

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

April 20, 2007

Volume IV, Number 3.



Jocelyn Bodmer hits her fifth shot in a row. See Youth Sports on Page 8.



William Ennis gives it his all. Family Album on Page 2.



Connor Hall and a friend at a recent Poolesville Little League game. More pictures and details in Family Album and Business Briefs on page 8.



You have to start somewhere. Read School News on Page 18 to see where it all went.

Murders, Suicide Shock Community

By Jack Toomey

On the afternoon of April 3, news of a horrific crime spread throughout the upper county area. Commuters on their way home and passersby stopped at the Barnesville School where a large contingent of media had gathered. Some learned the news for the first time while others had heard the information on the radio and stopped to inquire. Just down the road at Good News Farm, 16700 Barnesville Road, the police were conducting an investigation and had closed Barnesville Road to all traffic.

Montgomery County Police said that Gerardo Roque, age 35, had picked his two young children up from daycare, had driven to a location near Good News Farm, and then had parked alongside Barnesville Road. At that point, he called his former girlfriend and mother of the children, Carol Danforth, and threatened to harm them. Roque then walked into the woods with the children. Danforth rushed home and spotted Roque's car parked on the shoulder of the road. She called the police and ran into a wooded area where she found her children and Roque who were all deceased. Police who had responded heard Danforth calling them from the woods. Montgomery County Police surmised that Roque had killed



Aleta White and her daughter Raquel White express their shock after hearing the news.

the children and then hanged himself. The children were identified as Maria Danforth, a two-year-old, and Carlos Diego Danforth, age one. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner later ruled that Roque had murdered Maria and Carlos Diego and then had taken his own life.

Aleta White, whose daughter keeps her horse at the farm, had heard the news from another horse owner and came to the scene with her daughter. Mrs. White said that Carol Danforth lived in one of the houses on the farm and gave riding lessons and trained horses. White said, "I am in disbelief, we never know why these things happen." Raquel White, a freshman at Urbana High School, told the Monocle, that she had kept her horse

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Responding to the Tragedy

With the shocking news of the tragic murder-suicide involving Gerardo Roque and the grievous loss of Carlos Diego Danforth and Maria Socorro Danforth, area residents may be uncertain as to what they might do to help the surviving family members. The Rev. Charles Hoffacker of St. Peter's Church made three suggestions. First, the family anticipates difficulties meeting the funeral expenses, and donations can be made to the Danforth Family Memorial Fund c/o Potomac Pony Club, P.O. Box 233,

Poolesville, MD 20837-0233. Second, for those wishing to send a personal note to Mrs. Danforth, the same address should be used. Finally, he suggested, "We pray for those touched by this tragedy, both the living and the dead. In doing so, one may find these prayers useful as well. The cards, gifts, and prayers may seem pitifully small, but they are expressions of love that teach us that love is stronger than death."

Mary Chiswell: Poolesville's Matriarch

Passes Away

By Rande Davis

Mary Fyffe Chiswell, 104, passed away in the early hours of April 14, 2007 at Shady Grove Hospital.

This grand lady who lived in and so loved Poolesville for more than a century was beloved by her family,



Mary Chiswell (1902 to 2007)

friends, students, and even those who only knew her for a short period of time. If you asked her, Mary would say her long life was due to being raised on her mother's good cooking. For those who knew Mary, they recognize her secret to longevity to be her warm and positive nature and special humor, both of which were with her to her last breath.

Born on October 8, 1902, she was the oldest living graduate of Towson University, and when she turned one hundred years old, the University gave her special acclaim. Mary taught elementary school (mostly second grade) from 1919 until 1964. She was the senior member of a grand cadre of beloved local teachers who devoted their lives to education in our community. Among these dear colleagues

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Family Album

Sponsored by: Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



Lacy Eeg is four days old. (Photo by Hilary Schwab Shapiro.)



Little Charlotte Larson get her face painted by Ashley Fink during Poolesville Baptist Church Easter Egg day.



Cal Ripken came to Poolesville to watch his son in little league and, true to form, he took time to have some pictures taken with Breanne Hall, Danielle Roche, and Amelia Hall.



Poolesville town employees sprucing up Whalen's Commons.



Three Poolesville gentlemen (Steve Bodmer, Franklin Poole, and Robert Brown) enjoy a warm spring afternoon on the porch of the Frederick Poole House.

A MONOCACY MOMENT

*Lacy (3 Days old) and Jaime Eeg
Love at first Sight!*



Photograph by Hilary Schwab Photography

Tribute

Greydon Tolson: Seeing the Forest for the Trees

By Rande Davis

The Pulse section of this issue of the Monocle presents the Montgomery County Forestry Board. One of the most significant persons credited

with county forestry conservation and one who helped restore the Forestry Board's system and its mission is Dickerson's Greydon Tolson. This is a tribute to more than fifty years of public service to the care of our forests and natural resources.

Greydon Tolson was born in Shawnee on the Delaware in Pennsylvania in 1922 and moved to Montgomery Coun-

ty at age two. He originally wanted to go into farming with his father, but his father's health failed. Having attended Bethesda Elementary and Leland Junior High Schools, Greydon graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in 1939, and, not being able to afford Penn State's Forestry program, he enrolled at the University of Maryland as a botany major. In the Ag College, he took forestry courses, and Fred Besley (Maryland's first state forester and originator of the first Big Tree List in the country) was his teacher.

World War II came, Greydon found his beloved Betty, and he dropped out of college to marry. In 1942, he became a tree climber for Asplundh under a trimming contract with Pepco. He then joined the army, the 95th Signal Division, and served in Europe and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. In response to the bitter cold, Greydon found warmth under the cover of the trees in the forest.

After his discharge in 1945, Greydon founded his own tree and landscaping business and he and Betty bought a house on Halpine Road. One of his clients was Fred Lee, then the President of the Montgomery County Council. Fred Lee and Council member/conservationist Lathrop Smith offered Greydon the position of Montgomery County Forester and charged him with organizing the tree maintenance program for



Greydon Tolson with his son, Brian and daughter, Cathy Phelen.

the county. They promised him that he could run it like a business, which he did for twenty-eight years and prized himself that he was able to maintain a satellite office without having to work from headquarters.

As Chief of the Tree Division, he started with the responsibility for tree planting and maintenance of roadsides and trees on county property including the review of all construction plans in regard to trees. With the growth of the suburban district, other services were needed: street cleaning, county dump and leaf collection programs were incorporated, and the Tree Division became the Division of Services. All the work was done in-house with county employees rather than let on contract; Greydon is proud that this stability provided a

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Things to Do

April 20 & 21

St. Peter's Annual Spring Rummage Sale
Fisher Ave. - Poolesville
Fri.: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sat.: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Countryside Artisans' 2007 Spring Studio Tour

14 Studios Open to Public
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Visit www.countryartisans.com

April 20

Voice of the Violin
Benefit Concert by Sandy Cameron
PHS Auditorium
Silent Auction - Opens 6:30 p.m.
Advance Purchase of Tickets
Highly Advised - Jon's Video
7:30 p.m.

Basket Bingo

Benefit Carroll Manor Grange
Carroll Manor Fire Hall
Doors Open 5:30 p.m.
Games start at 7:00 p.m.

"Planetary Herbs"

A talk by author Frank Cook
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Green Earth Goods, 23341 Frederick Rd. Clarksburg
301-916-2035

April 21

15th Annual Casino Night
Benefit Amer. Legion Baseball
Mont. Co. Fairgrounds - Gaithersburg
Admission \$15
Includes Food, Drinks, and Prizes
www.post295.org

Organic Gardening Workshop, 11:00 a.m.
"Simple Steps to Go Green," 1:00 p.m.
Green Earth Goods, Clarksburg.
301-916-2035.

April 22

Earth Day Celebration
B-CC Izaak Walton League
Willard Road - Poolesville
Free Admission and lunch
Exhibits for Kids
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Info: 301-972-8942

Earth Day at Green Earth Goods
Recycled Art Project
1:00 p.m. Green Earth Goods, Clarksburg
301-916-2035

April 24

Family Storytime
Poolesville Library
Stories, fingerplay, and music
Ages six and under with parents
7:00 p.m.

April 26

Three to Six Storytime
Poolesville Library
Stories, fingerplay, and music
10:30 a.m.

April 26

Relay for Life FR
Dining for a Cure
Chik-Fil-A - Germantown
5:00 p.m.
chrissie.Harney@verizon.net

April 28

Helping Hands Re-Building Together
Helpers Needed
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Contact: 301-972-7570

Sugarloaf Citizens Assoc. Annual Meeting
Linden Farm (Martinsburg Road - Dickerson)
10:00 a.m.

St. Thomas More Academy Fundraiser
"Grapes and Gifts Galore"
\$25 admission
Refer to Big Board for details

April 29

Arbor Day Celebration
M-NCPPC Agricultural History Farm
18400 Muncaster Road, Rockville
Smokey the Bear, face painting, tree planting, and treasure hunt
301-650-2620

April 30

Poolesville Library
Book Discussion Group
Corelli's Mandolin by Louis De Bernieres
7:30 p.m.



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Commentary

No Heroes Here

By John Clayton

It has been a curious week. The fall of Don Imus for derogatory statements and the vindication of the Duke lacrosse players who were accused of rape has provided enough irony to sustain us until the next outrage against racial sensitivity.

It was obvious for some time that the charges against the three Duke students were without legal substance. The North Carolina judicial system has now made that official. Watching the men on the news with their relieved parents, I was struck by the portrayal of innocence and redemption. The three young men were proven innocent. The North Carolina attorney general used that very word; he went beyond saying that there was not enough evidence to convict—they were innocent. In fact, it was a wrong against these three young men that had been remedied by our judicial system, not a wrong against those thought to be the victims.

The three students and their friends had hired two women for some adult entertainment. Testimony that has not to my knowledge been refuted is that the scene in the house turned ugly. Insults, threats, and epithets were thrown at the two women—violent and racist. Did this trigger the chain of events that resulted in vengeful if bogus charges against three of the men? If I were on that team and I was placed in legal jeopardy and my parents had to pay for hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal support, I would be pretty upset at the people who went over the line and helped set events in motion. I might resent my "friends" as much as my accuser. I hope I would wonder why that particular behavior was considered acceptable in my society.

In the same week, Don Imus was fired for his remarks. In his glory, he felt totally free on national radio and television to insult some college athletes—girls, at that—both for their gender and for their race. The insult was almost offhand. He and his producer were just goofing around, supremely confident that this was within the ethics of their show, their profession, and above all to the liking of their audience.

Since this level of humor is actually quite common on the radio, the uproar must have seemed unexpected, at least to Imus. The monetary sums associated with his show are mind boggling. If I recall correctly, the show is worth over \$20 million in annual revenue, yielding several million dollars in profit. Mr. Imus himself carts away several million dollars a year. That money comes from somewhere. I guess there were a lot of people egging him on to do just what he does, and he went too far, and it had a price tag attached—just like some of those Duke guys.

None of this makes any of this someone else's fault. If you act like a jerk, there may be consequences. The fact that other people encouraged you along your way doesn't absolve anything. A jerk is a jerk, and jerks have to be accountable for their actions, even if it isn't against the law.

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Letter to the Editor

I am taking the time to write you this note in the hopes of encouraging you to quit "taking potshots at foxes," (The Monocle, March 16, "With Friends Like These"). I hardly know where to begin.

Cats are about the size of a fox, so unless you have an elderly cat, it will be in no danger. There are plenty of mice and voles and rats and rabbits for the foxes to eat, and they are much easier for the fox to dispatch.

There are all kinds of reasons why you should leave the foxes alone,

beginning with the fact that they are lovely creatures, they get rid of pests like mice and rats and voles and they provide great sport for foxchasers.

If you are worried about your cats, please bring them in. Cats should not be allowed to decimate the bird population, in any event.

In addition, it is never sportsmanlike to take potshots, potentially wounding a wild animal. If you are on a mission to kill an animal, take care to do it properly and immediately, never leaving an animal to suffer.

Sincerely,
Laura Van Etten



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Letter to the Editor

I refer to the report in your newspaper dated February 2, 2007 ("Chimney Fire Destroys Townhouse – Again") and feel very strongly that it was not reported correctly.

Mr. and Mrs. Carr were not asleep and unaware of the fire when Officer Jerry Binnox knocked on their door. Their son, Andre, was sleeping upstairs and was awakened by the crackling of the fire. They were already up and dressed and running to their uncle's house further down the street when the officer knocked at our door and we only live two doors away. This was at 3.45 a.m., not 3.00 a.m. as reported.

It took approximately twenty minutes to get a fire truck here, and the hose was not used immediately. In fact, it was lying idly on the ground when I drove away. According to my neighbors and onlookers, it was a full forty minutes before three lines went into the house. The wind then took the flames to both the houses on either side causing fire damage to their roof rafters. Both of the houses on either side of 19568 were flooded and have severe damage. These people, too, are without homes and have a warning on their doors that it is dangerous to enter.

In this report, I quote: "They tell me this is the fourth chimney fire." Who are they?

The fire in the summer of 2006 was caused by burning trash in a fireplace where the chimney had not been maintained. I am not aware of the other two fires in your report, but it is a large estate of approximately 260 houses and, although one fire is one fire too many, four in thirty years—when homeowners do not maintain their properties in a correct manner—does not seem surprising.

Chief Moore stated that the chimneys are over thirty years old with a metal flue that is dangerous. These chimneys are not dangerous if maintained. As with all material things, they become dangerous if not maintained. No one has the right to state this as a fact as he does not know if the other residents have maintained their chimneys. I had a new chimney put in approximately nine years ago and have now installed a gas fire—not for safety but for convenience. These houses were built to the building code enforced at that time. To say such a thing is detrimental to the condition of our homes. They would have to be individually inspected for such a statement to be justified as metal flues by themselves are not inherently dangerous, and many houses have them installed

today.
Charles S Dietz
19564 Fisher Avenue

Thank you for your comments. You are right that 3:45 a.m. was the time the officer knocked on your door. Mrs. Carr told the Monocle that the family was asleep as the fire developed and the knocking at the door by the police officer coincided with her son screaming. She expressed her appreciation that the police officer made sure the family was moving out of their house prior to moving to your house.

The Montgomery Fire Department is the source of information about the four chimney fires. The Chimney Safety Institute of America has expressed concern about these fireplaces, even with proper maintenance, and recommends restrictions on their usage. The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services has distributed a flyer around town, including your neighborhood, that addresses many of your points concerning the safety of the fireplaces in Meadow Valley. More information is also available from the Office of Consumer Protection, the Better Business Bureau, and the National Chimney Sweep Guild.

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department told the Monocle that they arrived on the scene in less than ten minutes and that the fire was brought under control within fifteen minutes of their arrival. Of course, other units and multiple backup units continued to arrive after that time. The drill for multi-dwelling locations requires back up units from outside of the area, and as the winds picked up, even more units were called to prevent the fire from spreading to more dwellings.



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This lovely stone home sits on a prominent knoll surrounded by mature trees, pasture and a stream. With more than 3,700sq.ft. of living area, the home features 4 BRs, 2 full BAs & 2 half BAs. Main level LR, DR, kitchen, sunroom, mudroom/ laundry rm & powder rm. The upper level houses 3 BRs, 2 full BAs. The 3rd level includes a large BR & half BA. Amenities include wood floors, 3 FPs, patio and gazebo. Additionally, the property boasts a 2-story bank barn, in-ground swimming pool, & stone guest cottage w/ LR, kitchen, BR & full BA. MLS#MC6046269. **Offered at \$2,250,000**

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Poolesville-Westerly
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Poolesville-Westerly
This lovely 3 BR, 2.5 BA colonial is in move-in condition. New windows throughout, updated BAs, raised panel doors, custom kitchen w/ Pergo flr., Corian counters, maple cabinets & French doors leading to screened porch. Add'l features include a spacious entry foyer, cozy fam. rm w/ FP, office, 3 large BRs including a MBR & BA. Beautiful lot (nearly 1/3 ac.) w/ mature trees & fenced backyard, one-car garage. MLS#MC6259658. **Offered at \$479,000**



Poolesville-Wesmond
Poolesville-Wesmond: Charming 3 BR, 2 BAs split foyer w/ detached oversized 2-car garage. Main lvl LR., kitchen/dining area w/ gleaming wood flrs., spacious sunroom w/ vaulted ceiling, wall-to-wall carpet & exit door to deck, 2 BRs & full BA. Lower lvl boasts a large BR, full BA, cozy fam. rm. w/ stone FP, utility rm. & storage area. Great backyard w/ privacy fencing & 2 storage sheds. Convenient to schools, parks, walking trails & shopping area. MLS#MC6318033. **Offered at \$429,000**



Poolesville-Summerhill - Spacious 4 BR, 2.5 BA townhome close to schools, parks & stores. Entry foyer w/ wood flrs., eat-in kitchen w/ maple cabinets & new stove w/ ceramic cooktop, new Kenmore W/D, LR/DR combo w/ FP & French doors to Trex deck. Upper lvl Master BR & BA, 3 more BRs, full BA. Freshly painted w/ new carpet. MLS #MC6235384. **Offered at \$271,500**



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Big Board

St. Mary's Church and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima Needs Your Pictures

Members of the Church have been gathering pictures, writings and information about the church's first two hundred years. The pictures and information collected so far have been mostly after the mid-1950s when the church's wooden altar was replaced with the current altar. St. Mary's is requesting anyone who has pictures of the church, especially the interior, from before the mid-1950s, from marriages, baptisms, confirmations, etc., to bring them to the Rectory, 18230 Barnesville Road, Barnesville, or mail them to St. Mary's, P.O. Box 67, Barnesville, MD 20838-0067. Please make sure the photos have your name and address on the back. Also, if possible, please identify anyone in the pictures.

Voice of the Violin

Sandy Cameron, world-renowned violinist (PHS Class of 2005), will again take the stage for the Fourth Sandy Cameron Music Benefit Concert at Poolesville High School, Friday, April 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the exciting Silent Auction. Sandy has invited musicians from Harvard University to join her on the stage, and they will be accompanied by pianist Anna Ouspenskaya. Some of the items for bidding at the auction include a helicopter ride, a visit to Seven Springs Resort, box seats and parking for a Nationals game, and orchestra seats for Strathmore Hall performances of the National Philharmonic. Proceeds will go towards the music programs of the Poolesville Cluster.

Carl Orff's Carmina Burana

The Frederick Children's Chorus will perform Carl Orff's famed "Carmina Burana" with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Choral Arts Society. The performance of the cantata based on a selection of twenty-four medieval poems will take place on Saturday, April 21 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the Maryland Theater in Hagerstown. Ticket prices range from \$21.00 to \$79.00 for adults and \$11.00 to \$40.00 for students. For more information, visit www.marylandsymphony.org or call 301-797-4000.

Singing in the Rain (1952)

"What a glorious feeling" to dance under an umbrella while it's raining—maybe. The beloved movie will be showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on April 20 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Avner the Eccentric

A clown and master of subtle physical comedy, Avner Eisenberg, known as Avner the Eccentric, has brought

his unique brand of physical humor to theatres around the globe for the past three decades. Catch him at the Weinberg Center for the Arts Saturday, April 21 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$10.00 to \$15.00. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Charlie Brown at Arts Barn

The City of Gaithersburg, in partnership with Montgomery Playhouse, proudly presents "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg. Weekend performances are scheduled from April 27 through May 20, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$14 for residents and \$16 for nonresidents.

Based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schultz, with book, music and lyrics by Clark M. Gesner, additional dialogue by Michael Mayer, and additional music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa, this musical chronicles the events in a day in the life of Charlie Brown (Sam Frenkel) and his imaginative beagle, Snoopy (Andrea Greenleaf). All of his familiar friends, Lucy (Catie Collins), Linus (Brett Harwood), Schroeder (Greg Meyer), and Sally Brown (Chrissy Miller) join in the fun with a musical score filled with delightful songs. The show is directed by John Dickson, musical direction by Micky Goldstein, and choreography by Mary Schmidt, produced by David Jones. For program information, registration, and tickets call 301-258-6394 or visit the city online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn.

Celebrate Earth Day at B-CC IWLA

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (B-CC IWLA) invites the public to enjoy nature and the great outdoors at their Nature for Youth Earth Day Celebration. The event will be held at the B-CC Chapter (20601 Izaak Walton Way – off West Willard Road – Poolesville) on Sunday, April 22, 2007, from noon to 4:00 p.m. (Rain date is April 29, same time.) Admission is free, and a free lunch will be served from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Some of the interactive exhibits families can participate in include a beehive exhibit, camping and fishing (sample fresh trout cooked over a campfire), historic log cabin tour, pond water life, native tree planting/exhibit, birdhouse construction, and much more! Come early because disposable cameras will be given to the first twenty-five families who register. The best photos taken that day will be posted on our website. Every family will receive a live tree when they leave to plant at their home. Come out and celebrate Planet Earth with us on April 22! For additional information, contact Roger Sears at 301-972-8942.

Seven Chances (1925)

Buster Keaton plays a young lawyer who will inherit seven million dollars at 7:00 p.m. on his twenty-seventh birth-

day—provided he is married. Showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on April 27 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Eddie from Ohio

Too energetic to be labeled just "folk" and not angry enough to be pegged "alternative," Eddie from Ohio continues to defy description with their unique blend of vocals and acoustic instrumentation. Catch them, if you can, at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on April 28 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$20.00 to \$30.00. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

PHS Post Prom Party Needs Your Help

Poolesville High School's Post Prom Party, themed Under the Sea 2007, is scheduled for May 18 to May 19 and the Post Prom Community is asking the community and businesses to once again make this event successful.

Their goal is for an alcohol-free, terrific, and memorable evening for juniors and seniors. For its success, contributions—everything from cash, prizes, and an ad in their program, merchandise, food, or sponsors for an activity—is needed. Popular items are things like movie passes, retail store and gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, Ipods, digital cameras, DVD players, etc. Concerned persons should contact Tim Brown at 301-972-8733 or Timbrown450@yahoo.com.

Grapes & Gifts Galore at St. Thomas More Academy

On Saturday, April 28, the STMA Parent Teach Organization (PTO) will present its first annual Grapes and Gifts Galore at St. Thomas More wine tasting and gift sales benefit. This is a professional wine tasting event for adults only featuring complimentary hors d'oeuvres, sample desserts, music, and an elegant atmosphere for the sale of local businesses gift and services. Souvenir tasting glasses

will be given to all who attend as well as a take home goody bag. Tickets are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. For more information, contact Kathleen at 301-845-4819 or jkkmromanelli@aol.com.

Earth Day at Green Earth Goods

Green Earth Goods in Clarksburg is holding a weekend of workshops, talks, and activities in celebration of Earth Day. Activities on Friday, April 20 include a talk by author Frank Cook from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., on "Planetary Herbs," a discussion of useful herbs from different cultures. Frank has traveled to every corner of the world studying traditional healing methods, focusing on native plants and herbs. On Saturday April 21, Green Earth Goods will host an 11:00 a.m. workshop on organic gardening, followed at 1:00 by "Simple Steps to Go Green," a talk about simple ways to be more carbon neutral. On Earth Day, Sunday April 22, 1:00 p.m., there will be a recycled art project which will involve making art from gathered trash. This activity will be great for kids and families. Examples of recycled materials to be used include straws, popsicle sticks, old keys and pop tops. Call ahead for a more detailed list, and bring a small baggie of items to turn into works of art.

Events will be held at Green Earth Goods, 23341 Frederick Road, Clarksburg. For more details call 301-916-2035. Clarksburg residents are encouraged to walk to the store.

Countryside Artisan Tour

Spring has sprung in the Ag Reserve, and with it comes the annual springtime Countryside Artisan Tour showcasing fourteen Up-county artists. It's a wonderful time to take a ride throughout the country roads of the county and meet cottage artisans with a wide variety of offerings such as handcrafts, jewelry, blown glass, prints, paintings, yarns, furniture, birdbaths, ironware, plants, mosaics, and some wine-tasting. The tour is on April 20, 21, and 22 running from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For a map of the tour and other information, go to www.countrysideartisans.com.

-Continued on Page 7.

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"Big Board" Continued From Page 6.

Casino Night to Benefit American Legion Baseball

The 15th Annual Casino Night sponsored by the American Legion Post 295 is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. It will be held once again at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg. The \$15.00 admission fee covers food, drinks, and prizes. There will be no cash prizes. Winnings may be spent on a Silent Auction. For more information, go to www.post295.org or call 240-505-4660.

Helping Hands Can Use Your Helping Hands

Rebuilding Together, providing home repair help for those homeowners in special need, has their annual project planned for Saturday, April 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They have a project lined up of light repairs on a home on Jerusalem Road in Poolesville. They also are participating in a project in Laytonsville, at Camp Friendship, a facility that serves pediatric cancer patients. They hope to replace a large pool deck and power wash and stain two medium-sized buildings. They have a suitable job for all who want to help out either here in Poolesville or at the camp. Willing partners in this endeavor only have to call 301-903-1324 or 301-972-7570 to get more information.

Country Kitchen Tour

The Historic Medley is presenting its first Up-county Kitchen Tour on May 12. It will feature nine intriguing and unique kitchens in Barnesville, Seneca, and Poolesville. Visit kitchens in private homes where the past and the present mingle in charming styles. There will be eighteenth-century farmhouses as well as twenty-first-century homes. This benefit is for the Historic Medley and supports their restoration projects such as the renovation of the old town hall in Poolesville. The tour will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$35.00 and tickets may be purchased online at www.HistoricMedley.org or at Hearthiside Antiques and Garden Center in Poolesville.

Jake Perkins Falcon Golf Classic Coming Up

The annual Poolesville Booster Club's golf tournament will be held on May 25 and has been renamed this year in honor of past Booster Club president, the late Jake Perkins. The PHS Boosters help the athletic department at the high school by bringing funds for uniforms, transportation, field upkeep, along with filling in on many other needs that come up. The entry fee is \$125 per golfer (\$500 for a four-some). There are hole-in-one sponsorships available for \$100, lunch sponsorship for \$250.00, and dinner sponsorships for \$500. You can respond or obtain more information by calling 301-916-3196 or emailing fajme@msn.com.

Plan for the Annual Fishing Tournament

The 17th Annual Richard S. McKernon Youth Fishing Tournament will be held on May 12. The tournament will be held at Collier Circle Pond located off of Wootton Avenue and will start at 9:00 a.m. Youths between the ages of six and sixteen are invited to participate. The entry fee is just \$1.00. Registration and rules are available at the Poolesville Town Hall. Town staff will be stocking the pond with catfish, crappie, and bluegill, and they suggest chicken livers and night crawlers as the best bait to use. This is a rain or shine event that will be loads of fun.

Attention Parents of Pre-Kindergarteners

Monocacy Elementary School will be holding its annual Kindergarten Orientation event on May 3. This is always a special time for parents and kids. For more information and to get the school's orientation packet, you should contact Shari Moten at 301-972-7990. Please remember that any rising kindergartener from the Poolesville area wishing to attend Monocacy Elementary must apply for a transfer, even if a sibling already attends Monocacy.

Potomac Artists in Touch

The City of Gaithersburg proudly presents PAINT (Potomac Artists in Touch), a cooperative group of diverse, local artists on display at the Gaithersburg City Hall Gallery, 31 South Summit Avenue. The works of art in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and other media, will be on display from April 2 through June 3. PAINT formed in 2001 with the simple objective of creating a group of artists who would support and actively participate in the Potomac art community and that of the greater metropolitan area.

The Poolesville Library Advisory Committee is sponsoring its annual Poster Contest. This year's theme is "My Heroes" and runs through April 28. The awards ceremony will be held on May 25 at 7:00 p.m. There will be awards by grade with first place winning \$50.00, second place \$25.00, and honorable mentions winning \$10.00. Full details are available on the library website, www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

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Business Briefs

Welcome to Kristopher's Restaurant

The newest proprietor to join the ranks of Poolesville businesses is Krum Ivanov who recently opened Kristopher's located at 19716 Fisher Avenue near the town hall. In taking over the previous restaurant, L'Nora's, Mr. Ivanov, while offering a similar menu of pizza, sandwiches, pasta, and charbroiled burgers, already has been introducing new items and selections. "I have my own sauce and way of making a pizza that I think the residents will really enjoy."

Mr. Ivanov and his wife, Marina, reside in Virginia with their two children, Brandon (six years old) and Kris (four years old)—he chose the restaurant's name from his youngest son. Most recently, he has been working with his brother in Virginia but had previously owned a pizza restaurant in Las Vegas. He hasn't introduced slot machines yet and smilingly declined our request to do an Elvis impersonation, but he is excited over building a business in Poolesville and hopes that he might be able to move here at some point.

Along with a change in pizza recipe, he provides ten new types of specialty pizza that range from BBQ chicken and Greek Pizza to Popeye's favorite, spinach pizza. He has gone Philadelphia seven steps better by introducing seven types of Philly steak. The establishment uses only cholesterol free oil and will also specialize in hoagies and grinders. Luncheon specials are offered in packaged selections that can be ordered by number.

Khalin Shawahin, in selling the business to him, agreed to assist during the transition and asked that the Monocle mention that he was very appreciative of the support and patronage of the residents and, while regretting leaving Poolesville, looks forward to spending some very valuable time with his daughter, L'Nora, before deciding on any future moves.

Bassett's Chooses to Go Smoke-Free

Bassett's Restaurant has made the decision to end smoking in the bar area of the restaurant even though the dining areas had always been smoke free. While Montgomery County has been smoke-free for a while, Bassett's location in the township of Poolesville allowed them to continue the practice. They made the decision after weighing

the preferences of patrons and deciding that the smoke-free environment was the way to go overall.

Mystery Guest on Deck at Subway

Had you decided to get lunch at Subway on Saturday, March 24, you would have had an opportunity to see one of baseball's truly great players and one who is also a true gentleman. Leaving that description alone, many sports fans would probably have quickly identified the mystery guest. Enjoying lunch for over an hour after watching his son play little league locally was none other than Cal Ripken. He graciously had his picture taken with employees, and Kay, the owner of the business. The fun of having him and his family there and the thrill of getting to speak to him kept everyone working that day excited for many days after.

A Word of Thanks to the Poolesville Area Chamber

The many community benefits coming from the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce are not always fully understood and therefore, underappreciated. Among one that is a very important service is hosting candidate forums for those seeking office in Poolesville. They provided this important venue this past April 17 for both candidates Jim Brown and Chuck Stump that was held at the United Memorial Methodist Church. The timing of this forum unfortunately was beyond our deadline for this issue. Nevertheless, we tip our hats to the members of the PACC and its leadership for their important contribution.

Same Faces, Same Great Service, New Name

Local real estate agents, Laura and Tom Yeatts, have left Chas. H. Jamison Incorporated and have joined Keller Williams, the fastest growing real estate company in America. They will continue to work in the Poolesville area for their new company. "Tom and I are excited to bring the resources of a national real estate company to our Poolesville area clients," said Laura Yeatts. "We'll still be here in the neighborhood, but being at Keller Williams allows us to have the power of an international company behind us. National name recognition, relocation services, and advanced technology are just some of the benefits we have to offer." Tom and Laura will continue to use the HomesInPoolesville.com website, and they assure us you'll see them around town.

Youth Sports

PBA Rising Stars Are Champs

The following is being shared with the readers for the Monocle and was adapted from the PBA website (www.pbahoops.com). This one article seems to appropriately share the excitement and success experienced by the girls throughout the season.

Before a packed house at the Germantown Community Center, the PBA Rising Star girls kept their cool, played hard-nosed defense, and hit several crucial shots to edge the Flames-Baker 23-19 in overtime and thus claim the Montgomery County Sixth Grade Rising Star Championship. The win gives Poolesville a 13-1 season record and a championship in their first year of PBA play. With the victory, Poolesville High School (JV and Varsity) and PBA (Rising Star, JV, and Varsity) girls' teams recorded an astounding combined record of 79-14 for the 2006-07 season. This final win of the season looked tenuous early on as the Flames ran up an 8-4 lead and looked like they were ready for more. Poolesville was getting plenty of open looks at the bucket, but the shots weren't falling. "We could not get the ball to drop in for us—shots we would usually make with ease kept rolling around and falling out," said Coach Cathy Carnahan. "I just kept telling them to keep taking good shots and crash the boards." The first half ended with Kelsey Carnahan (nine points, five rebounds) hitting the first of her three three-pointers to close the margin to 8-7 at the break. The second half found Carnahan back on the offensive

said Coach Carnahan to her troops—and it was. The Rising Stars immediately took a 20-17 lead. After several defensive stops, the Flames scored to pull within one. Kelly Hughes, with seventeen rebounds to her credit already, snagged a board and was fouled by a Flame to force a one-and-one. With the crowd roaring and a championship on the line, Hughes calmly sank both freebies to give Poolesville a three-point lead. The Falcons made another defensive stop and Hughes was fouled again with seven seconds left and a chance to put the game out of reach. With the coolness of a typical Poolesville winter day, Hughes sank the first one to effectively put out the Flames. The game ended with the hefty pro-Poolesville crowd spilling onto the court in celebration. While the usuals handled the scoring load during this game, an unsung hero did her job quietly and efficiently. Reagan Holston was called upon by Coach Carnahan to stop (or at least slow down) the Flames best player, Kristen Carter. Holston was "the difference maker. Reagan gave us everything tonight. ...She was physical, had great technique, and made the stops we needed...She was awesome," says Coach Carnahan. "Allie Greene made some tough defensive stops for us as well. We had some girls that didn't get in tonight, but I was incredibly proud of them too. They encouraged the girls on the court all night long. I couldn't have a more unselfish group of kids." Coach Carnahan couldn't help but notice the fan support, "I'm at a loss for words, the fact that so many people...came out to support a sixth grade girls' basketball is unbelievable. The girls were so excited and the fans really were the sixth man tonight for us. We could not have [played as well] without them in the gym.

The Rising Stars went on to win their next two games in the same fashion—a close game in the beginning, then the "Falcon Burst" that seems to propel the players well and beyond into riveting wins. The final scores were 31-24 and 34-17. "The girls are fighters when they want to be, and they [do a good job] of finishing and making the most of their opportunities," says Coach Carnahan.



Top: Coach Cathy Carnahan, Abby Rosen, Haley Davison, Shannon Hemp, Kelly Hughes, Reagan Holston, and Carmen Maita. Bottom: Jaime Baker, Cassidy Florczyk, Allie Greene, Jocelyn Bodmer and Kelsey Carnahan. (Photo supplied by Lynne Bodmer)

helped by Jocelyn Bodmer who helped bring the Rising Stars into the lead by the fourth quarter. The two teams ended the second half tied 17-17 and headed into overtime. "Overtime is our time!"

Daytripper

Harper's Ferry

By Jack Toomey

A traveler who takes a turn off of Route 340 immediately after arriving in West Virginia and only thirty-five miles from the Poolesville area will suddenly be taken back in time to a period when soldiers roamed the streets, merchants sold their wares to townfolk, and steam locomotives pulled their trains across the Potomac River.

Harper's Ferry, West Virginia was founded in 1733 and later named after Robert Harper who established a ferry business at this location. Located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, the town has had an impressive list of visitors over the years. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Stonewall Jackson, and Meriwether Lewis are just a few of the notables who have visited this place. The National Park Service owns much of the town and has restored most of the buildings so they give the appearance of the town in the 1860s. A visitor can expect to see restored buildings,

exhibits, ranger-conducted talks and tours, strolling impressionists, and programs of all kinds. A recent visitor to Harper's Ferry encountered a gentleman strolling through town—Noah Briggs, who by day is a government contractor, and by weekend is an impressionist playing the part of citizen of Harper's Ferry in the Civil War era. Briggs said that he is assigned to various points in town to answer questions from tourists, to give directions, and he insists that his character is forever trapped in the 1860s, and he denies knowing anything about modern conveniences. He said, "I do this in part for me because I like to interpret this particular era because it was not just the military that built this nation, it was also the citizens."

The lower part of town contains the site of the Federal Arsenal that George Washington insisted be built at that location. It was here that John Brown led his infamous raid just before the Civil War in an attempt to obtain arms to free slaves in the southern states. There are also retail shops, booksellers, museums, restaurants, and snack shops. A short walk up a trail of steps leads to Jefferson Rock where Thomas Jefferson, who visited in the town

in 1783 and while standing at the rock that bares his name, gazed out over the roaring rivers and imposing mountains, and exclaimed, "This scene is worth a trip across the Atlantic." Further up these steps is the Harper family graveyard where many of the original residents of the town are buried. There is also an overlook behind the Arsenal where a visitor can look out at the mighty Potomac River where it meets the Shenandoah. A footbridge crosses the Potomac to the Maryland side of the river and the sound of diesel horns will delight children and train lovers as CSX railroad trains pass on an adjacent bridge. For the adventurous, a trail on the Maryland side of the footbridge will take a hiker to the top of Maryland Heights, a mountain that towers over Harper's Ferry where spectacular views of the town can be experienced. At this place on the mountain the ruins of old forts and military roads can be found. Warning! This hike is only for those who are in good physical condition and willing to spend several hours accomplishing the climb to the top. The C&O Canal bed can also be viewed on the Maryland side of the river. Back on the West Virginia side of the river is the town of Bolivar

where the Union Army skirmish line is maintained. Bolivar also has many souvenir shops and antique stores. Directions can be obtained at the visitor's center or from any ranger. If you haven't visited the Joyline Railroad, a small scale railroad for children that was featured in a Monocle article last summer ("The Joyline Railroad," August 11, 2006), you can easily fit that into your day since it is located on Bakerton Road, just a mile west on Route 340.

National Park Ranger Tiffany Moreland explained that parking is very limited in the town and that visitors are asked to park at the visitor's center, only a mile away, and then take a shuttle bus to the town. Moreland said that the most frequently asked question she gets from visitors besides inquires about the bathrooms is: "What is this place?" To find out all about "this place," to take a pleasant ride in the country, and to visit a very interesting town that adults and children will enjoy, make sure that you make the short trip there this spring or summer.

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Editorial

Do We Really Want to "Nationalize" Local Politics?

By Rande Davis

As I get older, I am not sure I am getting wiser, but I do know that I am getting a bit more confused about the proper order of things. As the Good Book says, "For everything there is a season [Ecclesiastes 3:1]." Only now it would be written "there *was* a season." Growing up, I can still remember my mom saying, "There is a time and place for that, but not now." Oh, how the world has changed.

Take the weather for instance. Spring was spring, and summer was summer. Now you cannot be sure what wardrobe will be useful even next week. This past month, my wife's aunt from the Netherlands visited us for ten days and she had the unique opportunity of experiencing Poolesville in winter, spring, summer, and fall.

Then there was sex and religion. It used to be that in polite society you might discuss your thoughts on religion, but it was way out of line to talk about your thoughts on sex. Now it is the other way around. Then again, the season for polite society seems long gone, too.

All this gets me thinking about the season for politics. I can actually remember when there was a time for campaigning and a time for governance. Candidates ran for president for a year, got elected, had a honeymoon for ninety days, governed for two years with debate, and then in the last year, the campaign began again. Now, of course, the heat of politics is always present. On a national level, it is 24/7 with shrillness in tone by opposing sides so intense that the notion

that differing opinions could be appreciated through shared good will is one more thing of a bygone era. Even as a Republican, I ask, Where is the happy warrior when we need him?

All this leads me to make my point about the election—no, not the big one—the one here in Poolesville. Fortunately, we have two candidates who are running out of concern for the town and who really do possess good will. Their willingness to serve is something to be applauded. In Poolesville, choosing to run for office hasn't been so simple. A few people in the town have decided that the intense negativity of national politics is right for our town. Righteous indignation is something that is very useful at the right time. (Yes, there is a season to be angry.) Permanently being angry is not a sign of passion, however, as much as a sign of weakness. I can't speak for you, but for me, most of the time when I do lose my temper (always more than I should) it's usually because I am wrong. I think that is because when I really know I am right, it's easier to stay calm.

On behalf of the two town candidates and the current office holders (or other town volunteers) I want to assure them that the *Monocle* will provide an alternative to having their Saturday mornings ruined by false and near-libelous charges by individuals, who, while having the perfect forum to allow them to respond to the criticism, will not do so. We invite the candidates and the commissioners to write Op-Ed columns much as we invite readers to send in letters to the editor.

Since we began with Ecclesiastes, we will also end with it. "Be not quick in anger, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools [Ecclesiastes 7:9]."

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Equestrian

Reclaiming the Racehorse: A Case Study Chapter Four

By Debby Lynn

This is the fourth installment of a continuing series on Phoebe, a former racehorse being introduced to a new life as a hunt and event horse. In the first article, we met and fell in love with Phoebe, a well bred but very nervous young mare who just didn't have the mental attitude required for racing. Chapters two and three found Phoebe adapting to her new home and learning some initial lessons about trust and dominance which set the stage for her to become a successful riding horse.

By now, I'd had Phoebe the better part of a month, and was itching to ride her. I arranged for a friend with many years' experience training horses to help me. Our plan was to bring her to the arena where our morning lunge sessions had taken place, warm her up with her usual lunge routine, then hop on, with my friend providing the same assistance as a track groom would. Horses at the track are not usually required to stand for mounting. A halter with a shank is placed over the bridle when the horse is led out. One groom leads the horse around the shed row while another throws the rider up as the horse is walking. This minimizes opportunities for the horse to play up or buck. A horse moving forward is a horse staying out of trouble. The groom usually leads the horse forward while the rider arranges reins and irons. When the rider announces "settled," the groom unclips the lead and lets the horse move away. This should have been a good plan for Phoebe, after all, she was a big girl of three and had plenty of experience under saddle. But as I was beginning to understand, Phoebe is not a very adaptable horse. Once she knows something is okay, like a car whizzing by, she accepts it totally and is unfazed. If she's not sure, she has a strong adverse reaction, tending to panic. The solution to this problem is the same as for all training roadblocks: break the problem down into discreet learning experiences, and use enough repetition to reinforce the newly-learned behavior before adding the next step. Any time you hit a snag, go back to the previous level for review and reinforcement.

In order to utilize my friend's help, we had to move Phoebe's work session to the evening, when he was available. I arrived at the appointed hour, Phoebe in hand with the lunge cavesson over her bridle. At this hour, the arena bore no resemblance to our

quiet, solitary early morning training ground. There was a group lesson going on with riders criss-crossing the arena busily in response to the cheerful bellowing of the instructor. We found a small corner to lunge in, but Phoebe was far from settled when my friend arrived. I decided to ride her in the Vienna reins, feeling that she was used to them, but not my hands. I never ride in side reins, feeling it to be unsafe, but because Vienna reins restrict the horse only from raising its head, and not from lowering it, I feel they are as safe as a running martingale. My plan was to use the bridle reins only enough to correct gross navigational errors, and let the Vienna reins do the rest. Even with two people, we could not get them applied. Phoebe had come unglued: backing, wheeling, and totally inattentive to me. Her mind was wholly occupied by the hubbub around her. Prudence being the better part of valor, I retired to the barn to reconsider my options.

Changing the basic training environment had obviously been a mistake, so the next morning I returned to our normal routine and decided to risk riding alone. After lunging her quietly for twenty minutes in the Vienna reins as usual, I stood her by the mounting block, took a deep breath, and swung a leg over. The month I spent developing a relationship of trust and dominance had paid off. She felt happy and secure to have me riding her. I was delighted with the horse I felt underneath me. She was a balanced and uphill ride—beautifully rhythmic and steady, with a naturally slow cadence. I suspected, from our initial lunging work, that she would be very twitchy about accepting rein contact, and indeed she was, but I got a pleasant surprise regarding acceptance of the leg. Most horses just off the track are goosey off the leg. They

-Continued on Page 20.

Garden

The Kitchen Garden—Beyond the Vegetable Patch

By Maureen O'Connell

About this time of the year, many people start thinking about putting in a vegetable garden. It sounds great. They have visions of freshly-picked tender, young green beans, juicy red tomatoes, zucchinis that don't resemble baseball bats, shiny green and red peppers, and scented herbs. But the more that they think about it, the more disinclined they are to tackle this project. This is especially true if their past attempts were less than satisfactory or pleasurable. Very often their vegetable plots were too large to manage, so by early July, there were more weeds than vegetables. The garden becomes an eyesore in their otherwise well-maintained back yard. In another scenario, there is not enough room for both a flower garden and a vegetable garden, so they do nothing. A solution to this dilemma is a *potager*. This French word takes its name from *potage*, the French word for soup. A *potager* garden is a formal, geometric one, which has herbs and vegetables planted amongst the flowers. The term has roots dating back to the Middle Ages.

Behind the high stone walls of medieval monasteries, European monks and nuns grew their own food, herbs, medicines, and flowers. These garden sites were also places for meditation and prayer. One of the most renowned of these gardens was located at the Château Villandry. It was nine huge squares of equal size, but with different geometric patterns. In America, Thomas Jefferson created a famous kitchen garden at Monticello, where he experimented with many new vegetables and flowers. Today, a

kitchen or vegetable garden depicts a seasonally used space, defined from the rest of the residential gardens—the ornamental plants and lawn areas. Everything is laid out in rows—a row of tomatoes, a row of beans, and a row of squash. With this method, unless you are a very dedicated vegetable gardener, in a few weeks, whatever aesthetic appeal it originally had, quickly fades away. That is usually why Harry Homeowner's vegetable garden is often hidden in the far corners of the back yard. There is relative ease in planning and directly sowing traditional rows of vegetables, but visually, long rows of plants are less suited to the confines of an average backyard. It is the bare soil between the rows that makes this type of garden inefficient and hard to maintain during the hot summer months. Weeding and watering become daily chores. Wouldn't it be better and easier to create in your already established flower beds a meandering, weed-smothering carpet of vegetables? By combining perennial and annual flowering plants with vegetables and herbs in one garden, you can have an aesthetically pleasing and edible garden.

When planning your *potager*/kitchen garden, keep everything simple. Look through seed and flower catalogs to see which plants look good together. Keep in mind the plants' final height and spread, and color combinations. Lettuces offer a wide selection of colors and textures. The butter cream color of marigolds looks wonderful with an intermingling drift of emerald green parsley, soft green spring onions, and pink and green pineapple sage. Don't forget to plant some edible flowers. Mounding nasturtiums now come in many pastel shades that would look very good in front of the border.

Many herbs are first-rate ornamental plants. It would be a shame to restrict them to a little corner of

the garden; cast them into the mainstream. Last year, I edged the front of the border of a small garden of pink and white Asiatic lilies, peach daylilies, and the white coneflower 'Fragrant Angel' with pineapple sage. This herb is particularly pretty with small green leaves splashed with dabs of light pink. The garden bloomed all summer and well into the fall. I used the still-fresh sage leaves in my Thanksgiving turkey stuffing.

For pesto addicts, basil is a must-have plant. It is, however, one herb that I do not include in my flower beds. You need prodigious amounts of foliage to make this sauce, but the plant is rather nondescript. It needs to be continually pinched-back, or else you end up with a very leggy plant with small leaves and white flowers. My basil lives alone around the base of a white birch tree. He keeps me in pesto all summer, and well into winter with small frozen cubes I keep in ice cube trays.

Rosemary is a strikingly beautiful herb that can easily live amongst your flowers. It means "dew of the sea," an allusion to the plant's home on the shores of the Mediterranean. I have several planted in my rose gardens, along with lavender. Their straight gray-green leaves offer a structural contrast to the tall forms of the hybrid teas. Other herbs that do well with flowers are oregano, French thyme, sweet marjoram, chives, dill, and cilantro. Keep them well clipped so they don't go to seed or flower.

Is there a place in your flower garden for tomatoes? Definitely. There is no reason why you can't tuck a staked tomato plant next to the staked delphinium, black-eyed Susans, or white daisies. This year, there are several new small-fruited, compact plants on the market: 'Black Cherry,' 'Isis Candy,' and 'Sungold.' They would look good scattered here and there in the garden for a touch of bright red and

gold. 'Cuban Yellow Grape' and 'Red Currant' are newcomers to the teeny, tiny tomato collection. They are great for snacking in the garden or tossing in salads. Check out what's new in the heirloom tomato group. They are usually more compact than their cousins 'Better Boy,' 'Beefsteak,' and 'Better Girl.' There is no comparison between tomatoes fresh off the vine and those bought in the grocery store. You only need a couple of plants to keep you in tomatoes all summer.

A small stand of silky tassel-topped corn can add a vertical accent and a touch of whimsy to the back area of your garden. Even if you don't

-Continued on Page 13.



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**"The Kitchen Garden"
Continued From 12.**

like cabbage, a few red cabbages placed near the front of the border would brighten any spot.

Small fruit trees and shrubs look very good standing at the edge of flower gardens. Two years ago, I planted four blueberry bushes, 'Sunshine Blue,' in two of my flower beds. They are attractive and compact plants, maturing at three to four feet in height and three to four feet in width. In early spring, these dwarf plants have showy pink flowers, an easy care habit, and silvery evergreen leaves.

In our area, the strawberry season is short. Unless you pick your own at local farms, you have to settle for rather tasteless, pale berries in plastic boxes at the supermarket. In the past, I have tried growing the traditional Strawberry of the Woods as edging plants in several sunny flower beds. Their small, pointed berries are intensely flavored, but since they throw such vigorous runners, they are not suitable as edging plants. They are better suited to vegetable gardens or strawberry jars. At the turn of the past century, one of the most popular strawberries for home gardens

**Youth Sports
Scoring Runs Is Fun**

By Jeff Stuart

On an usually sunny and warm day for an early spring softball game, Seneca Valley defeated Clarksburg, 11-3, on Tuesday, March 27, but when the Coyotes' Annet Soot and Erin Bloodgood raced home with two outs in the fifth inning, it marked the beginning of something positive. "I like

was named 'Mara des Bois,' a distant cousin of the woodland strawberry. For the past several years, it has been difficult to find at local garden centers or in catalogs. This year, White Flower Farm is offering the plants for sale. You can order the plants alone, or a six-pocket, fourteen-inch terra-cotta strawberry jar, plus nine bare root plants and potting soil. This container and trailing plants would look good in the middle of a border or on the edge of a patio or deck.

There is still time and hope for a vegetable garden this year. Just keep the plans simple, and honestly assess how much time and energy you have to garden this summer, especially when the dog days of August hit us.

it when we score runs," shouted head coach Larry Hurd, who had previously coached at Poolesville High School for the last seven years. "Scoring runs is fun." His players gave each other high fives in celebration near home plate.

Three games into the young season, it was the first time the Coyotes had plated multiple runs in one inning. It cut the Seneca Valley lead to 8-3. Soot started the inning with a single to right. With two out, Bloodgood, the team's leading hitter with a .615 average, also singled to right. Both later scored when Riley Wilson grounded to third and the Seneca Valley third baseman's throw went past the first baseman. A sparkling grab of a slicing foul fly ball by third baseman Amber Ratliff to end the top of the sixth was another Coyote highlight. Freshman pitcher Wilson struck out six batters in a strong performance. The enthusiasm of that fifth inning rally carried over into Wednesday's home game against Rockville. The Coyotes posted the first softball win ever for Clarksburg, 9-1.

Catcher Bloodgood opened the bottom of the first with a single to left, and Ratliff followed with a single to right. Shortstop Kelly Gaffner walked to load the bases with nobody out. Leftfielder Michelle Sloan forced in

a run with a ground out to third, but that was all Clarksburg got. Rockville scored an unearned run in the top of the second. Solid defense and strong pitching kept the score at 1-1 through the fifth inning. When a promising Clarksburg rally in the fifth ended on a runner interference call, Coach Hurd would have to wait until the bottom of the sixth for the Coyotes to score some runs—eight runs, in fact. It was worth the wait. Wilson opened the rally with a single down the right field line. Four straight walks forced in two runs. Singles by Bloodgood and Ratliff brought home two more. Erin had three hits on the day. Then Gaffner finished off the rally with her fourth hit of the afternoon, blasting a long triple to right and scoring on an overthrow. Riley finished off the game strong retiring all three Rockville batters in the ninth and securing the win. It was the third game in three days for the Coyotes. The Clarksburg girls and coaches are looking to the future, but some things are meant to be enjoyed in the present, and this first win was one of those.

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Local News

Judge Orders Neutron Products to Proceed on Cleanup

By Kristen Milton

Proceeds from the sale of adjacent properties will be used to remove radioactive waste at Dickerson's Neutron Products, a judge recently ordered. The March 28 decision of Circuit Court Judge Eric M. Johnson upheld an earlier contempt of court finding against Neutron and its founder/president Jack Ransohoff but offered an opportunity to escape \$200,000 in fines by applying money from several specified sources to the clean-up effort.

Neutron, which until 2002 used radioactive cobalt 60 in both commercial sterilization and the production of medical supplies such as cancer therapy sources, was found in contempt in December 2005 for its failure to comply with a court order that required regular waste shipments among other provisions. However, Johnson put the ruling on hold in order to examine the company's financial ability to comply. In October, court-appointed special master James W. Salter issued a report saying the company had been capable of funding shipments in the past and identifying existing funding sources, such as the two Mt. Ephraim Road properties now slated for sale.

Ransohoff had long claimed that disposal shipments were made physically and financially impossible by the padlocking of his equipment by the Maryland Department of the Environment in September 2002. "I think I have to appeal," Ransohoff said in a telephone interview.

As he has many times over the years, Ransohoff defended his busi-

ness. "Where are the bodies?" he asked. "Where's the harm we've done? It's incredible, you do so much good and so little harm and yet be in all this trouble...It's not good government, I'll tell you that."

Opponents had a different view of the March 28 order. "I really think this is the biggest step forward that's been taken in many years," Dickerson Community Association president Carol Oberdorfer said. "Where this is all going I don't know, but at least it's not one of those steps back we seem to get in court so often."

According to Johnson's order, \$10,000 from an escrow account created in an earlier regulatory effort will be used to pay for a prioritized listing of nuclear waste on the property by an outside consultant. In April, a full clean-up of old waste at the site was estimated at \$1.7 million, which Salter said the company could not afford.

Nonetheless once the report is created, the order continues, the rest of the escrow funds will be applied to waste removal at the site, followed by proceeds from the sale of two properties near Neutron's Dickerson plant. Salter's reporter said the properties, each about two acres and improved with a residence, had a combined assessed value of \$533,890.

A May 23 status hearing scheduled in Circuit Court will be the next step in the matter.

Neutron's current legal woes are the latest in a regulatory saga that spans more than a dozen years. In 2002, state inspectors closed off access to the manufacturing equipment after an extended court battle over Neutron's failure to comply with a state financial regulation effective in 1998. The regulation was aimed at assuring that companies which deal with a certain volume of radioactive substances had sufficient funding set aside in case site cleanup was required.

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School News

St. Thomas More Academy — A School for All Seasons

By Rande Davis

When St. Thomas More Academy (STMA) first opened its doors to thirteen students in 2000, nine dropped out within three weeks because the school could not get a county occupancy permit to operate in a church building in Walkersville. This turn of events might have been devastating to others, but for the founder, Dr. James Merkle, going forward with just four students was a matter of faith, and while the school may have been a bit short in some areas, lack of faith was not one of them. As it turned out, his faith, and that of the parents, was well founded.

When the school opened one year later, thirty-five students from kindergarten through third grade moved into a doublewide trailer on church grounds. The school continued to grow each year to the point that in August 2006, 147 students (pre-K to eighth grade) became the first to use the new facility located

next to the post office in Buckeystown, Maryland. Dr. Merkle, a son of immigrants from Eastern Europe and a product of a Catholic education, became concerned that Catholic education was on a downward trend going into the 1990s. He believed that this was precisely at a time when the need for such education was never greater. In 1995, he helped to establish Friends of Catholic Education in Frederick County (FCEFC), an endowment group that had as its mission a reversal of that negative trend. FCEFC underwrote a survey for the Archdiocese that confirmed that there was a need for two new schools in the growing county. The idea for STMA came in 1999, and with those four students, this independent Catholic school had its genesis just one year later. Today, the private school is fully accredited by the State of Maryland and the National Association of Catholic Independent Schools. Saint Thomas More Academy's mission is to be a community of students, parents, and educators working together to achieve excellence in elementary education inspired by Catholic traditions and spirituality. Their mission is to "grow the minds and souls of students so that they fully develop

their capabilities and talents as children of God and recognize their own unique self-worth and potential to contribute positively to the world around them." His personal story is the classic American story of so many immigrants from around the world. From meager means, he and his two brothers, taught by their par-

the pastor, the Board of Directors of STMA chose the same builder from Myersville. After raising the funds to purchase twenty acres of the Thomas farm in Buckeystown, the parents and benefactors joined together to gain the loan to build the new school. Looking to the future, they built the complete structure leaving

the southern wing unfinished for now. The school has its own water treatment facility and holds a 20,000-gallon water tank to support its fire-prevention system. Saint Thomas More Academy offers a traditional Catholic education that blends a quality academic program with lessons in spirituality and virtuous living. The rigorous curriculum is



Dr. James Merkle and Mary Patril, Executive Director of Funding Development for St. Thomas More Academy.

ents to value education, all graduated from Pennsylvania State in engineering (their sister earned a doctorate in radiology). He went on to get an MBA from Maryland Business College and a Ph.D. in engineering from the University of Maryland. Dr. Merkle became a tenured professor of engineering there before leaving in 1979 to join the private sector.

Dr. Merkle, one might say, has a track record of building things quickly. When he and his wife, Monica, married in 1978, she was the assistant girls' basketball coach at the University of Maryland, where she had played basketball from 1971 to 1975. Monica had always wanted a large family and since he was thirty-eight at the time, he didn't "want to become like Strom Thurmond." The couple have nine children, seven of whom were born in the first eight years, ranging in ages from ten to twenty-seven, five boys (Josh, Jacob, Jeremiah, Job, and Jude) and four girls (Molly, Monica, Marta, and Mary). The family likes to joke they have the "makings of a fine basketball team with a strong bench." (The siblings attribute their athletic abilities to Mom.) Ironically, the inspiration for the new building came from a Baptist church. Dr. Merkle found himself in Poolesville and spotted the new Poolesville Baptist Church and community center. After inquiring about it from

based predominantly on teaching the classical liberal arts of grammar, logic, and rhetoric in grade-appropriate stages. The approach focuses on extensive reading, good writing skills, and, most importantly, critical thinking. At all grade levels, the school seeks to equip its students with moral fortitude and respect for Catholic values to guide them in today's society. Enrollment is not for Roman Catholics alone and STMA currently is about twenty-five percent non-Catholic. Saint Thomas More Academy's class size is strictly limited to twenty students per class for kindergarten through eighth grade. Class size for the preschool program is limited to fourteen children with one full-time teacher and one full-time aide. When their second grade enrollment moved up to twenty-two students, rather than simply accommodating the additional two students, the school created two classes with eleven students each. Dr. Merkle expects the student body to increase to 175 students for the coming year. STMA offers significant discounts to families having more than one child in the school.



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Local News

Barnesville's St. Mary's Catholic Church Celebrating 200 Years

This is the two-hundred-year anniversary of the founding of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Barnesville, Maryland. Father John Dubois founded the Church in 1807. Many changes have taken place over the years. The present church was built in 1900 after the former church burned down. In 1958, St. Mary's was designated by Pope Pius XII as the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in honor of Mary's appearances to the three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal in 1917. In addition, for 132 years, the church has held its famous chicken dinner and jousting tournament on the last Saturday in July.

This year, in honor of the two hundredth anniversary, St. Mary's is having special celebrations. On June 10, the Archbishop of Washington, Donald Wuerl, will celebrate an anniversary Mass at the church's outdoor altar. There will be other special events that day and a buffet will be served. On May 13, there will be the crowning of Our Lady commemorating the first apparition of Our Lady to the shepherd children at Fatima. And on October 13, the final apparition of Our Lady at Fatima will be celebrated.

Members of the church have been gathering pictures, writings, and information about the church's first two hundred years. The pictures and information collected so far have been mostly after the mid-1950s when the church's wooden altar was replaced with the current altar. St. Mary's is requesting that anyone who has pictures of the church, especially the interior, from before the mid-1950s, from marriages, baptisms, confirmations, etc., to bring them to the Rectory, 18230 Barnesville Road, Barnesville, MD 20838 or mail them to St. Mary's, P.O. Box 67, Barnesville, MD 20838-0067. Please make sure the photos have your name and address on the back. Also, if possible, please identify anyone in the pictures.

Poolesville Day Committee Hard at Work

The Poolesville Day Committee, under the chairmanship of Brice Halbrook along with the largest contingent of volunteers in many years, is hard at work planning what promises to be a fantastic festival with new events, vendors, and entertainment.

Brice Halbrook expresses the shared sentiment of the committee in stating his excitement about the new energy and ideas coming forward from the committee. "They are thinking big and have the ability to make it all come together." The group now numbering over twenty residents,

will be making public a number of the innovations and enhancements regarding the parade, entertainment, and selection of vendors.

The Poolesville Day committee is now organized into subcommittees each having a specific responsibility. The marketing committee, under the leadership of Bridget Burke and Richard Rose, has already made great strides in augmenting the professional planning and brochures to be used to recruit new sponsors and vendors. All past vendors planning to return for this year's extravaganza should not delay in registering their interest. Also, those vendors wishing to assure their past booth locations or who are seeking to change will need to register as soon as possible to increase the committee's ability to honor such requests. Vendors can advise the committee of the booth preferences when they register at the website, www.poolesvilleday.com

Brice Halbrook advises that it is "not too late to offer your assistance or offer input," and you can volunteer or make comment by emailing him at BHALBROOK@aol.com.

If you have an interest in helping, the various committees looking for help are: Day of Event Production (Rande Davis), Parade (Val Dickerson), Business and Finance (Michael Shapiro and Phymeon Lyles), and Vendor Management (still looking for a committee chair).

There is always a need to help out on specific events such as car show, cycle show, civil war re-enactment, band recruiting, and liaison to the school groups and participants.

Vandalism at Monocacy Aqueduct

U.S. Park Rangers at the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park are investigating a major act of vandalism at the Monocacy Aqueduct area of the Park and need your help! In the overnight hours of Saturday, February 10, and Sunday, February 11, 2007, a kiosk with interpretive signs was destroyed. The restrooms in the area were also severely damaged. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the National Park Service at 301-714-2235.

A \$1,000 reward is being given to anyone with information leading to the successful conviction of those responsible.

Youth Sports

Boys Tennis

By Jack Toomey

Poolesville High School Boys' Tennis coach Jon Rogers is optimistic about his team's chances in the tough Montgomery County Second Division. In his second year of coaching the Falcons, Rogers has four promising freshmen, his two top players back from last year, and only two seniors. Last year, his squad won their division and this year will have to face teams from the top division as well as their own. Rogers said, "I'm looking forward to this year, I think that we will have a good year because our freshmen will improve and we are [confident] because of the number of players that are returning." Scott Kirkland, a senior, will be playing in the third singles position. Two sophomores, Sharat Buddahavarapu and Dan Ettahadieh, will be playing in the first and second singles position, and Stephen Dessel, a junior, will compete in the fourth singles slot.

Tenth grader Sharat Buddahavarapu, who has been playing tennis since he was six years old, said, "I think our team is looking up this season and we have a better chance in matching up." The Falcons won their first two matches and are looking forward to a great season.

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“Murders Shock” Continued From Page 1.

at the farm for the last five months. Stunned by the terrible news she said that she knew the little boy, whom she knew as “Diego,” and was at a loss for words when trying to describe her feelings.

Kerry Hobbs, who lives nearby, said that her husband was coming home from work when he saw two cars parked on the shoulder of Barnesville Road about two hundred and fifty yards from the main entrance to the farm. Then a police car pulled up behind the cars and then two Montgomery County police cars came rushing past. When the family saw several helicopters in the sky, they presumed that a fugitive was in the woods. Later she learned of the tragedy. Hobbs told a reporter for the Monocle that Danforth had been working at Good News Farm for at least fifteen years and “took awesome care of the animals.” Hobbs remarked, “She is a

great woman, the kids were so cute, her little boy looks just like mine. I can imagine what she is going through, no more birthdays, no more Christmas.” Dr. Chester Anderson, owner of Peachtree Veterinary Clinic, said that Danforth had been bringing her smaller animals in for medical care for as long as he can remember. Occasionally she would bring the children. Dr. Anderson remarked, “It is the most unbelievable thing that I have ever heard of.”

The incident came just a week after a similar event occurred in Frederick. In that case, police believe that a father, about the same age, killed his four children and then took his own life. Perhaps Kerry Hobbs summed up the feelings of the entire community when she said, “This was disgraceful, heartbreaking, and frightening. It hits home because I have a two-year-old and when I hugged him [so much] this morning he said, ‘Let go mommy.’”

“Greydon Tolson” Continued From Page 3.

skilled work force with pride in their jobs. Greydon and his tree foreman were both commissioned State Forest Wardens; each could issue permits for tree pruning and removal. His county crew was registered to fight forest fires anywhere in the state.

Not only Montgomery County, but also the entire State of Maryland benefited from Greydon’s “can do” attitude. In the early ‘50s, Mr. Pete Bond, Director of Maryland Forests and Parks, approached Greydon to work with him to reorganize the state’s Forestry Boards, which had been initiated but had grown defunct. Greydon was elected to a term as President of the State Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards at this time.

Again in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s, Greydon stepped up to the plate. When the state determined the Forestry Boards were regulatory agencies and therefore required an eighteen-page financial disclosure form from every individual board member, most members refused and walked away. Greydon organized the Montgomery County Board, which invited all the local boards to meet; it was decided that the forestry board system was too valuable to let go, and a paperwork compromise was reached. Every county board in the state came back. Once again, Greydon served as president of the State Association.

After twenty-eight years with Montgomery County, Greydon was able to retire, and he joined Walt Money at Guardian Tree Experts. By this time he

was no longer climbing! He was with Guardian for eleven years, and then was an independent consultant for several years after that.

Anyone who knows Greydon even a little knows that he loves to fish. One day on the job with Montgomery County, his story goes, he and Al Yeager took a call from a homeowner who reported worms all over her tree. When the two arrived on the scene they discovered, as suspected, catalpa worms—black and yellow, leathery and tough, great fishing bait. Greydon and Al pulled the minnow buckets out of their car and picked all the catalpa worms they could off of the tree and explained to the property owner that they were taking the worms back to the lab for identification. The property owner, grinning, replied, “You fellows must have enough bait by now!”

Reflecting on his fifty-plus years of service with the Forestry Boards, what is Greydon most proud of? It’s a tie: Acting as an adhesive for all of the individual boards coming together again; and building the “forestry camp” (now known as “Awareness Week for Forestry and Natural Resource Careers”), a week-long summer program providing hands-on exposure to natural resource career options for high school students. Graduates of Forestry Camp from Montgomery County include Judy Hassen Connery, now with the National Park Service at Acadia National Park in Maine; Susan Butler of Butler’s Orchard; and Jeremy Criss, Agricultural Services Division Manager with the Montgomery County Office of Economic Development.



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Local History

Tragedy at Rockville The 1935 School Bus Accident

By Jack Toomey

Every year the University of Maryland hosted a science fair and exhibit, and high school students from all over the state would attend. They would inspect the science projects, listen to lectures, and even tour the campus if time permitted. In those days, it was rare for students to be let out of class during the school day, so the event was held in the late afternoon and evening.

Williamsport High School of southwestern Washington County always made a practice of sending their brightest science students to the exhibit. In April 1935, Miss Louise Funk, a chemistry teacher at Williamsport, and the principal selected twenty-seven students to go on the trip. On April 11, 1935 the students attended a full day of classes and boarded a chartered bus at 4:45 p.m. Twenty-seven students, Miss Funk, and their driver, Percy Line, left Williamsport, a small town near the Potomac River, and arrived at the University of Maryland about 7:15. Students, many of whom did not venture far from town due to the Great Depression, said that the trip was uneventful and that some sang songs to pass the time. Mr. Line, who was a part time driver for the Washington County schools, had been especially selected because of his reputation as a careful driver. They attended the science fair, listened to several presentations, but because of the rain and fog, Miss Funk and Mr. Line decided to start their return trip a half an hour early.

Percy Line, the bus driver, chose

a route that was considered to be over "back roads" which wound its way through western Prince Georges County and eastern Montgomery County. As the bus continued, Miss Funk chose a seat directly behind the driver and called out potentially dangerous areas of roadway ahead because of the rain and fog. The students, having been in class all day, settled in and some were asleep. Driver Line had selected Baltimore Road which eventually led to a grade crossing that was located between the Rockville train station and St. Mary's Catholic Church. As the bus turned

quired. The bus slowed, but it did not stop. A driver who was coming in the opposite direction watched in horror as the train plowed into the middle and rear portions of the bus. The witness, Edward Stevens, who was a professional golfer at Manor Club, jumped out of his automobile and shouted for a passing laundry truck driver to sound the fire siren. The train carried the bus several hundred yards down the tracks before depositing it on an embankment behind St. Mary's Church. At least ten students were thrown from the bus and landed either on the tracks, the embankments,

or nearby property. The Rockville Fire Department was quickly on the scene with four trucks and forty-seven firemen, and they evaluated the horrific scene before them. Bethesda and Kensington also sent fire equipment to the scene. Percy Line and Miss Funk were slightly injured and were able to crawl out of the wreckage and help students who were not badly injured. Fourteen students were either dead or dying.

Father Charles O'Hara, a priest from St. Mary's Church, was awakened by the crash. He dressed and hurried

down the embankment onto the tracks. He gave the last rites to the dead, and, using a flashlight, he found the bodies of two students pinned to the front of the locomotive. Later, searching the church property, Father O'Hara found the body of a girl lying in the church cemetery. Those who had been sitting in the front of the bus were less seriously injured or in

shock, and were taken to the home of Mr. Albert Bouic, a noted Rockville attorney. Miss Funk, who had been hurled against the roof of the bus, went there after she had walked up and down the tracks making note of the dead students. At Mr. Bouic's house, Miss Funk called for quiet, produced a notebook, and conducted roll call. Those who were there answered "here." Miss Funk then asked to use the phone. Unable to reach her principal, she called Dr. Ira Zimmerman in Williamsport, who happened to be in his office with the mayor awaiting the arrival of the bus. Miss Funk told Dr. Zimmerman the names of the survivors. She could not bring herself to tell him that his daughter, Margaret, was dead. Word quickly spread in the little town, and those with automobiles headed for Rockville. They went to the Rockville police headquarters, Pumphrey's Funeral Home, or headed to Georgetown University Hospital where the most severely injured had been taken. Dr. Zimmerman, unaware that his daughter was dead, went to Pumphrey's where he found the body of his daughter. Mr. Pumphrey, unaware of the identities of any of the children, asked Dr. Zimmerman if he knew any of them. Dr. Zimmerman was quoted as saying, "Well I guess I do, I brought most of them into the world."

Robert Castle, twenty-one, had graduated from high school a few years before. He had been unable to find steady work in Williamsport so he moved to Bethesda and found a job at Burr's filling station. Someone pulled into the station and told him about the accident and that the bus was from Williamsport. Robert left Bethesda and drove to Georgetown Hospital where he was told some of the injured were being treated. He then drove back to Rockville and went to Pumphrey's. He was shocked to find the body of his sister, Bertha, lying among the dead. In another room at Georgetown Hospital lay a critically injured girl. A young man from Williamsport accompanied her parents to the hospital. While in the room, the young man and girl admitted that they had been secretly married and had hoped to keep the secret until her graduation. In another heart-wrenching scene, a group of parents arrived at the Rockville police headquarters. One man approached a sergeant and inquired about several students. The officer looked down at his list and



This is the list that teacher Louise Funk compiled shortly after the train hit the school bus.

Photo courtesy of the Washington Evening Star.

onto a straight section of the road towards the crossing, a Baltimore and Ohio passenger train, the Metropolitan Special, a high-speed express train going east towards Washington, was traveling towards Rockville at about a mile a minute. The bus approached the grade crossing, the warning bells sounded, and the engineer, J. A. Shoebridge, sounded his whistle as re-

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-Continued on Page 26.

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**"Reclaiming the Racehorse"
Continued From Page 11.**

have only been ridden short stirrup, and in the absence of the usual leg aids, but Phoebe accepted my leg readily, and seemed to feel more secure with a good steady leg on. Her previous owner had told me she used event riders (who ride in conventional length stirrups) to start her racehorses under saddle. Phoebe's ability to accept the leg was a saving grace, and proof of the value in starting youngsters correctly. A horse that accepts the leg is a joy to ride, and much safer,

as well, since you can more readily keep them moving quietly forward and out of trouble. Most horses I have retrained right off the track spend the early time under saddle hollowing their backs and scooting out from under the leg. On a hot horse like Phoebe, this would not have made me feel comfortable at all. I was as happy with her on this day as I had been unhappy and concerned the day before. With young horses, every day is a new day.



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Local News

Firefighters, Community Pitch In to Fight Haller Avenue Fire

By Jack Toomey

On the afternoon of March 29, billowing black smoke, coming from the Poolesville area, could be seen as far away as Barnesville. Soon afterwards, residents of Elizabeth's Delight came out onto their front yards when fire apparatus from the Upper Montgomery County Fire Department roared into their subdivision. What first appeared to be a major catastrophe proved to be a shed on fire in the 20000 block of Haller Avenue. Chief Earl Moore of the UMVFD said that when he had first observed the smoke from Beallsville, he was certain that it was more than a shed on fire. Firefighters went quickly to work and had doused the fire within minutes.

Julie Sanchez, who was in the neighborhood visiting a relative, told the Monocle that when she arrived she saw the smoke and flames. She called 911 and was

told that other people had already reported the fire. Then she saw a group of young people banging on the door of one of the houses next to the burning shed. After that, she saw a group of residents using a garden hose trying to fight the fire and then saw John Speelman, owner of Poolesville Hardware, running between houses with a fire extinguisher in his hands. Speelman said that he was assisting customers when he saw the heavy smoke and went inside his store to grab a fire extinguisher. He then ran towards the fire while using his cell phone to call the fire department. When he arrived, he sprayed the contents of the extinguisher on the base of the shed. Speelman added, "Every house should have a fire extinguisher." John Sneed, who is sixteen years old and a resident of the neighborhood, told the Monocle that he was upstairs doing his homework when his mother called to him and he ran over to the house where he and another person tried to use the garden hose, but the water was turned off. Then he and others went next door and pieced together enough hose to reach the burning shed. They then sprayed

water on the fire and also onto the side of the house next door to prevent an extension of the fire. John said, "I know (the boy who lives there) and was trying to help out."

Hollie Pham, who owned the shed, said that it contained a snow blower, a riding mower, tractor, scooter, golf clubs, and gasoline. She remarked, "We appreciate those who tried to help." Besides the destroyed shed, the fire damaged a fence and the side of the house owned by Jeff and Alissa Chilla who live next door.

Pete Perringer, a spokesperson for the Montgomery County Fire Department, told the Monocle that the origin of the fire has officially been classified as undetermined, but investigators believe that it was started by discarded smoking materials which then ignited materials in the shed. Anyone with information about the fire can call 240-777-2400.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

Montgomery County Police announced that the six-member Police Community Action Team has been assigned to the Fifth Police District, which includes the northwest part of the county, for three weeks. During that time the team has made eighteen arrests for crimes such as drug dealing, weapons charges, and other assorted serious crimes.

March 24. Native Dancer Drive, Darnestown. A Clarksburg man reported that he was at a party when two suspects approached him with a knife and demanded money. One suspect punched him in the eye while the other suspect went through the victim's pockets.

March 24. PetsMart, Kentlands Boulevard. Commercial burglary. Forced entry to the building, property taken.

April 3. 16700 block of Barnesville Road. Murder and s& Suicide. See else-

where in this edition for details.

Past

April 20, 1901. Charles "Cephas" Overs was hanged in the jail yard at Frederick after being sentenced to death for the murder of C. Frank Donaldson. Over three hundred spectators crowded into the yard to watch the execution, and guards had to use bayonets to keep back the crowd. Overs was convicted of shooting Donaldson after they had quarreled near Monrovia while working on the B&O Railroad. Later, Overs went to Donaldson's home and shot him with a pistol.

April 20, 1928. A brush fire burned over a thousand acres of valuable timber land between Rockville and Halpine. The Rockville, Kensington, and Bethesda volunteer fire departments battled the blaze that was driven by strong winds.

April 22, 1959. Four Montgomery County policemen were sent to arrest a Germantown man who lived in a tenant farm house on Waters Road.

When they went to the second floor to find him, the floor gave way sending the officers into the kitchen below. The man then ran to another house across the road and barricaded himself inside a bedroom but was eventually arrested.

April 23, 1907. Bradley Ward, age fifteen and son of Mortimer Ward of Barnesville, was seriously injured, possibly fatally, when he was dragged over three hundred yards by a colt that became frightened and ran away. When he was found, Ward was unconscious, covered with bruises, and had several ribs broken.

April 28, 1903. The residence of Albert Meem, the agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Gaithersburg, was completely destroyed by fire. The flames were discovered in the kitchen by one of his servants.

April 30, 1932. Three Montgomery County police cars were wrecked by a pair of rumrunners who were fleeing police. The rum car was barreling down the Columbia Pike near Snells Bridge when it rammed the police cars. The two occupants fled on foot into some woods.

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Local News

The team of Chip Sullivan, the Head PGA Professional at Ashley Plantation in Daleville, Virginia, and Billy Judah, the PGA Apprentice Head Professional at Honey Bee GC in Virginia Beach, won the 2007 Metropolitan Area PGA Two Person Scramble with a 27-hole score of 15 under par 93 at Sparrows Point Country Club in Baltimore, Maryland. As unbelievable as 15 under sounds, two other teams tied Chip and Billy. The first was the all-senior team of PGA Life Member Glen Miller and PGA Member Marty O'Rear. The second was the mixed team of Mike Aldrich, Head PGA Professional at Poolesville Golf Course and Apprentice Elizabeth Cooper from Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria.

The three teams began a sudden death playoff after the host facility, which hosted the same event in 2003 when it was limited to participants from the Northern and Central Chapters, and the supporters, Bushnell, Bollé, and Aureus, were thanked for all of their help. Each group was loaned a Bushnell range finder for the event and each player received a pair of Bollé sunglasses and will be sent an Aureus shirt.

On the first hole, the teams of Sullivan/Judah and Aldrich/Cooper birdied while Miller/O'Rear parred, so they were out. The remaining two teams traded pars on the next three holes, but with two putts per team per hole, it was an anxious time for all four players. At that point, the sun had set and there was time for one last hole which Chip and Billy won with a birdie.

Pulse

Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board

By Rande Davis

The remarkable beauty that surrounds us should not be taken for granted. It is the result of hard work by many groups and people that are dedicated to the stewardship of our environment. From the work of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to the concern shown by individual farmers, there are countless examples of community involvement in protecting our natural resources. The Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board, part of a statewide association of likeminded county boards, is one such group whose mission is the preservation of our forests and trees.

In 1943, the Maryland Legislature passed an act creating twenty-four Forest Conservancy Boards, one in each county and one in Baltimore City. The boards act as advocates of sound forest management practices and promote conservation of Maryland's forest resources. Board activities include educational programs, planting of school forests, and timber harvest plan reviews. Because the boards are county-based, each one develops an understanding and awareness of regional issues, becoming allies for local governments and landowners who are concerned with the maintenance and stewardship of public and private forest resources.

The board members volunteer more than five hundred hours each year teaching the value of trees and the best forest management practices. Among the varied activities of the Montgomery County Forestry Board, the following programs are central to

their mission.

In keeping with its mission to augment public awareness of our natural resources and the value of forest resource conservation, the Montgomery County Forestry Board maintains a register of the Champion Trees in our county.

They also have an arboretum program that is based on their conviction that an understanding of the importance of our local ecosystem is fundamental to having effective environmental programs. This program adds tree tags, interpretive signs, and other educational services to existing parks and cultivated gardens in the county.

Additionally, board members are involved with the local schools in teaching tree identification and environmental practices and in visiting county elementary schools to talk about the importance of trees and to distribute tree seedlings to students.

The Montgomery County Forestry Board, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, sponsors an annual workshop for high school students at the Forestry Conservation and Resources Week held at the Camp Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County. The board selects and sponsors two students who are contemplating careers in resource management to attend the weeklong program. High school students who are planning a career in forestry and natural resources who might be interested in attending Camp Hickory should have their application in by April 30, 2007. This year's camp runs from Sunday, July 22 through Saturday, July 28. The board's website is www.mcmdforestryboard.org.

The current board members are: Dr. Jim Coleman (President - Boyds), Damon S. Harley (DNR Forestry Service), Jim Benton (WSSC), Carole Bergmann (MNCPPC), Jim Harris (Wood Acres Tree Specialists), Dave

Honchalk (Montgomery County Public Schools), Joe Howard (Silver Spring), Daniel Landry (PEPCO), Dr. Jay McRoberts (Naughty Pine Plantation), Linda Pepe (Barnesville), David C. Plummer (Montgomery Soil Conservation District), Steve Mader (Rockville), Dominic Quattrocchi (MNCPPC), Joe Rice (MG Tree Farm), Pete Stadler (Stadler Nursery), Guy Turenne (Montgomery Department of Public Works and Transportation), and Greydon Tolson (Dickerson).

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"Mary Chiswell" Continued from Page 1.

and friends were Virginia Hersperger, Helen Pumphrey, Mary Elgin, Ethel White, Ruth Sangster, Hazel Kahle, Ara Lee Jones, Ruth Comphort, Sally Dilonardo, Alvin Jones, and Mary's beloved sister, Virginia Fyffe Peddicord.

Many readers will recall seeing Mary as the Grand Marshal of the Poolesville Day parade last September. They will recall her riding, smiling, and waving from the front seat of a 1920s Ford. What they wouldn't know is that this then-energetic centurion had actually agreed, even at her age, to ride in the sidecar of a motorcycle in the parade. She had looked forward to that possibility because when she and her late husband, Carroll Chiswell, were younger, she used to ride in the sidecar of his motorcycle through the country roads of Montgomery County.

Tragically, two weeks before Poolesville Day, the motorcycle owner/driver was killed in an accident, and so the Ford became the substitute. Although saddened by the turn of events and the circumstances surrounding them, she looked forward to being in a car that she remem-

bered when it was new and she was just in her twenties. A week before Poolesville Day, we practiced getting her in and out of the Ford. After the first attempt, which proved successful, Mary wanted to get back in right away and take a ride right then and there.

Her loving spirit was reflected in her sparkling brown eyes, warm manner, and robust humor. For decades after her retirement, she still continued to receive visits from past students wanting to thank her for all she had done for them—only these visiting former second graders were very elderly folks as well.

About a week prior to her passing, I visited Mary since she had returned from having to go into the hospital for a short period due to heart fibrillations. As usual, she was sitting at her kitchen table taking care of paperwork but still insisted on walking into the living room to receive me just as she had always done before. (You do not visit Mary, she receives you.) This time it was different. The very short walk left her out of breath. Yet, typically, after catching her breath, there she sat, partaking in conversation—excited about a mid-May celebration of centurions in Baltimore where Willard Scott would be the host. Her eyes still sparkled and her humor was fully

engaged. As we left for what would become our final visit, we told her to make sure to rest and to take it very easy. Upon hearing this advice, she just roared and laughed robustly out loud. After all, what did I think a 104-year-old woman just out of the hospital due to heart problems was going to do anyway?

A little more than a week later, they had to take her back to the hospital due to pneumonia. There, as family gathered, the conversation would still turn to humorous stories and as punch lines were given, Mary laughed her infectious laugh as well. Mary Chis (as she was often referred to due to so many grand Marys living in town) taught more than mere grade school—she taught us how to live a life of joy and laughter.

*I will not live forever.
But I would like to assure that my memory lives on.*

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She is survived by her large and extended family which includes Joan and John Thomas Fyffe, John and Virginia Myers, Jim and Loretta Darby, and her loving caretaker for seventeen years, Rose Abell. Her funeral was at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, her personal sanctuary throughout her entire life, and she was laid to rest at Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville. Mary requested in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the St. Peter's Episcopal Church Building Fund.

	<h2>The Jake Perkins Falcon Classic</h2>		<h3>Tournament Date</h3> <p>Friday, May 25 Call to Reserve Faith Etheridge, Event Chair 301 916 3196</p>
<p>Golfer Fee: \$100</p> <p>Hole Sponsor: \$100</p> <p>Lunch Sponsor: \$250</p> <p>Dinner Sponsor: \$500</p>	<p>A Charity Golf Tournament Benefiting the Poolesville High School Athletic Department At BRETTON WOODS GOLF CLUB <i>"Play the course you always see but never get to play!"</i></p>		<p>Prizes Awarded: Low Gross Low Net High Net Closest to Pin Longest Drive</p> <p>Free Beer, Tea & Lemonade at Meals and Play</p>
<p>Registration and Buffet Sub Lunch: Noon Play: Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m. Awards Banquet: 5:30 p.m. Dinner Includes: BBQ Ribs, Chicken, Burgers & Dogs Corn on Cob, Potato Salad & Cole Slaw Watermelon, Cookies & Brownies</p>		<p>Checks Payable to: Poolesville HS Booster Club Mail to: P.O. Box 245 Poolesville, MD 20837 Att: Golf Tournament Sponsorships are Tax-Deductible</p>	

Golf The Three Pillars of Sport

By Mike Aldrich

All sports have three basic elements: skills/techniques – the methods that you use in the game (bounce pass, jump shot, boxing out); mental/emotional – the manner in which you concentrate and manage your feelings (relaxing at the foul line, knowing where the ball and basket are); and gamesmanship – the strategy that you apply to the game (choosing to shoot, dribble, or pass, developing plays, working as a team).

Do these look like a basketball coach's notes? Well, these keys apply to more than just golf. To play any sport at a high level, you must be skilled at all of these. The parks are filled with basketball players with the physical agility and skills of Michael Jordan who have never played in a single NBA game, so there must be more to mastering a sport than just having skills.

If we look at the greatest golfers of all time, very few have mastered the skills and techniques on a very consistent basis. These seem to come

and go over time. All of the great players in history, Hogan, Jones, Nicklaus, and Palmer, were considered to be mentally tough and great students of the "game." How did these players stay in contention for the win, even when they arrive with their "C Games"? Consider Tiger Woods at the 2007 Masters. He seemed to hit more bad shots than the other competitors, yet finished in second place. How can this be?

Even though Tiger struggled with his drives, approach shots, chipping, and putting, he stayed mentally strong and made the most of any opportunities that arose. He didn't go to Augusta National with the intention of hitting great shots and putts; Tiger was there to win the tournament. When he hit a poor drive, his immediate reaction of disgust (which we all have) was over in a mere moment. He always moves forward to both get the correct mindset to hit a great recovery, and the strategy needed to get the lowest score on the hole.

Now it is time for you to look at your own game. When your skills fail you, is this reflected by hitting your next shot while you are still angry? Do you then compound your mistake by taking excessive risks? Or do you take

a moment to calm yourself, plot out a reasonable strategy for recovery, and execute it to the best of your abilities? It is not difficult to do this, but like anything else, it just takes practice. You need to understand that it takes more than a great swing to play well. Make sure that all three pillars of your game are rock solid, so that a crack in one won't create a complete collapse.

Mike Aldrich is the PGA Head Golf Professional at Poolesville Golf Course. He is a protégé of Manuel De La Torre, one of Golf Magazine's "Top 50 Teachers." Mike is a highly sought

after instructor, working with some of greater D.C.'s top amateurs and PGA Professionals. Poolesville Golf Course offers great conditions, top quality instruction, and name brand merchandise at the lowest possible prices. The facility is only thirty minutes from Rockville, Frederick, and Leesburg, Virginia.

"Tragedy in Rockville" Continued From Page 19.

took the parents into a side room and said, "I'm so sorry. They are all dead."

Police officer Ward of the Bethesda police heard about the accident and anticipated that there would be a lot of traffic speeding down Wisconsin Avenue going to Georgetown Hospital. He knew that Wisconsin Avenue was barricaded near the Washington, D.C. line due to road construction, so he improvised his own pathway through the maze by borrowing lanterns and flashlights, and when ambulances and autos sped down the street, they were guided to safety by Officer Ward's ingenuity.

The superintendent of the Montgomery County Schools, Edwin Broome, produced a school bus and driver and ordered that the nine students who were not badly injured be driven back to Williamsport. They were accompanied by two Montgomery County teachers and a police officer; however, it seems that Percy Line, thinking that his obligation was over, also boarded the bus, and before long, the police realized that he was gone. They radioed ahead to Hagerstown where the state police stopped the bus

and brought him back to Rockville. In the meantime, the wrecked bus had been removed from the railroad tracks and towed to a lot next to the old Montgomery County building. Even in the hours before dawn, gawkers began arriving as well as commercial newsreel photographers who were waiting for daylight to film the wreckage of the bus and the scene of the accident. In a matter of days, the newsreel would be in movie theaters across the country.

As news of the tragedy spread across the country, four different investigations were started. The Maryland State Police, the Montgomery County Police, the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the railroad began taking statements from witnesses, the driver, Miss Funk, and the injured students. President Roosevelt announced that he was going to allocate up to two hundred million dollars to eliminate grade crossings across the nation. As would be expected, citizens of Rockville began calling for the immediate closing of the Baltimore Road crossing. They pointed out that in 1923, five young men had been killed in a similar accident and that in fifteen years, twenty people had been killed by trains at that place. It was learned

that the state roads department had plans for building an overpass over the railroad, but the project had never been funded.

When daylight came, investigators began their work. They determined that the warning bell, that was activated from a distance of three thousand feet away, was working properly. They also found that the red warning lights were working. They noted a sign that read, "No Watchman on Duty from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m." A Rockville attorney, apparently retained by one of the families, discovered a long-forgotten law written in 1912, that required the railroad to have a watchman stationed at the crossing until midnight. The accident had happened at 11:28 pm. Percy Line and the engineer of the train were both charged, more as a formality, with manslaughter and were released pending trial.

By April 14, Williamsport began burying their fourteen dead children. Some services, as was the custom of the time, were held at the family home or the homes of grandparents. Others were held at the Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, Christian, and Methodist Churches. By proclamation, all businesses were ordered closed so

townspeople could attend the many funerals.

On May 23, 1935, the Montgomery County grand jury met to consider the charge of manslaughter against Percy Line. The engineer of the train had previously been cleared. After hearing testimony from thirteen witnesses, they voted to clear him of any criminal wrongdoing. Shortly afterwards, the Interstate Commerce Commission delivered its report and stated that the driver was negligent for driving his bus across the rails in the path of an oncoming train, and that the railroad was negligent for not providing a watchman as required. The families of the dead and injured students filed lawsuits against the railroad and the owner of the bus. In the end, most of the families received small settlements from the railroad. The case of Dr. Zimmerman's daughter went to trial in Frederick. Dr. Zimmerman had sued the railroad and the owner of the bus for \$25,000. The jury found the railroad not responsible and awarded Dr. Zimmerman \$2,000 from the owner of the bus.

On June 5, 1935, Williamsport High held commencement ceremonies. Diplomas were posthumously awarded to the deceased students

Youth Making a Difference

A Journey on the Road to Gratitude

By Rande Davis

For the youth at Poolesville Presbyterian Church, their journey to New Orleans on a mission to help others resulted in something they did not fully expect. This wasn't their first foray on a youth mission; they went to a camp for persons with disabilities outside of Philadelphia a couple of times to help out and made a third trip to West Virginia to assist others with disabilities. This, however, was much farther away, and their work agenda would be more daunting than anything they had experienced before. In going to New Orleans, they also brought with them one hundred new books donated by area residents that were to be given to a library.

The caravan left Poolesville on Palm Sunday, included an overnight rest stop at a church in Knoxville, and by the time they got to New Orleans, they were already a bit tired. The devastation in New Orleans was still so apparent that even adult chaperone, Catherine Beliveau, found her eyes welling up as they first entered city limits.

After getting an evening meal prepared by local members of the Woodland Presbyterian Church and attending an orientation meeting, they unpacked their air mattresses and blankets to sleep on the floor of the church. After a breakfast also prepared by local church members, they began their workday at 8:30 a.m. at a site that someday will become a children's center. Since the devastation, day care is in short supply and this facility is

sorely needed. They were put to work on a task to help dig a trench so that others could pour footings that would help be part of the foundation of a new building. Digging in eighty-degree weather for most of the day gave them fair warning that any thoughts of a "mission vacation" would quickly vanish. Before leaving their first day's effort, they also helped clean out an old building.

Returning back at 3:30 p.m. to the church, this group of nine students and five adults had to share just four showers. With dinner once again prepared by the locals, they were very surprised and appreciative of how good the meal turned out. Joining the group from Poolesville was one from Pittsburgh and another from Philadelphia. One college student who was not part of a group hailed from South Africa and wanted to pitch in to help in New Orleans before her return home. The evening entertainment consisted of speakers, music and song, and fellowship with the other youth. Hitting the bed (or floor in this case) came at 10:15 p.m. with lights out at 10:30 p.m.

The next day of work proved to be the most rewarding since they were helping an elderly couple who were under a city ordinance to clean up their property or face city fines but were not in a position to do so themselves. The man, who was also an amputee, had recently suffered a stroke, and the help from the youth came just at the right time. For most of the day, they had to wear hazardous material outfits and clean out the mildewy accumulation of trash underneath the house. Emotionally, the most difficult part was to clean out the house, filtering through the items they needed to discard and those things they wanted to keep. When they came across a tri-folded American flag,



Mary Beliveau raking up Ward 9, New Orleans.

they learned it was a commemorative flag honoring the couple's son who had served in Vietnam. When going through some other the personal effects, they came across an envelope containing \$1,000 cash. Because of the stroke, the man had either forgotten it was there or was unable to explain to them how to find it. The couple was so grateful knowing that if others rather than this youth group were helping them, the cash might not have come back to them.

Once again, after a long day and gathering more than twenty large bags of trash, the students would finally get to go back to the church. At the end of the day, fourteen-year-old Mary Beliveau told the Monocle how she marveled at the amount of work they were able to accomplish in six hours.

On their last day, they worked in the Ninth Ward which was the hardest hit by the hurricane. This area had been under twenty feet of water since it was located right next to the levees. Of the few homes that even remained, many had become dislodged from their foundations. With the clearing of the lots finished, they went back to the

church and prepared for the trip home, which on an hour-by-hour basis would prove to be longer than the actual stay in New Orleans.

Presbyterian Church youth included Holly Defnet (16), Lori Defnet (15), Amy Defnet (12), Mary Beliveau (14), Michael Beliveau (12), Kevin Kasner (spent his fifteenth birthday on the mission), Michael Kasner (12), Vita Price (15), and Katie Hanna (18). The adults in the group were Mike and Sarah Defnet, Jon Kasner, Kathy Hanna, and Catherine Beliveau. This youth program falls under the auspices of Son Servants, which operates in partnership with Youth Ministries Conference with a vision to minister to young people in such a way that they would experience the power of God in their lives daily.

As to the unexpected result from this trip: it was a newfound appreciation and gratitude for their families and homes in Poolesville. It might be surprising to learn that despite such a grueling experience, the youth already look forward to their next mission trip in July.


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