



Frank Dorsey and his Great Great Great Niece, Cynthia Wimms. Learn more in Local History on Page 8.



It was fun and most of us missed it. See Mystery History on Page 4.



Ok, now that I've got your attention— Please turn to page 16.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 11, 2005

Volume 1, Number 20

Auer Family Supports Legislation Proposed Against Negligent Drivers

by Dominique Agnew

For the Poolesville community and the surrounding towns, it was one of those indelible moments etched upon our collective mind. There are others. Where were you when Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot? What were you in the act of doing when you heard the news that either Kennedy had been assassinated? Who will ever forget 9/11? How were your hands stilled when someone in the community called you to tell you that Sarah Auer had just been killed instantaneously in a car accident? She was so well-loved for her exuber-

ance and for her love of us and our children—it was truly a tragedy.

The grief for the Auer family has been compounded by the lack of suitable punishment possible for the negligent driver of the sixty thousand pound truck. The driver, who did not even bother to show up in traffic court for his tickets, received two tickets and a three hundred dollar fine.

On Thursday, February 3, 2005, Charles Auer, Sarah's father, went before the Judiciary Committee of the Maryland House of Delegates to offer his testimony to support House Bill 137 and Senate Bill 270. Currently,

under Maryland law, negligent drivers who cause a death only receive traffic tickets. Only if the driver was driving drunk or under the influence of drugs can he or she be charged with vehicular homicide. There is no middle ground. The proposed legislation would seek to close this loophole by creating tougher penalties for negligent drivers who cause the death of another. A maximum fine of five thousand dollars and/or a possibility of up to three years in jail would be the maximum penalty if the bill becomes law.

—Continued on Page 3.

CETA Launches Science Fair at John Poole Middle School

by Dominique Agnew

Have you ever wondered whether leaves are waterproof? Will beans grow better if the seeds have been micro-waved first? Will plants grow better in sand or clay? How effective is Round-Up? Do your store-bought cleaners really keep surfaces clean? What lasts longer, natural dyes or chemical dyes? If you plant lettuce near peas, will it grow?

Fortunately, the students at John Poole Middle School (JPMS) wondered—and discovered. January 27 was the date of the first ever Environmental Science Fair at the middle school, and it was a resounding success. As part of the Community Ecology and Technology Academy (CETA) that was begun this school year at the middle school with the incoming sixth grade class, the science fair was introduced as part of the added curriculum. It is mandatory of the CETA sixth graders and optional for other students, of which there were many.

The Science Fair was overseen by Ms. Peggy Callaghan, science teacher at the middle school, and Mr. Mark

Agnew, director of the CETA program. The students began the process in October. They were taught the steps of the scientific method and went through the process, together, of conducting an experiment and of setting up a display board with all the details of the experiment and the results. From there, the students chose their topics. For some, the topic selection process came easily, and for others, it required a bit of research, but the science fair proved that they were more than capable of tackling the task and succeeding. "It was awesome," says Peggy Callaghan. "They set a good baseline of expectations, and they'll have to work hard to beat this."

Twelve judges were asked to come to the science fair during the school day, "and they were very impressed," says Mark Agnew. One of the judges had already judged over fifty fairs and said this was one of the best ones she'd ever seen. Of course, she was talking about the displays and was not swayed by the fantastic lunch brought by members of the PTA for the judges. Peggy Callaghan can't say enough about the luncheon, "They

were very well-organized and brought an awesome luncheon."

Because the Science Fair was mainly for the CETA students, they were judged separately from the sixth and seventh graders. The following students won awards for their project boards, although it was noted that the judges had great difficulty choosing because the quality of work all around was so high.

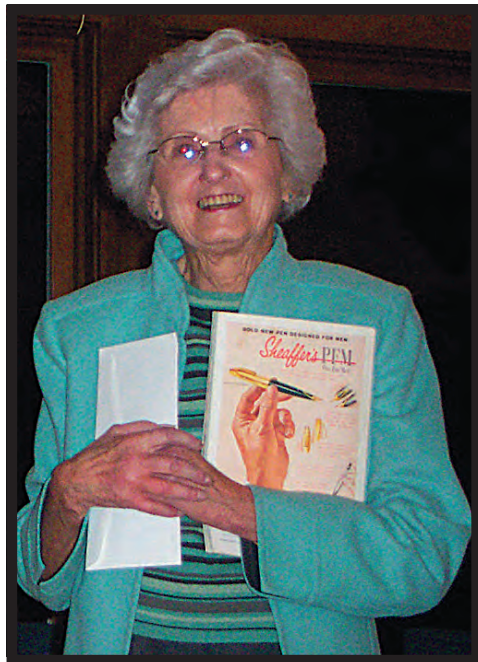
Under the category of Atmosphere and Geology: Dillon Reio won first for "A Heated Race," Amber Nubgaard won second for "Wind: The Energy's Future," Brian Broadwell won third for "Is it Rocky?" and honorable mention went to Zachary Zapata for his "Effect of Acid Rain on Stone."

In the Botany and Zoology category: first went to Mary Gillespie's "An Acidic Analysis," Connor Kirby's "WSSC Water Treatment Plant and Poolesville Water Treatment Plant Compared" won second, third was given to Curtis Betz for "Lime or Antacid: A Solution to Acid Rain," and "Death by Algae" by

—Continued on Page 11.

Family Album

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Maggie Nightingale after receiving the PACC 2005 Community Service Award at the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Dinner.



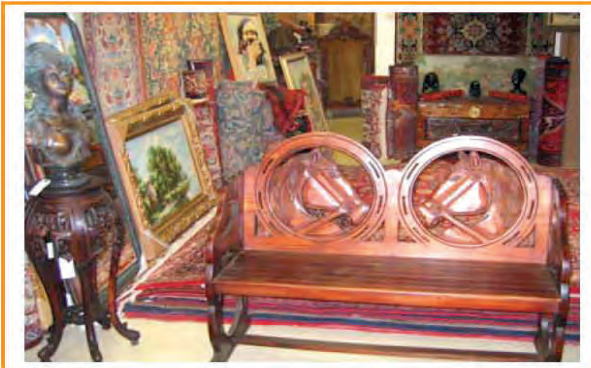
Chris Dimopoulos receives the 2005 PACC Youth Community Service Award from Jacob Perkins.



Best wishes from Barnesville.



The panel of distinguished judges at the JPMS Science Fair



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Auer Family Continued —

Mayor Larry Giammo of Rockville, a supporter of the bill, said in a press conference held January 31 at the Red Brick Courthouse in Rockville Town Center, "Our purpose through this legislation is not necessarily to put negligent drivers in jail. Our purpose is to raise awareness so people do not drive negligently."

Charles Auer, in his testimony, expressed his and his family's "surprise and disappointment when, in the aftermath of the accident, we confronted the extreme weakness in the applicable Maryland and procedures." Mr. Auer believes "the citizens and voters in Maryland would be very surprised to learn that these kinds of egregious violations go unpunished."

There were others events surrounding the post-accident procedures that burdened the Auers. While, as a matter of course, Sarah's blood alcohol/drug status was determined during her autopsy, such testing could not be applied to the driver. The police investigating the accident need "reasonable grounds" to do so, and they did not have such

suspicions. Other statutes bypass this. Under Federal law, the driver would have been required to undergo such testing by the employer because the dump truck was a defined "commercial motor vehicle." There is no standard operating procedure for investigators to go to the employer for results of the testing, and as Mr. Auer stated in his testimony, "Further compounding the many problems in Sarah's case, the truck driver's employer failed to conduct the required testing and DOT enforcement has been applied against this violation. On the other hand, if the results had been requested in a timely manner by the accident investigators...we would have had this information which would have resolved one of the outstanding questions about the accident that troubles my family to this day."

Mr. Auer closed, "We ask for and hope we can count on your support for House Bill 137. My family and I hope that through positive efforts such as this we can gain some measure of good from Sarah's death." The Auers strongly urge citizens to contact their legislators and express their views concerning this issue."

The Monocacy MONOCLE
Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Mystery History

The Days When the Big Tent Came to Poolesville

By Rande Davis

There must be something about the land where the Poolesville Baptist Church is located. How else do you explain the land's history as a cultural, musical, and educational center that goes back even to the days when the only thing on the property was grass. Sound confusing? Let us



A Radcliffe Chautauqua performer playing the lyre.

explain.

If you drive down West Willard past the church today you wouldn't be surprised to hear the sounds of music—singing and band—in the air, nor would you be surprised to hear an inspiring lecture booming from the

church doors and windows. If you drove down the same road in the 1930s in the month of July, all you would have heard would have been the sounds of silence. In early summer, however, the only thing in the air would have been excitement. Why? The Chautauqua was coming to town, or to be more specific, that's when the Radcliffe Chautauqua came to Poolesville.

W. H. Radcliffe of Washington, D.C. was the promoter of a traveling entertainment program that was a festival of music, recreation, and inspiration. For three full days, two performances a day, Mr. Radcliffe would bring to town his Chautauqua, an assembly for education and entertainment by lectures, concerts, et cetera. Adult season ticket holders at the cost of two dollars would have a pass to attend all the afternoon and evening performances. For those choosing to be more selective, each performance went for seventy-five cents.

Each afternoon performance would start off with a musical concert or one-act play and would be capped by a thoughtful and inspiring lecture presented by different professors and



Detail from the Radcliffe Chautauqua program.

PhDs. Typically, the music part of the performance would be a male quartet singing and playing instruments or a comedy novelty act. Each performance ended with serious lectures with titles such as "That Something Within," "Broken Barrier," or "The End of the Rainbow." These inspirational speakers were the forbearers of today's Tony Robbins and Zig Zigler.

The evening performance was similar to the afternoon performance

except that the serious lecture part was held first, and the entertainment selection would end the night. Guess they wanted to make sure there were no walkouts on such topics as "The Better Tomorrow" or the "Dawn of Civilization."

The Chautauqua was held in huge tents, and the musical selections would come from cello soloists, selections on a xylophone, and featured their leading artist on "the beautiful silver-toned Swiss hand bells." Poolesville's Dots Elgin fondly remembers her favorite part was the dancers arrayed in fabulous costumes doing the can-can or slipping into the Charleston in their flapper outfits. The Plymouth Male Quartet sang in blended voices, played instruments, and brought the crowd to its feet with impersonations.

After three days and nights, the Chautauqua would slip out of town and move elsewhere to find an eager crowd thirsting for inspiration and entertainment. The field would go empty, the grass would begin to overcome its trampled state, the people of Poolesville would have memories of the thrill of the pretty dancing girls, the handsome men, and the drama of the very special four-act plays.

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Editorial

One Down and Eleven To Go

by John Clayton

Why do I get the feeling that the year is almost gone? As anyone of any age knows, each year goes by a little faster than the one before. It has been explained to me that when you are five, a year is 20% of your entire life, which significant. When you are fifty it's a little less than that, so you don't really notice it flying by. What's another two percent but a brief blip on the timeline?

The New Year (already 8.33% shot) seems to be elapsing just as quickly, but this whole January thing is overblown. The true New Year is Labor Day. We end the year with vacations and slower times, and be it school or work we gear up for another go at it. If you operate on a calendar year budget of any kind, then by fall you're winding down the old one and climbing up on the new one. There's nothing special about January. I even waited until February to rejoin my

gym.

The Monocle is generally a cheerful and upbeat newspaper, but that doesn't mean we don't keep our eye focused on events around us. The Tsunami in Asia and Africa is the largest natural disaster in anyone's memory, and while the event is over a month old (an eternity for our attention span) it hasn't fallen out of the national consciousness—and it shouldn't. Young and old want to help; who has not been touched by the sustained efforts of children to help fund the recovery? But there is such an irony between the incredible speed of modern communications and travel that can put us at the site instantaneously, while coastlines with several hours of potential warning time were totally unaware of what was coming. Underdevelopment, poverty and substandard housing were certainly factors in the scale of destruction. The waters had barely receded before I heard debate on whether our country's charitable response would repair our image in that part of the world—particularly with the Muslim population. If

—Continued on Page 11.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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More Music from Strathmore

February is the long anticipated opening of the Music Center at Strathmore and we could not be more excited over the high-caliber of entertainment that will be available just down the road. This \$100,000,000 project opens its 1,976-seat concert hall with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra directed by Yuri Temirkanov. Opening night featured cellist Yo Yo Ma and sopranos Harolyn Blackwell and Janice Chandler-Eteme.

Basket Bingo to Benefit Tsunami Victims

The Holy Name of St. Mary's will hold its annual basket bingo fundraiser at St. Mary's Pavilion on February 25. Proceeds will be contributed to Tsunami victims. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the games to

begin at 7:00 p.m. Longaberger Baskets will be filled to the brim and there will be door prizes and raffles. Tickets are \$20.00. Call 301-349-5092 for more information.

Irish Dance

Black Rock Center for the Arts presents the Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance on February 12 at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 for this presentation by award winning dancers. The school has Irish Dance classes from six years old to adult, beginners to champions.

Girl Scout Cookie Time

Just in case you haven't read our Pulse article yet, we want to bring your attention to the fact that this is Girl Scout Cookie sales time again and our girls need support more than ever. If your yearning for the Thin Mints is strong and you don't want to take a chance on missing out you should call Pat Ferris at 301-972-7205 so she can take your order. As you order those cookies for yourself, remember you can order extras to be sent to the troops overseas.

Remembrances

W. Clark Poole, Jr.

Mr. W. Clark Poole, Jr., 72, of Barnesville, died from complications of pneumonia on Monday January 31, 2005 at the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville. Friends fondly recall Mr. Poole's devotion to his family and his hard work as a lifelong dairy and crop farmer. Mr. Poole served in the Navy and is survived by his war bride, Maggie, whom he met at a USO dance in France during World War II.

Born in 1932 in Frederick, he was the son of the late Willson Clarke and Lois Poole. He was a member of the Montgomery County Farmers Club and president of his class at Poolesville High School, 1951. Surviving besides his wife are daughter Mimi Schultze of Barnesville, brother William E. Poole of Arizona along with his family, and three grandsons: Ryan, Nicolas and Clarke. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Mary's Church or the Oncology Department at Shady Grove Hospital, 9901 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

Ray C. Bodmer

Mr. Ray Cook Bodmer, 83, originally of Poolesville, died on Tuesday, January 25, 2005 at his residence in Wheaton, Maryland. He was the husband of the late June R. Bodmer.

Mr. Bodmer was born on November 16, 1921 in the 1785 House in Poolesville, which is at the intersection of West Willard and Fisher Avenue. A class of '39 graduate of Poolesville High School, he was the son of the late Roy and Mollie Cubitt Bodmer. Mr. Bodmer worked for C & P Telephone / Bell Atlantic for forty-one years. He was a member of the Mason's Pentalpha Lodge 195 in Rockville, Telephone Pioneers of America, and Washington Knights of the Round Table. He was a proud Army World War II veteran who served his nation from 1942-1946.

In a recent issue, *The Monocle* ran a picture of Poolesville town fathers who joined together to form a pitch-team called the Groundhogs. The little boy in that picture and mascot to the Groundhogs was an adolescent Ray Bodmer.

Surviving are his children: Nancy Bodmer of Olney, Gary Bodmer of

Derwood, Robert Bodmer of Rocky Ridge, Ronald Bodmer of Laurel, one brother, Howard Bodmer of Beallsville, one sister, Mary Ann Johnson of Florida; and six grandchildren: Patrick, Christopher, Emily, Matthew, Adam, and Craig. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, 710 West 168th St., 3rd Floor, New York, New York 10032.



Ray Cook Bodmer 1921 to 2005.

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Local History

A Tribute to the Black American Family

February is National Black History Month. The article that follows, written by Karen Henson, was first published in the Montgomery Journal in July of 1983. We found this article of interest for its tribute to the Clarke family of Jerusalem, its acknowledgment of the contributions of one of the first black educators in our county schools, and for its glimpse into family life for mid-century black Americans living in the area.

In the early days of the Civil War, a band of Union soldiers came through Poolesville and caught the fancy of a young boy named Basil "Jetson" Dorsey.

At the age of about twelve, Jetson left his parents and brothers and sisters and joined the Union troops as a water boy. He marched out of Poolesville with the Union Army, and marched into family legend.

Almost sixty years later, a Dorsey of the next generation opened a small restaurant in Boston. A well-dressed, elderly man began frequenting the establishment. By bits and pieces, the younger Dorsey realized that the elderly man, who was also named Dorsey and came from the Poolesville area, could be his long-lost Uncle Jetson. A strategically-placed birthmark confirmed the identification, and Uncle Jetson made a triumphant homecoming to Poolesville to dazzle the local ladies with his elegant spats, cape, and gold-tipped cane.

The story of Uncle Jetson is one of the rich and varied reminiscences Sam and Nina Clarke have of their ancestors whose roots in Montgomery County date back to the nineteenth century in this small black community of Jerusalem, just outside of Poolesville.

Like their neighbors, Sam and Nina's family was large, religious, hard-working, and "dirt poor." During the growing season, the men of the community worked in the fields thinning corn and doing other tasks. The women did domestic work, tended their small vegetable crops, and raised their children. "I guess we were poor in a sense," Sam Clarke said, "but we never wanted for anything. We had food, family, and friends."

Jerusalem was a tight-knit community, the kind where everyone watched out for everyone else, helped when others were sick, and had free rein to discipline each other's children.

The focal point of the community was the church—both Sam and Nina's family belonged to the Jerusalem Baptist Church. Sam's Uncle George built the first Jerusalem Baptist Church, and when it burned down, his grandmother donated the land on which the current church is built.

Sam's great grandparents were Rachel and Tilghman Dorsey. They were married in the mid-nineteenth century and raised fourteen chil-



World War II Veteran Sam Clarke and teacher-historian Nina Clarke

dren.—all of whom were proud of the fact that they were "free-born."

During the 1870s, a free black man named James Clarke crossed the Potomac River from Bedford, Virginia and settled in Poolesville. He married Leanne Dorsey, the fourth child of Rachel and Tilghman. James and Leanne Clarke had four children, but only the eldest, Noah, survived. The others died in infancy of typhoid or a variety of maladies that often made child-rearing a losing proposition.

A musician, church deacon, teacher, and salesman, Noah proved to be a pillar of the community. Encouraged by an interested school teacher, he became the first person from Jerusalem to attend college.

His father borrowed the train fare to send his son to Oxford College in Pennsylvania, and Noah worked there to pay his tuition, room, and board.

When he returned to the county, Noah taught at the black school in Boyds for five years and then for one year at the Mount Zion School in Barnesville. He married Mary Estelle "Molly" Proctor, and they had six children, the youngest was Sam Clarke.

Noah became a prime mover behind the effort to secure a real school for the children of Jerusalem, helping to raise money and petitioning a wealthy philanthropic organization to fund schools for the county.

When the county moved to desegregate its public school system after the Supreme Court's landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision, Noah Clarke was on the committee that devised the integration plan. His son, Sam Clarke, served in the army in World War II and retired

dings and "pan haus" (scrapple) out of the remainder.

The children of the community were expected to help out with domestic chores and in the fields when they could. They attended school from September to April or May, "whenever the money ran out," Clarke said. "The black school year was always shorter than the white because the school board would just shut down the black schools when the money for that year ran out," Clarke said.

After attending Bowie College and the Hampton Institute, Clarke returned to the county at age nineteen and began teaching in several of the local black schools earning sixty-two dollars a month.

When the schools were integrated, she was assigned as a teacher at Hungerford Elementary in Rockville and later went on to become the first black resource teacher in the county, then an assistant principal, and finally principal at Aspen Hill Elementary. She retired from the county school system in 1973.

after a career in the federal government.

Nina Honemond Clarke was one of only two children in her family to attend college. Her early schooling took place in the same one- and two-room schoolhouses in Jerusalem where her husband was educated. A local historian, Nina has written two books chronicling life in Montgomery County in conjunction with the local historical society. One documents the history of black schools in the county, and the other is a history of black churches in Maryland and the District. She grew up in a two-story log and clapboard cabin on Peachtree Road in Poolesville, next to the hall that served for a while as the community's school and meeting house.

She recalls many of the annual events that punctuated her early years—the canning of vegetables and fruits in the fall, the annual "camp meetings" at various black churches in the county during the summer months, and especially slaughter time around Thanksgiving. Once the men slaughtered the pigs and took the proper parts to the smokehouse to be cured over hickory and apple fires, the women made sausage and pud-



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In the Garden

What's New and Tried and True for 2005

by Maureen O'Connell

In the last issue I talked about the need for garden plans. Know what look you want to achieve in your plant beds. If you are new to gardening, don't start out with too large an agenda. You don't want to be completely overwhelmed by July trying to care for too many needy plants.

Let's now look at our catalogs that have been filling up your mailbox and see what is new this year for the garden. I perused the latest ones and selected some new arrivals that I feel will grow well in our area. I will also recommend some specialty catalogs and some of my old favorite plants.

February is not too early to order your selections. Many nurseries have limited supply, especially of popular items, so get your order in early. I buy some of my plants at local garden centers, but I find the variety much greater at my two favorite sources, White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut and Wayside Gardens in Hodges, South Carolina. I have dealt with them for years, and I can attest to the quality and reliability of their products. They stand by all of their plants and have replaced some that, I must admit, died under my watch and neglect. They also have very knowledgeable and friendly horticulturalists who will answer your garden questions.

Last spring I ordered from Wayside Gardens a new rose named Knock-out. It has more than lived up to its reputation as the best landscape rose for four-season interest. Beginning gardeners take note. This three foot by three foot shrub is the most disease and pest resistant of any rose I have grown. It sneers at drought, humidity, powdery mildew, and blackspot. Japanese beetles hate them. If your garden runs a little on the shady side of the street, this rose is for you. Knock-out needs only two to three hours of sun per day. It is also perfectly happy in full sun. Mine bakes all day long in the sun. Don't tell me you don't have a green thumb for roses; this doesn't need one. Brown thumbs apply.

I was glad to see in the 2005 Wayside catalog the rose Double Knock-out. This sports twice the petal power of its award-winning sister,

plus the same disease and pest resistance. This is a "must have rose." I just ordered four; I don't know where I'll plant them, but that's for tomorrow's thoughts.

This year White Flower Farm introduced "Summer Snow." Their description of this plant said: "On occasion we can claim to have a good idea, but more often the good ideas have us. That was the case last summer when we planted Verbena Tukan White in a strawberry jar. In almost no time, the jar was smothered with clean white flowers that kept coming for five full months." This would look smashing on the edge of your terrace or another sunny spot.

In the world of single-species catalogs, one of my favorites is Hedera, Etc. This nursery sells one type of plant – ivy, 370 varieties of them. You must have one spot in your garden that cries out for ivy. They have a very informative web site you might like to check-out. If you are dreaming of a garden of heather and heath, Rockspray Nursery, in Truro, Massachusetts, is your shop. The colors and varieties available are amazing.

How would a pink "Topsy Imperial Concubine" look in your garden? I guarantee you that there are not many in Poolesville. She is a Chinese tree peony that has been described as having the "exquisitely disheveled look of a beautiful woman who just had a very good time." Picture that! Now she does not come cheap; she will set you back \$100. There are fortunately a number of other beauties with a \$30 price tag. You can find these rare plants at Cricket Hill Garden in Thomaston, Connecticut. It is a specialty plant nursery devoted to supplying the best quality peonies to American gardeners. Tree peonies have been cultivated in China for more than 1400 years. Cricket Hill's web site is interesting enough for the names of the various peonies they carry, such as White Crane Standing in the Snow and Green Dragon in Pink Pool.

That bare trellis near your garage certainly needs a knock-your-socks-off Clematis to cover its form with grand splashes of pink, purple, white and red. Completely Clematis, in Ipswich, Massachusetts, offers clematis for every location and season, and in almost every color.

Do you have any iris beds? Cooley's Gardens iris catalog has been described as the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue of the catalog world. It

contains page after glorious page of irises. I never knew there were so many shades of pink. Cooley's is located in Silverton, Oregon, which is the state that has the best growing conditions for plants. Next time you pick up a plant catalog, see how many are located in Oregon.

Jockey Hill Nursery in Scappoose, Oregon is not a single-species nursery, but it does carry one of my most favorite spring-flowering plants, *Dicentra spectabilis* 'Alba', 'White Bleeding Heart'. I bought one of these plants about ten years ago from White Flower Farm. I wanted another one, but they no longer carried it. The local garden centers had the pink variety, but this can not compare to the rare 'Alba'. I found it online at Jockey Hill. This late-spring bloomer has the most exquisitely, delicate white flowers from pendulous stems, which sit above blue-green leaves. It grows two to three feet tall and needs dappled shade. This plant deserves to be placed where it will stand-out by itself; I have one that is planted under a white dogwood. It is surrounded by pink, white and rose astilbes. They are just poking their fern-like heads out of the ground, so there is no competition for 'Alba'. It is a bit fragile, so don't plant in the pathway of the family dog.

Right behind the bleeding heart, my other favorite spring plant is *Euphorbia polychrome* "Midas." This delicate one breaks ground with my mid-season tulips. It has compact mounds of fresh green foliage that is smothered by bright chartreuse blooms. The cultivated members of this enormous genus are grown for their colorful bracts, which are leaves surrounding the insignificant true flowers. Poinsettia is a *Euphorbia*. The cool chartreuse color of 'Midas' will add a wallop to your spring garden palette.

If you live in Monocacy country, you cannot help love a plant that thrives on heat, full sun, dry soil and is drought tolerant. These conditions often describe our summer months. Lavender is your man. I use it everywhere. The rose beds are edged with it; in the lily gardens, Lavendar 'Mumstead' keeps their feet cool and shaded while their heads soak up the sun. Besides their heady fragrance, the plants bear silver-green foliage and slender spikes of lavender flowers all summer. They have no diseases and are ignored by all pests. Plant them in masses or form them into small hedges. There are several varieties, some small and compact, others tall and spreading. *Lavandula x intermedia* 'Grosso' is the most fragrant and is used widely for scented perfumes and soaps. In the Provence area of France you can drive for miles and see acres of Lavendar growing in the hot dry weather. In the winter, its foliage remains green and attractive. This plant is a wonderful candidate for drying. This Christmas a friend gave me a large bundle of lavender spikes, minus the flowers, tied up with raffia. You toss a bunch on a roaring fire and the scent of lavender fills the room. Remember this next summer. Harvest the spikes and you'll have bundles for holiday gifts,

Last spring I introduced you to the wonderful world of David Austin Roses. Now for all of you new rosarians, your roses should be coming into their second growth season. They would look more comfortable, colorful and more settled if they were surrounded by perennial companions. They soften the look of the sometimes gangly rose stalks, especially if they are taking a break from flowering. My favorites are *Alchemilla mollis*, commonly called Lady's Mantle,

—Continued on Page 22.



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Youth Sports

Tuscarora High School Wrestling

By Dominique Agnew

Considering that new Tuscarora High School has only two grades, ninth and tenth, the progress of the wrestling program is truly commendable. Tim Ford, wrestling coach, is really impressed by the passion, dedication, and drive of the students on the team.

Last year, when there were only ninth graders, seventeen came out to try wrestling, with thirteen making up the final team. Only three of those wrestlers had previous experience, and they all had to wrestle varsity—there was no choice. As inexperienced and as young as they were, it is no surprise they lost all their matches last year, but things are changing. This year, they have twenty wrestlers. The three experienced wrestlers from last year, Andrew Hyrkas, Josh White, and Cruz Mannherz, are the returning captains, and thus far, the team is four and eight—already a big difference.

"They're as good as anyone out there," says Coach Ford, "but they don't feel that. We're going through a lot of confidence building this year. The thing with young wrestlers is getting them to believe in themselves." The wrestlers should be encouraged by the fact that they're receiving some of the best compliments possible: coaches from other teams are commenting on how tough they are wrestling. "They are extremely talented and they work hard," Coach Ford says. "I get every ounce of them that I can."

As it is, they only have to forfeit two weights, "and other teams are starting to sweat us." At tournaments where they came in last all last year, they are now consistently placing in the middle—ninth out of nineteen at the Parkville Tourney, seventh out of eleven at their own tournament, and sixth out of ten at the Smithsburg Tourney. This year, they should end up somewhere in the middle of the pack for counties, and Coach Ford

thinks at least five will make it to regions and at least three to states. "They have the ability, but they're young."

Over the next few years, the Tuscarora High School Titans will be very competitive. Added to the fact that there will be more grades and more wrestlers, there is also the new program in place for young wrestlers to gain experience before high school, the Tuscarora Titans, coached by Mark Guglielmini. "Mark is doing a great job," says Coach Ford. "The future for Tuscarora wrestling is very, very bright."

Tuscarora Titans

by Dominique Agnew

New on the youth wrestling scene this year is the team from Tuscarora, the Titans. Head coach, Mark Guglielmini, was approached by the coach of the Tuscarora High School wrestling team, Tim Ford, to start a program for the younger age group. Having grown up wrestling, mostly with the Damascus teams, and having coached for fourteen years with Damascus, he was enthusiastic about starting a team since he had moved out to the Frederick area.

Coach Guglielmini has been pleased with the turnout. After putting up signs in the Buckeystown/Adamstown area and running an ad in the Frederick paper, he hoped to have fifteen kids sign up, but surprisingly, there were twenty-six who decided they wanted to try wrestling.

With his two assistants, Jay Martin and Tim Wenzleff, Coach Guglielmini has gotten the Titans off to a good start, considering that only one of the wrestlers, Guglielmini's son (a mini-Guglielmini), had any previous wrestling experience, and considering that nearly half the team consists of six- and seven-year-olds. Their record as of this printing is three and one.

The team practices three times a week for one-and-a-half hours each night at Tuscarora High School. "The kids have learned a lot," says Coach Guglielmini. "It has been good for the kids." It will also be great for Tuscarora High School to have this partnership that will provide experienced wrestlers going into ninth grade.

Editorial

One Down Continued—improvements in basic health, education, and development endure then perhaps our image will improve. But I suspect virtue will remain its own reward. The USA always steps up to assist, whether gratitude endures or not. It's our way.

More locally, Poolesville advances the debate over the Master Plan, the Frederick City mayor spars over rules for the next election and our Republican and Democratic (in no particular order) representatives in Annapolis are making darn sure that nothing will happen that the other party might get credit for.

The proponents and opponents of the Bridge know the fight is far from over. ICC hearings continue, and the opposition is getting louder and clearer on (1) environmental impact and (2) the ICC will gobble up many other future transportation projects. But as we approach the next decision, it appears that from our County Executive and a Pro-ICC-packed County Council up to our U.S. Senators, there is insufficient opposition to derail the project. The Sugarloaf Citizens Association reminds us that

the ICC is simply the keystone of a plan to build an outer beltway featuring a new Potomac crossing. Ask someone from Germantown or Bethesda about the ICC and the evil Bridge—they will probably tell you one is essential and one is inevitable. Join the fight. Write a letter. You never know what might help win the day. Either way.

Boyd's and Germantown citizens are banding together to stop the dam tower at Little Seneca. There's even a Web site. This is the type of issue that everyone can get a hold of. As I understand it, there were and are other ways to accomplish the objective that don't pollute the aesthetics of the outer suburbs. WSSC may have done everyone a favor—groups that work together and win don't just wither away—they stay active and attack other issues.

We went to press too early for the Super Bowl, so by now the Philadelphia Eagles are the World Champions. Enjoy Valentine's Day at a local restaurant. Pitchers and catchers will report soon.



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School News

Science Fair Continued—

April Guise earned an honorable mention.

For the Organic Chemistry category: first, and Best in Show, went to Jeffrey Carpenter for "What's up with Roundup?" second went to Nicole Dahlen for "Dyeing to Discover," Chantal Agnew won third for



April Guise won an Honorable Mention.

"Origin of Plants: Survival of the Fittest," and the honorable mention went Daniel Hoilman for "Cricket Extermination."

There were three separate awards given for seventh and eighth grade

students who volunteered to join the science fair without receiving grades for their work: Claire Hanrahan won first and Best in Show for "Is Your Cleaning Polluting?" second went to Shelby Dahlen for "Shedding Light on Plant Growth," and "Eroding Erosion" by Caitlin Amiot earned third place.

Peggy Callaghan looks forward to the program growing and hopes it will be a requirement for all students. Many of the students from this year will go on to the Inquiry Conference, a convention given by students for students. We wish those students the best of luck in their presentations.

Monocacy Checkmates Clopper Mill

On January 27, the Monocacy Elementary Chess Club traveled to Clopper Mill Elementary School to engage in a gentle battle across the field of chessboards. While the competition was fierce, Monocacy took its opponent's flag with a score of 31-20, using average scores, over two matches per player. The Monocacy Chess Club is in its third year and looks forward to hosting Clopper Mill in May. Let the games begin.

Things To Do

February 11

Spaghetti Dinner
Crafty Ladies & Gents
United Memorial Methodist Church 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

February 16

St. Peter's Preschool Program
Infants up to preschoolers
Music, Bible Stories & Crafts
Snacks, puzzles, faith-building fun
10:00 a.m.

February 17

Storytime/Twosomes "When Winter Comes"
Poolesville Public Library
Stories/fingerplays and music
Two-year olds,
10:30 a.m.

February 21

MOPS—Mothers of Preschoolers
Poolesville Presbyterian Church
Support and care group for preschoolers
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

February 22

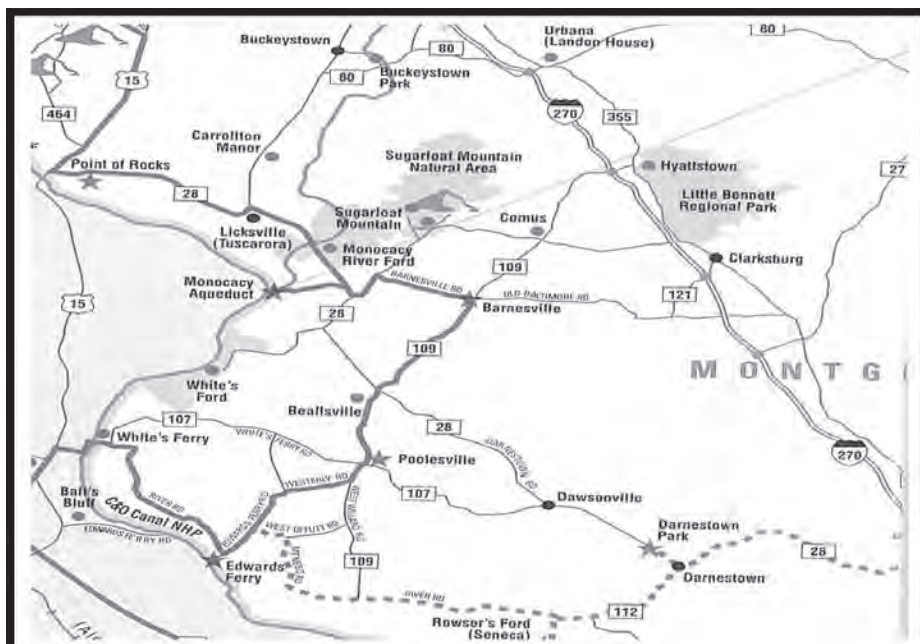
Knights of Columbus Open House to Public
St. Mary's Pavilion – Barnesville
7:30 p.m.

February 23

St. Peter's Preschool Program
Infants up to preschoolers
Music, Bible Stories & Crafts
Snacks, puzzles, faith-building fun
10:00 a.m.

February 24

Storytime/Three to Six Storytime
Poolesville Public Library
Three to six years old
Some activities in Spanish
10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.



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Poolesville - The Hoskinson House

This commercially-zoned property, located in the heart of the Town of Poolesville, is improved with a 2-story colonial w/ Federal detail. The original section of the home was constructed circa 1826, making it one of oldest properties in Montgomery Co. Originally a primary residence, the property has in recent years housed a dental office on the main lvl & an apt. on the upper lvl. Most recently, it has been modified to house 2 separate apts, one on each lvl. The upper lvl can be accessed from the main lvl or through a separate exterior stairway. Each lvl contains a table space kitchen & full bath in addition to 3 large rms on each lvl. Amenities include: replacement windows throughout, new vinyl siding, 2-year old gas furnace. MLS # MC 4881960. Offered at \$550,000.00

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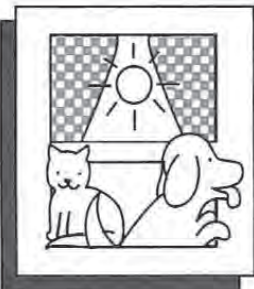
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The staff is friendly, a must when you're getting there early in the morning and you haven't had your coffee yet. They are also really knowledgeable and very helpful. It is like you're part of a great family which has really kept me coming back year after year. I can't tell you how many gym memberships I've had in my 50+ years and have had the whole second half of the year's membership totally wasted because I just wasn't motivated to go.

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Francie Dougherty, DVM, Poolesville



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Center Stage

At the Whim of the Fire

by Dominique Agnew

The wind did not stir even the tiniest leaves on the trees. The temperature climbed and climbed—it was hot, hot and dry. It was a perfect day—perfect for firing Pueblo pottery pieces.

Any students who have been lucky enough to have Nori Thorne as their art teacher in the past few years at John Poole Middle School know exactly what this is all about. They also know her to be a very enthusiastic and dynamic teacher. They may not realize that she really always wanted to be an art teacher, from the time she herself was in high school, but she took the long way home.

Unlike some military brats who don't necessarily have a place to call home, Nori was fortunate in that her father did two tours of duty in Colorado. They were four years each and encompassed her middle and high school years. Nori likes to say that "her heart belongs to the mountains." She was also fortunate to have had Mrs. Wynne as her art teacher from middle through high school. "She was a wonderful art teacher," raves Mrs. Thorne. "She did amazing things with middle schoolers. She was my inspiration."

By the time college rolled around, Nori's father retired from the military because of a heart condition and got a position as vice chancellor at the University of Pittsburgh which allowed Nori to attend tuition free. Unfortunately (life isn't always full of fortunate events), the University of Pittsburgh did not offer degrees in art education, so Nori graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Arts. The next twenty years would find Nori involved in the field of graphic design. First, she worked for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission which was "really boring and not creative." Then she became the project manager for a real estate investment trust. This she really enjoyed. She was able to dip her hands into many different things and was given the opportunity to travel quite a bit, but the itch from her childhood was still there.

In the mid-1990s, the fortuitous decision was made. Nori walked into Mr. Sacco's office at the middle school and said she wanted to teach art. "He was taken aback," she laughs. "He told me to get accredited," and she

did. She completed the required coursework and became the art teacher at John Poole Middle School.

Nori's years as a manager in the "real world" have been a big help in her teaching. Her circuitous route to this position stands her in good stead, after all. Sometimes it crosses over as the time when she had an unruly class and said, "You're fired." (Thorne trumps Trump.) One of the girls in the class piped up, "I don't think you can fire us." Nori takes it all in good humor. She loves the middle school

named it *Friday Afternoon on the Banks of the JPMS Pond*. They cut out gigantic figures to stand and recline by the banks. They made up a play, and just as the middle school chorus was singing a song about wild geese, a flock of geese flew over the banks. It was such a perfect moment, "God had blessed us."

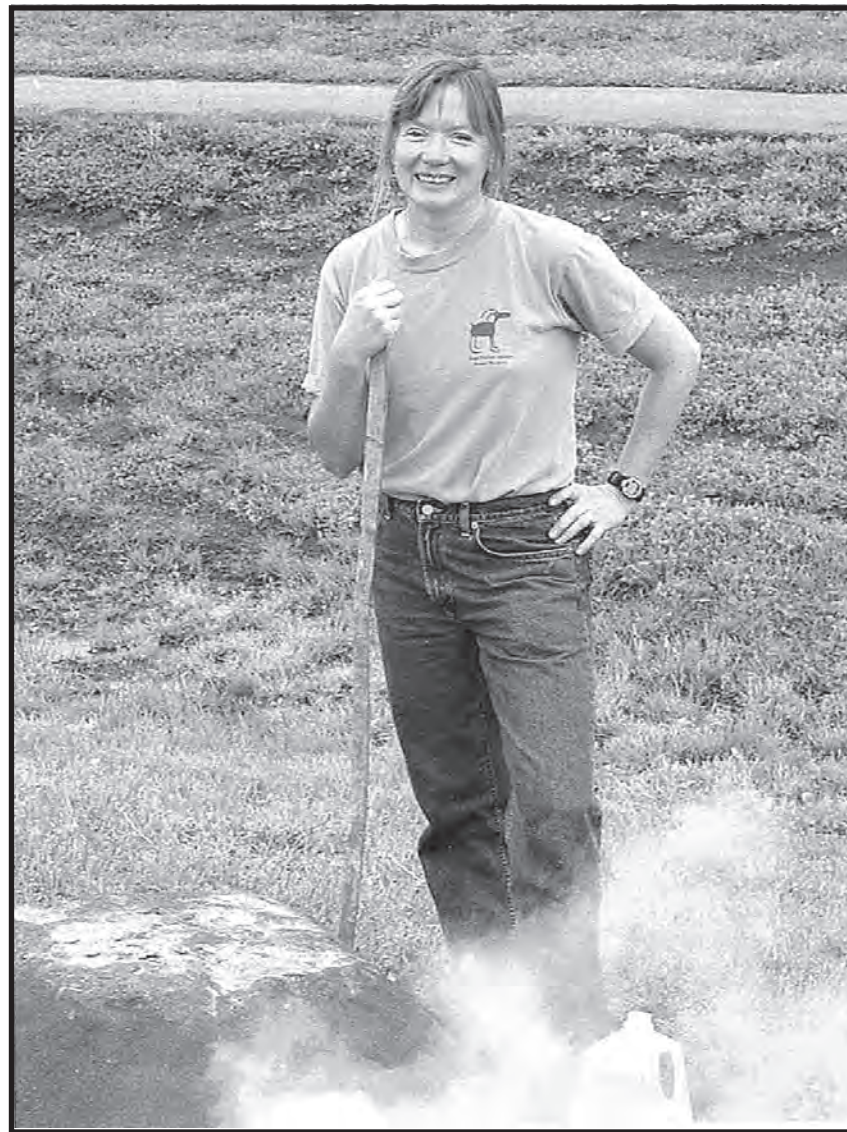
Nori can't say enough about what the students are able to achieve and accomplish. For the 2002-2003 school year, they received a grant for a Pueblo pottery project. With the full

magazine, *The Fang*, and last year was the first year they published a newspaper, *The Eyes of the Wolf* (we at the *Monocle* may have to look for other jobs soon). Both publications have already received numerous awards in various competitions, many of them first place awards. These printing projects are funded by Covanta. "Covanta is very generous to the art program. It is how we are able to buy special materials," says Thorne.

It is no surprise that Nori's own art draws heavily from the pottery of the Pueblos. "I am really inspired by Native American Southwestern pottery," relates Nori. She frequently goes camping in Chaco Canyon in New Mexico to observe and photograph the petroglyphs and pictographs. Her own backyard contains a fire pit for casting pots made from local clay. Medley Hill Makers, her studio, is where she'll create pieces on commission, but they take a very long time, and she can only work in the summer. There are not that many pieces of hers out there, especially since she typically loses thirty percent of her work to the kiln gods. All it takes is a little wind or variations in the horse manure fire to ruin a piece.

One would think that with this many ongoing projects and interests, there can't be time for anything else, but Nori is an incredible outdoorswoman as well. She has gone mountaineering and rock climbing all over the world. The highest peak she has ever reached was the 21,000-foot Mount Chimborazo in Ecuador. Of course, she has also done cave diving (who hasn't?) in Florida, and she is a "hang one" parapente pilot. She took up parapenting when she kept crashing while hang-gliding. "Parapenting is much lighter and more accessible," confides Nori. Let's not forget, there's also mountain biking and living history. "We do all the fun things," inserts her husband Tim Thorne.

All that fun aside, Nori would much prefer to talk about what "her kids" are doing. She wants to create other venues for them besides John Poole Middle to show their artwork. For the past two years, her students have swept the Montgomery County Media Festival in the graphic design category. She wants them to show on the county level, the state level, and the national level—to go as far their creativity and imagination will take them.



Nori Thorne at the fire pit.

age. "They're wild and crazy. They're funny, energetic, and they think they can do anything."

In the beginning, there was no money for the drama program, so Nori became good at writing and getting grants. The first grant she received was to reenact Georges Seurat's *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. The students dressed in period costumes, many made by Nori, and recreated the scene by the pond at John Poole Middle School and

support of Principal Joe Sacco ("Mr. Sacco raises the bar"), the students dug a hole in the soccer field, put bricks all around, made a fire (they all had jugs of water from the pond just in case), added horse manure to the fire when it was just right, put a lid on it and cooked their clay pots. The pots turn black, but when wiped and rubbed, they were stunningly beautiful.

There's more. Three years ago, Mrs. Thorne began a school literary

Center Stage

Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron Benefit Concert

By Dominique Agnew

When we last hooked up with local violin prodigy Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron (*Monocacy Monocle*, September 24, 2004), she had just finished playing in a festival in Germany and was settling down for her senior year of high school. This doesn't mean to say she hasn't been busy. October and November found her performing at the Lincoln Center in New York and in New Jersey. Then, over the winter break, she traveled to Korea to play in a special New Year's concert. In January, she spent one week in Miami with the National Federation for the Advancement in the Arts. There she won a first level in music and was nominated for the presidential scholarship in the arts.

Lucky for us, we don't have to go overseas to hear her play, she'll be



Violin prodigy Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron.

presenting a special concert at Poolesville High School for the second year in a row on March 4 at 7:00 p.m. Like last year, proceeds from the concert will go towards the music and arts programs at the high school. It is hoped enough will be raised to install a new sound system in the auditorium for the benefit of the whole community.

The enormously successful concert of last year was sold out, and it was standing room only for many. This year, it is highly encouraged that tickets be purchased in advance.

Ticket sales are not the only part of the fundraising, donations will be accepted, ad space will be sold, and an exciting Silent Auction will take place the night of the concert. If you would like to make a donation or purchase tickets, please contact Poolesville High School at 301-972-7900. If you would like to donate an item or a service to the Silent Auction, please contact the high school or Mrs. Judy Trope at 301-349-5676.

An Important Announcement About Subscriptions To The Monocacy Monocle

Effective immediately, a one year subscription to *The Monocacy Monocle* will cost thirty dollars (\$30.00) per year plus tax, which means it will cost \$31.50. This is of course still a really good deal. For this sum we will mail or otherwise deliver each copy of *The Monocle*, keeping you abreast of whatever we write about over the next year. Each issue may arrive with a cancelled USPS stamp, suitable for collecting, unless we go bulk mail or get a meter or do stamps.com, or just outsource the whole mail thing.

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Focus on Business

Coming Soon to the Shopping Center near You

By Marcie Gross

Welcome to Poolesville, David Barga and John Tompkins! Barga and Tompkins are moving into the Poolesville Plaza shopping center this month with a Korean Martial Arts School—MUDO USA. The school will offer classes in Tae Kwon Do and Hap Ki Do. These types of classes will teach students to develop self-discipline and self control as well as self defense skills.

MUDO USA is offering a free thirty-day trial that includes classes. Everyone is welcome to join in on the fun. Children from ages four to seniors can take advantage of MUDO's program. Classes will be held afternoons, evenings, and Saturdays.

David looks to our Poolesville community as a great new opportunity and venture. He is a big fan of Poolesville already. David and John want to get involved in community affairs, meet the Poolesville area residents, and offer everyone a place

to go and learn something new and fun which will in turn improve our bodies and minds.

MUDO USA will open its doors this month. So get ready and step up to the challenge of the positive mental and physical experience of martial arts training right here in town.

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Focus on Business

The Man behind the Counter

By Marcie Gross

Everyone in Poolesville has at one time or another (or more often than that) visited the Poolesville Beer-Wine-Deli on Fisher Avenue. You've eaten a sub, bought some beer for the weekend or a bottle of wine for a special occasion. This being the case, you've probably met the man behind the counter, owner Jay Schwartzman, but what do you really know about Jay?

Jay Schwartzman has lived in Poolesville for over thirty years and opened the Beer-Wine-Deli shop on Labor Day in 1975. He comes from a

foodservice background. His dad owned a grocery store in Potomac, the Potomac Supermarket, for twenty-six years. Jay entered his Poolesville business headstrong and with full force. During the first five years, Schwartzman put two major additions onto the shop and is currently planning to remodel this year. Through the years, Jay has become somewhat of a staple in town. Regulars come in for lunch everyday, and Jay knows what they want. Customers always leave with smiles on their faces and come back again with their friends and coworkers. Jay says that's how it works in a small town. Word

of mouth means more business. Schwartzman loves this town and believes "we need to support all of our local businesses."

Together with other prominent Poolesville business owners, Jay helped to put together the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce in 1979. Jay has served on the board of the Chamber of Commerce in the past, and his business remains a member. Early on, as well as today, Jay decided to be an active member of the Poolesville community. He served as Chairman of Poolesville Day a few years back. "This is a celebration of Poolesville—a way to show off our town," says Schwartzman. The year he ran Poolesville Day, the town made

enough money that it was possible to make a \$2500 donation to the town library, a fact that, when mentioned, made him smile with great pride.

In our small town, Jay Schwartzman is one of the familiar faces you see. He endorses a pro-community attitude and hopes that Poolesville remains a friendly place for families to live in and grow. Jay says that if everyone came together, we (the town of Poolesville) could accomplish so much and prosper. So the next time you're passing down Fisher Avenue, stop by the Poolesville Beer-Wine-Deli and say hi to Jay. Enjoy some good conversation and a delicious sub. Both will leave you satisfied.

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The Pulse

Quality Deer Management

By Don Hartman,
MC-QDMA President

Quality Deer Management Association is a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to promoting sustainable, high-quality, white-tailed deer populations, wildlife habitats and ethical hunting experiences through education, research, and management in partnership with hunters, landowners, natural resource professionals and the public.

Quality Deer Management is a management strategy that produces healthy deer herds with balanced adult sex ratios and improved buck age structures. This approach typically involves the protection of young bucks combined with an adequate harvest of female deer to maintain a healthy population in balance with existing habitat conditions. Other key components of QDM include habitat management and record keeping.

A successful QDM program requires an increased knowledge of deer biology and active participation in management. This level of involvement extends the role of the hunter from mere consumer to manager. To an increasing number of landowners and hunters, QDM is a desirable alternative to deer management programs where young bucks are actively harvested and doe harvest is restricted.

Our Local Chapter started last March and is only the second in the state of Maryland. With the help of John Volentine as Vice President and Dave Ater as Secretary, we see a great need for QDM in our area. We have approximately forty members throughout Upper Montgomery County. We are actively seeking to find farmers and landowners that would be interested in learning more about QDM principles and who might be interested in forming a Deer Coop. This can be done with the Hunters that are already hunting your property.

A Deer Cooperative is defined as a group of local landowners or farmers who are willing to work together to improve the quality of the deer herd, minimize crop damage and potentially improve the hunting experience.

The benefits will be shared by all involved. One of the essential benefits will be improved relations with the guy hunting the property next door, and the landowner or farmer. Keep in mind that this means that honesty and trust are two important factors in a successful Deer Management Cooperative.

Another program that we are proud to promote is the donation of venison. Many hunters do not have freezer space for more than one or two deer. There is a program called Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. This organization handles the processing of donated deer, and



then helps with the no-cost distribution of the processed venison to the surrounding area shelters. One average deer when processed provides approximately fifty pounds of venison. This will provide a lot of meals to the less fortunate families in our area. The costs are covered by the hunters and donations from various groups throughout our area. If you are interested in learning more about there program, or would want to make a donation, please call them at 1-866-GET-FHFH or visit there web site at FHFH.ORG

Our next Chapter Event is coming up on March 31, 2005 at 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Poolesville Baptist Church. The cost per person will be \$20.00 at the door—credit cards accepted. Our guest speaker is Charlie Alsheimer, an award-winning outdoor writer, nature photographer, lecturer, and whitetail consultant from Bath, New York. For more information on Mr. Alsheimer, you can visit his web site at www.CharlesAlsheimer.com.

If you want more information about QDM or want to participate in a Deer Coop on your property, please give me a call. Please send all information to MC-QDMA, 15910 Derwood Rd., Derwood, Md. 20855. Call 301-370-9491 or E-mail at mcqdma@aol.com. Contact: Don Hartman.

Girls Scouts Still Growing After All These Years

by Rande Davis

The Girl Scouts started in Poolesville in 1976 with a couple dozen girls, and today, there are twenty troops including troops from Monocacy Elementary and the Barnesville School. Total troop numbers show around two hundred girls currently participating.

As is the Girl Scout tradition, girls are encouraged to join a troop for a fun and exciting time while gaining knowledge and learning how to build lasting relationships. The Girl Scouts in our area are well-traveled, having taken trips to Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, the home of Juliet Gordon Lowe (the founder of Girl Scouts), and whale watching in Virginia Beach, just to name a few.

They have had the honor of working at the inaugurations of former President Bush and the current President Bush. In addition, they have enjoyed trips such as winter skiing, camping, going to Hershey Park, and having an over-

night at the Lincoln Caverns.

Troops are for girls of all ages ranging from the Daisies (beginners), through the Brownies and Juniors, and up to the high school level of Cadets. Girls interested in joining in all the fun can call Brenda Murtha at 301-349-4312.

February brings the ever-popular sale of Girl Scout Cookies. If you have not been approached to buy Girl Scout cookies and would like to purchase Samoas, Thin Mints, Do-Si-Dos, Trefoils, Double Dutch, Tagalongs, Lemon Coolers, or Allabouts, call Pat Ferris at 301-972-7205.

You may also purchase cookies for Valentine's Day decorated with a red ribbon and Valentine's heart or for St. Patrick's Day with a green ribbon and a

Shamrock. Are you on a diet? Not to worry since you can also purchase cookies as a "Gift of Caring Project" which donates cookies towards our service men and women, the Frederick Mission, or WUMCO.



Girl Scout Troop 3329, run by Lisa Nubgaarda, is a multilevel troop, and the largest troop in Poolesville.

Video Update

Home In Monocacy

By Ray Clark

Since it's probably snowing by now, and we're all stuck at home, Ray Clark presents his latest picks and reviews from the video shelves of our local video emporia.

(1) The Village.

New on DVD. Stars Joaquin Phoenix, Adrien Brody, Bryce Dallas Howard, William Hurt, and Sigourney Weaver. Written, produced, and directed by M. Night Shyamalan.

A small 19th century meadow community lives in harmony, until the hideous creatures of the surrounding forest threaten the peace.

The coming of this film's theatrical release was foretold by quick-cut, slasher-looking TV ads. "I like Shyamalan," I thought, "but I think I'll have to skip this experience." It wasn't until several friends assured me that the movie wasn't creepy, brutal, gross, or crass that I crossed the line into the woods of my local theater. Hey, I have a soul to protect.

Having thoroughly enjoyed *The Village* last summer, I wondered how it would play for a second viewing on DVD. Would it appear as no more than an oversized *Twilight Zone* episode? Fortunately, the second time around, I dropped my fear guard and saw the film for what it really has to offer. At the heart of this film is a gentle period romance, in an air of scare. So, if someone has told you the surprise ending, fear not! There is so much more to enjoy here.

The characters are developed with such feeling that we truly care about their well-being. The film has a terrific ensemble cast (see the partial list above), but a lead role emerges about two-thirds of the way in. No, I'm not going to tell you who it is. It's but another of the fun surprises in this fine film.

Final notes: The creatures, known as "the ones we don't speak of", are spoken of often. Look for Shyamalan in a "reflective" cameo. The Special Features are so-so.

Morality Check: PG-13 for brief violence, and it's too intense for the very young.

(2) Luther.

New on DVD. Stars Joseph Fiennes, Alfred Molina, Jonathan Firth, and Sir Peter Ustinov. Directed by Eric Till.

Augustine Monk Martin Luther (Fiennes) feels that God is terrible and unforgiving, until he discovers the teachings of Christ buried beneath all of that Latin. He finds the carnival atmosphere of the early 16th century Church to be in direct violation of these teachings. Just as Jesus flipped tables in the temple yard, so Martin Luther turns the tables on established Christianity. With the help of God and the Gutenberg Press, the Protestant Reformation is underway.

This film seems adequate enough. The acting, cinematography, set design, lavish costumes, and, for the most part, the story, are very well presented.

Where this film falls short is that it's not the epic that it purports to be. It yearns to be seen as "The Passion of the Monk", but its sweeping scope often loses focus. At times, this movie seems to be an extravagant biopic. Then, we get glimpses into something deeper. Alas, they are but glimpses.

A better choice is Franco Zeffirelli's 1973 film *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*. Only slightly dated by the music of Donovan, this film attempts to show us the motivations and early works of Francis of Assisi.

The bottom line on both movies: EVERYBODY in these films, from the Pope down to the lowliest friar cook, claims to be a Christian. Each film wants very much to reveal the very soul of Christianity through character contrast. *Brother Sun, Sister Moon* succeeds, where *Luther* muddles through.

Morality Check: Luther — very little, very mild language. The blood is seen as after product of peasant uprisings. PG-13 *Brother Sun, Sister Moon* — Only ogled clothed cleavage. (Say that five times fast, please.) PG.

(3) The Bourne Supremacy.

New on DVD. Stars Matt Damon, Brian Cox, Joan Allen, Julia Stiles, and Franka Potente. Directed by Paul Greengrass.

This is the second film based on the popular series of Robert Ludlum novels. This time, Jason Bourne

(Damon), the amnesiac super hit man with a conscience, is running FROM the people who are trying to kill him, by running TOWARD the people who are trying to kill him.

Supremacy is a tightly woven action/suspense/thriller. So tight, in fact, that we are often allowed to feel smart about being a step ahead of the very characters that are keeping us guessing. These concepts may sound mutually exclusive, but it works quite well.

Sure, many situations are preposterous. A taxi manages to recklessly destroy many cars in traffic, while soaring along as if nothing has happened to it. If you can come up with one action/thriller that doesn't find you muttering, "That couldn't happen!" please e-mail me at the paper.

My biggest beef deals with the way that some of the action sequences are handled. As we approach an action scene, the camera starts to jiggle, as if an over stimulated cameraman has contracted a case of happy feet. I understand the concept. The movement is supposed to whip us into a fervor. Here's an idea: Show us the action, instead of bobbing and whirling to either side of it.

Are you going to enjoy this film? Well, if you are one of the millions who loved *The Bourne Identity*, you're going to have another thrill ride. The two films aren't carbon copies, they just trigger the same excitement mechanism in the brain. If you didn't enjoy *Identity*, or you don't take to the genre, then run. The problem is that the DVD is everywhere, so the more you run FROM this movie, the more you'll find yourself running TOWARD this movie.

Morality Check: Blasphemous language, violence that is often bloody, and the brief view of a woman's backside. Thematically very negative. PG-13.

(4) Cellular.

New on DVD. Stars Kim Bassinger, Chris Evans, Jason Statham, and William H. Macy. Directed by David R. Ellis.

Jessica Martin (Bassinger) has no clue why she's been kidnapped. Thrown into an empty attic, she pieces together wall phone fragments, which allow her to make a random

call. The winner of the phone lottery? Rudy (Evans), a college-aged beach boy, answers his cell phone, then bursts onto the streets in an effort to save the day.

Early on, I was very put off by the juvenile sex jokes that gave way to a nonstop chase scene format, full of near misses. Well into the film, though, a couple of twists emerge, and, I'm embarrassed to admit, I found myself strapped in and loving the ride.

Headed by tough, evil Ethan (Statham), the bad guys are fast, hard, cold, and, well, bad! The good guys are mostly confused, but flailing in the right direction.

As with *You've Got Mail* before it, this is a case of "art" imitating technology. Cell phones play a prominent role in this film. (Are garden variety cell phones really waterproof?) I'm betting that Nokia paid for a chunk of the production, being the only visible brand.

So, get in, sit down, hold on, and shut up. If you put your thrill receptors on speed dial, and your common sense on hold, you're sure to enjoy Cellular.

Morality Check: There are cheap adolescent sex references, and more curse words than there are smashed cars and busted faces combined. That's not to say that the violence is scarce.

Bonus DVD Note: *Motorcycle Diaries*, *The Monocacy Monocle* Film Critic's Film of the Year for 2004, will be released on DVD on February 15th.



Poolsville Haiku.
An empty park bench.
Whalen Commons in the snow.
Selby's—bread and milk.



Day Tripper

Winter Wildlife in Shenandoah Park

By Bob Pickett

A return article from our naturalist, who would like to get all of us out in the woods to enjoy nature's bounty. If you would enjoy hearing blood-curling screams late at night far from civilization—read on.

Winter provides the Shenandoah National Park the opportunity to be the host of many northern nesting birds. These seasonal guests include northern juncos, brown creepers, red-breasted nuthatches, golden-crowned kinglets, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, short-eared owls, pine siskins, purple finch, sparrows (white-throated, American tree, and fox), rough-legged hawks, and a few others. Many of these can be found breeding in the Appalachian plateau of West Virginia and North Carolina, where it is of higher elevation and cooler, but not in our Park. Contrary to conventional thought, we do have robins in winter. There is a shift in robin populations in the fall, so that our winter robins have bred in New York and Pennsylvania while our breeding stock is sunning down in the Carolinas. If you spend much time in the woods, you will see them in large flocks in the treetops. Unlike most birds, they continue to call throughout the winter. Just don't look for them in your front yard until spring, when the worms have come back to the surface. In fact, the Indians call the March full moon the worm moon, for this reason.

Of all the birds that reside in our winter forests, the golden-crowned kinglet must have the toughest life. To start with, it is our smallest winter bird; smaller than our summer warblers, weighing in at two ounces and a total head to tip of tail length of 3 ½". This large surface area to volume ratio makes heat loss a major issue. To make things more difficult, the kinglet is a strict insectivore, passing over the available seed supply for the harder to find overwintering insect eggs. If life for this tiny insectivore wasn't already hard enough, now Man has introduced the hemlock woolly adelgid. This aphid-

like insect has been killing the hemlock groves throughout the kinglet's wintering range, effectively eliminating its favorite habitat for both food and shelter. Look for the golden-crowned kinglet flitting about in these hemlock groves in small, loose groups, often with titmice and chickadees, and listen for its weak high-pitched trill that these birds use to communicate amongst themselves.

Not all birds have it as bad as the golden-crowned kinglet. Surprisingly enough, great horned owls have been on their eggs since January, and the barred owl is mating at this time. Listen for its "who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all."

I always hope to hike in the Shenandoah National Park with a snow cover. Despite the lack of food and warmth, the great number and variety of animal tracks tells us how many animals do find a way of surviving these stressful winters. Small mammals, such as white-footed mice, voles and shrews, are most common, along with the ubiquitous deer. But bobcat, fox and coyote are also routinely found, and even bear tracks are often seen, a reminder that not all bear chose to spend the winter

in hibernation (if one chooses to apply that term to bear).

Speaking of black bear, birthing takes place in late January or early February, with the cubs weighing only 6 to 10 ounces and about 8 inches long; helpless, hairless, and eyes closed. The good news for the sow is that she will often remain in deep sleep throughout the birth! The unusual thing about the black bear pregnancy is that after a summer mating (with the male and female together over a two week period in late June or early July) and fertilization, the embryo undergoes an arrested state of development for five or six months. Known as delayed implantation, this enables the bear in the fall to concentrate its energy on fattening up on the available mast crop, instead of expending its energy on mating. Interestingly, if the mast crop fails and the sow fails to put on adequate brown fat before entering the winter dormancy, the embryo will abort. Thus, the delayed implantation prevents the sow from investing in a pregnancy before her food reserves are established. The actual gestation period of 6 to 8 weeks begins in November or December. Delayed

implantation occurs among many of the weasel family as well.

And, speaking of bobcats, if you're staying at one of PATC's cabins in the woods at this time of the year, you might be lucky enough to hear the blood-curdling scream of what sounds like a wild banshee woman. If this sounds about right, then you've heard a male bobcat hollering for a woman. February and March are the prime breeding months for them.

Bob Pickett is the Naturalist for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) and leads a monthly Natural History hike. PATC, a volunteer organization, has weekly hikes, maintains over 1,000 miles of hiking trails, has 32 rental cabins, and is a land conservation organization. More information may be found at www.patc.net or by calling 703-242-0693.

Tributes

Towson University Students Donates Her Hair to a Good Cause

Natalie Smith decided it was time for a new look. The eighteen year old Towson University freshman, whose long hair has been a trademark since she was a little girl, recently cut most of it off—and for a good cause. Natalie donated her hair to the organization *Locks of Love*, which she heard about through other friends.

The organization opened its doors in 1997 and works in conjunction with a wig manufacturing company to provide prosthetic hair pieces for children who have lost their hair, usually due to a medical condition. Hair must be at least ten inches in length and cannot not bleached or chemically altered. The hair should be

put in a rubber band or ponytail holder and placed in a padded envelope. Financial donations are also accepted. More information can be found on their website at www.locksoflove.org.

Natalie, who got her hair cut and colored last month, loves her new look and is glad that she could help out other kids. She is glad that she was able to help out the organization in some way and encourages others to do the same.



Natalie Smith and her donation to a good cause.

Horizons

Barnesville Town Hall May Receive State Funds for Restoration

By John Clayton

The Town of Barnesville is continuing to march towards the restoration of their seventy-eight-year-old town hall building into a 21st century-quality facility with historic preservation considerations intact. Passersby have noticed the clean-up of the site over the past few months, but with the recent news of potential state funding for renovation, more aggressive work should soon follow.

Senator Rob Garagiola, state senator from District 15 recently introduced a bill that would authorize an \$85,000 bond for the needed renovations to the historic building. Senator Garagiola stated, "I am excited about the opportunity to help restore the historic Town Hall. This will be money well-spent as we work in partnership with Mayor Pete Menke and the Barnesville commissioners."

In a discussion with *The Monocle*, Mayor Menke explained that the \$85,000 figure is one-half of the



The Barnesville Town Hall, With Work Yet To Be Done

amount needed for the full restoration. An estimate for the full cost of restoration was developed by a town committee working with a construction estimator. The bond proposed by Senator Garagiola will provide matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis as the town spends its own funds on the work.

Mr. Menke was unsure as to the prospects for passage of the bond by the state legislature, remarking that such state financing "depends on many factors." The project and its

funding are also tied in to the Historical Society, which will oversee the project.

Mr. Menke is part of a town committee, with former Mayor Lib Tolbert and Bob Lillard, which has put out several tasks for competitive bids. Two bids are close to being awarded—one to reestablish electrical service and one to gut the building. Performance of these initial tasks is imminent.

Mayor Menke has been a tireless advocate for restoration of the building, going back to early last year when discussions of renovating the town's once and future Town Hall first came to light. Last August, the town opened the building for inspection to show the work that had been done to date, and the potential the building has for many more years of use. The building dates back to 1925 and was originally built and used as a town hall with an open interior and a stage in the back. According to Mayor Menke, the Barnesville Baptist Church

owned the building at one time, and the meeting hall was converted to a house by adding on to the original structure and dividing the interior space into rooms. This was done sometime in the 1950s or 1960s to accommodate the widow of Pastor William F. Shoup. Prior to the pastor's death, the Shoups lived in a rectory next door, which is now the Perlmeter home.

Mayor Menke and town volunteers have cleaned up the site and performed various repairs to protect the building from further decay, looking forward to the day when serious work could begin. That day appears to have arrived.



Former Mayor Lib Tolbert and Mayor Pete Menke at last summer's open house.

In the Garden

What's New Continued—

Nepeta (catmint), and Geraniums. This is the true geranium Cranesbill, not to be confused with the annual Pelargoniums one sees everywhere in the summer.

I cannot end this article until I run up the banner for the "Fragrant Trumpets of Summer", the Lily. They are truly great low maintenance garden plants. There is no reason for your garden to be without them, be it acres of many varieties or a single clay pot on your patio. Beautiful Monocacy country; plant lilies. There are Orienpet Lilies, Oriental Lilies and Trumpet Lilies. My favorite is the Oriental. You can find no match for their huge flowers, intense fragrance and rich colors. If your garden is looking a bit dull, jazz it up with lilies. They put on a show all summer that is breathtaking. If you can plant only one, make it "Stargazer". A quarter of a century ago, this set the standard for Oriental Lilies and nothing has surpassed it yet.

Ok, get out your catalogs and start ordering.

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An Enchanted Evening

Violinist
Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron
 Friday, March 4, 2005
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 Poolesville High School
 \$15 Adults \$7 Students



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