they lead inactive lives. So at noon, with the sun shining brightly, participants walked through the museum grounds, some with walkers but many with no help at all.

May 24 - The Sykesville Town Council approved a tax rate increase from 30.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value to nearly 33 cents. This was the first time in 11 years that the council had raised taxes.

May 25 - Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Robert Flanagan told town and county officials that the \$74 million Hampstead Bypass will be funded by the state, and construction should begin by mid-2005.

At a meeting at the Hampstead Town Hall, Flanagan said the governor found the funding for the

Hampstead Bypass because the Carroll delegation had supported the governor's transportation package.

May 26 - Roughly 300 students graduated from Carroll Community College as the school celebrated its 11th commencement. Of the 290 graduates, 54 students were members of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, 15 were members of the Psi Beta National Honor Society (psychology) and five of the Alpha Beta Gamma International Business Honor Society.

May 27 - The Respite Inn opened, giving caregivers of developmentally disabled people in Carroll County an option to provide alternative care while they take time off for themselves. The inn is a three-bedroom house on Deer Park Road that accommodates people with developmental disabilities for short periods of time. It is run by Change Inc., a nonprofit Carroll County organization that teaches life skills and provides other services to developmentally disabled people.

May 28 - The Springfield Hospital Center held a memorial service at the foot of the Sunny Side graveyard. Between 1899 and 1961, patients whose bodies were not claimed by their families were buried there.

May 29 - American Legion Carroll Post 31 held a recognition ceremony for local World War II veterans, in conjunction with the National WWII Memorial dedication ceremony in Washington, D.C. Russell Myers Jr. said the post made certificates for more than 30 local WWII veterans. There are 4,980 veterans buried in Carroll County, said Smith, who maintains the county's list of deceased veterans for the American Legion. Each month, another 25 to 30 names are added, he said, many of them World War II veterans.

May 30 - Residents in Finksburg and the southern part of the county reported that they were under a canopy of loud, flying 17-year cicadas. Cicadas are flying, plant-feeding insects. There are several kinds of cicadas, including annual cicadas that appear every year, and periodical cicadas, which have a longer life cycle, usually 13 or 17 years.

May 31 - Residents throughout Carroll County celebrated Memorial Day with parades, speeches and other tributes to soldiers who have passed on and those who are defending the United States.

JUNE

June 1 - County Health officials decided they would no longer sign off on growth in Taneytown due to a water shortage. The decision was made after health officials met with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

June 2 - Robert Moton Elementary School honored Richard Dixon by hanging his portrait in the school's lobby. Dixon, former Carroll County School Board member and president, state legislator and state treasurer, spoke at the daylong celebration of diversity at Robert Moton.

June 3 - County officials decided that no new reservations for residential building permits would be issued in crowded school districts. The Board of Carroll County Commissioners voted to

allow no new permit reservations in the following districts: Eldersburg Elementary, Hampstead Elementary, Manchester Elementary, Mount Airy Elementary, Mount Airy Middle, Sykesville Middle and North Carroll High.

June 4 -The Maryland Transportation Commission and the Maryland Department of Transportation dedicated a 70-foot-by-32-foot memorial garden near the intersection of Md. 26 and Md. 194 in Frederick County in memory of Nathan A. Blizzard, who was killed in an automobile accident at that intersection in 1997.

June 5 - Former President Ronald Reagan died at his Los Angeles home due to complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was 93 years old.

June 6 - Musicians from Carroll County and beyond gathered at the Carroll County Farm Museum for a day of formal and informal playing during the Fiddler's convention. Aside from the informal picking sessions, the convention hosted a competition. Cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$300 were given to the best performers in 14 categories, for instruments such as the fiddle, banjo and guitar. Other categories included the best young musician, the best bluegrass band and the best cloggers.

June 7 - An attorney for Carroll County argued in Carroll County Circuit Court that the county commissioners, the county attorney and the county itself are all immune from being sued by two former members of the county's Ethics Commission. A motion was filed in January asking a judge to dismiss the \$80 million lawsuit. In the lawsuit, former Ethics Commission members, Suzanne Primoff and James Talley, claim that Commissioners Perry L. Jones Jr., Dean Minnich and Julia Walsh Gouge libeled them, wrongfully terminated their positions and intentionally inflicted emotional harm on them.

June 8 - The county continued appeals in nine lawsuits where the county received temporary injunctions requiring it to proceed with nine developments. In those nine cases, a Carroll County Circuit Court judge ruled that county officials had to process the site plans normally of projects interrupted by the residential development deferral.

June 9 - After hearing public comments on how to address overcrowding in northern Carroll County, the Board of Education has leaned toward building a new high school. James L. Doolan, director of transportation services for the Carroll County school system, recommended at the board meeting that the board construct a high school in the North Carroll area sized to educate 1,200 students.

June 10 - The Board of County Commissioners agreed to send a proposal to allow bioscience research facilities as conditional uses on land that is zoned for agricultural purposes to public hearing. Bioscience research involves activities such as the clinical testing of animals for experimental medications.

June 11 - John T. "Jack" Lyburn announced he would resign from his position as director of Carroll County's Department of Economic Development. Lyburn had been Carroll's Economic Development Director since 1994, when he took the job after working as a commercial real-

estate developer for more than a decade. He said he planned to open a commercial real-estate business in Westminster after he left county government.

June 12 - Today, 580 students graduated from Liberty and South Carroll high schools. Liberty educators shared secrets of success with the 293 graduates at the 23rd annual Liberty High commencement ceremony. The South Carroll High class of 2004 had 287 graduates, including 163 "Graduates of Distinction," awarded that honor for their consistent presence on the school's honor roll.

June 13 - The Carroll County Public Library launched a program to encourage children to read during the school break. The program offered more than \$7,000 worth of free gifts for participants. "Readers Rule" was the name of the program for children from birth to through age 10 and "Say What? What Teens Want to Know" was for students ages 11 through 17.

June 14 - Responding to the growing Hispanic population, the Carroll County Public Library reached out to the community by providing more Spanish-language materials and helping librarians communicate in Spanish. Although the library has carried Spanish-language books for at least 20 years, in the last four years it has substantially increased its collection.

June 15 - The Board of County Commissioners asked county recreational facilities to come up with business plans that would help them be more self-sufficient. The county was asking the farm museum, Hashawha Environmental Center, Piney Run Park and the Carroll County Sports Complex to develop business plans to evaluate their operations to get an accurate accounting of the total costs of running the facilities and hosting events.

June 16 - The Carroll County Economic Development Commission decided that it wanted to try to persuade the outgoing county economic development director to stay in his position. Earlier in the month, Jack Lyburn announced his intention to resign as director of the county Economic Development Department and start his own commercial real estate business.

June 17 - Hundreds of young campers came to the Hashawha Environmental Center and Bear Branch Nature Center to learn about the outdoors as the summer camp season began. Hashawha houses overnight camps hosted by individual organizations during the summer, such as the ones being put on this year by Carroll County 4-H, the Howard County Police Department and Pyros Youth Ministry. The Hashawha facility, near Union Mills, includes lodging, a pool, Lake Hashawha for fishing and plenty of space to explore nature.

June 18 - Carroll County officials recommended that residents in the Union Mills/Silver Run area be hooked up to a public sewer system. The county completed a sanitary survey of the area and discovered an unusually high number of problems with failing private septic tanks. More than 25 percent of the systems that were surveyed have problems.

June 19 - The new bald eagle staff acquired after the death of their previous one is settling in fine in its new surroundings at Hashawha Environmental Center. Officials traveled to Newark, Del., to the Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Center on May 2 to meet with a veterinarian about finding another suitable eagle to bring back to Hashawha. They were shown a 4-year-old eagle

found at Fort Smallwood Park in Anne Arundel County on April 25, 2003. The bird had originally been treated at the Baltimore Zoo for cuts, broken flight feathers and a foot infection known as bumblefoot. In addition, the bird tested positive for West Nile virus.

June 20 - A new state law allowed school officials or trained teachers to search students on school-sponsored trips, but Carroll County school administrators said it would be used only under certain conditions. The Board of Education began to address the law, which went into effect on July 1.

June 21 - Local pharmacists said they were getting lots of inquiries about the new Medicare prescription drug discount cards but had not actually seen many people using them. Seniors, county government officials and pharmacists said that Medicare recipients stayed away from the cards because the process for selecting a card is too confusing and the benefits they provide are too small.

June 22 - Nearly two months after the county approved an overhaul of the Child Abuse/Sexual Assault unit, some of the changes had been made and others were in the works. The unit implemented some of the changes suggested in an April 27 audit done by the county's Office of Performance Auditing. The audit recommended creating a separate budget for the unit, making the interview rooms more child-friendly, restructuring the investigative team and hiring a program manager.

June 23 - Archaeologists discovered prehistoric Native American tools and the original location of Springfield State Hospital's first residence for mental patients at the Warfield Complex in Sykesville. The town annexed the Warfield Complex land from the state in 1998 and is in the process of turning it into a business park. Before building construction could begin, the state required the town to pay for an archaeological survey. The examination would guarantee that work crews would not build on top of historically significant sites.

June 24 - Almost 30 Carroll County employees gathered at Carroll Community College to compete in the Paul A. Croasmun Memorial Truck Road-eo. The eighth annual Road-eo was designed to simulate scenarios drivers face while performing snow removal duties on Carroll's roads.

June 25 - During a routine inspection of Longwell Run, a crew of stream surveyors found about 10 different species of fish, including more sensitive species like the rosyside dace and the common shiner; a big change since the county started its restoration projects on it. Ten years ago, blacknose dace were about the only species of fish that could tolerate the environmental conditions of Longwell Run, the stream that runs along the southwest side of Md. 140 through Westminster. Blacknose dace is one of the most common species of fish in Maryland - there are estimated to be 12 million of them in the state - because they are so tolerant of pollution.

June 26 - Four cream-colored tents on Center Street in Westminster marked the site of a small Civil War encampment, part of the weekend's events commemorating the 141st anniversary of Corbit's Charge. A brief and lopsided skirmish, Corbit's Charge, also known as the Battle of Westminster, took place on June 29, 1863, at the intersection of Main Street and Washington

Road. The event is named for Capt. Charles Corbit, a Union cavalry officer, who led two understrength companies, totaling less than 100 men, against a force of 6,000 Confederate cavalry under Gen. Jeb Stuart.

June 27 - Mayor Indrek Kivimae of Westminster's sister city, Paide, Estonia, began a 12-day visit by meeting with Mayor Kevin Dayhoff at City Hall. Dayhoff said he hoped to build off the strong relationship with Paide to facilitate cultural and economic exchange.

June 28 - A drug overdose at the Safe Haven men's shelter near Westminster was treated as an isolated incident, according to police and human services officials. No security or substance abuse policies were changed as a result of the overdose. The shelter, located on Stoner Avenue near Westminster, continues to provide 24-hour security, and doors are locked at night.

June 29 - Carroll was the lone county in Maryland to have all of its schools make sufficient improvements and progress over the past year, according to preliminary figures released from the Maryland Department of Education. Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, schools must continuously show advancement in reading and mathematics.

June 30 - Today was the deadline for billboard companies to remove both their signs and supporting structures from county-owned property after the county commissioners decided not to renew the leases for billboards on county property, according to Carroll officials. The four billboards on county-owned land were in various stages of removal but were expected to be completely removed.