

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 12, 2018 • Volume XIII, Number 20



The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head right here in Poolesville. Family Album has some more Christmas pictures on page 2.



Meet Violet, the explorer dog extraordinaire in our newest column, In Our Own Backyard on page 5.



Poolesville's Mollie Bodmer found herself in some deep water. All the soggy details are in Tidbits on page 6.



Lori Kocur helped send off some gifts to very special people. School News has the scoop on page 8.

Fire Department Made Two Rescues at Icy Creek in Boyds

By Jack Toomey

On the night of January 1 at about 11:00 p.m., the Montgomery County 911 center received an emergency call from people who were marooned inside a car that was trapped in the frozen waters of Ten Mile Creek. The location is one of the few fords left in the area and normally allows vehicles to travel the length of West Old Baltimore Road.

The occupants apparently tried to drive across the creek and, due to the extremely cold conditions, the creek had frozen, trapping the car. Firefighters from the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, Clarksburg, Damascus, and Germantown responded along with boats. UMCVFD personnel launched a metal jon boat and rescued the people. They were evaluated for injuries but were only found to be suffering from exposure.

UMCVFD President Joe Brown told the *Monocle* that the incident allowed the fire company to use its

newly-purchased cold weather rescue gear for the first time.

On January 3, just after dark, another car became stuck in the ice at the ford, and the UMCVFD and Clarksburg fire companies responded to rescue them. In this case, the driver was rescued by a ladder that was pushed across the ice by firefighters.

In an unrelated incident, police found an adult male deceased in a frozen pond in Burtonsville.

Pete Perringer, a spokesperson for the fire department, announced on social media some steps to take if you are ever trapped in or fall through ice: Act quickly and call 911 for help if you are able to; make sure that properly-trained and -equipped personnel are alerted. If you are an observer, do not go out onto the ice yourself. Many times would-be rescuers become victims themselves. Reach, throw, or row to the victim in the ice. Extend a pole or ladder, then throw a buoyant object such as a life ring or float to the victim.



Extreme cold weather resulted in cars needing rescue from frozen ford at Ten Mile Creek.

Cold water drains away body heat twenty-five to thirty times faster than air. The colder the water, the faster the onset of hypothermia.

Commissioners Announce Public Meeting with MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith

By Link Hoewing

At their December 18 regular meeting, the commissioners of the Town of Poolesville announced that Superintendent of Schools for Montgomery County Jack Smith will appear to discuss issues concerning Poolesville's schools. The superintendent agreed to come before the commissioners in response to a letter they sent to his office on December 5. The date for the meeting was set for January 22 at the Poolesville Town Hall.

In the letter, Commission President Jim Brown wrote that the recent decision by the Board of Education not to include Poolesville High School on the list of schools to be renovated over the course of the next six-year capital

Continued on page 11.



Superintendent of Schools for Montgomery County Jack Smith will meet with Town of Poolesville commissioners at Poolesville Town Hall on January 22.

Family Album



Holiday Lighting Winner in Traditional Home category:
Wade & Hisaho Blair — 17694 Cobb Avenue.



Holiday Lighting Winner in Town
Homes south: John & Rose Griffith —
17417 Anita Court.



We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar —
whoa, that'd be over 5,500 miles
to get to Poolesville. It's amazing
that they don't look a bit tired.



Holiday Lighting Winner in Contemporary Home category: Doug & Vicky Carlson — 17309 Brown Road.



Holiday Lighting Winner in Town
Homes north: Zechariah & Jordan
Zoerner — 17677 Kohlhoss Road.



O, Little town of Beth..., er, Poolesville!



Holiday Lighting Winner in
Traditional Home category: Mike &
Michele Souder — 6 Selby Court.



Winner Business:
Morningstar Welding.



Holiday Lighting Winner in Contemporary Home category:
Doug & Candace Watkins - 19025 Hempstone Court.

Town Government Commissioners Award Local Citizens Who Brightened The Holidays

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville commissioners took time out of their January 8 regular meeting to honor and present awards to local residents who were judged to have made noteworthy efforts to decorate the outside of their homes for the holidays. Town Events Coordinator Cathy Bupp and local residents Paul and Chrissy Harney determined the winners.

The judging was broken down into three categories for residential and one for businesses. With regard to residences, the three categories include contemporary (single family homes in which the decorations included more current technologies like inflatables and computerized projectors) and traditional (single family homes that had decorations that were less modern, such as greenery, colored lights, and homemade items such as wooden cutout figures). A third category was for townhouses. The judging was also broken down further so that homes were awarded on both sides of a line going through town along Fisher Avenue. The winners are listed in Tidbits on page 12, and photos of the winning decorations can be found on page 2.

After presenting the awards, the commissioners considered a contract the Planning Commission had submitted to help design and provide cost estimates for a comprehensive Streetscape plan for Poolesville. The streetscape concept has been under development and discussion in the Planning Commission for many years. In simplest terms, the idea is to develop a kind of "master plan" for the central thoroughfare through town—Fisher Avenue—designed to enhance its beauty, make it more navigable by cars, improve safety along the roadway, and improve the features along the roadway such as lighting and signage.

More than a year ago, the Planning Commission proposed to hire a consulting firm to put together a comprehensive streetscape plan that included not only proposed changes and improvements in the layout of Fisher Avenue, but also proposed street plantings, lighting, and signage. The plan would also cost out all proposed improvements and changes and provide schematics showing how the proposed improvements would be engineered and designed. The proposal was agreed to at the time but put on hold once the Wilshire Development concept plan was submitted. In part, the delay was intended to determine how the proposed development, if approved, would fit into the Streetscape plan.

With the denial of the Wilshire Development proposal, the Planning Commission asked the commissioners to approve the plan so that a comprehensive Streetscape

Continued on page 18.



Karri and Patrick Morningstar received the business holiday décor award from contest committee members, Cathy Bupp and Chrissy and Paul Harney.



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Commentary

A Book to Read and One to Not Read

By John Clayton

It is still early January, and I have already finished a book I received for Christmas, so the year is off to a good start. The book I read was *Endurance*, by Scott Kelly, the NASA Space Shuttle pilot and International Space Station (ISS) astronaut. I asked Santa to bring this particular book (among others) because when it first came out, I realized I was taking the ISS and everything about it totally for granted. I realize someone is on the ISS all the time (literally) and that it's a remarkable feat of international cooperation, but I didn't have a real sense of what goes on up there for someone like Kelly. NASA TV is there all the time (check it out online) and my space-enthusiast younger sister emails me cool links fairly regularly, but I still thought I was too blasé about the whole thing. I feel that way about our combat troops overseas, too, but that's a different feeling.

The book is an enjoyable and easy read. Kelly is clearly a talented and capable student, pilot, and astronaut, and he is frank about his strengths and weaknesses, personally and professionally. The book focuses on his year in space on the ISS, a feat he and a Russian cosmonaut accomplished fairly recently. He necessarily spent a lot of time in Russia and with Russians (note that we are still dependent on their Soyuz missiles and capsules for travel to and from the ISS), and he is entertaining about our differences and similarities. The book talks about his growth and that of his twin brother and fellow astronaut Michael Kelly into their NASA careers. If you want to get a feeling for what a year in weightless conditions is like, I highly recommend the book. If you are easily annoyed by almost anything or anyone, remotely squeamish, even slightly claustrophobic, and don't consider a flaming, violent plunge through the atmosphere leading to a hard landing in a Kazakhstani desert to be fun just like an amusement park ride, you should abandon your dreams of becoming an astronaut.

Speaking of books, *Endurance* isn't the one clogging up the media news hole these days. *Fire and Fury* by Michael Wolff is on everyone's mind and lips, and for the worse, I would say. I have no intention of reading it, let alone writing about it, save for these comments here. I've read similar hatchet jobs before, but this one seems way below any reasonable standard. By his own admission, he just threw everything (almost everything) he said he heard up against the wall to let us judge the truth, a version of "I Report. You Decide." Not a lot of research and verification rigor there, to say the least. I also read *The Dark Side of Camelot* by Seymour Hirsch some years ago, which tells every tawdry story about the Kennedy clan you can ever imagine. Hirsch is a well-regarded (by some) if controversial investigative journalist and, while I can't say how much of it is true, his effort compared to what I have gleaned of *Fury* makes *Dark Side* look like *In Principia Mathematica* by comparison. Have our standards gone way down or what? Okay, I admit to a certain gleeful enjoyment of Trump's distress because of my total lack of regard for him as a leader and a decent human being, but the book isn't going to move that needle in any direction.

The other reason to not read the book is that there isn't anything new in it. Trump is shallow and lazy about details. Trump doesn't understand policy. Trump doesn't work to improve himself. Trump doesn't do his homework. He's self-centered, temperamental, and impulsive. We knew this before the primaries.

I beg one more indulgence: When Trump said about Bannon, "He's only in it for himself," I almost fell out of my chair. Really? Is that a bad thing?

Speaking of Bannon, when did we suddenly decide he was the Oracle? Do we have to believe everything he says now? I don't think we did before. I don't give a hoot what he thinks about the meeting with the Russian lawyer; I care what Robert S. Mueller, III and a jury think.

One thing this book confirms: The people you willingly surround yourself with say a lot about who you are. Consider the following list: Steve Bannon, Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort, Corey Lewandowski, and Anthony Scaramucci.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Town of Poolesville, Neighbors, and Close Friends:

On behalf of my family, we want to thank all of you for your unspeakable kindness and hospitality during these past few weeks. We cannot begin to express our gratitude for all of the meals that you cooked, the flowers you sent, and the warm hugs you gave; it was so thoughtful.

Thank you to everyone for your outpouring of support and concern!

Thank you for being part of our journey and for making us part of your family. Please accept our warmest thanks for all your words of comfort and encouragement. We appreciate all of you! You cannot imagine how much strength your support has given us during this difficult time.

Warmly,

Susan and the Potemra Family

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Keeping an Eye on Local News

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The Maryland State Flag was lowered to half-staff in honor of FBI Supervisory Special Agent, Carlos Wolff, who passed away on December 8, 2017, resulting from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident.

In Our Own Backyard

Tales on the Trails Of the C&O Canal

By Jon Wolz

Ed. Note: This begins a new column in the Monocle highlighting the many outdoor adventure opportunities we have right here In Our Own Backyard (IOOB). Poolesville's Jon Wolz is a volunteer with the C&O Canal Association. He hikes the canal frequently with his dog Violet, often also with his wife and friends, and continuously uncovers many intriguing facts and tales about the canal. He will be contributing occasionally on his explorations in IOOB.

Since my retirement after a thirty-seven-year career with the Federal Government from the NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, I have taken pleasure in being outside and exploring the great Maryland outdoors. In 2015, I became a volunteer with the C&O Canal Association, becoming a member of its audit committee and taking on the responsibility of a level walker, regularly hiking Levels 15 and 16 which run from White's Ferry to the Monocacy Aqueduct (6.7 miles).

The C&O Canal Association is an all-volunteer citizens' organization established in 1954 to help conserve the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin.

With sixty-nine levels in the canal, the NPS greatly appreciates the canal association and its volunteers who play an integral role in safeguarding the 184.5-mile historical towpath. Level walkers are assigned one or more sections of the canal to walk on a regular basis, monitoring the status of its historic structures, checking on facilities, removing trash, and reporting any problems to the NPS. Each volunteer is expected to monitor its levels at least quarterly, but I prefer the pleasure of doing so monthly.

The rewarding enjoyment of being part of this important mission is made even greater when experiencing the natural beauty of the canal's plant life and its abundant wildlife. The exercise provides a peaceful and relaxing pastime with a purpose, a way to enjoy the canal while helping to maintain it.

Of course, beyond the simple benefits of a wonderful nature walk, helping to preserve its rich historical importance is equally rewarding. There is so much history to take in from its Indian trails to its development as an orderly system of locks that permitted heavily-laden canal boats transporting either coal, wheat, flour, or corn to pass to successively lower levels from the mountains to tidewater. The mule teams that pulled the boats along the canal walked on the towpath, guided by the families of the boat captains

Typical of the level walking experience was last November. I had one of my dogs, Violet, with me. It was a partly-sunny morning with the leaves almost completely off the trees and blanketing the towpath for most of our walk. The undergrowth along the towpath and in the woods had died back from the cold weather. Squirrels scurried with important errands, and Violet pulled her leash in an attempt to chase them. A great blue heron startled both of us as it took off from the water in the canal prism and flew up the towpath, cawing as it flew. Violet froze in her tracks as she watched the majestic bird fly out of sight.

We had dropped off my car at the Dickerson Conservation Park then rode with my wife, Patricia and the other dog, Rosie, to White's Ferry where we had begun the walk.

Near White's Ferry, there are remains of an old iron bridge that was built in 1876 to allow traffic to cross over the canal and the towpath. This bridge was built to replace inferior bridges that first crossed the canal beginning in 1855. This road culvert proved to be inadequate to carry carriages and wagons. There were 185 such culverts built to carry streams or roads under the canal to allow the canal to be level. White's Ferry's stretch of the canal began operating in the early 1830s after the Monocacy Aqueduct was completed in 1834.

Just up from that old iron bridge at White's Ferry are ruins of the White's Ferry granary. The C&O Canal carried a wide variety of cargo including, initially,



The oldest Silver Maple in Maryland stands majestically at Lock 26 on the C&O Canal.

Continued on page 10.

Happy New Year!



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MATTERS

by R. Adam DeBaugh, Assistant Executive Director

2017 WUMCO December Holiday Giving

Thank you for helping WUMCO Help and our partners in providing Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa (and other December holiday) baskets or gift cards to 150 families comprising 376 adults and toys for 328 children! Ninety-five families came into the WUMCO Help offices on December 21 and 22 to pick up their food and gifts. So many organizations and people helped by donating turkeys, other food, toys, and gift cards, and delivering our December baskets to many families. Thank you to all who were part of this huge effort to make the holidays a bit better for families in need in our service area.

Second Annual Membership Campaign

So many of you are responding to our second annual membership campaign mailing, and we are so grateful. We have received a whole crop of new members along with a lot of renewals from current members. Thank you for all who joined and renewed. Please join WUMCO if you haven't already: \$50 to become a Feeder Member, Driver Members are at least \$100, House Warmer Members are at least \$200, Sustainer Members are at least \$400, and Jane Stearns Circle Members are at least \$600 a year.

Celebrating our 50th Year

In 1968, Jane Stearns and her friend Beulah Harper started providing rides to doctor's appointments and giving food to people in need in Dickerson and the surrounding area. The Stearns ran the growing charity out of their home in Dickerson. This kind and generous start was the humble beginning of the Western Montgomery County Help, WUMCO Help, Inc. Now, in our 50th Anniversary Year, WUMCO has grown to having an office and food pantry of our own in the Family Life Center at Poolesville Baptist Church (right across from the High School) with two paid part-time staff and dozens of volunteers. Throughout our Anniversary Year, this column will be featuring the services that WUMCO Help provides to people in need in Poolesville, Dickerson, Barnesville, Beallsville, and Boyds. Thank you for your support.

Visit our Web page and follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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Questions? Comments? Adam DeBaugh at wumco2@gmail.com
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Tidbits

The Monocacy The Monocacy

Due to an unprovoked attack by end-of-year linkage demons on our final upload to our printer, the masthead of the December 8, 2017 issue came out a little different. Instead of the usual "The Monocacy Monocle," the masthead bore "The Monocacy The Monocacy." Alert reader Carol Obendorfer and her copyeditor's eye brought this to our attention first, as the problem appeared only in print. It did not appear on any of the PDF proofs that our own alert staff previewed before publication. Please note that even as the text was flawed, it was still presented in pleasing and tasteful red and green holiday colors.

The web version was corrected, so this obvious collector's item exists only in newsprint form; therefore, this issue should probably be spared the bottom of your parakeet's cage.

A Happy New Year from all of us here at The Monocacy The Monocacy.

Marijuana Alert!

The Upcounty Prevention Network will host a special event on January 22 regarding many misunderstandings regarding the legalization of marijuana in various states that has brought some confusion among our young people. There will be featured speakers from the state's attorney's office, the police, and the mental health community, followed by a Q&A with other experts. We plan to cover the legal issues, the impact of marijuana on developing brains, and ways adults can support young people who are justifiably confused by it all. Much of what we had learned about marijuana has changed. What does the latest research on pot use show? What can you as a parent do to help your children navigate these new realities? What do the new laws elsewhere mean to our students?

The event will start at 7:00 p.m. in the John Poole Middle School all-purpose room.

Congratulations to Molly Bodmer

The daughter of Lynne and Tad Bodmer has recently been hired by Prince William County Fire Rescue. Molly Bodmer will be starting her new chapter in life on January 22. The community joins with the proud parents in its appreciation for her chosen path of important public service.

Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due

We were thrilled to share the picture of young Samuel Lewis, son of Kirsten and Andrew Lewis, in our December 8 issue serving as the kickoff kid at a Redskins game this fall. His task was to retrieve the kicking tee during a game after the kick. We didn't give credit to the photographer, Ed Sheahin, who took the great shot. Thanks, Ed, for sharing such a fun picture with our readers.

Helping the Pets in Puerto Rico

Local veterinarian Javier Donatelli recently donated his time and volunteered with the Humane Society of the United States during Operation Viva Vieques, a post-hurricane outreach initiative to help the people and animals of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

While in Puerto Rico, Javier was part of a team that helped over seven hundred horses, dogs, and cats receive care in five days. Way to go, Doc!



The December cover of The Monocacy The Monocacy



Firefighter Mollie Bodmer with young admirer.

Continued on page 12.



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Local News

Fire Department Urges Fireplace Safety after Rash of Fires

By Jack Toomey

Since the bitterly-cold weather has settled in, many Montgomery County residents have started using their fireplaces as a source of heat. As a result, there have been numerous serious fires, especially on the west side of the county, and a catastrophic fire in Olney where six townhouses were nearly destroyed. In one night, the fire department battled three big fires at the same time.

The fire department has issued a list of tips that need to be studied by those who choose to use their fireplaces in the cold weather.

When was the last time that you had your fireplace and chimney inspected? Frequent use of a fireplace can cause creosote to build up in the chimney, and the creosote can catch fire without the homeowner knowing it. The fire may burn undetected until it finds a way into the walls of the home. Have your chimney inspected once a year by an expert.

Only burn dry firewood in your fireplace. Believe it or not, there are cases where people have burned their trash and Christmas trees in the fireplace which caused a sudden introduction of heat which in turn caused a chimney fire.

Continued on page 17.



Improper maintenance of chimneys is most dangerous at this time of year.

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Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on January 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Poolesville Town Hall, 19721 Beall Street, Poolesville, Maryland. This public hearing is for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning Resolution 008-17, which proposes to enact Parks/Field Use Permits and Fees pursuant to Poolesville Code §4.3. Copies of the Resolution are available online at www.poolesvillemd.gov.

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School News

JPMS Steps Up To Support Our Troops—Again

By Rande Davis

Once again this year, the students of John Poole Middle School wanted to honor our military troops, who are currently serving the nation, by sending some gifts to help cheer them up for the holidays and to assure them they are not forgotten. The Timberwolf Ambassadors sponsored the special drive and had a contest called the TAP Challenge to pit grades against each other to see which class could bring in the most items.

If any grade had one hundred percent participation, Principal Green promised to ride around on a Big Wheel throughout the day. If seventy-five percent participated, Social Studies teacher Mr. Mattingly agreed to be taped to the cafeteria wall during both lunches. If just fifty percent took part, Mr. Green would dye his beard whichever color chosen. The eighth grade won and, naturally, Mr. Green wore a green beard for the week!

Over forty-seven boxes of gifts were sent at a cost of \$900.00 for mailing. Appreciative readers can also contribute to this highly-thoughtful gesture by making a check out to John Poole Middle School with "Military Appreciation" on the memo line. It can be mailed to or dropped off at the school.

The students received a note from Lt. Christopher Dykes after the boxes arrived. "We have received your care packages and they are great! Thank you again so much for your generosity. It definitely cheered up my guys during this holiday season!"



The winners of the contest to send gifts to military troops over the holidays decided that Principal Green had to dye his beard green.

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Youth Sports

PHS Winter Sports Off to a Strong Start

By Jeff Stuart

A twenty-nine-point performance by senior Ryan Haddaway led the Falcon basketball team to a 54-38 victory over Northwood on December 5 in its home opener. On the road that same evening the girls' basketball team, ranked eleventh in the area by the *Washington Post* and the only county team to be ranked, exploded to a thirty-six-point first quarter against Northwood, winning 76-30. In the boys' game, the Falcons jumped out to an early lead. Though the score was tied at 8-8 after one period, the Falcons led by nine at the half and by as many as sixteen early in the second half. Haddaway, who scored the first basket of the game, was dominant, often bringing the ball up the court quickly and driving for the basket. He drew a number of fouls on offense and was disruptive on defense, getting several steals and grabbing numerous rebounds. Seniors Pete Barry, Jack Tyler, and Travis Zinn started for the Falcons along with junior guard James Lang. Juniors Michael Baseshore and Trevor McFall saw considerable playing time.

"It went really well," said Haddaway. "We executed every play—everybody, Travis and the whole starting five."

In the girls' game, senior Kelliann Lee had fourteen points and seven assists. Senior Erin Green had twelve points and eight rebounds. Senior

Maddie Thompson and juniors Alli Haddaway and Sarah Mullikin had eight points each.

The girls followed that up with another road victory at Wootton on December 28. Green had twenty-four points and eight blocks. Lee had fourteen point and ten assists. Thompson had twelve points, and senior Julia Hobbs had ten points and ten rebounds.

The girls are off to a 10-0 start including two wins in the Engle Holiday Tournament at Middletown and New Year's wins over Northwest and Damascus. In the January 5, 53-34, win over Damascus, the Falcons actually trailed after the first quarter, 16-15. The sixteen points by the rival Hornets were the most scored in any quarter against Poolesville this year, but the Falcons held DHS to five points in the second quarter, taking a 23-20 lead into the halftime break despite cold shooting in keeping with the weather. The game featured numerous held balls forcing changes of possession or a change in the possession arrow. The Falcons pulled away in the third quarter, outscoring Damascus, 16-8. Thompson led the Falcons with fourteen, hitting four three-pointers. Lee and Green each had twelve. Mullikin had eight. Hobbs's defensive play was key to the win. Jim Brown, Poolesville commission president, was on hand to support the Falcon girls. A good crowd attended despite the frigid weather.

The boys' team also won at rival Damascus on January 5, 62-54. The game was tied after three quarters, but the Falcons pulled away in the fourth. Haddaway had twenty-two and Pete Barry had twelve.

Continued on page 18.



With just under six minutes to go, the Falcons added to their strong lead over Damascus.



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Continued from page 5.

Tales on the Trails of the C&O Canal

agricultural products and, after 1850, coal from Western Maryland. Ports sprang up along the canal in Montgomery County which included Seneca, Edwards Ferry, White's Ferry, and Monocacy Village. Canal boats were moored to iron rings fixed to the granary wall at White's Ferry. The granary at White's Ferry was designed to allow for offloading from wagons onto waiting canal boats.

After passing the granary, we came to culvert 52, exploring five more culverts up to Lock 26. Near culvert 52 in the canal prism, I spotted a bearded fungus growing out of a tree. I especially enjoy taking pictures of surprising plants life as well as the many animals that cross our path as we walk.

At mile 38.2, I came to the Marble Quarry Hiker Biker Campsite. My imagination fires up when I realize that the marble quarry to the east was used for the columns in Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol building.

Near this campsite is White's Ford, a favorite place for Confederate soldiers to cross the Potomac River. I often imagine what it may have looked like with thousands of soldiers walking along the towpath.

That day, Violet and I made it to Lock 26 which was completed about 1831. The lock was built of red sandstone that was quarried seventeen miles away at the Seneca Quarry. The stones were boated up the canal to build this lock. The lock is now filled in to prevent its collapse. All that remains of the once wood-frame lockhouse is its stone foundation. The giant silver maple tree growing there is the largest silver maple in Maryland.

During our walk, it was gratifying to remove items carelessly left behind by others, so much so that I filled a kitchen-sized bag of trash.

After this walk, we were joined by a friend while we hiked up from the parking lot at the bottom of Sugarloaf Mountain following the blue blaze trail out to the White Rocks. Part of our walking is training and practice for a hike we are planning later to Maryland Heights and the Civil War forts on top of the mountain across from Harper's Ferry.

In future columns, we look forward to sharing our experience at Harper's Ferry as well as other adventures, such as when I went dinosaur tracking with one of my sons at White Marsh where we found some preserved dinosaur tracks and coprolites. Of course, I welcome others to join me and the dogs on these excursions into nature, history, preservation, and cleanup. It beats watching TV.

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A lifelong Maryland resident, Dr. Spaar, is a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. For the last 10 years, Dr. Spaar has been in general small animal practice with special interests in nutrition, preventive medicine, and internal medicine. She believes strongly in the human-animal bond and feels that preventive medicine and early disease detection can prolong the amount of time her clients can spend with their beloved pets.

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Continued from page 1.

Commissioners Announce Public Meeting with MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith

spending program has led to “a lot of speculation and misinformation being put forth.” In order to “allay the concerns of the Poolesville and Western Montgomery County communities, [the commissioners] desire to know what your long-term plans are for the Poolesville Cluster Schools, including a new PHS, as well as correcting the building’s current deficiencies.”

The need to include Poolesville High School in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for renovation has been evident since the 1990s. The original building that is now part of today’s PHS was constructed in the mid-1950s, and PTSA representatives have consistently told the county over the years about the school’s overcrowded cafeteria, outdated infrastructure and equipment (such as drafty windows), and problems with poorly-designed lockers, among many other shortcomings. Some improvements were made to the school in 1978, but it has never had its entire plant modernized and updated. At various times, the Poolesville Cluster has been assured that PHS would be placed in the CIP, but it has never happened.

In discussing the upcoming appearance of Smith, Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski remarked that he and Cluster Coordinator Donna Lowell had testified repeatedly about the need to include PHS in the CIP for renovation. He said, though, that he is not just concerned with the high school but also about the plans the county might have for all of the schools in the cluster. John Poole Middle School and Monocacy Elementary School, he noted, operate with student enrollment levels far below building capacities.

Commission President Jim Brown agreed that the cluster has many issues that need to be discussed with the superintendent, and that his ideas on what the future will be for the cluster are important, as noted in the letter the town sent inviting him to appear; however, he suggested that without a modern high school with up-to-date facilities, it will be harder to maintain the reputation and success that have characterized PHS in recent years, and the high school’s success reverberates through the other schools in the cluster. He said that it would be important not to lose the central focus of the need for renovation of the high school in discussing the Poolesville Cluster with Superintendent Smith.



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Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC Events – Poolesville Baptist Church)

Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold: Wednesday in gym at 1:00 p.m.

January 16

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball. Watkins Mill. 7:15 p.m.

January 18

Upcounty Prevention Network/ Montgomery County Police: Special Marijuana Alert! Program

Updating parents and students on new laws and research. *John Poole Middle School all-purpose room.* 7:00 p.m.

January 17

Poolesville Planning Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

January 19

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' basketball. Seneca Valley. 7:15 p.m.

January 22

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Featuring special meeting with Montgomery County Public School Superintendent Jack Smith. Also, a

public hearing on proposed enactment of new park/field use permits and fees. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball. Damascus. 7:15 p.m.

January 23

PASC: Pizza and Movie Night

Featuring: *The Mountain between Us.* *Poolesville Baptist Church.* 6:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Wrestling. Northwest. 6:15 p.m.

January 26, 27, and 28

The Blue Hearth Market Weekend

The Blue Hearth has opened a new small garden room! Think spring in this cold time to make you feel warm. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

January 26

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball. Magruder. 7:15 p.m.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things To Do?** Then let us know! Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Continued from page 6.

Tidbits

Waste Not, Want Not

Montgomery Countryside Alliance connects farmers with land and community, residents with local food, students with a 93,000-acre classroom, and those who care to protect land and water with the opportunity to take action and get results.

One way they connect folks is through their Producers Listserve, an email list of more than one hundred local farmers who swap know-how and share equipment. An excellent example was when Astrolab Brewery of Silver Spring asked for help finding a farmer to haul off spent grain (pigs love to eat spent grain; it's also a great compost ingredient). After posting on the listserv, within just hours, the brewery cofounder heard back from two farmers. The owner responded with thanks and reported, "You

always go out of your way to support farmers and the community."

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Tribute

Community Outreach Officer Works In Partnership with Area Residents

By Susan Petro

Officer Doug Tressler loves being a part of the Poolesville area community where he currently serves as a Community Outreach Officer for the Montgomery County Police Department. Tressler enjoys working in Poolesville because of the support of the community and town employees. "The best policing comes from a community partnership and working in conjunction with residents, not in an adversarial position," said Tressler.

When the Rockville District, which is based in the former National Geographic building on Darnestown Road, took over coverage of the Poolesville area known as the Baker Three patrol beat, Tressler began covering Poolesville on the midnight shift. He quickly grew to love the area because the community embraces law enforcement officers—yet earning the residents trust took some effort, initially.

When Tressler first came out, he got the impression that the community felt like they could take care of things by themselves and were a little reluctant to call 911 or the non-emergency number for help. "My goal as a police officer is to get out there and form partnerships with the people. I believe there is no stronger force than a good, strong partnership between the people and the communities they serve," said Tressler. "Without the support of the communities, not just here but throughout the country, police are far less effective."

One of the early memories Tressler has about the Poolesville area community was on Beallsville Road when there was a tree down across the road and he had to direct traffic. "It was three o'clock in the morning, and it was cold. I had to stand out there and direct traffic," said Tressler. "About twenty minutes later, two men showed up with a couple of chainsaws and asked if I needed help getting the roadway opened, and they helped do it!"

Tressler has been a police officer for approximately thirty years, starting in Anne Arundel County for five years before taking a hiatus to work in the

insurance field. The desire to be an officer never left, though, and Tressler rejoined the force and became an officer for Montgomery County twenty-five years ago, spending many of those years working the midnight shift.

When the opportunity to become a Community Outreach Officer opened in the Rockville District, Tressler took that position. Although the position covers the entire Rockville district, Tressler has the flexibility to work from anywhere, and the Town of Poolesville staff has welcomed him to base his operations from the town hall and community.

As part of his outreach efforts, Officer Tressler has been very active with the UPN (Upcounty Prevention Network) and has provided valuable

information to the community about the prevalence and effects of drug use and prevention outreach. Two specific activities that Tressler is contributing his efforts to in January are a presentation called Marijuana Alert which is being held on January 18 at John Poole Middle School for parents and older youth, and a student event for Poolesville High School students which is being held at the St. Peter's Sanctuary on January 25 in the afternoon. For the second event, Tressler worked to provide an impaired driving simulator which will allow students to experience the effects of drug or alcohol impairment when behind the wheel.

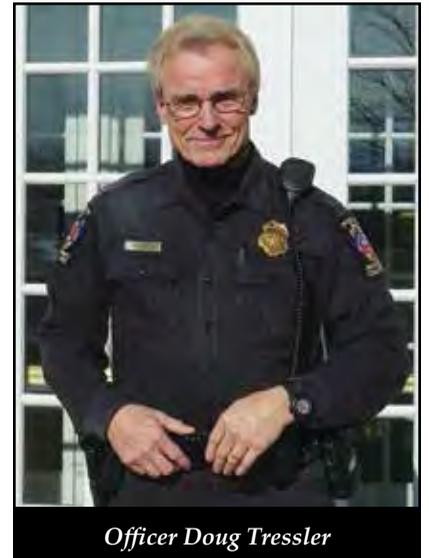
Tressler encourages parents to reach out for help if they suspect their child may have a substance abuse problem. "Montgomery County has good intervention services. We have outreach programs, a great treatment center, and we have some good programs to help," said Tressler. "We used to believe that they've overdosed, they have paraphernalia, let's just lock them up. Everybody now knows that doesn't help a thing."

Tressler adds, "Our most difficult challenge is stopping the flow of drugs but also getting these people who have gone through the program not to come back and get with the same friends that got them there in the first place."

One of the main messages Tressler would like to get out to the community is not to be afraid to call the non-emergency number (301-279-8000) or to reach out to a local law enforcement officer if they have an issue they would like to discuss. "People are reluctant to come forward because they watch the news and get the wrong impression of police officers. What they see on the news is either not true or tainted in the way it's presented," said Tressler.

"We have so many really good, family police officers. Their families are here, a lot of them grew up here, or if they didn't grow up here, they've been here for many years and their families are here," said Tressler. "I would like people to realize that all you have to do is reach out and make these people your neighbors."

Poolesville Commissioner Valaree Dickerson sums up Tressler's service to the Poolesville community: "Officer Tressler has dedicated his work hours and personal time to helping one person or twenty, one day at a time. He is so genuine and makes it impossible to turn a blind eye watching the way he has given to our community."



Officer Doug Tressler

Continued on page 17.



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Yeas and Neighs

In Riding and in Life, This Couple Went the Distance

By Andie Devynck

Most folks have heard the adages, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em" and "Those who play together stay together." Perhaps less well known (except among horse people) is a more sinister one, "Horses make divorces." Combine these three, and you'll find they form a solid solution to a particular marital problem: If one partner is resolute about competing in distance riding competitions, the other would do best to consider going along for the ride. Given the inordinate amounts of time necessary to care for endurance horses on a weekly basis—feeding, grooming, barn, tack and equipment maintenance, training rides of five to twenty-five miles, trailer preparation for competitive rides, hauling to events often over fifty miles from home, and horse camping for two to four days during the competitions—it comes as no surprise that husbands and wives train and compete together. What follows is the story of one such couple—the challenges they faced and the strategies for success they developed and employed over their decades of marriage and long-distance riding.

First, for those unfamiliar with the sport, a bit of background: Long distance riding, as defined by the American Endurance Ride Conference (or the AERC, whose motto is "to finish is to win"), is a sport in which the horse and rider are a team, and the challenge is to complete the course with a horse that is "fit to continue." A panel of control judges supervises the equines, each of which must pass a pre-ride examination in order to start the event. During each ride are set hold times, which vary in duration from a simple gate-and-go to one-hour rest holds. During these holds, the equine's physical and metabolic parameters are checked. The horse must pass the exam in order to continue on the course. Each horse must also pass a post-ride exam in order to receive credit for completing the course.

Often called endurance riders, these equestrians have many things in common: a love for their horses, a desire to ride on scenic trails, and at least a little bit of a competitive spirit. Riders compete in endurance (fifty or more miles) and limited distance (twenty-five to thirty-five miles) rides. The AERC offers junior-level prizes in most categories, and all riders may compete for regional and national awards, or just to earn mileage awards with their favorite trail companion. Everyone who completes an AERC ride earns a completion award.

Brenda and Greg Senseney of Knoxville, Maryland were a fixture on the East Coast distance riding scene. Sadly, Greg passed away at age sixty-nine in August 2016 due to cancer. He rode for twenty-five years, accumulating almost 9,000 competition miles. Brenda started competitive trail riding in 1977 with ECTRA (Eastern Competitive Trail Riding Association) and NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference). In thirty-nine years, she accumulated over 15,000 miles in CTRs and Endurance with an Anglo-Arabian gelding, a Tennessee Walking Horse mare, and several Appaloosas. Though distance riding is perfect for Arabian horses, she never owned or rode a full-blood Arabian.

Greg met Brenda in 1986, married her in 1990, and began riding horses after age forty. At first, he rode his bike twenty-five miles on the C&O towpath in 100°F heat trying to keep up with Brenda and her Appaloosa mare. It was not much fun for him, so he decided to ride horses instead. The sport suited his type-A personality as he was always athletic but with a stressful government job.

Brenda summed up the sport as one in which "It's all about the horse! You really bond with your horse and know when he's having a good day or bad day. These rides are put on during any and all types of weather, so it's you and your horse against Mother Nature, not riding against other competitors in the show ring—and it's a cheaper sport because horse and rider are dressed for comfort and health, not flash and style. You try to do your best and if the weather isn't great or the ride didn't go the way you wanted, you can end up with some great stories to tell around campfires!"

One challenge the two faced was that Greg was profoundly deaf, and never learned sign language, so he had to learn not only from Brenda through lip reading but by watching seasoned competitors since he was sight-heightened. Brenda notes that he frequently spoke with other riders about which kind of tack, shoeing, and electrolytes worked for them. Greg would ride in front if on the faster horse, which would cause a problem if he took a wrong turn.

Brenda's trick was to call for his horse, who was used to her voice calling him when it was feeding time, so his mount would slow down and turn his head.



Fourmiles Kuna (with Greg) and Fourmiles Blackhawk (Brenda).

That was Greg's signal to look behind him to see where she was. She recalled fondly that they had friends tease her about getting a shock collar for him to get his attention quicker.

Greg's deafness was a challenge that also had an unexpected benefit, Brenda pointed out. Since Greg was so visually sensitive, he could spot lameness on a horse better than most people, including some veterinarians. He was very in-tune to his horses' gaits and moods. It made him a very good horseman because if his horse wasn't looking or feeling one hundred percent, he would leave him at home. She recalled that his talent helped her become more proficient in seeing gait aberrations.

Brenda rides still with their three Appaloosas and plans on competing in 2018, her fortieth year of competition. For those whose curiosity is piqued by Brenda and Greg's story and what the sport has to offer, get online and go to ECTRA.org and AERC.org. They are the organizations which have the most sanctioned competitions in our area. Both websites have instructional material, ride calendars, and most important, contact information so you can find a mentor in your area. Lastly, Brenda offers Greg's advice: The best way to get started is by contacting a local ride manager and offering yourself as a volunteer. It's a great way to get experience and meet new friends—the distance-riding community loves newbies!

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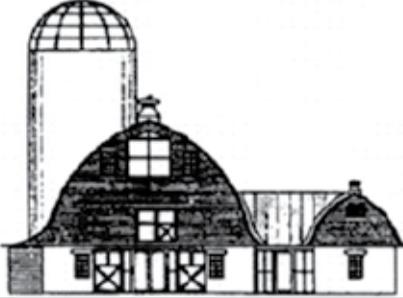


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P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842
Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

Dear Friends,
In the past month we have had three major victories for the Ag Reserve:

The Bridge to Nowhere
The Council of Governments has been discussing the revival of the idea of a bridge across the Potomac that would lead to a highway through the Ag Reserve. The argument is that it would alleviate traffic congestion despite numerous studies that have shown such a bridge would not alleviate traffic. The SCA met with key representatives in the County Council and the COG to help them understand the fallacy of this argument. The proposition to consider the construction of a new up-county bridge was voted down.

The Dickerson Waste Incinerator Might Lose Its Designation as Clean Energy
Maryland is the only state in the country that considers burning trash a clean energy source. As a result, the burning of trash has been awarded millions of dollars in renewable energy credits. We and other citizens groups have worked closely with the County Council to reject this policy. They have now unanimously passed a resolution that recommends the state remove all remaining non-clean combustion sources by 2020. This means the Dickerson incinerator would no longer be subsidized as a clean energy source.

Eliminating Greenhouse Gas Emissions
The County Council unanimously passed a resolution declaring a climate emergency. The goal: reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and 100 percent by 2035. This would entail the closing of both the waste incinerator and the coal-fired power plant in Dickerson—by far the two worst polluters in the county.

Although these resolutions are not legislation, they clearly show the resolve and intent of the Council. We will be helping to craft legislation that will ensure that these resolutions become concrete actions that get these polluters once and for all out of our backyard.

With renewed hope for a clean and productive future for all our Sugarloaf neighbors and friends, we wish you a peaceful and joyous New Year.

Lauren Greenberger, President *Lauren Greenberger*
Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

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Thomas Howard Bodmer



Inez Anderson Brown



James Herbert Brown



Jacqueline G. Bylsma



Howard F. Carter, Jr.



Judy Corse



Artistides R. Espinoza



L. Jane Fowler



Linda Sue Waldron Harris



Johanna Maria Catharina
Meijer Heeres



Orlan Andrew Helmick



Roy D. Herr



Jeffery Mark Hill



Bruce Kenneth Holmquist



Mary Ann Johnson



James T. Kelley



Edith Catherine Lambert



Doris Matthews Lewis



Maynard Clark "Junior"
Luhn, Jr.



Harriet B. Magaha



Thomas John McAllister



Alice Duley Mills



Gabriella Molina



Pamela Grosvenor
Mongan-Taylor



Cora F. Munday



Dax Rael Norman



Conrad Paul Potemra

- Howard "Hap" Russell Albertson, Jr.
- Mark A. Arnold
- Richard "Rich" J. Belferman
- Barbara Jean Bell
- Larry Dean Benes
- Thomas Howard Bodmer
- Inez Anderson Brown
- James Herbert Brown
- Jacqueline G. Bylsma
- Howard F. Carter, Jr.
- Eleanor Jeraline Collins
- Judy Corse
- John Andrew Dale
- Christine Dorsett
- Artistides R. Espinoza
- Jeffrey Dylan Fisher
- L. Jane Fowler
- Harry Leo Ganjian
- Linda Sue Waldron Harris
- Johanna Maria Catharina Meijer Heeres
- Orlan Andrew Helmick
- Roy D. Herr
- Jeffery Mark Hill
- Bruce Kenneth Holmquist
- Mary Ann Johnson
- James T. Kelley
- Edith Catherine Lambert
- Doris Matthews Lewis
- Millard William Luhn
- Maynard Clark "Junior" Luhn, Jr.
- Harriet B. Magaha
- Thomas John McAllister
- Alice Duley Mills
- Gabriella Molina
- Pamela Grosvenor Mongan-Taylor
- Cora F. Munday
- Dax Rael Norman
- Conrad Paul Potemra
- David Andrew Poulos
- Sandra Jo Rachel Benjamin Harold Randolph, Jr.
- Meredith Carrick Rinaldi
- Jean Roesser
- Anna L. Scheib
- Charles McKinley Schramm
- Anita Nelson Simmons
- Walter Jerome Stoner
- James and Dolores Suit
- Michael Thomas Sutherland
- Robert Eugene Thomas
- Daniel E. True
- Lee Allan Van Dyke
- Patricia "Patti" E. Watkins
- Ella Mae Wynne
- John "Jack" Yates

Farewell.



David Andrew Poulos



Benjamin Harold Randolph, Jr.



Meredith Carrick Rinaldi



Anna L. Scheib



Charles McKinley Schramm



Anita Nelson Simmons



Walter Jerome Stoner



James and Dolores Suit



Michael Thomas Sutherland



Lee Allan Van Dyke



Patricia "Patti" E. Watkins



Ella Mae Wynne

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Continued from page 7.

Fire Department Urges Fireplace Safety after Rash of Fires

Never use a flammable liquid to start a fire. The fireplace is not your grill. Keep your fireplace doors open while enjoying a fire.

After the fire is out, place the ashes in a metal container and take it well away from the house to cool down. Do not leave the can in the garage or near the house. Do not use a paper bag to store fireplace ashes even though you think the fire is out.

Make sure that your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working. Remember, a chimney fire can lead to a disastrous house fire.

Continued from page 13.

Community Outreach Officer Works in Partnership with Area Residents

When Tressler is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family and grandchildren. His youngest daughter is following in her dad's footsteps and will graduate from Montgomery County's Police Academy next month.

Additionally, Tressler is passionate about animals and animal rescue. He describes himself as "the worst foster-failure ever" who now has six dogs and two cats. "Once they come to our house as a foster animal, that's where they live until their days are finished." In the future, Tressler would like to open a small animal rescue facility.

To reach out to Officer Tressler, one can call the Poolesville Town Hall or the First District Police Station at 240-773-6070.

Police Blotter: Past and Present

Present

Arrest Unspecified Crime: 18600 block of Darnestown Road, 16800 block of White's Store Road.

Theft: 20000 block of Haller Avenue, 19600 block of Seymour Court, 21700 block of Beallsville Road.

Burglary: 19700 block of Fisher Avenue.

Past

1921

Henry Ritchie, a tenant on the farm of Maurice Stup of Damascus, alleged to authorities that Mr. Stup had assaulted him and caused injuries to his face. Instead of pursuing criminal charges, Ritchie chose to sue Stup in the Rockville Circuit Court. Ritchie demanded \$5,000 in damages. Instead, the jury awarded Mr. Ritchie \$50.

Basil Taylor, Mike Davis, Edwin Neal, and his wife Edith Neal were arrested on charges of breaking into several homes in the Emory Grove area. They were alleged to have stolen silverware, linens, bedclothes, and other apparel. Judge William Viett order the four defendants held under \$1,000 bond until the grand jury convened.

Spencer Bean of Rockville was arrested in Rockville and charged with violating the local option law (a law that prohibited the sale and possession of alcohol). Judge Viett gave him the

option of paying a fine of \$100 or spending six months in the House of Corrections. Bean chose the fine.

Newly-elected Sheriff Alvie Moxley appointed Clifford Howard and Stanley Gingell as deputies. Each was given an automobile for patrol purposes and would be paid \$1,500 a year.

Joseph Stang, of Clopper, was found not guilty of the murders of John and Eugene Pierson of Poolesville. The case dated back to the summer of 1920 when the Pierson brothers went to the picnic at the St. Rose of Lima Church and supposedly caused a disturbance. Stang, who lived next door to the church grounds, retrieved his shotgun and ordered the young men off of the property. Stang said that the boys moved to attack him, and that is when he shot them dead.

Relatives and friends of Edith Johnson of Mt. Claire, New Jersey formed a search party to look for her after she had been missing from the home of her brother-in-law near Oakdale (a small community that used to be located between Rockville and Boyds). Her body was found lying on a lane that led to the main road. Fearing that she had been murdered, the sheriff was called as well as a doctor. It was ruled that Mrs. Johnson had died of apoplexy and that no foul play was involved.

Material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

Remembrance

Linda Sue Ripley

Linda Sue Ripley (Lin) was born on December 13, 1962. She was the daughter of Wilda and Gene Ripley. She is survived by her wife, Paige Therese Kovach, and children Zachary Joseph (20) and Mackenzie Lin (17). She was born in Wheeling, West Virginia and was raised on the family farm where her love of animals, particularly cows, was started.

She attended West Liberty and received a BA in English. She wanted to be a grammarian. She went on to get her Master's in Social Work from Howard University and worked for Child Protective Services for fifteen years in Washington, D.C. Lin received her doctorate in Social Work from Catholic University in 2011. She worked at Stoddard Baptist Home as their Clinical Director and started her own private practice where she worked with a variety of clients and loved the work.

She came to Maryland with her friend Gene Taylor during the summer of 1997. In October of 1997, she met her life partner and future wife, Paige. Paige fell in love with her mind, sense of humor, ability to overcome adversity, and the most spectacular laugh in the world! Together Lin and Paige built a most wonderful family with Zach and Kenzie. Lin was most proud of those two accomplishments. They have provided love, joy, humor, creativity, numerous opportunities for personal growth, and again, most importantly, love.



Linda Sue Ripley

Continued from page 9.

PHS Winter Sports Off to a Strong Start

The boys lost a hard-fought 41-39 game to Wootton at home, in their second game of the year, but the boys have posted three wins so far, including a 73-67 win over McLean where Haddaway bested his opening game performance by scoring thirty points, a career high. Nick Zehnle had seventeen, Tyler had nine, Zinn had eight, and Lang had seven.

The Falcon wrestling team opened its dual meet season at home with a 38-37 win on December 6 against Sherwood.

"Colin Savage, Alex Carbonell, Sam Hull, and Xavier Kresslein all pinned their opponents," said Coach Tim Tao. "Ray Kinzie and Ryan Johnston won by major decisions, and Dillon Trent received a forfeit. It came down to the last two matches. We were up by twelve with the 120 and 126 bouts coming up. Sherwood had two very experienced wrestlers in those weights, but they needed two pins. Our 120, Elias Izmirlan, went out and fought a tough match. He didn't get pinned. We won the match by one." The team, 4-0, took third place at the Mad Mats Tournament at Magruder and is gearing up for the Dorsey Duals at PHS on January 12 and 13.

On December 9, the boys' swimming team defeated Richard Montgomery, 103-80, while the girls lost, 107.5-78.5, at the Martin Luther King Swim Center.

The boys were led by David Umansky (100 fly and 50 free) and Roger Yerger (100 back and 100 free) with an impressive performance in the 200 IM and 500 free by freshman Josh Hou.

In the first MCPS indoor track meet of the year at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Center in Landover on December 5, sophomore Garrett Gularson was seventh in the boys' 500 meter.

On Saturday, November 25, Ryan Lockett set a personal record of 16:05.6, finishing twelfth at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional in the Bronx in New York City.

Senior running back Connell Oberman was a first-team pick by MoCoFootball.com. Oberman was named the Montgomery County Class 3A/2A Player of the Year by MCPS coaches. He rushed for over 1,300 yards and touchdowns. Other Falcons honored were offensive lineman Zach Zeranski, wide receiver Sam Garrett, defensive linemen Ryan Kasten, Travis Zinn, and Thomas Oram, linebacker Colin Hemingway, and defensive backs Charlie Brill and Glenn Mandere.

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Continued from page 3.

Commissioners Award Local Citizens Who Brightened the Holidays

proposal could finally be developed. The contract for the planning effort was approved unanimously by the commissioners in the amount of \$37,500. The Arrow Consulting firm of Hagerstown was awarded the contract, and it is expected that a plan will be finalized in 2018.

Finally, Commissioner Chuck Stump, the liaison for the commissioners to the Planning Commission, noted that the planners expected to receive a preliminary concept plan in February for the proposed Dunkin' Donuts store which is to be located in the shopping center directly across from Whalen Commons.

Remembrances

Angelica "Jelly" Macairan

On December 23, 2017, Angelica Mae Ferrer Macairan, age 17, of Germantown died suddenly at Children's National Medical Center. Born in Silver Spring on June 9, 2000 to Jose Jabinal Macairan and Guadalupe Velasco Ferrer, she was the beloved sister of Joey Angelo Ferrer Macairan.

Angelica loved soccer, basketball, learning American Sign Language (ASL), and video games. She will be missed by her high school family at Northwest. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on December 30, 2017 at Mother Seton Catholic Church in Germantown. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her honor to her family. Donations can be made to: Jose and Guadalupe Macairan, #1 Crystal Rock Court, Germantown, MD 20874.



Angelica "Jelly" Macairan

Jeffrey Dylan Fisher

Jeffrey Dylan Fisher passed away on December 12, 2017 at home in Poolesville.

Born on February 5, 1995, he is the son of Jeffrey and Candith Fisher. Along with his parents, Dylan is survived by one brother, John Dustin Fisher; one sister, Destiny Starr Fisher; two grandmothers, Peggy Fisher, Ruthann Earp; an aunt and uncle, Gene and Charlotte Fisher; and cousins, Scotty Earp, Matthew Bishop, Timothy Bishop, Andrew Fisher, Nathan Fisher, and Nicholas Fisher. Dylan is also survived by Nancy Moreland.

He was preceded in death by two grandfathers, Gene Fisher, Sr. and Johnny Wayne Earp.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family to offset funeral expenses. Checks may be made out to Charlotte Fisher and sent to the following address: 12931 Meadow View Dr., Darnestown, MD 20878.



Jeffrey Dylan Fisher

Robert Eugene Thomas

Robert Eugene Thomas, 70, of Germantown, Maryland passed away December 26, 2017. Born to the late Allen and Callie Thomas on October 24, 1947, he was raised in Dickerson where he attended and graduated from Poolesville High School. After that, he went on to serve in the military during the Vietnam War during which he received many medals for his service. He was honorably discharged and went to work for the City of Rockville for twenty years. He later pursued his passion of painting.

Robert's memory will be forever cherished by his lifelong partner, Mary Green; three siblings, Arthur Thomas, Evelyn Bufford, and Thelma Heatley; six children, Tina, Zakiya, Zenja, Robert, Jr., Shallon, and Topaz; ten grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Richard "Rich" J. Belferman

Richard "Rich" J. Belferman, 64, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, died suddenly on December 22, 2017. Born on June 20, 1953 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Herman Richard and Mary Jane (Davis) Belferman.

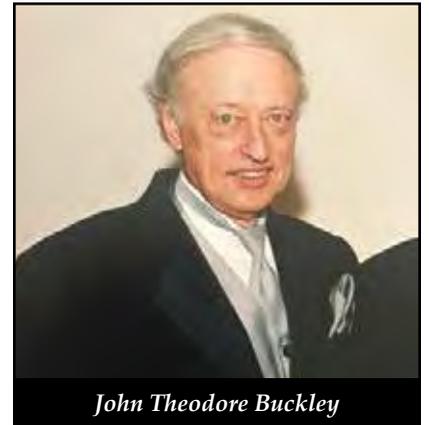
Rich is survived by two brothers, John M. Belferman of Barnesville, James David Belferman of Rochester Hill, Michigan; and one niece, Greta-Jane Belferman.

John Theodore Buckley

John Theodore Buckley, II passed away on December 31, 2017 at the age of 81. John was born January 16, 1936 in New London, Connecticut. He graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1958 and Columbia Law School in 1961. John proceeded to have an accomplished career practicing corporate law as a partner in New York City law firms and later as in-house counsel for Skandia Corporation in Connecticut. In addition to his legal achievements, John pursued many interests. In particular, John was an avid marathon runner, photographer, golfer, skier, baseball fan, and student of history—especially the American Revolution. John also served on the Pleasantville, New York Board of Trustees for two terms. Upon retirement, John accomplished a lifelong dream to author and publish *Don't Leave Me Now: A Novel of the American Revolutionary War*.

John is survived by his loving wife of fifty-five years, Jeannette B. Buckley; and his two daughters and two sons: Mary Sharon Buckley, Kathryn Buckley and her husband Greg Braun, John Buckley, III and his wife Teresa Buckley, and Thomas Buckley and his wife Catherine Buckley. John was a devoted grandfather to his eleven grandchildren, Emily Ambuehl, Olivia Ambuehl, Sophia Braun, Edward Braun, Katherine Christina Buckley, Emma Buckley, Thomas Buckley, Colin Buckley, Luke Buckley, Zachary Buckley, and Alina Buckley.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the Saint Mary's Church Haiti Fund, PO Box 88, Barnesville, MD 20838. Please write "Haiti" on the memo line of the check or contribute via PayPal on (www.stmaryonline.com/donatetostjosephs).



John Theodore Buckley

SPC Daniel Nilson Inscoe

Daniel Inscoe passed away December 2, 2017 at Walter Reed National Medical Center with friends and family by his side.

He is survived by his father and stepmother, Linwood Inscoe and Linda Macek, as well as brothers Graham Inscoe, Joseph Inscoe, stepbrother Noah Hoagland, and beloved cousin Jessica Schwartz.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation in Daniel's honor to the Yellow Ribbon Fund or Canine Companions for Independence. Both of these groups brought extra joy to Daniel in his final days.



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Remembrances

J. Robert Lillard, Jr.

J. Robert Lillard, Jr., 86, of Barnesville, passed away December 8, 2017, at Frederick Memorial Hospital with family and friends by his side. He was the devoted husband of Margery S. Lillard, the love of his life, who predeceased him October 19, 2006.

Born in Barnesville on January 4, 1931, he was the son of the late J. Robert Lillard, Sr. and Stella Viola (Renn) Lillard.

Bob or "Bobby" was proud to tell you that he was "bred, born, and raised" in the house in which he lived. He attended the two-room school in Barnesville through the third grade when the school was closed and students transferred to Poolesville. He was a 1949 graduate of Poolesville High School. For a summer during his high school years, he worked for the family trucking and paving business, J.R. Lillard and Son. After high school, he worked as a mechanic for Call Carl, followed by Rockmont Chevrolet, as a front-end mechanic. He also was a partnership owner of Poolesville Feed and Supply and a salesman for Snap-On Tools. He retired from the National Institute of Health as a Computer Supervisor with the Division of Research & Grants. During retirement, he operated a sign and engraving business from home and drove the school bus for the Barnesville School.

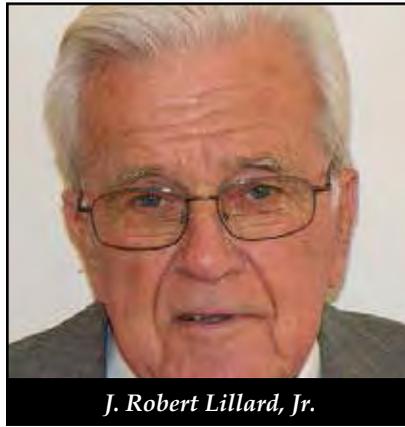
He was a veteran of the Korean War and also served in the 7th Army Signal Corp as a teletype operator in Stuttgart, Germany. He was a member of the Daniel-Jeffers Post #247 of the American Legion and a former member of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. He was a lifelong and active member of Barnesville Baptist Church, where he served as trustee, usher, and teller. He served as the chairman of Barnesville's Zoning Committee for forty years and enthusiastically served on the committee to restore Barnesville's Town Hall to its historic beauty. He was a member of the Fervency Lodge 200, AF&AM, Point of Rocks, where he was a past Worshipful Master. He had been an active square dancer, participating with numerous local clubs in the area.

Bob's lifetime hobby was antique cars. While he owned numerous makes, models, and years, the heart and soul of his collection was always a Model T. During his lifetime, he owned a C cab truck, a 1927 Touring, a 1913 Depot Hack, and a 1922 Touring. He was most proud of his trip, in 1984, with Margery and Jan, in his 1913 Depot Hack, from Barnesville to New York City to Seattle, Washington back to Barnesville with thirty other Model T-ers, retracing a race won by a Model T in 1909. He and Margery traveled extensively in their antique cars, locally and all across the nation, participating in club tours and trips on their own. He was a life member of the Antique Automobile Club of America, a charter member of the Sugarloaf Mountain Region Chapter of the AACA, and a member of numerous other antique vehicle clubs and organizations.

He is survived by his loving daughter Janita Lillard Burdette and husband, Gary. He is also survived by his sister, Rebecca Lillard Umstead; niece, Barbara Umstead Hamilton and husband Joseph; nephews James Renn Lillard and wife Sharon, and Gary Trent Lillard and wife Krista; as well as numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Ellen Lillard, and brother, Ernest "Tip" Renn Lillard, as well as nephew, Stanley Leo Umstead.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to Barnesville Baptist Church, P. O. Box 69, Barnesville, MD 20838.



J. Robert Lillard, Jr.

David Weitzer

David Weitzer, 88, of Poolesville, passed away on December 19, 2017. Born on May 27, 1929 in Brooklyn, New York, he is the son of the late Bernard Weitzer and Eva Bonner.

David is known in the community as a loving husband, father, and grandfather, stellar businessman, über farmer, beloved friend, competent mentor, community pioneer, and a strong advocate for broadband in the Ag Reserve. His passion was the promotion of the dairy industry (regionally, nationally, and internationally).

David was the owner/operator of Beneva Farms in Poolesville, a seventy-year family dairy and grain farm in Montgomery County. David raised and bred Holstein cows and raised commodity crops covering 500+ acres. David served six years on the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board (NDB) beginning in 1995 and more than twenty years overall as a dairy checkoff leader. He was a founding director of the U.S. Dairy Export Council which helps increase U.S. dairy sales internationally. In 2009, he was honored with the Richard E. Lyng Award by the NDB for his dedication and service to dairy promotion.

Before David's passing, he held the positions as the President of the Montgomery County Grain Club and Chairman of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee.

During his lifetime, David was the Vice President and Director for Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative where he was a recipient of the fifty-year member award in 2000 and also the recipient of the Cooperative's Quality Milk awards from 1947 to 2017. David was also a member of the State of Maryland Agricultural Commission from 1985 to 1993, Upper Montgomery County Farmers' Club from 1989 to 2017, Maryland and Virginia Veterinary College Advisory Committee, Pennmarva Dairyman's Federation, Director for Dairy Management, Inc., Officer and Director for United Dairy Industry Association, Chairman of Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association, Director and Member of Montgomery County Farm Bureau, Founding Member and Officer of Montgomery County Farm Preservation Board, award recipient for the Richard E. Lyng Award, National Dairy Board 2009, and special tribute/recipient in 2012 for the Montgomery County Agricultural Hall of Fame Award.

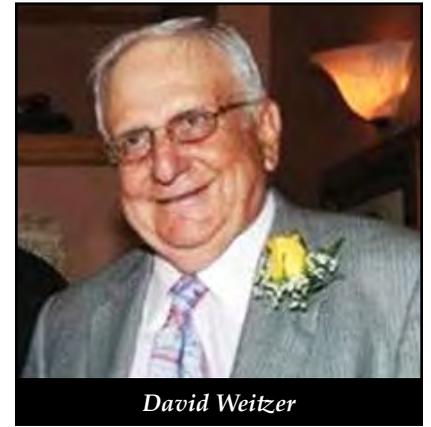
David is survived by his loving wife, Barabara Furst Weitzer; one daughter, Keri Ane Grossnickle and husband Troy of Poolesville; one sister, Sara Janet Shaw of Catonsville, Maryland; and two grandchildren, Ty and Luke Grossnickle.

Along with his parents, David is preceded in death by one sister, Edith Weitzer.

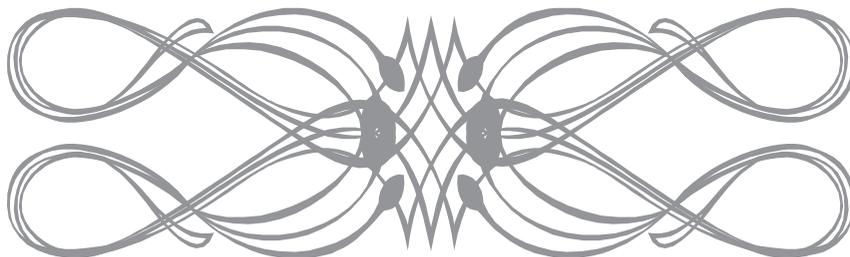
A Celebration of Life will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday January 13 at the Montgomery County Fair Grounds, 501 Perry Pkwy, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 in the Heritage Building. The family asks that if you plan on attending the service, please email barbaraweitzer@gmail.com so they can plan accordingly.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the following organizations:

First Responders, Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville, MD 20839; Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA), The Ina Kay Building, 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville, MD 20850 (www.jssa.org); or Premier Homecare by JSSA, 1390 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 (www.premierhomecare.org).



David Weitzer



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Remembrances

Robert C. Schultz

Robert C. Schultz died on December 29 at his home in Poolesville. He was 94.

He was born in Norbeck, Maryland in 1923. He graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and attended George Washington University. After the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Schultz enlisted in the U.S. Army, was assigned to the 97th Bombardment Wing, and was promoted to Staff Sergeant. Sgt. Schultz participated in the D-Day landings at Normandy and was involved in the Allied advancement across Europe. He participated in several Allied campaigns such as Ardennes, Normandy, Southern France, Rhine River, and Air Offensive Europe.

After the war, he married Jean Carlisle Thomas. He was employed at Pittsburgh Plate and Glass Co. During his tenure at PPG, he testified before lawmakers, urging them to require car makers to use a higher grade safety glass that PPG had developed. The newly-invented safety glass shattered on impact, lessening the possibility of injury.

As the owner of several companies, he developed new technologies in each field. When specializing in water treatment, he obtained a patent to improve the efficiency of cooling towers that provided air conditioning to buildings in the Washington area.

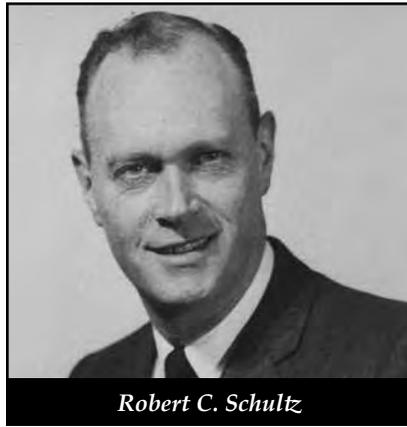
Upon retirement, Mr. Schultz moved to a farm in Poolesville where he raised fruit, vegetables, and nursery stock. Loyal customers would come from the Washington area to purchase his goods. He also supplied grocery stores, fruit stands, and restaurants with his products.

Mr. Schultz was an avid supporter of the Poolesville High School athletic program as well as the Upper Montgomery County Athletic Club.

Mr. Schultz is survived by two daughters, Carla and Jan. He also leaves two grandchildren, Matthew and Karen, and three great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Jean, brothers Steve and Jack, and by his parents Charles and Harriet.

Memorial donations in Mr. Schultz's name can be made to the Montgomery County Hospice at 1355 Piccard Drive #100, Rockville, MD 20850 or to the Montgomery County Humane Society.

Services and interment will be private.



Robert C. Schultz

Marie T. Kamachaitis

Marie T. Kamachaitis, 86, of Boyds died on December 29, 2017 at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville. She was the loving wife of sixty-six years of William P. Kamachaitis.

Born on July 21, 1931, in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late John and Emma (Mertens) Klitsch.

Besides her husband, Marie is survived by her seven children: Marie VanderMolen, Patricia Ann Hardekopf, David Kamachaitis, Karen Kamachaitis, Nancy Ann Walker, Carol Ann Moore, and Sue Ann DeSantis; sixteen grandchildren; and twenty-one great-grandchildren.

Marie was preceded in death by her brothers Gerald, Paul, and Leo Klitsch, and grandson Samuel Moore.



Marie T. Kamachaitis

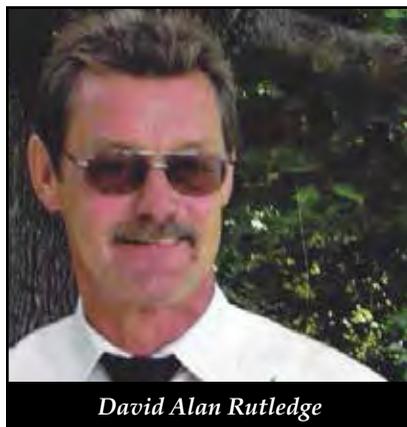
David Alan Rutledge

David Alan Rutledge passed away on December 3, 2017 at home in Barnesville.

Born on August 19, 1961 in Olney, Maryland, he is the son of Patricia Rutledge (Martin) and the late Connelly Trigg "CRT" Rutledge.

David is survived by his spouse, Jennifer Rutledge; one daughter, Kristen Ortiz; two stepchildren, Courtney Earp-Spano and Nicholas Spano; three brothers, Connelly Rutledge "Beany" and wife Debbie, Randy Lee Rutledge and wife Patty, Donald Venson Rutledge "Duck" and wife Linda; one sister, Karen Diane Marsee; and four grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.



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Sounds As If Rudolph and the Gang Were All Gals

Adapted by Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF, from a recent *National Geographic* article on reindeer.

Here's why: Here on the ground, male reindeer shed their antlers at the end of the mating season in early December, while females sport their thinner antlers throughout the winter.

Scientists consider reindeer and caribou the same species. Santa, it turns out, did some savvy hiring of his prancing parade. These antlered deer (*Rangifer tarandus*) are used to the cold. They live in Alaska, Canada, Scandinavia, and Russia where they graze on tundra plants, so even though pudgy Santa must bundle himself beneath a red-velvet suit, sleigh-pulling reindeer are naturally covered with hollow hairs that trap air and keep them well-insulated. Plus, their circulatory systems keep the cooler blood in the reindeer's limbs from drawing heat from the warm blood in their core body.

While all reindeer would be equipped for an Arctic journey and cold high-altitude flying, females might have the edge over their male counterparts.

Santa was smart about choosing his sleigh-pullers.

When the Christmas journey rolls around, male reindeer carry as low as 5 percent body fat, having lost much of their fatty stores during the energy-sapping mating season.

Female reindeer, however, enter winter with about 50 percent body fat, making them well prepared to use lots of energy flying at near light speed. The fat, which can be a couple of inches thick on their rumps, keeps the reindeer toasty in temperatures as low as minus 45° F. Which leaves us wondering, however, how they can be "faster than eagles," as legend has it.

Santa's reindeer have another hoof up on other animal sleigh pullers: They can see in the ultraviolet range of the electromagnetic spectrum, something humans (and Santa) can't do. This vision acuity will come in handy in the winter, said researchers who published a review of reindeer research in the journal *Frontiers for Young Minds* in 2015, as the sun is low on the horizon during Christmas season with lots of light scattering from the atmosphere. Result? The light that hits our eyes is mainly bluish and ultraviolet.

In addition, reindeer eyes are equipped with a reflective tissue behind the retina that reflects light through the retina, enhancing night vision, said researchers from the University College London in 2013. They found this layer of tissue changes color through the seasons. In Arctic summers, when there's constant daylight, the tissue is yellow and so reflects a bunch of light out of the eyes; in winter, when there's complete darkness, the tissue turns a deep blue — a color that reflects less incoming light out of the eye.

So now you know why reindeer—and especially females—are the best fliers for Santa's Sleigh: GIRL POWER!

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