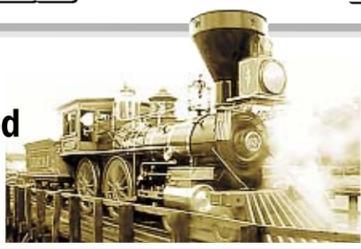




Ellen Siska talks NASCAR
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Civil War-era replica proposed for Rail Trail
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What's brewing at the Heritage Trust? - Page C1



New home construction takes a huge hit

► FOR 2009: York County issued a third as many building permits last year as it did in 2005.

By **CARL LINDQUIST**
The York Dispatch

Manchester Township's prime location, encompassing the intersection of Interstate 83 and Route 30, helped make it a popular spot for new home development in 2005.

The township issued building permits for 297 new homes that year, the most of any township or borough in York County, according to York County Planning Commission figures. Construction costs were expected to exceed \$52 million.

Fast-forward to 2009. The Great Recession has left new home construction in Manchester Township and across York County at a virtual standstill compared to just a few years ago.

Manchester Township issued permits for only 22 new homes through the first 10 months of the year, according to planning commission figures.

Across the county, only 708 homes were given the go-ahead through the end of October. At that pace, permits will have been issued for a projected 944 homes in all of 2009, less than a third of the 3,064 in 2005.

That's lower than any year for which statistics are available from the planning commission, which has reported the data since 1991.

► ON THE WEB: Visit this story at yorkdispatch.com and explore activity in your township with a building-permit database.

"All the builders I talk to, things have just been totally dead," said Steve Kohr, a builder and president of the York County Builders Association.

Idle: Manchester Township Manager Dave Raver said 2005 was a sizzling year as builders constructed homes in subdivisions that had been approved in the township over the previous several years. Part of the attraction was the township's location and the availability of public sewer and water.

See **HOME/A7**



Marvin Smucker of Lancaster County works on a new house on Rishel Drive, Manchester Township, in the Eagle's View development.

BRYANT HAWKINS — *The York Dispatch*

Mega Millions in Pa.

► LOTTERY: Interstate game promises big payouts, keeps state residents from buying in Maryland.

By **JESSICA ANDERSON**
The York Dispatch

Karan Harris said she has many friends who drive to Maryland to purchase Mega Millions lottery tickets.

To keep some of the revenue within the state and to appease lottery players, the Pennsylvania State Lottery will soon offer the multi-state jackpot game, which already sells tickets in Maryland and 11 other states.

Tickets will go on sale in Pennsylvania Jan. 31.

"Players expressed a desire to play for bigger jackpots," said Ed Trees, executive director of the Pennsylvania Lottery. Mega Millions boasts jackpots starting at \$12 million, but payouts could be up to hundreds of millions of dollars, he said.

Not only did players want bigger payouts, Trees said, but he said they didn't want to have to drive across state lines.

Harris said she doesn't make the commute for Mega Millions tickets, but she said she does play the Powerball and plans to play the Mega Millions.

"It's nice to bring it here so we

See **MEGA/A7**

Struggling for help



PATRICK FARRELL — *The Miami Herald*

A family rushes an injured girl to a hospital Wednesday in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Tuesday's quake left the city decimated, and international relief agencies were scrambling to get assistance to the area.

► HAITI: Tuesday's earthquake "is much worse than a hurricane. There's nothing."

By **MIKE MELIA**
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Turning pickup trucks into ambulances and doors into stretchers, Haitians were frantically struggling to save those injured in this week's earthquake as desperately needed aid from around the world began arriving Thursday.

Planes carrying teams from China, France and Spain flew into the Port-au-Prince airport with searchers and tons of food, medicine and other supplies — with far more promised soon from around the globe.

Search and rescue squads from Iceland and Fairfax County, Va., had arrived the day before and some groups — from Cuba's government and Doctors Without Borders — used staff already in the country to offer aid immediately after the magnitude-7 quake struck on Tuesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said that "tens of thousands, we fear, are dead" and said United States and the world must do everything possible to help Haiti surmount its "cycle of hope and despair."

The U.S. was sending troops and ships along with aid to Haiti, and other nations were joining the effort to help the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation, where the

See **HAITI/A5**

► How you can help and a rundown of international aid.
Page A5

Weekend sleep-ins don't help, study says

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sleeping in on Saturday after a few weeks of too little shuteye may feel refreshing, but it can give a false sense of security.

New research shows chronic sleep loss can't be cured that easily.

Scientists tested the effects of short- and long-term sleep loss — and found that the chronically sleep-deprived may function normally soon after waking up, but experience steadily slower reaction times as the day wears on, even if they had tried to catch up the previous night.

The findings have important safety implications in our increasingly 24/7 society, not just for shift-workers but for the roughly one in six Americans who regularly get six hours or less of sleep a night.

See **SLEEP/A7**

Yorkers waiting for word on loved ones

► QUAKE: Jean Cornet immigrated from Haiti in 1999.

By **KATHY STEVENS**
The York Dispatch

Jean and Lorraine Cornet only want to help, but say there is nothing to do but wait.

They've called friends in New York, New Jersey, Boston and Connecticut hoping someone has heard something from Haiti.

They spent Tuesday night and all day Wednesday scouring the Internet, viewing photographs for a glimpse of the neighborhood where Jean Cornet's brother, sister and mother live.

The destruction is so great that they cannot distinguish one place from another. The only true gauge for the Cornets are depictions of the presidential palace, and numerous other photographs of bodies amid buildings that folded like accordions.

► ON THE WEB: Hear Jean Cornet's reaction to the quake at videoyork.com.

He is from Port-au-Prince; his family lived less than one mile from the palace, which sustained heavy damage in the earthquake that hit the country's capital city just before 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Jean Cornet, 35, left
See **YORKERS/A5**



JOHN A. PAVONCELLO — *The York Dispatch*

Jean and Lorraine Cornet of West York are anxiously waiting for word on Jean's mother, brother, sister and other family members who live in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Smaller facility in new Gettysburg casino proposal

► REACTION: Opponents say site is near "hallowed ground."

By **CHRISTINA KAUFFMAN**
The York Dispatch

Gettysburg businessman David LeVan might be more optimistic about his casino plans this time around, but a group that helped squelch his initial plans three years ago is rolling up its sleeves again.

LeVan recently announced

plans to operate Mason Dixon Resort and Casino at Eisenhower Inn and Convention Center in Cumberland Township, Adams County. He plans to buy the convention center and operate under a resort license, which permits as many as 600 slot machines and 50 table games.

LeVan's previous proposal called for a 3,000-slot stand-alone facility built on green space near the heavily traveled intersection of routes 15 and 30. But in 2006, the state's Gaming

Control Board rejected that license application in part because of public opposition to the casino's proximity to Gettysburg National Military Park.

Leading the opposition was the grassroots group No Casino Gettysburg, which has reorganized to battle the new proposal.

'Lessons learned': LeVan spokesman David La Torre said the new proposal gives less to complain about than the first, and "a great deal of thought and opinion was given to lessons

learned in 2006."

The Mason Dixon Resort and Casino will be part of a renovation or expansion of an existing facility, and won't involve building on green space, he said.

He said residents "had a valid concern" with traffic congestion when the previous plans were announced, but Mason Dixon wouldn't be in a high-traffic area. Motorists wouldn't even be able to see the casino, located off

See **CASINO/A7**

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YORK WEATHER

Mostly sunny on Friday, high 43
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