

**Y SPIRIT IS
ELL AT THESE
TABLE EVENTS**
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LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARING FOR RECORD NUMBERS OF PEOPLE CROWDING INTO THE NATIONAL MALL AND THE PARADE ROUTE FOR THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA.

STORY | A-10



area residents looking for tickets to travel by train to President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration on Jan. 20 lined up early Saturday morning at the Monocacy MARC station.

Brian Bolger, a Brunswick line trainmaster, said about 30 to 40 people were wrapped around the Monocacy station at 7:30 a.m., a full hour-and-a-half before opening time.

By 10 a.m., ticket seekers were trickling in and out of the station. The MARC website, which also sold inauguration day train tickets, had about 140,000 hits in the first half-hour of sales, Bolger said.

Only the special commemorative, round-trip tickets, which are \$25 each, will be valid Jan. 20.

(See OBAMA A-10)

will be below freezing," said National Weather Service forecaster Richard Hitchens. He said that the winter advisory was in effect for all of Maryland "west of I-95."

Vicki Martin, Frederick County emergency communications shift supervisor, said neither the State Highway Administration nor the county Division of Public Works had anything planned for local roads as of 7 p.m. Saturday.

(See WEATHER A-2)

HELPING PEOPLE, HELPING GOD

WATERBOYZ 4 JESUS BRING CHRISTMAS TO LOCAL DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES

By NICHOLAS C. STERN
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Before heading out to deliver Christmas gifts and food baskets to disadvantaged and disabled families Saturday morning in the Frederick area, a dozen or so members of The Waterboyz 4 Jesus gathered around a piano and sang "Silent Night."

The occasion marked the group's third annual Christmas at the Margins event, organized this year in partnership with Second Street and Hope, a nonprofit

(See HELPING A-2)



Brittany Foss, 14, and Emmet Eckman, 11, play Christmas songs on the piano as people and presents gathered at Centennial Memorial United Methodist Church on West Second Street for the Waterboyz 4 Jesus function Saturday morning.

Staff photo by Skip Lawrence

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FROM PAGE ONE

Helping

(Continued from A-1)

group associated with Centennial Memorial United Methodist Church in downtown Frederick.

Waterboyz started four years ago and is essentially a Bible study group of men from a variety of Christian denominations, said Paul Foss, the group's president.

The study groups, which are mostly based in Frederick but have spread to Texas, Egypt, India and South Africa, meet once a week.

Each month, the groups, or tables, join forces and do a service project. Past efforts have included a house makeover for a widow and a yard cleanup for an elderly woman, Foss said.

In 2007 Waterboyz raised about \$25,000 in donations, he said.

Last year, Waterboyz brought gifts and food to 12 families, Foss said. Despite economic hardships this year, the group has expanded its reach to include 25 families.

Waterboyz members will also sing Christmas carols and bless each family, many of whom were chosen by Second Street and Hope, Foss said.

"We feel like if we're going to help Jesus, we're going to help people," he said.

Dave Burg, a Waterboyz member for about 10 months, said he was bringing a delivery to a single mother with two young children at Hope Alive Inc., a Freder-



We have a lot of blessings — **IT'S NICE TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK.**

BERNIE THOMPSON
Waterboyz member

ick County shelter for homeless women and children.

Burg, who said he had once been in a motorcycle gang and once had a drug problem, had been moving toward a group like Waterboyz as a way of changing the direction of his life.

"It's something I've been looking for for a long time," Burg said.

Don Freitag, a retired Montgomery County Police detective, joined Waterboyz a year ago.

Freitag said he attends group meetings two or three times a week to discuss spirituality and God.

"I like all the things we get involved in," he said. On Saturday, Freitag joined Burg in delivering food and gifts.

Bernie Thompson, a Waterboyz member for three years, said he enjoys the service side of the group's activities.

"We have a lot of blessings — it's nice to give something back," he said.



Staff photo by Skip Lawrence