

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 24, 2006

Volume 2, Number 23

## Inside the Monocle



This is Main Street, Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka. The paint on the pole is the high water mark from the 2004 Tsunami. Read the Pulse on Page 12.



Mary Ann Kephart taking art lessons from Fukuda Sensei. Profiles, Page 5.



Eyewitness to a plane crash, on Frederick Road. See Local History, Page 6.



Cheer up. Spring training has started.

## Poolesville Girls' Track Team Takes Regional Title Football Coach Hurd Heads to Clarksburg

The PHS girls' indoor track won an unprecedented regional championship for the fifth straight year in a row. Junior star, Meghan Rose, won the 300, 500, and 800 at the 2A/1A West meet. The girls also won the 4x200 and 4x400 races in their successful quest to win regions. The state finals will begin shortly after this edition is printed and the *Monocle* will present a feature article on this incredible team in the March 10 issue.

Likewise for the Falcon girls' swim team which took the Division III championship at the Montgomery Aquatic Center in Bethesda. Overall, for both boys and girls competition, the Poolesville Falcons came in second place to Gaithersburg. The *Monocle* will be focusing on this outstanding team in a future edition.

The biggest news on the coaching level is that the extraordinarily successful coach, Larry Hurd, has accepted a position as head football coach

for the newly-formed Clarksburg Coyotes. Poolesville Athletic Director Mike Riley, who will be moving over to Clarksburg in the same position, was thrilled to get Coach Hurd. Over the years, Coach Hurd has passed up opportunities to move to a bigger school, even passing up a position with his alma mater, Quince Orchard. This time around, Riley believes the challenge of starting a new program and new traditions was a major reason for Hurd moving to the Coyotes.

## Curtain Time

By Dominique Agnew

"I don't do high school." This is what Gail Howard had to say in the mid-1990s when she was asked to direct the theater program at Poolesville High School. The departing theater director convinced Gail, who had been the theater director at Hood College for about ten years already, to direct the Midnight Players, as the theater troupe calls itself, at PHS for one year. One year has become one decade, and Gail is still here. "I didn't know I would like it so much," she says. "In a way, it's more fun because of the energy level of the kids."

Gail continued at Hood College concurrently until two years ago, completing twenty-three years of directing there. When she first came to Poolesville, the first show the Midnight Players performed was a new play at the time, *Murders of 1940*, a musical comedy. They had a cast of ten. Last spring, the Midnight Players performed *Brigadoon* with a cast

of eighty – that became a little complicated with the schedules. Fortunately, this spring's production of *Oklahoma!* will only have a cast of fifty.

Gail continually stresses how important the students' attitudes are and reiterates the fact that she has tremendous support from a great staff and the administration. "Students who want to do a show," she says, "they will do whatever it takes." Gail also talks of the willingness of students to take risks. "It takes a lot of guts to get up on stage in front of four audiences, [especially] in front of peers," she adds. They frequently have to learn new skills whether it be singing, dancing, or speaking in a certain accent. Sometimes, one sees the results on the stage, and sometimes, Gail sees "in-

credibly spectacular results – inside." She continues, "I want to see students excel in their development. That's what keeps me here." The Midnight Players come from a broad section of the student body, and out of a student body of eight hundred students, there are one hundred who participate in the theater. This year, they have the largest tech group ever with twenty students. For many students, Gail says, "This is their home; this is their center."

Where would the Midnight Players be without the staff? The staff consists of a technical director, assistant technical director, two choreographers, costume director, choral director, and orchestra director. Lloyd Robbins, the technical director, was also the technical director at Hood, so he and Gail had worked together at Hood. He's not a tech director professionally, but "he's a fine designer and works well with young people." Matthew Johnson, the assistant tech director, also works well with the kids. Gail stresses, however, that the students do most of the work under their supervision. Heather Emory and Faye Bragdon are the two choreographers. Ms. Emory graduated from PHS herself, and Ms. Bragdon teaches at PHS. Nanci Neibauer, the mother of former students, is personally responsible for all the costumes. She created all the costumes



A scene from a Gail Howard/Midnight Players production.

—Continued on Page 14.

# Family Album

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Author Carol Moxley at the Corner Cafe with JPMS PTSA members



Samantha Ferris Baker and her students. Seated: Elizabeth Fries and Mallory Bolling. Standing: Hannah Schrantz, Laelah Ortiz, Daniel Flythe, and Justin Goh. Not pictured: Gerald Crawford. (Center: impressive terrapin sculpture—story on page 9.



Valentines Day revelers at PES discuss the relative merits of Cadburys versus Hersheys candies.



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## Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present

Between January 21 and January 25. Residential burglary. 18000 block of Martinsburg Road, forced entry to a house, property taken.

January 29 at 3:20 a.m. Police responded to a large house party involving thirty people in the 19000 block of Staleybridge Road, Germantown. A large fight had broken out, and one person was stabbed with a broken beer bottle.

January 31, 10:05 p.m. A sixteen-year-old female juvenile girl from Boyds was charged with conspiracy to commit robbery as a result of a planned robbery in the area of Intrepid Lane, Gaithersburg.

February 2, 7:25 a.m. Armed robbery. Best Buy Store, 7300 Guilford Drive, Frederick. Frederick County deputies responded to the Best Buy for the report of an armed robbery in

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— Continued on Page 17.



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**"The Dickerson House"** Located on over 2 acs. surrounded by farmland w/ views of Sugarloaf Mountain, this charming circa 1912 home features brick walkways, a wrap-around porch, lovely center hallway w/stairs to upper lvl bedroom, bath & storage area. Large country kitchen, hardwood flrs, ornate molding, 11' ceilings, built-in cabinets, fam. rm. w/gas fireplace, library, formal dining rm, living rm, den/office, 2 bedrooms & 2 baths on the main lvl. Lower level furnace/storage area, 2 car- attached garage. Detached workshop/office w/elec., heat & a/c.



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### Lots and Land

**Dickerson:** Wooded 4 ac. building lot with stream adj. 700 acs. of parkland. County approved perc test. Well on property. MLS#MC5432488. Offered at \$315,000.00

**Poolesville:** 2.75 ac. lot located less than one mile from the center of town on a quiet rural road within close proximity of the prestigious Woods of Tama subdivision This rolling, partially wooded lot boasts two approved sewer taps. MLS#MC5308569. Offered at \$299,900.

**Dickerson:** 18.71 acs. currently being utilized as a tree nursery, this property consist of 2 lots with one approved perc. Lovely homesite on a high elevation Easily accessible to the Frederick area and Gaithersburg/Rockville. MLS#MC5308569. Offered at \$550,000.00

**Dickerson:** 5.85 ac. non-buildable lot conveniently located of State Route 28. Potential uses include hunting and numerous recreational uses. Offered at \$125,000.00

**Poolesville:** 25 ac. building lot with County approved septic system for a 5 bedroom residence. Surrounded by farmland, this level lot is within and mile of State Route 28 and approx 7 miles from White's Ferry and the C & O Canal. MLS#MC5389405. Offered at \$750,000.00



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## Editorial

### An Open Letter To Public Officials And Celebrities

By John Clayton

Following his recent shooting mishap, Vice President Dick Cheney notified a local newspaper when he released the story to the press.

Vice President Cheney knew what he was doing. If you are in the *Monocacy Monocle* area and you are part of an unfortunate occurrence, you should call *the Monocacy Monocle* first!

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*Andrew S. Gilmour, Poolesville*

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# Profiles

## The Kepharts: An Odyssey of Travel, Sailing, and Intrigue

By Rande Davis

We think if Ian Fleming, Jacques Cousteau, and Bob Vila got together to write a book, the result would be the Kephart story. How else to explain an undercover CIA agent with expert training in seamanship and navigation spending a life with a person whose passion is old houses?

Mary Ann and George Kephart met at and graduated from the University of Maryland. He majored in business administration, and she studied home economics. Things started out pretty mundanely for them in 1941 as George went to work for IBM. When the war broke out, things changed quickly.

He joined the coast guard and was trained in seamanship, navigation, and even took flight training becoming one of the first to be trained as a helicopter pilot. He was commissioned an officer and was made

skipper of a submarine chaser, an eighty-three foot wooden boat with the mission to find and destroy submarines off the Atlantic Coast. Upon coming aboard the chaser for the first time to take command, Kephart, just twenty-two years old met the boat's chief boats man mate named Pappy Ireland. Pappy had been captain of the ship, but the Coast Guard needed a commissioned officer on board for security reasons. Skipper Kephart took command and barked his first order: "Pappy, I am here to take command and will order anything you tell me to do."

After the war, the Kephart's life



Mary Ann and George Kephart

together continued in a most normal way. He worked for IBM and then opened a hardware store in Potomac. However, George sought something more challenging and eventually went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency.

In joining the CIA, a life of world-wide travel would begin when they were sent to Tokyo, Japan in 1953. The experience of being in Japan right after the post war occupation was a very positive one for the family. At that point, Americans were viewed as liberators. Not only did America free them from their history of the excesses of military rule, but the Japanese also welcomed America as an ally in their fears and concerns about Korea and the Soviet Union.

While in Tokyo, the family lived in their Japanese-style home, which came with a Japanese garden (and gardener). Mary Ann wanted the family to fully experience Japanese life and culture. Their daughter, Perry, took Japanese dance and daughter Ann went to a Japanese Nursery School.

Son George Jr. and Perry rode the Japanese trains to their school located on an American army base. Mary Ann took art lessons from one of Japan's most renowned artist, Fukuda Sensei. So honored was he in Japan that he was designated officially as a national treasure.

During this tour, the Kepharts helped a five young Japanese men learn conversational English and the ways of American culture. These boys did not come from an average household. One was the cousin of the crown prince, another's father owned a steel company, and a third was a grandson of a woman who not only became the first female member of the Diet, but was also Japan's first female doctor. She also founded Tokyo's Women's Medical College.

They returned to the U.S. in 1955 where George not only continued to work with the CIA, but he also renewed his partnership in a hardware store in Potomac. They were living in Rockville at the time and wanted to find something with more land. Their search brought them to Gray Haven Manor, a 135-acre farm on the edge of Poolesville whose previous owners

—Continued on Page 15.

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## Local History

### Terror on a Saturday Morning When the Capital Airliner Crashed near Hyattstown

By Jack Toomey

Saturday morning during the 1950s was a time for relaxing for some, shopping, or even working for others because it was still a common practice for professional men to work a half day on Saturday. John Anderson, who lived about a mile south of Hyattstown on the road to Frederick and was the manager of the old Shalk Chemical Company at Boyds, had just gone to a market and was coming home with a bag of potatoes. James Lawrence, an off-duty Montgomery County police officer, was out in his yard planning his day. Otis Norwood, fifteen years old, was working at his part time job at Rippeon's Garage. Mrs. Robert Waters was in her kitchen washing dishes. At 7:30 a.m., a Capital Airline airliner took off from National Airport for a training flight. The plane, a DC-3, had a crew of three but carried no passengers. The plane headed towards Montgomery County where air traffic was light during that era. The purpose of the training flight was to familiarize two of the co-pilots with the capabilities of the airplane and to prepare the co-pilots for promotion to the rank of captain.

Capital Airlines had started as Pennsylvania Airlines and changed its name in 1948. The airline had the distinction of being the first to install an onboard television set and by 1952 had three regularly scheduled flights from Washington to Chicago which was remarkable for the time. A Capital pilot created a sensation in the Washington area when he sighted a U.F.O. in July of 1952. The DC-3 was one of the most reliable airplanes ever built. In fact, it was the first airplane to

make a profit carrying passengers. It was a propeller-driven aircraft capable of carrying about twenty-eight passengers at a speed of about two hundred miles per hour.

As the airliner headed towards Montgomery County, the weather was clear, and the captain, Carl Burke, decided to begin the training which consisted of a series of maneuvers to teach the co-pilots how to control the plane in emergency situations. Both of the co-pilots, Henry Podgurski and Robert Thomas, had already flown thousands of hours for the airline. Many people in Germantown, Clarksburg, and Hyattstown later reported that they had seen the airliner circling the area but had thought little of it since the plane did not seem to be in any difficulty. Then at about 9:00 a.m., Mr. Anderson, who had just returned from the market with his potatoes and was unloading his car, heard the sound of an airplane and thought that the engines were stalling. He said at the time, "I thought that the plane was about to stall, then the engines picked up again and it sounded good." He then saw the plane above his home making a loop, and then it started to dive. Anderson said, "I knew I had to run, [but] I didn't know which way to go, every way seemed to be wrong, finally I dived on my hands and knees behind my car." In the meantime, Otis Norwood's sister, June, came running into her house which was near Anderson's, and screamed to her mother, "An airplane is chasing me!" Otis Norwood heard the sound of a roaring engine and came out of the garage just in time to see the plane crash

—Continued on Page 21.



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## Focus on Business

### Horse Happy

By Marcie Gross

Saddle up and listen to a story of a woman who is horse happy. Her name is Debby Lynn, and she is one of our Poolesville neighbors. Debby is the owner of Poolesville Tack and Supply in town, a member of the Board of Directors for the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, a writer, an inventor, amateur musician, and a baker — yes, a baker, too.

Stop in to Poolesville Tack and Supply on a Saturday morning and enjoy tasty homemade baked goodies straight from Debby's kitchen. It is just one of the ways Debby likes to cater to her customers. Debby opened the Tack and Supply shop six years ago.

Looking around, you'll notice you're in equestrian community central. You will find riding gear, horse healthcare items, equipment and supplies, and a bulletin board chock full of information about upcoming equestrian events from horseback riding lesson offers to horses for sale. In addition to all of this, of course, you'll find Debby who works at the shop five days a week. Debby loves having her own business. She says, "This is my favorite business, and I hope to keep it forever." Poolesville is her whole life, says Debby, "I live here, work here, and my horses are here."



A horse on the porch? Of course of course!

Debby owns two American Thoroughbred horses, both girls and both former racehorses. Debby rescued these horses and rides Phoebe and Wavey everyday. One day a week, she enjoys fox hunting. Her day starts bright and early with work in the barn and riding the horses, followed by working at the shop from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and then goes home to ride and finish her barn chores. When I asked her if she had time for any hobbies, Debby said, "I don't own a T.V., but I love to listen to music and play the dulcimer." She claims to be a closet player. The dulcimer is a folk

instrument in the string family. You hold it in your lap and pluck it. (A little music lesson for you.)

Debby, as a business owner in a small


town, is proudly a member of the Board of Directors for the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce. She believes in helping the town. Debby developed and implemented Shop Local Day for customer appreciation, and the day has grown by leaps and bounds. "It is important to shop local in a small town," says Debby. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 25. Poolesville Tack and Supply will have a Mini-Fashion Show sporting F.I.T.S., a new evolution in riding breeches. Don't forget it's on a Saturday, so there will be home-baked

—Continued on Page 9.

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**"Poolesville Tack and Supply"**  
Continued From Page 8—

goodies to nosh on while you check out the gear. In her spare time, she also serves on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Woodstock Equestrian Park as well as their Publicity Chair.

I also mentioned that Debby is an inventor. In the late nineties, Debby invented the Waterford Spur. You must go to the shop to see it! Since 2004, Debby has been the Equestrian writer for the *Monocacy Monocle* and everyone has enjoyed reading her articles.

So if your child is interested in horseback riding lessons, or needs to get fitted for riding gear for camp, or if you always wanted to buy a horse but didn't know where to start your search, or if you want to know the difference between a curb and a snaffle, or even what a bridle is, go see Debby at Poolesville Tack and Supply. This woman is not only happy because she gets to live in a town she loves and work at a job she loves, but she also gets to be around her favorite animal everyday, horses.



Wavey gets checked out.

## Local News

### Area Elementary Students Paint Sculpture to Help Scholarship Fund

Poolesville's Samantha Ferris Baker is working on a project with seven of her students at the Germantown Elementary School on behalf of the University of Maryland. The kids are painting a huge terrapin sculpture that will be displayed from April to October at the University of Maryland, then auctioned off to raise

money for the university's scholarship fund. The fundraiser is similar to the donkeys, elephants, cows, crabs, and other large animal sculptures that have been created and displayed in the region over the past few years. The newly-painted sculpture will be returned by the students to the University on March 13.

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## Local News

### Saint Peter's to Host South African Mission Reception

On Saturday evening, February 25, Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville, Maryland will host Dr. Mit Chellappa of the Red Cross, as well as members of the Diocese of Washington's South African Partnership Committee for an evening of explanation, education, and light refreshment. The event will take place at St. Peter's parish hall, 20100 Fisher Avenue, from 6:00 p.m. until around 8:00 p.m. Also on the program will be a presentation of the work plan developed by St. Peter's South African Committee to bring resources to fight poverty, HIV/AIDS, high unemployment, and malnutrition among the indigenous population of Richmond, South Africa.

Richmond, a city on the edge of the Kalahari Desert and about equidis-

tant between Cape Town and Johannesburg, is a community of about seven thousand Cape coloreds and three hundred Afrikaners. Unemployment runs about seventy percent in the population and the rate of HIV/AIDS is about thirty-five percent. A large percentage of the population is children under the age of ten – of whom about thirty percent are orphans.

In conjunction with the Diocese of Washington and other partners, including Rotary International, other church groups including the local Dutch Reformed Church in

Richmond, a soup kitchen

has already begun offering one meal a day in the evening to about 150 children. Future plans include expanding the ministry of the local AIDS clinic, providing better sanitation facilities in the black township, and helping establish local industries in wool and lavender.

The community is invited to attend this informational evening. The South Africa Committee invites your gifts of small first aid items, toiletries

including Vaseline and lip balm, ball caps and t-shirts (new), small musical instruments, soccer balls, small stuffed animals, frisbees, and other small toys that the group may take to South Africa on their upcoming mission trip March 2. Anyone with questions regarding the program and the overall mission effort, please call St Peter's at 301-349-2073 or call the committee chair, Jonathan Warner, during the day at 301-663-0202.

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## In the Garden

### New Kids on the Block

By Maureen O'Connell

Around this time of the year, garden catalogues announce new additions to the plant world. Hybridizers work for years creating new varieties of plants that promise huge leaps in the development of exciting new colors, improved disease and pest resistance, longer bloom time and greater florescence

New strains of the old favorite Echinacea (coneflower) are now gathering a lot of attention. I was never a big fan of this plant. Up until recently, they only came in shades of pink and white. Planted in full sun, their petals would fade and their russet-brown cone centers would then grab all of the attention. But, butterflies adored them, and Max ate their leaves for medicinal purposes. After years of trying, they are now decked out in brilliant designer colors. White Flower Farm and Park's Garden honored them with full front page coverage. Wayside Gardens gave them a two page spread.

Echinacea Primadonna appealed to me because of its growth habit. Instead of curving downward, as most coneflowers do, the long, elegant, overlapping petals reach straight out, creating a huge four to five inch white bloom, and the brownish cone is not as prominent. Like all good Echinacea, she thrives in poor, dry, hot and humid climates. A good partner plant would be E. "Fancy Frills." Her tightly packed, frilly, soft pink petals would gleam in your garden all summer long. Put these two in a mass planting for an eye-catching effect.

You'll have "the sun in the morning and the moon at night" if you plant this handsome trio: E. "Sunrise," E. "Sunset" and E. "Harvest Moon." "Sunrise" will greet you with giant, four to five inch deep yellow blooms that will then ease into a light buttery shade. He will look his best planted on the east side of the garden, where he can capture the cool, morning light. By "Sunset" you'll have four inch coral-orange blooms, maturing to a rich, deep tangerine. "Harvest Moon" will close out the day with fragrant, golden yellow petals surrounded by a cone of golden orange.

Echinacea is a North American genus belonging to the daisy family. It

is a boon for the garden, as it flowers from late June to the first frost. The new hybrids and strains are of the Purple Coneflower, Echinacea purpurea, a rugged species native to Iowa, Ohio, Louisiana and Georgia.

From a young's boys fascination with reading rose catalogues at his grandparent's home to purchasing with his allowance money at the age of nine his first rose for forty-nine cents at the local A&P, there grew a life-long passion and avocation for roses for William Radler. At the age of seventeen, he was a charter member of Milwaukee's North Shore Society, and was well



Harvest Moon  
coneflowers

known for growing and showing perfect roses. He soon realized how much work was involved in caring for roses. He said, "In effect, I will breed the maintenance out of roses," and

attacked three areas: cold weather tolerance and resistance to diseases and pests. His life-long goal was to breed roses that everyone could grow and enjoy. After twenty five years of trial and error and rigorous tests, he developed the most disease resistant and best selling rose on the market, the Knock Out Rose. In 2000 the rose was granted the prestigious All-American Rose Society Award. This landscape rose has great clusters of fire-engine red three to four inch blooms, that dazzle you all summer and well into fall. Orange-red hips brighten the winter landscape and provide food for the birds. I planted two last year; they have performed better than expected. They laughed at heat, drought, scorching sun, humidity, black-spot, powdery mildew and even the Big Enemy of roses in our area, Japanese Beetles.

Radler didn't stop with Knock-Out in his quest to breed even better roses. Last year, Double Knock-Out came on the market with twice the petal power of its sister and even greater disease resistance. Cousin Rose Pink Knock-Out followed with even longer bloom time. This year White Flower Farm introduced Blush-

—Continued on Page 16.

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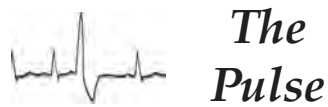
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## The Pulse

### Helping the Tsunami Relief in Sri Lanka

By Christine O'Connell

For many of us, the tsunami of December 26, 2004 is a distant memory, but for the thousands of people in the affected regions still without permanent housing, it remains an ever-present reality. Over 1.7 million people were made homeless by the tsunami.



Villagers and Habitatat for Humanity volunteers rebuild. The author, Christine O'Connell, is second from the right.

I was fortunate to have been given the opportunity by the Reuters Foundation to travel to Sri Lanka this past January to help rebuild homes. As part of its response to the tsunami, Reuters decided to fund volunteers to work with Habitat for Humanity in their rebuilding efforts. To date, over eighty Reuters staff members have taken part in the program, and another hundred will do so over the next two years. The Reuters Foundation covers all travel expenses, so any sponsorship money raised goes directly to fund further house-building projects.

We arrived in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, on the afternoon of January 22, much later than expected thanks to a problem with the plane's landing gear which kept us waiting in London's Heathrow airport for nearly ten hours. The pub in Terminal 4 did a lot of business that day! We were a group of nineteen from all parts of the world and departments within Reuters. Many of us did not know each other, but we soon became fast friends.

After a harrowing bus ride, in-

volving many near collisions with all manner of vehicles, not to mention the cows that roam freely along the roads, we reached Hikkaduwa, a coastal town about four hours from Colombo. The hotel welcomed us with a traditional candle-lighting ceremony and thanked us for our participation in the relief effort.

I had volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in the past and knew the week would be tough, but I had underestimated just how much of a challenge working in the jungle in ninety-degree weather would be. Our routine was the same most days: 6:30 a.m., wake-up; 8:00 a.m., start work on site; 12:00 p.m., lunch break; 4:30 p.m., return to hotel; 9:00 p.m., collapse in a heap. Returning to the hotel each day covered in dirt and sweat and clutching our hardhats, we certainly stood out amongst the mostly German and Dutch tourists wandering back from the beach.

Our group was split into three, two groups of eight building houses, and a group of three "sanitary engineers," as the Habitat leader referred to those lucky enough to spend the week digging latrines. Apparently not even charities are immune from the title inflation that plagues the corporate world.

I was part of a group building a house in the fishing village of Balipita. The future occupants of the house, Tussita, Mandula and their ten-year-old daughter, lost everything in the tsunami and currently live with Tussita's father. Tussita is a fisherman. He spends nearly twenty hours a day on the sea, earning about five dollars a day when the fishing is good. When they weren't fishing or tending house, the couple made sure we were well looked after, bringing us tea and bananas at regular intervals. I was very touched by how welcome the local villagers made us feel. Many people stopped by throughout the day to greet us and invite us to their homes for tea. The local children were the most curious and were keen for us to take their pictures and show them the results on the screen.

The houses Habitat builds in Sri

Lanka are simple, yet adequate. They range from 350-500 square feet and cost between \$900 and \$1500. They typically have two bedrooms, a living area, kitchen, and rudimentary bathroom. There are made of locally available materials, mostly concrete blocks and cement.

Habitat employs local building experts to make sure the houses are built to spec, but volunteers are a central part of the building process. In one week, we all learned a wide range of new skills, from sifting sand to plastering. Plastering was my specialty, though in the beginning I



The building in progress.

certainly managed to get more stucco on my clothes than on the walls. On the first day, after many hours of making stucco by hand, one bright spark amongst us asked why we couldn't just use a cement mixer. The Habitat team leader paused and said we would be welcome to do so, just as long as we could find one in the jungle and drag it to the building site. We all learned just how much you can do with simple materials and tools. By the end of the week, we had plastered the whole house, inside and out. The next group of volunteers would tackle the roof.

On our last day in Sri Lanka,

we shed our filthy clothes and boots and had an opportunity to explore the town. Sadly, we largely had the place to ourselves as tourism has not returned to pre-tsunami levels. Recent outbreaks of civil unrest have not helped the tourism industry, though the violence is confined to the north and east of the country where the Tamil Tiger insurgency is concentrated. The rest of the country though offers fantastic scenery and breathtaking beaches; many call Sri Lanka the Garden of Eden.

As I look back on my short time in Sri Lanka, I realize what I privilege it was to participate in such a program.

I had an opportunity to make a difference, albeit modest, to a needy family; gained an appreciation for a country and culture I knew little about, and made many new friends amongst my Reuters colleagues. Since I returned, I have become a strong advocate for this type of volunteering. There is nothing more rewarding than actually getting your hands dirty in a project that you know will have a direct benefit for those

most in need. I also heartily support Habitat for Humanity's approach to charity as homeowners must put in "sweat equity" to help build their own homes. Habitat is more about a "hand up" rather than a "hand out." As part of my participation in the Habitat program, I am aiming to raise £1000 (about \$1700) in sponsorship money. If you would like to support Habitat's work in Sri Lanka, please visit my web page: <http://www.justgiving.com/christineoconnell>.

*Editor's note: Christine is the daughter of the Monocle's gardening and cooking columnist, Maureen O'Connell. Christine works for Reuters in London.*

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## Center Stage

### A Clearer Focus

By Dominique Agnew

Perusers of the *Monocle* will have noticed a change in the paper over the past few months. This isn't necessarily a change the readers would notice because it has not manifested itself in the written word, but the transformation of the quality of the photography is something to be noted. Unlike other small-town newspapers, the *Monocle* has a bona fide photographer, Hilary Schwab Shapiro. Along with general photographs here and there in the *Monocle*, she has special niches entitled "A Monocacy Moment: A Snapshot of Our Lives." These intimate moments, all taken around the Monocacy area, capture the little places we see every day in a unique light, rendering them exceptional rather than mundane. Then, there was that glorious spread in one of the fall issues — this was her work at its best — beautiful, thoughtful, and captivating.

Hilary didn't arrive at her decision to become a photographer easily. While she was always artsy — she did

a variety of artwork in her youth — she was always independent, and this would be a determining factor in what she would ultimately do. In high school, she was a potter, making and selling little pots — people pots she called them because they had faces. She created her own glazes and fired the pots in her own kiln. She also did pen and ink drawings on cards to sell.



Hilary Schwab Shapiro.

After high school, she earned her B.A. in studio art and art history at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania — she says she changed her major

a lot. It was actually after her junior year of college that she decided on photography for a living. It's the living that's of importance. As an art student, Hilary says she wasn't that good, "I was not talented enough that I could have made a living. Photography was a way to be creative without having a day job."

Following her graduation from Bucknell, Hilary attended the New England School of Photography in Boston which offered a certificate program. There, she learned how to be a professional photographer. They taught her how to run a business and all the different careers for photographers.

Hilary decided to specialize in editorial photography, taking pictures for publications. An internship at American University's publication office in

Washington, D.C. rounded out her formal education, and Hilary was off and running — or clicking.

The American University position became a part time staff photographer position which allowed her to do freelance work at the same time. Her corporate client list includes many local universities as well as high-profile names such as the Humane Society and the Girl Scouts.

All in all, Hilary is pleased with her final decision of being a photographer. It allows her to retain her independence. "I like being my own boss," she says. Also, it gives her the flexibility she ultimately wanted for her lifestyle. She knew she always wanted to have a family and that with photography, she could do it part time or freelance, allowing her to be home with the kids. "I didn't want to be a stay-at-home mom," she adds, "and I didn't want to be a working mom. I tried to find the right balance." She feels she has achieved that balance.

Besides the practicalities of being a photographer, there's also the exciting part. "What I like about being a photographer is that it allows me to be in situations I wouldn't normally

—Continued on Page 16.



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**"Curtain Time" Continued From  
Page 1—**

for *Brigadoon*. Gail says, "She is just amazing, a fabulous seamstress and a wonderful designer." To round out the staff, Christine Pappas, a former teacher, is the choral director, and Michael Schrieber, a teacher, is the orchestra conductor.

A number of parents also volunteer and help with concessions and flower sales. Furthermore, the Midnight Players do more than just two shows per year. For example, in early February, Gail took fifty students to the Maryland State Theater Festival. First of all, it says a lot about the



Gail Howard accepts a few plaudits.

students that she would consider such a trip. Secondly, it could not have happened without the help of parents willing to drive the students. Gail says, "I have a lot of help from a lot of adults; it makes my life easier."

Gail remarks that with her tenure of nearly a decade, she has worked under several administrations. "Every one has been incredibly supportive," she says, "and I really appreciate that. They give me the support that I need, and that's important."

Coming this spring is the musical *Oklahoma!*, one of the most well-known musicals from the American theater. *Oklahoma!*'s importance to the musical theater lies in the fact that for the first time, the music was used to enhance the plot. Previously, the purpose of music was to display the singers' voices. Gail looks forward to seeing how the students will develop Judd's character; he's sometimes played as mentally ill, and other times as purely evil. She says, "It will be interesting to watch how the students handle [him]. It's fun to see how it's different from cast to cast." Instead of using understudies, Gail prefers the use of a double cast. It may take a little more time to rehearse, but there is a guaranteed double in case of illness, and it gives twice as many kids the chance to perform. Shows will be March 30 and 31 at 7:30 p.m. and April 1 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"We have an incredible group of students I'm privileged to work with."

## A MONOCACY MOMENT

A Snapshot of Our Lives



Photograph by Hilary Schwab Shapiro

## Local News

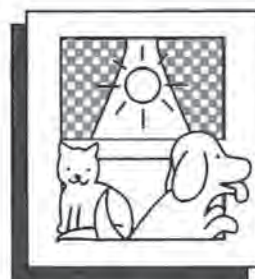
### State Shelves Plan to Close Stations

Transportation Secretary Robert L. Flanagan today announced that the four MARC commuter rail stations being considered for closure due to low ridership will remain open. The four stations are the Boyds and Dickerson stations on the Brunswick Line and the Jessup and St. Denis stations on the Camden Line. "In light of the anticipated passage of Senate Bill 366 (as submitted by District 15 Senator Rob Garagiola) requiring the stations to remain open, we believe it is unfair to our MARC riders to leave them with a feeling of uncertainty about the status of the Boyds, Dickerson, Jessup, and St. Denis stations," said Secretary Flanagan. Secretary Flanagan also announced he will establish an advisory committee that will consist of MARC riders to review this issue and assist the Maryland Department of Transportation in complying with the legislative requirements of Senate Bill 366 and any other bill affecting MARC service. "Members of the advisory

committee will be tasked with conferring with local officials, CSX, and other interested parties," added Secretary Flanagan. "I will rely heavily on their recommendations. In the coming days, I will be soliciting expressions of interest from MARC riders who are willing to serve on this committee."

In addition to Senator Rob Garagiola's senate bill, District 15 Delegate Jean Cryor is sponsoring similar legislation in the House of Delegates. Even though the administration has reversed course and announced the creation of a study panel, local representatives believe it is important to continue with the legislation.

As this issue moves forward, it will be important to remember that the management of MARC believes in fewer but larger stations with big parking lots and high-tech ticketing and information systems. They clearly do not believe there is a place for smaller stations that do not justify high-tech investment and will not accommodate a large volume of commuters, regardless of local convenience for the few.



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**"Kepharts" Continued From Page 5—**

were relatives of Mary Ann going all the way back to the property origin in 1756. They renamed the property incorporating its original patent identification: Chiswell Inheritance.

In 1957, the Kepharts were reassigned to Japan, but this time they were stationed in Kobe where George served as a consul in the Consulate General. After this second two-year tour, they returned to their farm until being moved to Brussels in 1969.

From 1960 to 1969 George spent his time with the CIA in a job that had him traveling around the world so often it was equivalent to circling the globe eight times over. In 1969 they leased their house for three years and they rented an apartment on Avenue Louise I Brussels.

In 1972, Poolesville Town Commissioner Frank Wilson asked Mary Ann Kephart to put together a list of historic sites in the town. This request proved to be the initial stages of the development of the Historic Medley District, Inc. Joined by Winsome Brown and Luise Stevens, HMD found its vision through rescue of three neglected historic places: Seneca Schoolhouse, the John Poole House, and the Darnell Farm. Other projects include the full restoration of the John Poole General store and restoration of the Seneca Schoolhouse on River

Road. Today Seneca Schoolhouse has become a living history museum that has allowed thousands of area students learn the experience of one-room school education.

The Old Chiswell place on Cattail Road also became one the first restoration projects undertaken by HMD. Today, projects to protect historical sites in the area include the Warful Store in Barnesville, the United Memorial



The Kepharts in Japan after the war.

Methodist Parsonage on Elgin Road, and they have recently submitted a proposal for HMD to purchase the Town Hall in Poolesville. While Mary Ann, Winsome, and Luise gave birth to HMD, the baton has been since been picked up by her Mary Ann's, Perry Kephart Kapsch, under whose leadership the organization has grown to a membership greater than two hundred people.

Mary Ann followed her heart in

being a leading force behind HMD and working with the Maryland Historical Trust for nine years. George accepted a position with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission from 1975 to 1979. As a commissioner, Mr. Kephart cast the deciding vote that led to the establishment of the Montgomery County Agriculture Reserve. He also contributed as a board member on the Barnesville School and serving eight years as a trustee of the Maryland Environmental Trust.

On their honeymoon, George queried Mary Ann as to whether she liked sailing. When she responded that she loved to sail, their lifetime of worldwide sailing would begin, peaking from 1978 to 1994. It was during this sixteen-year period that they would spend from four to eight months every year sailing to ports all over the world. Their thirty-six foot sailing boat is named the Sarah Frazer after their granddaughter Sarah Frazer Prestemon. It is operational to this day as a charter boat that is moored at Auckland Harbor in New Zealand.

Now in their mid-eighties, the couple has been married for sixty-four years and you would think they would just relax and reflect on their life of worldwide experiences. While their life of international intrigue and exhilarating travel is in the past, they remain very active in the community through their continued involvement in their church, historical groups, and, in Mary Ann's own words, "meddle as much as allowed in their grandchildren's lives."

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**"A Clearer Focus" Continued  
From Page 13—**

be in," she says, and she has wonderful stories to tell. Most recently, and she calls this a career highlight, she spent the night at the Children's Inn at the National Institute of Health for an article in the January/February 2006 issue of *Bethesda Magazine*. The Children's Inn provides overnight lodging for extremely ill children and their families when the children need to come in for treatment. "People would think of it as sad," says Hilary, "but I saw it as the most wonderful thing." NIH tries to make the Inn a normal place. The children get to have their favorite foods, and so much family bonding occurs.

As mentioned, one of Hilary's clients is the Girl Scouts. Well, she was a girl scout herself and is now the leader of her twin daughters' troop. Naturally, she called them to work for them. She especially enjoys going to the camps and catching the girls in action, "I love to do that." She's pleased that after three years of working for the Girl Scouts, for the first time, one of her photos is on the cover of their calendar.

Another shoot took her to a Jewish school for boys. She captured them with her camera doing many activities including studying the Bible and playing sports—typical activities. What

was unusual in this instance was the fact that women were not typically allowed in the school, but as photographer, there she was.

Of course, there are the famous people too: the presidents, the actors, the Dalai Lama—but how can any of that compare to working for the *Monocacy Monocle*? Hilary and her family moved to Poolesville one and a half years ago from Gaithersburg. She started reading the *Monocle* and, she says, "I thought it was a great publication and felt it could benefit from my expertise...I thought it would be a good tool to get involved in the Poolesville community." Through her photography for the *Monocle*, Hilary has met many people and has learned about things happening in the community. For all those other photographers trying to get into the *Monocle*? You know it's not what you know, it's who you know. It just so happened that while in Gaithersburg, Hilary's daughters had attended Thurgood Marshall Elementary where Laura Davis, wife of *Monocle* media mogul Rande Davis, was the health technician. Hilary and Laura had frequently spoken of Poolesville. "I love Laura," Hilary says.

"Poolesville is a great place to live," she adds. It should come as no surprise, then, that Hilary lives in Poolesville (really!) with her twin daughters, two dogs, two snakes, numerous fish, and her husband.

**"New Kids on the Block" Continued  
From Page 11—**

ing Knock-Out. This addition to the series blooms abundantly until the first killing frost. Its petals open a soft light pink and ages to a deeper shell pink. The foliage is mossy green with a touch of blue.

If you plant just one new flower in your garden this year, make it a Knock-Out. You will not be disappointed. This treasure of a rose is all due to one little boy's dream of a "perfect rose."

Who cannot love the intoxicating scent of a gardenia? This perfume of the tropics is probably, along with jasmine, one of the finest and most distinctive fragrances in the plant world. But anyone who has brought home from the florist a heavily budded, glossy-leaved gardenia plant, knows the frustration of trying to grow one in the climate of the average home. Very quickly the tight, little buds turn brown at their base and fall off, a victim of inadequate humidity and mealy bugs. Forget about growing them indoors; they are not adaptable to house culture.

I have ordered from Wayside Gardens two gardenias that should do well outdoors in our climate. Gardenia "Fragrant Pathways" is a fragrant ground cover that boosts cold hardiness, compact habit and fragrant double blooms. It is only eighteen inches tall and will bloom from summer to fall in sun to partial shade. Gardenia "First Love" promises bigger blooms, stronger fragrance, longer flowering and compact size. Its glossy evergreen foliage makes it a good choice for low foundation planting. I plan to edge a flagstone patio with several plants. For an added plus, it is heat and humidity tolerant.

A few weeks ago, I wrote about the many unusual varieties of hosta. I saved two of my favorites .for this article, for they are truly specimen plants worthy of a special place in your shade garden. They are both originally from the Orient.

Hosta plantaginea "Venus" is a sport of the dramatic H. plantaginea "Aphrodite." When it was introduced to the plant world years ago, it thrilled gardeners with its large, pure white double flowers. Well, now its new cousin "Venus" twice doubles its sweetly scented flowers. She resembles a night-blooming cactus with stunning five inch flowers and a petal count between twenty-four to twenty-eight. By late summer to early fall,

when most hostas have finished their show, she appears on stage. She was originally a star at the Beijing Botanic Garden . Although a little pricey at \$34.95 at Wayside, she is well worth it.

Hosta rectifolia "Fujibotan" was found growing wild on Mount Fuji in Japan. She is the only double lavender-flowered hosta in the world.

Though mainly grown for her flowers, you will be surprised by her foliage, which is of a conifer. It is rarely offered in the U.S., so I would order early. Both Wayside and White Flower Farm offers this plant.

The last plant I will mention is not new to the garden scene, but he is often overlooked. Despite his common name Toad Lily (*Tricyrtis*), his spotted, orchid-like flowers can put on quite a show in the fall, when your shade garden might be looking a little dull. T. "Raspberry Mousse" is richly-colored with raspberry-chocolate, one inch blooms that is very easy to grow in partly shaded gardens. He sounds yummy enough to eat! Add a touch of whimsy to your shade and plant a toad.

When this issue reaches the stands, I will be in London looking for some new and interesting garden tidbits I'll tell you all about it in March.

## Things to Do

### February 23

Storytime – Ages 3 to 6  
Stories, Fingerplay, Music  
Poolesville Library  
10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

### February 27

Poolesville Library Book Discussion  
Group

James Burge's *Heloise and Abelard*  
Hood College's Prof. Emilie Amt joins  
in 7:30 p.m.

### February 28

Storytime for Six and Under  
Poolesville Library  
Stories, Fingerplay, Music 7:00 p.m.

### March 1

St. Peter's Pre-School Bible Program  
Music, Bible Stories, Small Crafts  
1:00 p.m.

### March 2 and 3

JPMS School Play Production  
Hans Christian Anderson's *The Snow Queen*  
7:00 p.m. \$5.00 (Snow Date: March 9  
and 10)

### March 5

National Eastern Antique Doll Show  
Hundreds of exhibitors  
Montgomery Ag Fairgrounds

—Continued on Page 21.

The Monocacy  
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**"Police Blotter" Continued From  
Page 3—**

progress. They found that a suspect had entered the store, sprayed two employees with pepper spray, and then demanded store items. The suspect was described as a white male, about 5'9" or 5'10", 170 pounds, wearing khaki pants, a black jacket, and a dark-colored knit hat. Anyone with information about this case should call Detective Denise Engelberg at 301-631-3495.

February 6, 10:00 p.m. Homestead Suite Hotel, Century Boulevard, Germantown. Undercover officers were observing two suspects who entered the hotel. When the suspects came out, the officers believed that they were carrying drugs. Their car was stopped and found to contain cocaine, marijuana, and PCP. Elton Addison, 44, and Tonjia Addison, 39, of Silver Spring were arrested and charged with a variety of drug-related crimes.

February 11. School burglary. Ronald McNair Elementary School, 13881 Hopkins Road, Germantown. Forced entry, no property taken.

February 11, 11:56 a.m. Armed robbery. 9715 Medical Center Drive, Gaithersburg. A man entered a pharmacy and robbed the employees of oxycontin and percocet before fleeing out the door. The suspect was arrested on February 15 and charged with armed robbery. He is identified as Douglas Vincent Minchillo, 46, of no fixed address, and charged with the robbery of Ambulatory Care Pharmacy and also the White Flint Pharmacy robbery that happened in October 2005.



**Suspect in the Medical Center Drive pharmacy robbery. Photo taken before the arrest.**

*Past*

February 24, 1949. Montgomery County police added twenty-five teenage youths to their list of forty teenag-

ers apprehended in less than a month in connection with a wave of thefts in the county. Questioning for two weeks of the group brought forth about \$350 worth of wheelbarrow tires, radio equipment, and wheels that were stolen mostly from construction sites. The tires and wheels are perfect fits for motor-scooters, a popular means of transportation for teenagers. A police spokesman said, "Many of them are from the finest families."

February 26, 1932. Two small wards of the Board of Public Welfare of Washington will be arraigned in Montgomery Juvenile Court on charges of arson. They admitted setting fire to the hay barrack of W.A. Jones, near Darnestown, Maryland because he wouldn't give them a lift in his car.

February 26, 1953. A Martinsburg, Maryland man who, police said, went on a shooting spree surrendered to Montgomery County Police after they surrounded his house armed with tear gas grenades. It was reported that the man began shooting because his neighbors bothered him. Police said that when they arrived, the man was firing a .32 caliber revolver in the direction of neighboring houses. The only casualty was a neighbor's cocker spaniel which was wounded slightly.

February 26, 1945. Two teen-aged Dickerson boys were believed drowned and another youth barely escaped in the aftermath of a fishing party accident on the swiftly-flowing Potomac River just below the mouth of the Monocacy River.

March 1, 1977. Montgomery County police became involved in one of the most complex and mystifying investigations in the history of the county. The bodies of five members of the Bradford Bishop family were found in North Carolina and the trail led back to the home of the family on Lillystone Drive in Bethesda where the murders were committed. Bradford Bishop, an employee of the State Department, remains the leading suspect in this case and, almost thirty years later, has never been found.

March 2, 1945. Henry Corens, a forty-four-year-old auto painter, was formally charged with the slaying of his wife. Pearl Corens, a thirty-one-year-old Arlington Hall supervisor whose severed head was found in Fairfax County, Virginia, was believed to have been slain in her Bethesda home. The charges were read to Corens who stood silently in his cell at the Rockville jail.



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## Big Board

### Thinking of Summer Camps Already?

It's not too early to be thinking of summer camps for the kids. There will be special camps from area establishments like Mudo Martial Arts, Children's Towne Academy, Barnesville School, Butler School, and Seneca Academy. To get a preview of what may be available, Lakeforest Mall will have a summer camp fair on February 25 and 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Many of the area's summer camps and programs will have exhibits booths with information on what they will be offering.

### February is Library Lovers Month

Poolesville Library has a number of events scheduled through February with the theme, "Library Lovers Month." There will be an adult raffle with five winners chosen to get gift certificates from area restaurants and movie tickets to Regal Theater. For each visit to the library, with a book checked, the book borrower will be able to enter a raffle ticket for the free drawing. This raffle is open only to high school ages and up. Children will be given a "Passport" at their first visit in February. For each visit in the month, their passport will be stamped

and with ten stamps they will qualify for a \$5.00 coupon at McDonald's. This program starting February extends through June. Throughout the month the library will be giving out Hershey Kisses and Hershey Hugs.

### Want to join a Book Discussion Group?

We list the book discussion groups at the Poolesville Library in every issue under Things To Do and you should always check the listing out to see if they are into something that may interest you. On February 27 at 7:30 p.m., the library will have a special treat by having Hood College's Professor of Medieval Studies, Dr. Emilie Amt, visiting to discuss James Burge's *Heloise and Abelard*. This would be a great time to check out their discussion group program.

### La Cage aux Folles

Visit the cage of crazy people and enjoy dinner at the same time. Poolesville Elementary School's own music teacher, Bill Harris, stars in the musical, *La Cage aux Folles*, at the Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre. The show runs through March 11. For ticket information, visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com) or call 301-662-6600.

### So You think You are Pretty Good at Ping Pong, eh?

Now is time for you to put up or shut up. The Maryland Table Tennis

Circuit Table Tennis Tournament on March 4 and 5 at the Carrolltown Center in Eldersburg (corner of Route 26 and Ridge Road). The tournament starts each day at 9:00 a.m., and they have events for the novice to advanced, both junior and senior. You can get into the action by calling 410-579-8462 by March 3. This unique competition is open free to spectators and may just give you something new to view as the winter days come to a close.

### Recruiting Now for Coed Softball

Spring training season is just about here and the Poolesville coed softball team that plays Friday evenings at the UMCVFD field in Beallsville has found itself short of players going into the season. The team plays from April through August and if you have been thinking about exercise, fun times, and have been looking for a team call Doug at 301-349-5844 or email at [DougnearDC@winning.com](mailto:DougnearDC@winning.com).

### Meet Famous Indy Racers

You can rub elbows with many of the stars of IndyCar racing in celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> running of the Indianapolis 500. This special event at the Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University on March 7 at 7:00 p.m. features a program of video presentations, and you will have an opportunity to talk to and ask questions

of the drivers and other VIPs. Scheduled to appear are defending IndyCar 500 and IndyCar Series champion Dan Wheldon and three-time Indy 500 winner Johnny Rutherford, two-time Indy 500 winner Heilo Catroneves, and the first woman to race in the Indy 500, Janet Guthrie. More stars will be on hand. Call 202-786-3296 for more information.

### Student vs. Staff Basketball

A Student vs. Staff Basketball game is going to be held in the PHS gym on Wednesday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. Price for admission is \$5.00 and all proceeds go to help the Poolesville High School Music Department. The music department is in terrible need of new uniforms and equipment so the Music Boosters are sponsoring this event. The event is open to all people in the community and should be an evening of thrills and excitement.

### Grammy Nominee to Appear at Montgomery College-Rockville

Native American singer/songwriter Joanne Shenandoah will appear in concert at Montgomery College-Rockville's Theatre Arts Arena on March 8, at 8:00 p.m. This two-time Grammy nominee was also selected as the Native American Artist of the Year in 2002. For the 2005 Grammy Awards, Shenandoah was one of the

—Continued on Page 19.

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**"Big Board" Continued on Page 18—**

featured artists on the award-winning album "Sacred Ground." Joining Ms. Shenandoah will be the Montgomery College World Ensemble; Elizabeth Osgood leading the Montgomery College dancers; and Dawn Avery, an award-winning cellist/composer and professor of music at the college. Donation of \$10.00 is requested to benefit the United Nation's Water for Life Project.

**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs on the Big Screen**

Enjoy the classic movie from 1937 as it was meant to be seen on March 10 at 8:00 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

**Good Cause, Good Time**

The annual Spring Gala sponsored by the Poolesville Booster Club will be held at the Bretton Woods Recreation Center at 15700 River Road on March 11. This party of good times and good friends will feature music, hot hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, and silent auction. This important fundraiser to benefit PHS school sports is \$35.00 per person

and checks and reservations can be sent to Faith Etheridge, 15630 Hughes Road, Poolesville, MD 20837.

**Purim Festival**

Congregation Or Chadash has its Purim Carnival on March 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This family fun festival has games, prizes, and food, and the admission is only \$1.00 with tickets for games only \$1.00 for five for those bought in advance and \$1.00 for four at the door. The congregation also announces that on Monday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a Purim Schpiel, "Esther Victorious!" during their Purim Service at 24800 Kings Valley Road, Damascus. For more information call 301-482-1025.

**Memories Are Made of Music**

Mark your calendars now for Thursday, May 25, 2006. World-renowned violinist Sandy Cameron will perform a benefit concert at Poolesville High School. Sandy plans to share her extraordinary talent to raise funds to benefit the music program for the Poolesville School Cluster. The Benefit Concert Committee is in its initial planning stages and they want to alert past sponsors and new contributors about this highly successful concert which will continue the Cameron Music Fund.

—Continued on Page 21.



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## The Humble Chef



### It's the Kitchen, Stupid

By Maureen O'Connell

To borrow a sound byte from the world of politics, the title thought, if it implies the success or demise of a restaurant rests in the kitchen, is a no-brainer. But, I am not referring to the quality of the food that comes out of the kitchen, but to the organization of the kitchen staff from the Chef to the dishwasher. We have all been in restaurants when there is a packed house or a small numbers of customers; we place our order and we wait and we wait and we wait. By the time the food arrives, no matter how wonderful it is, our first impression has been severely tarnished by the service, or lack thereof.

This thought came to mind as I sat in my office on Saturday, February 12 planning my humble chef article and watching the snow fall. This is our first snowfall of the 2006 winter season. I am reminded of a weekend in New York City about the same time last year, when a major snow-storm crippled the east coast. My daughter Christine was in the City on business and I took the train from Union Station on Friday to visit her. There was a forecast for heavy snow that weekend, but I never believe the weatherman's predictions until I see the snow. Well this time it did snow and there was plenty of it. It started snowing seriously on Saturday morning. We were staying at the Parker Meriden Hotel near Central Park, and we had a reservation that night at eight o'clock at Balthazar's restaurant in Soho. It is one of the hottest restaurants in the country. Famous for its star-studded clientele, beautiful dining room and superbly executed food, it is the perfect evocation of a French brasserie. Bono, of U2, said of Balthazar's, "I went for breakfast; I stayed till supper."

Balthazar's is a brasserie, not a bistro. Bistros are small, which is part of their charm. When my daughter lived in Paris, there was a wonderful, tiny bistro on the Left Bank which we visited frequently. When you opened the front door, you invariably hit someone in the back. It only sat fifteen people and did not take reservations, so you had to plan your arrival just right. But,

the food, the food was indeed memorable. Brasseries can be big; witness the famous La Coupole on Boulevard du Montparnasse. It can seat five hundred, but it still maintains an intimacy that it hard to describe.

Undeniably Balthazar's is a fashionable restaurant, but it is not a snobbish one. It is not difficult to get a table here, unless you call at the last moment on a Friday or Saturday night. Also, there are no seats in Siberia. This reflects the nature and social beliefs of its owner-manager and cooks: Keith McNally, Lee Hanson and Riad Nasr. They are not snobs.

Ah, forgive me my digression from the main point of my story. Christine and I took a cab to Soho mid-morning to do some shopping. The snow began to fall faster and heavier. The streets slowly became devoid of traffic, save for a few stalwart cabbies. As we were leaving our cab, we asked the driver if we would have trouble getting a cab back here this evening for an eight o'clock dinner reservation. He looked at us, as

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only a veteran New York cabbie can, and said, "Ladies, don't even think of coming back here tonight, unless you plan to walk. Us cabbies are all going home real soon." Well, we were near Spring Street and Balthazar's, so we decided to see if we could change our dinner reservation to lunch. Well, half the people walking the streets of lower Soho must have all become hungry at the same time and picked Balthazar's for lunch. There was a waiting line

well past the door. We pushed (remember this is New York) our way in to speak to the man at the desk and told him of our request. He graciously said, no problem. He would find us a table. Now, picture this. The line is now well into the street; the dining room is packed solid and the bar is jammed. I said to my daughter that I would believe a table when I was seated. Within ten minutes, we are sitting at our table. The noise level is deafening, but everyone was having a good time. More and more people, covered in snow kept lining up at the bar; no restaurant rage here. I warned Christine that the wait for our food would probably be very, very long. Well, I could not believe how soon our food arrived. I mentioned to our very friendly and gracious waiter that we were amazed at the speediness of the service. He said the secret was in the kitchen. The restaurant has a very small kitchen in the basement, and the organization is superb. On a busy Saturday or Sunday, they will seat 800 people for brunch, 500 for dinner, and with additions of breakfast and supper, the total will come to about 1,500 covers. Everyone backstage, i.e. the kitchen staff, is fully engaged, from the dishwashers who are feeding the enormous machines to the assistant patissier who is busy burning the crusts of sugar on the crèmes brûlées. Keith McNally believes that restaurants are not democracies; they are pure hierarchy. Under this kind of pressure, everyone has a job and everyone knows it. It all boils down to superb organization.

With all this said, let me give you the recipe for my lunch that snowy week-end. It is from *The Balthazar Cookbook*. I have made this at home; all the ingredients are available at Selby's.

### Braised Short Ribs

6 beef short ribs (5-7 pounds)  
2 sprigs rosemary  
6 sprigs thyme  
1 bay leaf  
1 celery stalk, halved  
3 teaspoons kosher salt  
2 teaspoons coarsely ground pepper  
3 tablespoons vegetable oil  
3 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces  
1 medium onion, roughly chopped  
4 shallots, peeled and sliced ¼ inch thick  
5 garlic cloves, peeled and halved  
3 tablespoons flour  
½ cup ruby port  
4 cups full-bodied red wine, such as cabernet sauvignon  
6 cups veal or beef stock  
3 tablespoons tomato paste

---  
Preheat oven to 325 F.

Bind each rib with kitchen twine.

Place rosemary, thyme and bay leaf between the two celery halves and bind with twine.

Season ribs with 2 teaspoons of salt and pepper. Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over a high flame until it smokes. Brown ribs well on both sides, about three minutes per side, pouring off all but 3 tablespoons of oil. Remove ribs and set aside when done.

Lower flame to medium and add carrots, onion, shallots and garlic to pot. Sauté for 5 minutes, until the onion is soft and light brown. Stir in tomato paste and cook for 2 minutes. Add flour and stir well to combine. Add port, red wine and celery-herb bundles. Raise flame to high and cook until liquid is reduced by a third, about 20 minutes.

Return ribs to pot. Add stock. Bring to gentle simmer, cover; transfer to oven and cook for three hours. Check pot occasionally and stir the ribs. They are done when meat is fork tender and falling off the bone.

Remove ribs to a platter and reduce liquid by half.

Return the ribs to pot to reheat. Serve. Serves 6

### "Plane Crash" Continued From Page 6—

across the street. Police Officer Lawrence, who was also a pilot and lived about a quarter mile away, realized that the airplane was in trouble and saw it disappear behind some trees. He ran inside his house and called the fire and police departments. While he was on the telephone, he heard the plane crash. His daughter, Sandra Terry, who now lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, was a high school student at the time and was in her room that Saturday morning. She heard the loud noise of the engine and looked out the window and thought that the plane was going to crash into her house.

Mr. Anderson, who had taken refuge underneath his car, was showered with metal fragments but escaped serious injury. Another car, his 1948 Nash auto, which was parked next to his house, was crushed by the plane. The house and yard were drenched in gasoline. Anderson then ran into his house and evacuated his family because he feared that there would be an explosion. The fire department rushed to the scene, but there was little that they could do. There was no fire, and the three pilots were dead.

The curious began arriving after hearing news of the crash. Robert Schultz, now a resident of Poolesville who was living in Gaithersburg at the time, heard about the accident and drove up old Route 240 with his wife. He recalled, "My wife and I drove out there and saw the plane in the woods, all crumpled up, it was a big plane, and there were inspectors all around.

I think that it was about two or three hours [after the crash]." Sidney Earle, resident of Barnesville and a retired firefighter, said that after he had gotten off work at the firehouse down county, "I went up there to see where it was, and it seemed like it came straight down."

A Monocle reporter recently inspected the scene of the crash, which is in the 24700 block of Frederick Road, and located a lady, still living in the same house, who had witnessed the accident. Mrs. Gail Waters, a retired county purchasing agent, was in her kitchen on the morning of that fateful day. She said, "I was looking out my kitchen window and the plane zoomed right over our house and crashed." She chuckled when she recalled, "A man charged a dollar to go up into the field to see the airplane. He didn't own the property and I think he gave the money to the fire department." Chief Doug Edwards, who is now the chief of the Hyattstown Fire Department, was a young firefighter at the time. He said, "There was nothing there, it was buried in the ground, and there was a strong smell of [aviation fuel]." Chief Anderson recalled that the Anderson family had to vacate their home because their well was contaminated by the fuel.

The Civil Aeronautics Administration investigated the accident and released its findings eight months later. It was determined that the accident was caused because the aircraft lost airspeed when its engine stalled while the plane was executing maneuvers at a height too low to regain altitude.

### "Big Board" Continued From Page 19—

For the second year, there will also be an exciting Silent Auction with an incredible variety of goods and services going to the highest bidders. More information will be forthcoming, and those who would like to help or sponsor the event may contact Pam Green (301-349-2403), Roger Hayden (haydenrd@erols.com), Dominique Agnew (violin@intairnet.com), or Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz ([hrosvold@aol.com](mailto:hrosvold@aol.com)).

### Celebrate Mardi Gras at the Comus Inn

The Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain will have a Mardi Gras party in the Parrot Room on Friday, February 24, with live music from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The bar will open at 4:00 p.m. with Happy Hour prices until 6:00 p.m. The music will feature "Dr." Billy Curtis, the Piano Man, on piano, and Jim McKenney, The Mambo King, on saxophone. Mardi Gras beads will be provided along with barbecued shrimp, jambalaya, seafood gumbo, and specialty New Orleans drinks. No cover charge.

### "Things to Do" Continued From Page 16—

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
\$6.00

#### March 8

St. Peter's Pre-School Bible Program  
Music, Bible Stories, Small Crafts  
10:00 a.m.

Student vs. Staff Basketball Game  
PHS Gym

Benefit to help Music Department  
7:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00

#### March 11

Spring Gala Fundraiser PHS Booster Club

. Bretten Woods Recreation Center.

8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
\$35.00 per person

Gaelic Celebration at Tarara Winery  
Leesburg, Va – 11:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
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#### March 12

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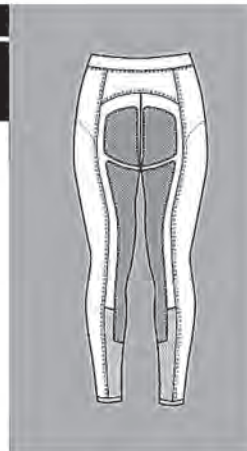
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Fri: 11 am - 10 pm \* Sat: 11 am - 10pm \* Sun: 9 am - 9pm

## School News

### Poetry Contest

Talented young poets in grades one through twelve are encouraged to compose a poem about kite flying for the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program Poetry Contest. The poems must be 150 words or less in any form. Three poems will be chosen from three different age categories. Entries must be received by March 1, 2006. Visit [www.kitefestival.org](http://www.kitefestival.org).

### All FCPS students

March 6 is an a.m. half day for students and March 7 is a p.m. half day for students due to parent teacher conferences.

### MCPS Elementary Schools

Believe it or not, it's that time of year when we begin counting students for the 2006-2007 school year. If you have a child who will enroll in our kindergarten next fall (five years old by September 1, 2006) please call the school office at 301-972-7990. Registration packets will be sent out later in the spring. Families may attend Kindergarten Orientation at both schools before making a final decision. Kindergarten Orientation will be held at Monocacy ES on Friday, April 21.

In the meantime, we need to prepare an accurate count of students in our attendance area and the Poolesville Elementary attendance area who will attend Monocacy ES in the fall. Please remember that you must file a transfer at PES even if you have older siblings already enrolled at MES. The transfer season runs officially from February 1, 2006 through April 1, 2006. Please call Mrs. Lineberry or Mrs. Baker if you have any questions about the process.

### Student Transfer Season

Montgomery County parents who wish to request a change in school assignment for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season, February 1 through April 1, 2006.

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes of students from one school to another are permitted under the following limited circumstances:

Older sibling in the requested school.  
 Continuation in a feeder pattern from middle school to high school, except when affected by boundary changes.

A documented hardship situation.

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents may request an assignment change form and the Change of School Assignment

—Continued on Page 23.

At that age, they are just learning and absorbing.

Most basketball teams at U-10 have set plays, but to watch the Wizkidz, you see plays run from a different formation than usual. Every team has a pick and roll or give and go play, but stopping the Wizkidz from executing their version is tough. Most teams are not used to the looks that they give defenses. "We run pretty specific plays in order to get good quality looks at the basket for any of the five players on the court," says Alex. In short, it works, and the Wizkidz and their coach are winners. Any child with the opportunity to play for Coach Lecuona will have his basketball IQ increased tremendously.

Perhaps the big Wizkidz that play at MCI Center can take a page from the little Wizkidz.

More Youth Sports on Page 23.



## Youth Sports

### The Wizkidz

By Curtis A. Osborne

The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area is currently enjoying a basketball renaissance with George Washington University, Georgetown, and Maryland all ranked in the top twenty-five, and George Mason also on the radar. It is an exciting time to be a hoops fan right about now. Perhaps the buzz really got started last season when the Wizards made the playoffs with Gilbert Arenas, the since-departed Larry Hughes, and Antawn Jamison. That team brought an excitement and energy to the area that had been missing for a while. Finally, after a sluggish start this year, the Wizards are starting to make some noise now as they begin their second half push for the playoffs.

The Wiz are also making noise up in Frederick, Maryland too, where the Wizkidz, coached by Alex Lecuona, are running roughshod over other U-10 teams in the Ballenger Creek Recreation Council. With a 6-1 record, the Wizkidz are lead by Alex's tal-

ented son Trevor, as well as Brandon Lavern, brothers Jonah and Gabriel Meredith, and a host of other talented players to round out the squad. "We have some really good players, and they can make coaches look better than they are," says Alex.

They have a very well-rounded team, as they are fortunate to have kids at the guard position who can run an offense, as well as forwards who know how to crash the boards, rebound, and dominate in the interior. "Trevor and Jonah are pretty good ball handlers," states Alex. "Not too many teams have a couple of players at this level that dribble and set up an offense like they do. Throw in Brandon Lavern and Gabriel Meredith underneath for rebounding and muscle, and it makes for a nice combination."

The opportunity came about for Alex to coach his son Trevor and several of his friends who played on the same football team, and he jumped at the chance. He is joined by assistants Kevin Meredith, a former college basketball player, and Greg Shipman, who also sponsors the team.

Alex would know good combinations when he sees them. He is certainly no novice when it comes to coaching or the game of basketball.

Alex was an AAU coach for many years and at one point he formed the Mason Dixon All Stars team. He had about nineteen players go on to play college basketball at various colleges, like William and Mary, Stanford, Auburn, LaSalle, Duquesne, and Fordham.

Though he is not coaching teenagers anymore, he still applies the same basketball philosophy which is very basic, but it goes to the core of championship teams like the Detroit Pistons and San Antonio Spurs. "My biggest pet peeve or thing that bothers me when watching basketball is selfish teams and selfish players. Share the ball! The team that makes the extra pass wins." His teaching is correct and all so true at all levels of basketball, but particularly so at the youth level, where kids are still learning the basics. Unfortunately, there are too many kids, especially at the select AAU level, who are more interested in individual stats and not team play who try to emulate some of the more selfish NBA players. It is a bad habit to learn early on, and Alex does a great job of stressing the importance of the team. He teaches them techniques and basics of the game because as he says at the U-10 level, "They have no clue."

## PHS Girls Basketball: The More It Changes, the More It Stays the Same

The sports program at Poolesville High School has had its share of changes over the last quarter century. The athletes have come and gone. Some of them have even come back to teach and coach at the school. The school's athletic director announced last fall he was moving on, and word came out this week that their football and basketball coach is going to Clarksburg. Even the school mascot was changed from the Indians to the Falcons. Through all these many changes, there is just one word that really sums up Poolesville sports, and that word is really a name: Swick.



Coach Swick in his element—fourth quarter, less than three minutes to go

Coach Fred Swick joined the PHS sports program in 1983 and the faculty as a physical education teacher in 1988. He has coached baseball, football, boys' basketball, and girls' basketball. High school sports have been his passion going all the way back to the time he was a pitcher for Richard Montgomery High School. He also was a basketball guard for them. From high school he went to Montgomery College-Rockville and Frostburg State University and was a very successful guard for both.

After graduation, Coach Swick taught and coached at Walter Johnson High School and Albert Einstein High School. After moving to Poolesville, he was happy to accept a coaching position with the school in 1983. For Coach Swick, coming to Poolesville was more than a career change. It was a lifestyle and lifetime choice. Ask him why he does it, and he says, "I became a coach because I have always loved sports and I am competitive, but it is really about working with the kids and being involved in the community that has been the most important thing. Watching players learn how to come together as a team and follow a game plan is what makes it fun for me."

Teams from small schools like Poolesville have to play smarter to win. With coaches like Fred Swick, smart coaching has resulted in the school having remarkable success over the years. Athletic Director Mike Riley admires Coach Swick and states that he is one of the most outstanding and strongest coaches he has ever worked with. Riley says he is "simply the best in the county when it comes to changing direction and tactics in a game."

The 2006 girls' basketball team was 11-8 at press time with one game remaining in the regular season prior to moving into the regional playoffs. The team is often undersized compared to their competition, and Swick's strategy has emphasized defense to overcome some of the natural advantages other teams often have over Poolesville. He is pleased with the progress the girls have made during the year in defense and being able to carry out a game plan. He points out that their success in defense has kept them in most games. In fact,

the team has lost three or four games by just two points. Otherwise, their record could just as easily be 15 - 4.

The game against Seneca Valley was typical of this frustration. Slowing the game down and emphasizing defense, the Falcons kept the game close and in reach throughout the game. Their aggressive play and dedicated hustle seemed to confuse their opponents most of the time. Coming into the game, Seneca Valley showed respect for the Falcons and their coach by maintaining a full court press through the entire game. Just when the Falcons looked like the game may get out of hand, Coach Swick called time out and readjusted his strategy bringing what looked like a Screaming Eagle scoring surge to an abrupt halt. The Falcons held to their defensive strategy (SV ended up with only 32 points), they out-hustled the opponents right down to the bitter end, and the girls had more than their fair share of shots to make up the difference. After the Falcons made a shot that brought them to within two points,

Coach Swick came flying off the bench to call time out to readjust and focus the team. This time, however, there was only one-third of a second left.

As this issue is published, the team will be moving into the regional playoffs. No coach in Poolesville High School boys' or girls' basketball has won more games. He's smart, and the girls are dedicated, so we think that if they improve their shooting percentage just a bit, 2006 can be an even more exciting year for them. If they continue to listen to their coach and follow the game plan, there will be no surprise if this is their year.

With another season coming to a close, Coach Swick has had another great year in helping to define PHS sports. For those who know Coach Swick the best, his players and associates, they have come to understand that Swick is not a name at all—it's an adjective. Look it up in a Poolesville High School dictionary and it will say: swick (swik) adj. 1. Dedicated, smart, skilled in planning. 2. Solid as a rock.

### "School News Continued From Page 22—

Information Booklet that describes the process and provides useful information. Assignment change forms and the information booklets will be available in schools beginning the first week of February and on the school system website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) shortly thereafter. The booklet will be available in both English and Spanish. Special Programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the information booklet. Every effort will be made to notify parents of the assignment decision by May 15, 2006.

For more information about the transfer process, parents are asked to contact the principal of their home school. Non-English-speaking parents may receive more information by calling the Spanish Hotline at 301-230-3073 or the ESOL Parent Center at 301-230-0674. Language Lines also are available to leave a message for someone to return the call. For information about assignments for students residing in the NEC, DCC, or MSMC areas, call 301-649-8081.

#### John Poole Middle School

The Leos are collecting sweat-shirts, all sizes, adults and children, for the Montgomery County Homeless Coalition from February 27 through March 3. The sweatshirts can be slightly used, but it would be nice to have new ones. There will be a container in the main lobby for the kids to

put their donations.

*What if winter never ended?*

The John Poole Players are pleased to announce their upcoming production of *The Snow Queen* based on the beloved fantasy story by Hans Christian Andersen. Join them as they try to break the Snow Queen's icy spell. Performances are on March 2 and 3 (snow dates are March 9 and 10) at 7:00 p.m. at John Poole Middle School. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be sold at the door and at lunch the week of the performances. Hope to see you there!

The highly successful annual Career Day at John Poole Middle School will be held February 27 and the administration is very excited to have Dr. Weast as a keynote speaker. The event is for eighth grade students and will be presented in ten- to fifteen-minute increments several times as the students rotate from speaker to speaker. The event will be from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Those willing to participate should call Diane Kitts at 301-972-7980.

March 8 is parent registration night in the all-purpose room. There will be an explanation of electives so that sixth grade parents can make informed decisions about registering for courses. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. The snow date is Thursday, March 9, 2006.

#### Glories of France

All seventh grade parents are invited to the Media Center on February

27 at 5:30 p.m. for an informational meeting about the trip to France in Spring 2007. For more information, contact Mr. Young at 301-972-7979.

Reading Is Rewarding is this year's school-wide reading incentive program. JPMS will recognize students who read four or more books during the three remaining marking periods.

Congratulations to Jeff Carpenter for winning the Read to Scoot Reading Challenge. For being one of the winners in this statewide challenge, Jeff will receive a Saturn Razor Scooter, a pizza party for his English class, and a gift card for his English teacher, Mrs. Kirby.

The SGA candy gram sale raised \$195 for the American Heart Association.

#### Poolesville High School

There will be an informational meeting for parents and eighth grade students interested in the Advanced Engineering Program for the 2006-2007 school year on March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at PHS.

A Student vs. Staff Basketball game is going to be held in the PHS gym on Wednesday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. Price for admission is \$5.00 and all proceeds go to help the Poolesville High School Music Department buy new uniforms and equipment so the Music Boosters are sponsoring this event. The event is open to all people in the community and should be an evening of thrills and excitement.

# The Surrey

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