

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

*Keeping An Eye On Local News*

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 10, 2006

Volume III, Number 1

## Inside the Monocle



*It's the Monocle's 2nd Anniversary.*



*We're keeping it low-key.*



*No plaques or anything.*



*Our tribute to a local Dad on Page 8.*



*Indoor track stars on Page 22.*

## Dr. Weast Inspires John Poole MS Eighth Graders

By Rande Davis

Responding to an invitation from the eighth grade students at John Poole Middle School, Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent of Montgomery County Public School (MCPS), was the keynote speaker at the school's annual Career Day. The event's purpose is to inspire those who will enter high school next fall to seriously begin thinking about their life choices.

Dr. Weast wasted no time in making sure they understood that living in a small town would not limit their opportunities in any way. How could he be sure? He grew up in a Kansas village even smaller than Poolesville. His class only had twenty-four students. Twenty of these students had actually been together in school from the first grade. Yet many in the class had remarkable success.

One in the class who used her passion for piano and song writing become Miss America in 1968. Another female classmate became a highly successful CPA in Dallas. One classmate retired as a two-star general.

He encouraged the students to find their passion and to learn to push themselves and each other. The key, he said, to finding one's passion is to "prepare to do a lot of things" in school so as to make sure you do not miss out on discovering your true passion. For Dr. Weast, his inspiration first came from a fifth grade teacher named Elma Wood who "seemed to teach me more in one year than in all the other years combined." He let them know that inspiration can also come from small things. He was in-

spired to look beyond his small town simply from a subscription his uncle gave him to National Geographic.

Like many in the room, he always had a passion for sports having played basketball, football, and track. While he did get a scholarship out of high school, it was not enough to sustain his educational path. It wasn't until he finally coached a team that he realized that teaching could lead to a career in coaching. He determined to go back to school, enrolling in the lo-

cal community college, working seven days a week, and at times, working the night shift only to go directly to classes the next day.

Dr. Weast became a principal at twenty-four and a school superintendent at twenty-eight, so he made sure they understood not to allow age concerns to interfere with their goals. Today, of course, he is the "CEO" of the seventeenth largest school system in the nation.

He encouraged them to understand that by pushing themselves and each other, by following their passions, by expanding their horizons, and most importantly, by never, ever giving up, they can live out their dreams and live happier lives. There was one more point to make to students at 7:30 a.m. in the morning. One student could not figure how he could work a night job and still go to school the next day. With a warm smile, he reassured them that when you follow your passion, working long hours is not an issue and to be careful because "you can sleep your life away."



*Dr. Weast is wrapped in an adrinka, a gift hand-made by the students with symbols for Kansas, farming, education and other important icons of the superintendent's life.*



*Dr. Weast visits with the students just before his inspiring speech.*



# Family Album

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Putting the final touches on the Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church steeple. Rande Davis was careful not to startle this man when he climbed up to take the shot.



Words to live by.



The John Poole Players present Snow Queen.



Ravens in the forest.



Part of the crowd at St. Peter's send-off for a group of parishioners leaving on a mission to South Africa.

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## School News

MCPS Elementary Schools  
Kindergarten 2006-2007

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 Elementary School in the fall. Please remember that you must file a transfer at Poolesville Elementary School even if you have older siblings already enrolled at Monocacy Elementary School. The transfer

— Continued on Page 14.

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### HEALTHWORKS – A Special Place For Getting & Staying Fit

As a member of Healthworks since 2003, I have come to appreciate how fortunate we are in Poolesville to have such a great facility devoted to fitness and well-being. Everywhere at Healthworks there is an atmosphere of friendliness, competence, and enthusiasm, which reminds you that you have landed in a special place in the world of fitness! Dean Wroth's giant mural of Sugarloaf Mountain serves as a reminder that Healthworks is a community endeavor – not just a business. It is a positive place where people know each other, and are serious about fitness and trying to lead healthier lives. The great café adds to the sense of community; I love everything there.

The staff is knowledgeable about the science of fitness, understands the need to make the most of every workout, and is able to adapt to every individual's fitness goals. No matter where you are in a training program and no matter what your fitness goals, everybody feels welcome and motivated. For me, Healthworks has been a key part of maintaining cardiovascular health in my 40s and sustaining a commitment to healthy living.

A big thanks to everyone at Healthworks for all that you do!  
*Andrew S. Gilmour, Poolesville*

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## Editorial

### Marking the Moment

By John Clayton

This is our new year at the *Monocle*, as we observe our second anniversary and the beginning of our third year of publication. We hope this makes many people, if not all people, happy. We certainly hope that our advertisers are happy with the newspaper and with the results of the ads they place, and remember, all of you, that it's never in bad taste to mention where you saw their ad.

As we have evolved into what we are now (if I may be so bold as to affirm the process of evolution) certain features of our newspaper seem to garner the most positive comments. First and foremost our impression (or at least my impression) is that we get the most compliments on our history articles, including those under the standards Local History or Mystery History (Rande Davis's baby), and also Mr. Toomey's "Police Blotter Past and Present." Maureen O'Connell's

gardening (and cooking and travel) columns also earn specific positive comments, and she is usually singled out by name when readers praise her work. Dominique Agnew writes about many topics, but usually about people, often but not exclusively in the arts, and these are also very popular. Dominique is also our primary copy editor. People often thank us for seeming to care about and to pay attention to grammar and style (this column notwithstanding) and Dominique deserves a great deal of the credit. Marcie Gross has specialized extensively but not exclusively with our local business profiles, which are intended to highlight the people behind the businesses in our area. Debby Lynn has continued to cover equestrian topics, and Curtis Osborne has chimed in on sports and other topics from his southern Frederick County beat. We have also been proud to feature more of Hilary Schwab Shapiro's photography.

We have a number of goals for our new year, but none is so important as providing a diverse and interesting read with each issue. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we are doing.

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## The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

John Clayton

President and Publisher

Managing Editor

(301) 349-0071

jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis

Vice President

Publisher and Editor

Advertising and Circulation

(301) 349-0070

rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew

Maureen O'Connell

Marcie Gross

Debby Lynn

Jack Toomey

Contributing Writers

Hilary Schwab

Contributing Photographer

**Other Departments**

editor@monocacymonocle.com

advertising@monocacymonocle.com

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P.O. Box 175

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## Rande(m) Thoughts

### Career Day: What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?

By Rande Davis

Our headline asks one of the most often repeated, yet, most important questions a person may consider. In fact, I still don't have the answer. Then again, I guess I will never really grow



Dr. Weast, SGA president Tyler Mumford, Guidance Counselor Peg Arnold, PHS principal Deana Devine, and JPMS principal Mr. Bishop.

up. As the eighth graders at John Poole Middle School prepare to move up to high school, the administration and faculty brought the community together to help the students begin a new phase of their life. Career choice, while a very important question each student in his or her own time will have to answer, it is not the most important question. The school asks that question, too. What is the most important question? We will let in on that at the end.

First, we want to report on the annual JPMS Career Day. This pre-scheduled, half-day could have been just a "time-killer" till noon. Instead, the school, through the hard work of the administration, teachers, and parents, put together an inspiring event that we hope will become one of those milestone days in the life of more than a few young students.

While this was truly a community effort, the leadership of guidance counselor, Peg Arnold, made this a most powerful and

—Continued on Page 16

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**Poolesville:** Surrounded by farmland with pastoral views, this 13.5 ac. building lot has an approved sound mound perc to service a 5 bedroom residence. Partially wooded with a stream, this lot is approx. 5 miles from the Town of Poolesville, and 14 miles from Potomac Village. MLS # MC5528055. Offered at \$750,000.00

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**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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# Profiles

## Barnesville School: An Era of Excellence

By Dominique Agnew

For the past twenty-two years, Jaralyn L. Hough (she also goes by Jeri) has been the head of the Barnesville School, "an independent, coeducational, country day school," and has seen the school through many changes, large and small.

The history of the Barnesville School is interesting and begins fifteen years before Jeri arrived at the scene. The original structure of the school located on Peachtree Road in Barnesville now houses the main office. Facing the school, it is on the left. Initially, the building was the home of the Ara-



Barnesville School's Jaralyn L. Hough (

bian Horse Museum. The school was founded in 1969 by Bazy Tankersley, the owner of the museum, because she wanted to start a preschool for her daughter, and the school shared the building with the museum. With each passing year, parents kept requesting the next grades. Finally, the school became the Barnesville Primary School—it had also grown too large to continue sharing space with the mu-

seum, so it rented space on Riffleford Road in Germantown. In the mid-1970s, the museum moved to Arizona, and the school bought the Peachtree Road property.

In 1984, Jeri had been a teacher at an independent school in Bethesda for ten years when she was asked to become the head of the Barnesville School. She lives only a few miles away, and she accepted the position. "It was easy to go from teacher to principal," she says, "the school was small." There were 134 students. More than fifty of the students were preschoolers who did not attend full time. "We were just a little country day school," Jeri adds. Now, 250 students attend the Barnesville School. The grades start at preschool and go through the eighth grade. There are only twenty to thirty students per grade, in two classes per grade. "The

teacher/pupil ration is wonderful," Jeri says.

Besides the size of the student body, more changes were to come, most of them wonderful, as well. In 1985, a separate four-classroom building was constructed, and a temporary building was installed for physical education. In 1990, there was more construction that nearly doubled the size of the school buildings. Another twenty thousand square feet were added providing more classrooms and new space for a gymnasium. In 1999, the physical size of the school doubled again. A new regulation-size gym was constructed, and the old gym

was converted into a two-story library and music rooms. This last construction brought the school to its present configuration.

Other changes included the commencement of the middle school. After Jeri became principal, it was not feasible to continue offering middle school grades, there were only a few students. In 1993, the Barnesville School was able to slowly bring back

the middle school, one grade at a time. "The student body changes have meant we can offer a broader curriculum," says Jeri.

One part of the broader curriculum has been the school's continued emphasis on the arts. In the art lab, the children are exposed to a wide variety of media including access to a kiln, and every child has art with a specialist giving them a broad, well-rounded foundation in the arts. Every child has classes with a specialist in music several times a week. The children can also be involved in drama and a chorus. In the words of one graduate—all the graduating eighth graders have to give a speech—"Barnesville has given me a chance to be in plays and musicals that I would never choose to join in a public school...it can be hard to perform in front of one or two hundred people, instead of performing in front of around fifty people who are mainly parents and siblings."

There's definitely a lot more going on at Barnesville than the arts. The students are introduced to the Spanish language beginning in preschool. By the time they are in the middle school grades, they can choose to study Spanish five times a week. Students also have classes with a science specialist beginning in the third grade.

One of the most incredible changes has been the impact of technology on curriculum. "In the early days, we were fortunate to have three Commodore computers," explains Jeri. Now, the school has two computer labs and computers in each classroom. "The changes that have been brought about through technology are unreal," adds Jeri.

At the opposite end of technology, there is the personal touch to the children's education. "Everybody is known by name," Jeri says. "We shake hands with every child every morning. We call them by name, look them in the eye—it's part of the tradition."

Then, there's the broader learning that takes place inside and outside of the school in the form of service to others. Jeri emphasizes that the school "[teaches] caring at an early age." The school uses community service as a steady philosophy relating to the whole child. As an entity, the Barnesville School supports the Dwelling Place in Gaithersburg and the Frederick Rescue Mission. In the classrooms, the students have taken on helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina, sending letters to soldiers in Iraq or in hos-

—Continued on Page 17.



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## Local News

### Poolesville Commissioners Finally Pass New Sign Ordinance

The commissioners of Poolesville finally brought the long-sought changes to the town's sign ordinance to a close at their February 21, 2006 meeting. Voting four to one in favor of the proposed changes, only Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski voted against the final proposal.

The process, which included surveying town businesses, public hearings, and counter-proposals, resulted in four key changes to the town's eighteen-page ordinance.

The process, which included surveying town businesses, public hearings, and counter-proposals, resulted in four key changes to the town's eighteen-page ordinance. Now multi-business retail centers having four or more businesses will have their allowed street front signs increased from seven feet by seven and a half feet to a maximum of nine feet by nine and a half feet. This change provides signage for all the businesses within the center. Acceptance of final sign designs will be reviewed with the recommendations of the streetscape plan in mind.

All businesses will be able to expand to interior window display coverage from the previous fifty percent to eighty percent. Use of promotional banners has been expanded from thirty to sixty days out of every ninety days. Phone numbers are now authorized on all signs.

The most controversial request, allowing businesses the privilege of using temporary signs, commonly referred to as A-frame signs, was stricken from the original recommendations made by the sign committee and not reinstated even after the request of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce. While there were supportive comments made by commissioners regarding the temporary business signs, the commissioners ultimately decided against their use citing enforcement complexities as their primary reason. The suggestion to allow the A-frames on weekends and special occasions only was shelved.

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### Kudos Are Better Late than Never

The commissioners received an impressive plaque from the Governor of Maryland this past week in recognition for its "role in reducing nutrients in the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries." This award of excellence, presented with honor to the Town of Poolesville, recognizes the town's voluntary part in the state's biological nutrient removal program. The recognition and the program are through the Maryland Department of the Environment. While the honor is well deserved and appreciated, it is certainly long overdue since the governor whose signature appears on the brass and wooden plaque is former governor Parris Glendening.

### Out with the Old, In with the New

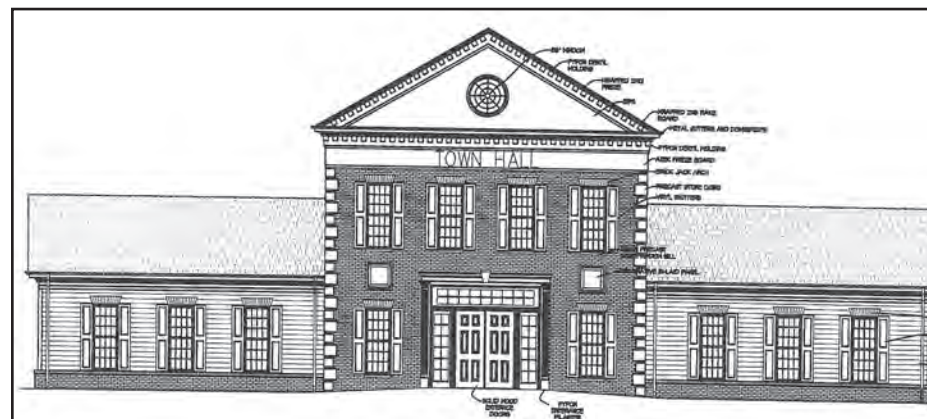
Just as the commissioners of Poolesville are approaching a final decision on the possible sale of the old Town Hall, they're making progress toward decisions on a new one.

A public hearing (March 6) on the proposal to purchase the Old Town Hall will bring the commissioners closer to deciding as to whether they will accept the Historic Medley District, Inc.'s (HMD) offer to purchase the building, restore it to its turn of the century appearance, and turn it into a town museum.

There have been informal, unsolicited proposals to purchase the bank building in the center of town, and the commissioners voted to make the process official by putting out a formal request for proposal (RFP) to purchase or lease the building. Before any official transaction could be considered, the RFP procedure is required. Although suggested elsewhere, the town has not withheld any official proposal from public view or consideration.

After voting to ask for an RFP at a town meeting, advertising the RFP, and waiting the required time for responses, in the end, the only response was from HMD. HMD has proposed to purchase the building for \$150,000, repair and maintain the appearance of the exterior, and restore the interior to its natural state at a time when it was the Poolesville National Bank.

It has been accepted as conventional wisdom that the town residents overwhelmingly prefer to make sure that the town maintains the building's iconic role in the town, and the commissioners required from any RFP that the exterior not be changed. HMD



The proposed Poolesville Town Hall

currently owns and manages the Seneca Schoolhouse, the John Poole General Store and Museum, and the Sturn Arboretum that surrounds the latter's property. One practical problem in finding a suitable owner has been the lack of parking space. This concern is alleviated since HMD plans to use some of the more than adequate parking on the John Poole General Store property.

The commissioners voted 4-0 to move forward on the proposal and scheduled the March 6 public hearing. Commissioner Tom Dillingham was the sole vote against the HMD proposal.

The commissioners also accepted preliminary renderings for a new

town hall from the selected architectural firm of Johnson & Johnson. The drawing presentation was made by architect Don Johnson which was from numerous suggestions previously made by the commissioners. The current plan calls for the new town hall to be built at Campbell Park which is at the corner of Wootton and Fisher Avenues. The two-story building will have a residential colonial appearance in consideration of its intended location.

With administrative meeting space on the second floor, the first floor plan is dominated by a seventy-five-person town meeting room and

—Continued on Page 20.



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## Tributes

### Poolesville Native Makes Sure Marines in Iraq Stay Supplied

By Rande Davis

Much of the following was taken from an article in News from the Front by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division's 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Shawn Mercer.

This issue we give tribute and an update on Poolesville's Major John "Billy" Harman who is now serving with the marines in Iraq. Major Harman, material readiness officer for the 2nd Marine Division, is tasked with ensuring that ground forces receive what they need to accomplish their mission and quell the insurgency. Material readiness deals with, but is



Major John "Billy" Harman

not limited to, issues involving supply chain management, distribution, equipment maintenance, and supply support. Harman, a 1990 Poolesville Junior/Senior High School graduate and 1994 graduate of North Carolina State University, manages the distribution pipeline "from the factory to the foxhole" for the 2nd Marine Division, making sure the right gear is at the right place at the right time.

"Everything we push is transparent to you as a customer," Harman said. "That commander on the battlefield who's trying to do his mission shouldn't have to worry about where his box of (meals ready-to-eat) is sitting or how long it's going to take to get fuel pushed to his location or equipment replacement for the up-armored humvees."

To accomplish this, Harman has eight marines under his supervision operating as a material readiness logistics team. The team pushes out from

Camp Blue Diamond to the regiments and the brigade regularly to determine each commander's needs and how they can improve logistics support.

So, for example, while Operation Steel Curtain was driving Al Qaeda and Iraq-led insurgents out of Husaybah, Karabila, and Ubaydi, Harman and his teams were working behind the scenes, silently ensuring the marines had the support they needed to take the fight to the insurgents' doorsteps. "Once he got here, he picked up the ball and ran with it, taking on the responsibilities of keeping things moving, and that continues on to this day," said Lt. Col. James C. Johnson, deputy G-4 logistics for the 2nd Marine Division, "and he is doing an exceptional job."

But as Harman sees things, it all boils down to protecting the marines.

"The three main priorities we have for supporting the war-fighter is the up-armored hummers, handling personal effects for marines, and then providing sufficient personal protective equipment," Harman said, "making sure every marine has the right piece of gear that he needs to be safe while operating in this environment."

Harman has deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism before, but this is his first time in Iraq.

In March 2002, Harman deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for seven months with Joint Task Force 170, where he was the director and deputy director for logistics in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In December 2002, Harman deployed for another seven months to Kuwait as part of the landing force support party, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward), in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Now in his third deployment to as many countries in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Harman is glad to have the opportunity to serve his country.


"One of the most noble acts anyone can do is defend their country," the thirty-three-year-old husband and father of two said. "People who don't understand what you do can sleep at night knowing that America's sons

—Continued on Page 18.

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## Things to Do

### March 11

Spring Gala Fundraiser  
PHS Booster Club  
Bretton 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 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Irish bands and wines  
703-771-7100

Special Event  
Poolesville Public Library  
Washington National Opera Performs  
One Hour – Hansel & Gretel  
2:30 p.m.

### March 12

Purim Carnival  
Congregation Or Chadash  
Damascus – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Games, prizes, food  
\$1.00 Admission

Pre-School Bible School  
St. Peter's Parish  
Music, Bible stories, Crafts  
1:00 p.m.

### March 16

Poolesville Public Library  
Twosomes – stories, finger play, music  
10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

### March 17

Old-Fashioned Family Night Out  
St. Mary's Pavilion  
Knights of Columbus and Monocacy  
Lions

Fish Dinner – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Bingo – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### March 17

Comus Inn  
St. Patrick Festivities  
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Grill  
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Man  
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### March 18

Barnesville School  
Pajama Party Fundraiser for Cantilena  
Medical Fund  
Music, games, crafts, refreshments,  
raffle  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
\$10.00 per person

### March 22

Pre-School Bible School  
St. Peter's Parish  
Music, Bible stories, Crafts  
1:00 p.m.

### March 23

Poolesville Public Library  
Three to Six Story time  
Stories, finger plays, music  
10:30 a.m.

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## Reaching for The Stars

### That Burnin' Feelin'

By Dominique Agnew

After decades (possibly four), it's back. Well, not in its original form, but the Jazz Ensemble of Poolesville High School has been resurrected like a phoenix from the ashes. For the purists, no, it's not exactly like the mythological phoenix which resurrects every five hundred years taking only a few days to burn, grow again, and fly away again. This phoenix took forty years to return to life — and it has Michael Schreiber, music director at PHS, to thank for its reincarnation. He knew of its previous existence from having seen pictures, so in the 2004-2005 school year, Michael lit a fire and started the Jazz Ensemble.

"Only one of the players had been in a jazz band before," says Michael. "It was almost like starting with elementary grades" because he had to teach them different rhythms, chord structures, and improvisation that are all unique to jazz. Fortunately, he had very talented kids. "They progressed more quickly than I had anticipated. [Now] they're just flying through stuff," he adds. This despite the difficulties of the elective situation at the school. Many of the ensemble students choose band or chorus as an elective, and

if the students are in the Global Ecology program, they have fewer electives. Naturally, the group must practice after school, but, again, many are involved in sports and other pursuits — drama, for instance. Michael says, "Keeping my numbers has been the trial."

The Jazz Ensemble for this year numbers roughly twelve students with a few backups. The full rhythm section consists of bass, piano, guitar, and drums. They complement the two alto saxophones, two trombones, and one trumpet. The unusual addition to this group is that it includes two singers. The ensemble began touring the elementary schools and the middle school to get the interest up in the program and "found that kids really reacted to having someone sing." As a result, most of the group's songs use a singer. They have a good book of songs, and their repertoire includes some jazz standards with some contemporary pieces thrown in — a wide genre. Apart from performing at the feeder schools, the group does random gigs around town, most recently



You guessed it — The PHS Jazz Band in action.

they performed for the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner. When they play at a dinner, they provide background music. "I really like to have them go out in the community," Michael says. The students acquire different skills when performing "on the fly." He adds, "It's different to be in concert, on stage, than to do on-the-spot thinking. They rise to the occasion when I take them out in public." He feels it shows a maturity to be flexible. Michael studied the classical euphonium, similar to a tenor tuba, then studied the trombone with

which he would have more playing opportunities. He moved to D.C. from Arizona and plays with various jazz groups including the Georgetown University Jazz Band. Presently, the Jazz Ensemble is recording a CD which will be for sale at the school spring concerts and at any other gigs — speaking of which, they're always looking for work. "They play for food," says Michael of the kids. Proceeds from the sale of the CD and any donations they receive from gigs (or just because) go back into the program.

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## Mystery History

### The Lost Poet of Poolesville

By Rande Davis

When Vernon Nicholson of Bucklodge Road died in 1995, he named Peggy Horine Kingsbury the executor of his estate because she had been a lifelong friend of the family. Peggy was born in the house on Bucklodge Road directly across the street from Vernon's home, so naturally the two families became close. In fact, the Horines and Nicholsons became so much like family that Peggy always referred to Vernon's parents as Mama Nick and Papa Nick. While others called Vernon by his given name, his real friends and family knew him best by his nickname. Amusingly, his nickname was Nick.

Vernon "Nick" Nicholson was eighty-one when he passed away and the sad duties of getting the house ready



Peggy Horine Kingsbury

for sale fell to Peggy. While most of the items in the house were either given away or sold, Peggy decided to keep some old tintype pictures, letters, post cards, and other odds and ends that she found tucked away in the home. The pictures were very old and not of anyone she could readily identify, so she didn't pay much attention to them. She simply put them in a bag, took them to her house, and did not give them much thought for next ten years.

Then this past February, Peggy decided to go through the bag and this time, something caught her eye that she had previously overlooked. An old, folded up news clipping caught her attention. Someone had cut a news article out of a now-unidentified local newspaper. Peggy guessed the collector must have been Mama Nick, but she couldn't be positive, and she was intrigued as to why it had been carefully "hidden away" for well over eight decades. The news clipping was a letter to the editor of an unnamed, mysterious newspaper. John Will Hall of New York City wrote it.

While the date on the newspaper was inadvertently cut off, it was clear Mr. Hall had been born in Poolesville in 1848. Based on the title of the poem, it also appears his correspondence was sometime in 1923. It was also abundantly clear that Mr. Hall yearned for his boyhood town of Poolesville. Mr. Hall had written to request the newspaper print his love poem to Poolesville. We could try to paraphrase his prelude that he submitted to the paper, but his own words, uniquely expressed, say it best.

"Beg to send you an original poem in honor of the little town of my birth and boyhood, asking its publication – including this prelude – in your famous newspaper. Writer left the village when only 17 years old with 65 cents in pocket, raised by his poor but good mother and sister, with sole ambition to make his way in world, that he might help his parents more. Since that September day, in 1865, he has been a self-deported entity, and meanwhile father, mother, sisters, and

brothers have lived and died, until only a sister there and writer here are left of thirteen.

*"Upon the occasional visits of latter years, have seen a new Poolesville rising from the dust and cobwebs of the old, and yet clinging memories and tracings of the past. In my heart still beats the love of the old town, hence, this eulogy.*

*"Respectfully, John Will Hall, New York City."*

—Continued on Page 18.

### The Metamorphosis of Poolesville

1861 – 1923

Say, people, have you heard of Poolesville?  
That place of Civil War fame;  
If not, sit still and listen,  
While I weave its magic name.

First, Poolesville stands for Poole,  
From the earliest stage of its birth;  
And the name and fame of that tribe,  
Make its history of greater worth.

And Poolesville the mother of Williams, of Woot-  
tens and Whites and more  
Old county never nurtured a coward  
Along the stretches of thy Potomac shore.

You remember the little brick school house,  
Where the famous Irishman taught;  
And the sting of the reed and the ruler  
That our poor little bare hands caught.

The little old brick has passed away,  
And long banished is the rod and the rule;  
The great Academy now towers aloft,  
And love is the law of the school.

Do you recall the little old brick church,  
Still braving time's havoc and loss;  
Where we sat with our mothers side by side,  
And listened to the story of the cross?

The Amen! corner where the Elders sat,  
Solemn-visaged as the Raven of Poe;  
They prayed and shouted the terror of Hell,  
'Til our young hearts quaked with woe.

The dear old church stands desolate and lone.  
Her walls re-echo the names of the dead;  
The great, new church a monument of love,  
Where the teachings of Christ are spread.

Poolesville stood sentry in the sixties,  
'Twixt the Southern and Northern hosts,  
And many raids by the Rebel boys  
Were made on the Yankee posts.

O! The Ides of October, that bright Sabbath eve,  
All ye old folks remember so well,  
Of Doctor Poole the Union Colonel said,  
Tomorrow we eat breakfast in Leesburg, or hell.

Then bravely marching to capture Leesburg,  
Across both ferries to their doom,  
From "Ball's Bluff" returning all battered  
and torn,  
When the Rebels shot holes in their boom.

Men living now – were boys then,  
Who will never forget the Rebel yell,  
And the Union soldiers who fought and  
died,  
Carried that Echo with him to heaven or  
hell.

But days that tried the souls of men,  
Were banished by the Angel of Peace;  
And Poolesville rose from the doubt and  
dismay,  
While happiness wrote a new lease.

Thy angle on map gives business growth,  
Commerce and fame reach farms and hill;  
The merchants push the electron buttons of  
trade,  
With léger-de-main and skill.

Other towns in old Montgomery land,  
Tried to copy the Poolesville creed;  
But Poolesville had her Willards and Elgins,  
too,  
Who showed them the meaning of speed.

Then sing a song of the old town,  
Let thy voices with accent rise;  
For the glories of far-famed Poolesville,  
And her habitants great, good, and wise.

1923

### The Injunction

Thy fathers and mothers asleep in the dust,  
Their spirits transmit this message to thee;  
Love thy fellow man – keep faith with God,  
And live for all humanity.



## Police Blotter Past and Present



By Jack Toomey

### Present

Montgomery County Police announced that the reward for information leading to the arrests of the hate crime/vandalism cases in January has been increased to fifteen thousand dollars. In January, two churches, an historic school site, and two public schools were defaced with graffiti and swastikas. A Gaithersburg businessman, wishing to remain anonymous, recently donated ten thousand dollars to the Hate Crime Tipster fund. Anyone with information is urged to call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS.

February 17. Commercial burglary Star Electric Company, 22500 block Wims Road, Clarksburg. Forced entry, property taken.

February 18. Residential burglary 19200 block of Walters Avenue, Poolesville. Forced entry to a residence, nothing taken.

February 23. New Design Road and Corporate Boulevard, Frederick. Fatal pedestrian accident. Police said that Romulo Castaneda, age 68, of Elk Grove, California was struck and killed by a car driven by a twenty-three-year-old Frederick woman. Police said the deceased man attempted to cross New Design Road against a red light and was struck by the car that had a green light.

February 24. Urbana High School. A seventeen-year-old student at Urbana High School was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute. A Frederick County deputy responded to the school after a complaint from a staff member and found that the student was in possession of several baggies of marijuana, four hundred dollars in cash, and a scale.

March 17, 8:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Montgomery County Police will conduct a saturation patrol which is a special alcohol enforcement effort targeting a holiday when the consumption of alcohol is a traditional part of the celebration.

### Past

March 9, 1928 . Richard Rogers and James Daily of Washington, D.C. were found guilty by a jury in Frederick County of armed robbery. The men were found to have held up George Alger, manager of the Gem Filling Station, at Georgetown and Buckeystown Roads, about a mile south of Frederick.

March 10, 1929. Diners at Woodward's Dixie Tavern in Rockville were forced to leave their meals because of a fire that broke out in the afternoon. The dense smoke and fire were found to have started in the blanket and pillow closet at the hotel. The fire was extinguished by the Rockville Fire Department.

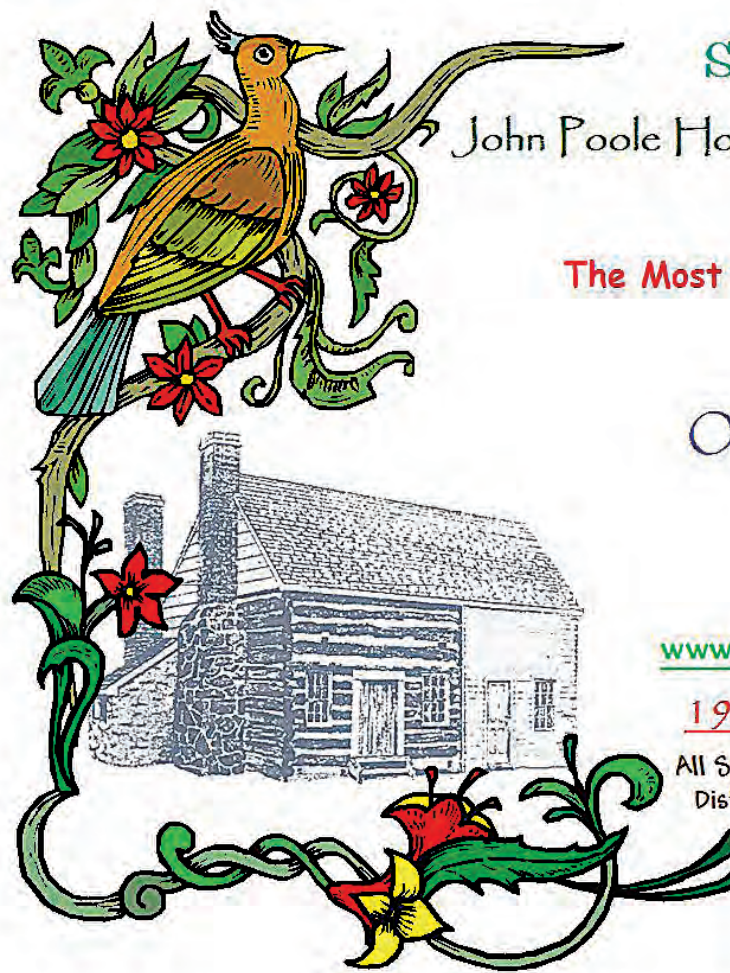
March 14 1925. Miss Edith Baker and Mary McQueen, members of the faculty at Hood College at Frederick, Maryland, were killed when their automobile was struck by a Baltimore and Ohio train at the Gaithersburg railroad grade crossing.

March 17, 1922. Two wife beaters were lashed in the yard of the jail at Rockville. Sheriff Alvie Moxley carried out the sentences imposed by Police-Magistrate William Viett yesterday. Moxley applied the cowhide to the bare backs of George Kemp of Barnesville and Frank Terry of Cloppers.

Each received ten blows.

March 21 1978. A six-year-old boy drowned when he fell through the ice on a pond near the home of relatives in Poolesville. Montgomery County police reported that the boy and his family had been visiting relatives.

March 22, 1934. Fire of an undetermined origin destroyed the large elevator and grain warehouse of Dietrich and Gambrell at Buckeystown. The fire also badly damaged two adjoining houses. Ten occupants of the houses were routed from their beds.



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**"School News Continued From Page 3—**

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 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. They are: Spanish, 301-230-5403; Cambodian, 301-230-5427; Chinese, 301-230-5428; French, 301-230-5429; Korean, 301-230-5430; and Vietnamese, 301-230-5432.

For information about assignments for students residing in the NEC, DCC, or MSMC areas, call 301-649-8081.

*Monocacy Elementary School  
Building a Canal Boat*

The SGA is joining the C&O Canal Association and the Friends of Great Falls, both nonprofits, in their fundraising efforts to build a new canal boat to run on the canal at Great Falls. The last running canal boat has been out of commission for several years due to several leaks. The SGA will be selling T-shirts with a C&O Canal Association-approved design drawn by Emily Durr. The shirts will sell for just \$10.00 each and are available in adult small, medium, large, and extra large. The SGA hopes to sell all 120 shirts ordered. For more information, call the school at 301-972-7990.

*Juggling Alumni?*

Former alumni jugglers are being sought for a juggling reunion on Sunday, May 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Poolesville Elementary School*

Wearin' of the Green on March 10  
It's almost spring and time for the wearin' of the green. PES will hold a school dance for a family fun night on Friday, March 10 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$1.00 per person.



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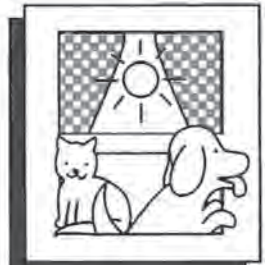
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Children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be free refreshments, and, of course, everyone will be wearing green.

*Closing Gap on Playground Funding*

In its quest to raise twenty thousand dollars to build a new playground, PES is three-fourths of the way there. Only another five thousand dollars is needed to make those kids happy! All donations are welcome.

*Barnesville School*

Pajama Party Family Fun Night to Benefit Cantilena Medical Fund  
The Barnesville School is holding

a family fun night Saturday, March 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00 per person. The Pajama Party-themed evening will include a DJ, refreshments, games, crafts, a cake walk, and raffle. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to support a family at the school. Cathy Cantilena, mother of second grader Anna Cantilena, suffers from a rare lung disease, Lymphangiomyomatosis or LAM (there are currently fewer than 1,000 cases in the U.S.), and is in critical need of a double-lung transplant. For

—Continued on Page 16.





## In the Garden

### A Garden for a Princess

By Maureen O'Connell

A fifteen to twenty minute subway ride from central London, brings you to the picturesque village Kew, home to the Royal Botanic Gardens. They cover an area of over three hundred acres, on the south bank of the Thames in southwest London. From its early beginnings in 1752 as the dream of an avid gardener, Princess Augusta, wife of Prince Frederick, son of George II and Queen Charlotte, Kew Gardens has evolved into the world's showpiece gardens and an internationally respected center of scientific excellence, identifying and classifying plants, researching their structure, chemistry and genetics, and collecting and conserving endangered species.

I visited the gardens last week on a cold, windy, blue-sky day. You might think, what is there to see in a garden in February. There are endless choices, for Kew is truly a garden for all seasons. From March until May, the humble beginnings of spring jolt you out of the winter doldrums. As you enter the grounds of the Garden at Victoria Gate Center, you are immediately greeted by massed carpets of light purple crocuses, popping up hither and yond over the grassy lawns. The pinkish blush of camellias softly edge around the early spring bulbs. Daffodils and narcissi are naturalized all over the grass. The blossoms on the trees along Cherry Walk have not yet broken out of their tight

buds, but beneath the trees, 300,000 scillas are emerging from the sleepy winter soil. There are snake's head fritillaries between the Lilac Garden and the Magnolia Collection. Outside the Palm House, *prima rosa*, the first flower, lighten up the Spring bedding plots with a riot of pink, yellow, red and white blooms. Tucked in amongst them are hundreds of tulip heads poking through the still cold earth.

Summer slides in around early June, and the Garden is in full bloom. The wonderfully showy hibiscus dazzle the eye. The Palm House is filled with the sweet perfume of Frangipani (*Plumeria rubra*) and white spider lilies (*hemerocallis*). Lavender has her own Lavender Trail at the Duke's Garden, surprising you with the many varieties of this popular plant. Giant waterlily ponds and masses of all types of roses take center stage around the Princess of Wales Conservatory. When I was there the rosebuds were almost, just almost, ready to break into an explosion of colors.

Autumn softly and slowly is ushered in by September and October. Not all of summer's plants are willing to let go yet; some hang on and the roses are saving their bright red hips for the birds of winter. Autumn crocus, hardy cyclamens, belladonna lilies and ornamental grasses rush in to fill any void.

Winter, November through February, is time for the winter bark, especially the birches, to shine. Holly

Walk invites you into the festive spirit of the coming holidays. The winter is also a wonderful time to enjoy the warm, moist air in the many Kew greenhouses.

The Palm House is home to one of the world's foremost collection of tropical rainforest plants. Palms are second only to grasses in their importance to people. There are hundreds of rainforest plants growing under and on the tall palm trees. They are of great economic significance for their yields of fruits, timber, spices, perfumes, fibers and medicines.

The largest greenhouse at Kew



is the Temperate House. It is full of tender, woody plants from all parts of the globe. It houses the world's largest indoor plant, the Chilean wine-palm

(*Jubaea chilensis*). It is fifty-two feet high and is still growing. Interestingly, it was grown at Kew from a seed. Preservation of endangered species of plants is an extremely important goal of their Mission. The rarest plant at Kew is a

cycad, *Encephalartos woodii*, and was presented to the Garden by the Natal National Park. Besides its rarity, it is one of the last surviving specimens in the world.

Diana, Princess of Wales, opened the Princess of Wales Conservatory on July 28, 1987. It is a real pleasure to step inside to its many, humid, sweet-smelling rooms. Orchids and carnivorous plants flourish in the warmth of this unique and complex greenhouse. It replicates ten different computer-controlled environments in one building. During February and March, Kew features their annual Or-

chid Festival, 2006 being the twelfth. 250,000 orchids of all exotic shapes, colors and scents from all over the world dazzle the eye and the nose. This year's exhibit highlighted the place of orchids in many aspects of art and design. Orchids are everywhere, in paintings, fabrics, perfumes and fine china.

Throughout the greenhouse, there were cascades of orchids draping twenty to thirty foot trees, orchids slithering over moist and pungent mosses and earth near quiet pools of water and small, rushing streams traveling down rock outcroppings. You are in a time capsule traveling back to the deep recesses of a thick and heady rainforest.

Kew Gardens is not just a collec-

—Continued on Page 20.

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### "Rande(m) Thoughts" Continued from Page 5—

effective event. Principal Bishop told us that while other schools do a similar program this is "really a uniquely effective program."

The underlying message to the students that permeates the entire event is that "we, the school, your administrators, your teachers, your parents, and your town, care about you. You are important. Your choices from now on will be very important, and you need to know that your decisions will be more of your own choosing than ever before."

The day was made even more special by the inspiring presence and message of the superintendent of MCPS, Dr. Jerry Weast (cover story) I was also particularly impressed with the comments of the other key speaker, Mr. Rob Segreti, student support specialist from Poolesville High School. His comments had to be re-assuring to many of the students since such career decisions were not instantaneous and unalterable. He used his career journey of pursuing an education degree through a twelve-year process to demonstrate that such decisions can also evolve, not just sprout. My only regret in hearing his remarks was to learn that his past specialty, shop

teacher, isn't what it used to be. I don't know what I would do around the house if I hadn't taken wood, metal, and electrical shop as a kid, and I will never know for sure how important print shop was in influencing me. As an emerging newspaperman, though, I still love the smell of printer's ink.

After the students were given a drink and snack, they broke out into smaller individual sessions to learn about different career opportunities. There were thirty-three persons volunteering to present their employment path. Of course, the education, legal, and medical professions were



Fred Fogel from Everclear Pools at Career Day.

presented, but this day was more than that. Business owners, sales professionals, firepersons, computer specialists, construction, and machinery mentors were there, too. Poolesville Town Commissioner, Jerry Klobukowski, was there, too, to make sure that they would consider public service as an elected official as well.

At the end of the day, we hope the students decide to take to heart the

fundamental message of the day: that life is full of opportunity, that the definition of success is broad not narrow, and that true happiness comes from being true to themselves. At their age, they may be excused if they are more focused on getting the keys to the car than the keys to success. At least they know that as they choose to answer life's second most important question, and they prepare themselves to "grab the keys of life," they will not be on their own.

So what question is more important than "What do you want to be?" As the students reflected on their career opportunities by going from room to room, there, on a wall of the school, the question was clearly posed and answered. The school has put up a bold display offering the *Character Word of the Month*. For February it was honesty. Another month it was respect. For still another month, it was caring. For, you see, what you choose to do is second to what kind of person you choose to be. Career Day can be a big event in the school year. The careers we choose may come and go, but the person we choose to be is determined every day. How wonderful it is that our schools do not lose sight of this important fact.

### "School News" Continued on Page 14.

more information, call Amy Bauer at 301-601-0273.

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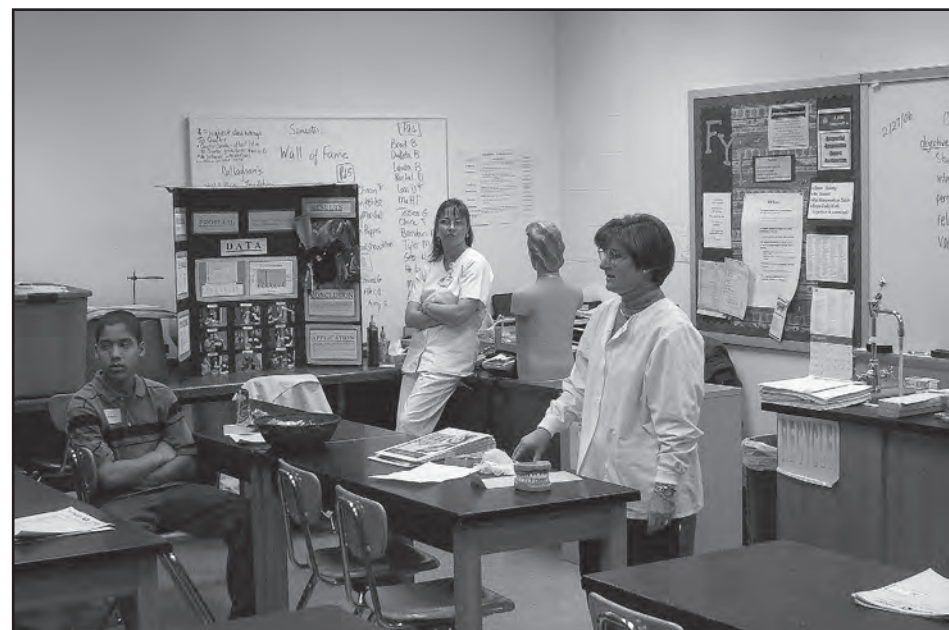
Reading Is Rewarding is this year's school-wide reading incentive program. JPMS will recognize students who read four or more books during the three remaining marking periods.

Poolesville High School  
*Save the Date: May 25, 2006*


PHS's own violin prodigy, Sandy Cameron, will be returning to her hometown to perform the third annual benefit concert. Proceeds will go towards the music programs of all the schools in the Poolesville cluster. Don't miss the exciting concert and amazing Silent Auction.

*Oklahoma!*

The Midnight Players will be presenting the musical *Oklahoma!* March 30, 31, and April 1. Show times will be 7:30 each night and one 2:00 p.m. showing on Saturday, April 1.



Dr. Margaret Valega at Career Day.



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**"Barnesville School" Continued  
From Page 6—**

pitals, and helping a school's family whose mother is in critical care. The students also serve the community within the school's walls. Each grade has a buddy grade, so that younger students have a big brother or big sister.

"We're not just educating them for the SATs, we're educating them for the world," Jeri says. "We're educating the whole child." The fruits of this education have ripened in the successes of former students. Whether they continue in the world of the highly competitive prep schools of the metro area or the rigorous classes of public school programs, Barnesville graduates do well. "The students have an outstanding record of getting into programs they choose," Jeri adds.

Sally Mullen who had a twenty-one-year career with the Barnesville School, nineteen of which were as Director of Admission with Jeri, says, "The driving force behind the success story of the Barnesville School is Jeri Hough. Jeri Hough is at once the gifted educator able to differentiate between the valuable advances in education and those that are merely passing trends ultimately of little worth, and the consummate CEO, able

to guide her school through the financial shoals of major capital building campaigns as well as balancing annual budgets." While these eloquent words and the success of the school illustrate the amazing accomplishments of the professional Jeri, there is also the personal Jeri. As incredibly busy as she has been with office duties, capital improvements, accreditation of the school, to name a few, she still finds time to visit the children in the classroom. Adds Sally, "Jeri's nurturing goes beyond the walls of the school. She will agonize over the family situation of a student or the personal problems of a faculty member, just as readily as she agonizes over the academic success of a student or the financial strength of the school."

The mission statement of the school says it all: "We're dedicated to providing a joyful and supportive environment for the development of excellence in each of us." Jeri says this mission statement is not talking about just the kids, but adults as well — teachers and parents.

Even though Jeri will be retiring and leaving the Barnesville School as its head, she will continue working in education — "there's so much that can be done." John Huber, the new head, will begin July 1, see article in the January 27 issue of the *Monocacy Monocle*.

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**"Major Harman" Continued From Page 8.**

and daughters stand ready to come out here and protect their freedom." Harman's job requires him to prioritize the movement of material, but, as he puts it, his heart is his family – and they are behind him one hundred percent.

"If you were to ask my family, I wear this cape with a big 'S' on the back of it."

Jodi, Harman's wife, and his children, Nathaniel, age ten, and Timothy, age five, understand he has a lot of pride in what he does and that gives them a sense of pride in what he and his marines do in return, Harman says. It's hard, but they do their part, too, and pray not only for his safe return, but for all the marines and their families. "My mother (Carol Harman) is her own USO," Harman says laughing. "Everyone wants to do their part and it's her way of doing something for the marines that are out here."

While it may be hard to be away from family, Harman says he will be a far better officer for having been here. He will eventually take this experience back to Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C., where he will continue as a material readiness and

distribution analyst and member of an integrated distribution team that looks for ways to improve distribution across the Marine Corps.

"To be the best at what you do, you have to work with the best, and that's what I have here with my marines," Harman said. "I have the cream of the crop when it comes to professionals and what they do best."

The family certainly appreciates the support they have gotten from friends and neighbors. One question that comes up quite often is about the effect on the children. Maj. Harman's mother, Carol Harman, shared with us the following correspondence written by Maj. Harman's boys and we thought we would share their sentiments with you.

"My name is Nathaniel Harman and I am ten years old and my brother, Timothy, is five years old. Our dad is a marine deployed to Iraq. We know he is there to help free the people and keep America safe. This is very hard for our family, and we are being brave, but we miss him. We know our dad is proud to serve our country, that's why he is a marine. We are very proud of him, and he is our hero." Just a final word to Nathaniel and Timothy: Your dad's our hero, too.

**"Mystery History" Continued From Page 12—**

We can assure our readers that our local historian and genealogist extraordinaire, Dots Elgin, has begun her investigation into exactly who our mystery poet was, where he and his family lived in Poolesville, and hopefully other tidbits about a long-ago neighbor. So far, we know his parents were John William and Louisa Veirs Hall who were married on September 30, 1835. Mr. Hall's dad was a tailor. She also states that our mysterious poet died just one year after writing this poem in 1924.

We can also add to our little mystery because just two days after uncovering this poem, Peggy found another news clipping with yet another poem of his offering. This time it was an ode entitled: "The Wreck of the Titanic." It was dedicated to "the wife who lost husband, mother who lost son, sister who lost brother."

While there are a few in our area who still try to diminish the importance of the history of the town, it is indisputable in the eyes of this person whose boyhood and teenage years gave him a front row seat to the events in Poolesville during the Civil

War that its historic role was one of great pride.

And now, nearly eighty-two years after its first publishing date, we have presented Mr. Hall's ode:

We encourage our readers to help fill in the mystery. Do you have information or speculation about our author? Do you have questions about things to which he referred in the poem? We await your contributions and inquiries and not only will fill in the gaps in our next issue, but we will present what remains of Mr. Hall's poem about the Titanic wreck.

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## Focus on Business

### Thinking about Landscaping

By Marcie Gross

It's almost springtime, time to start thinking about landscaping. I just met the nicest husband and wife team who own Colony Supply here in town. Patti and Larry Watkins would love to help you with your soil and mulching needs.

When you first enter their office, you're automatically greeted with a smile. The Watkins make you feel at home. They are family people and remember their customers and what they need. "Customer service is critical," says Larry. He pointed over to a sign they have posted on an office wall that says "Rule #1 - If we don't take care of our customers, somebody else will." Patti and Larry want each customer to feel like they get special attention. They strive for quality of material and are very particular about the products they sell from mulches to top soils.

Forty-five years ago, Patti (a Rockville native) and Larry (a Gaithersburg native) were married. Together, in 1980, they started their own business, Colony Nursery on the Summit Hall Turf Farm. They sold trees, plants, and mulch for wholesale purposes only. In 1988, they moved the business into the town of Poolesville. For ten years, they sold lawn and garden supplies and pet supplies, both retail and wholesale. Their son even worked for them. Patti and Larry worked at the shop

seven days a week for ten hours each day. They decided that they needed to do more living, so in 1998, they returned to the farm to sell mulches, top soil, wood chips, and leafgro (bag and bulk items). They sell both retail and wholesale and make deliveries. Colony Supply serves an area from Urbana to Bethesda including Poolesville, Potomac, Boyds, Germantown, and Rockville. They say that springtime is their busiest season, but they sell mulch all year long. Larry even taught Patti to ride the tractor and run the forklift. They still do it together, just the two of them. The difference is that now they work five and a half days a week with a half day on Saturday. They leave the office at 4:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. each evening. Now, they have more time to themselves and their hobbies - Larry loves to golf, and Patti loves to garden.

Did you know that the Golden Bull in Gaithersburg used to be the DelMar Bowling Alley in 1954? It was a twelve-lane bowling alley downstairs, and a roller skating rink upstairs. Larry was one of the top bowlers in the D.C. area at the time. He held the highest 200+ game and held the record for the only three-game set over 500. Larry is also an avid NASCAR fan.

Patti and Larry have three children and five grandchildren. The Watkins live on Summit Hall Farm, and Larry has designed their three fish ponds and patio. It must be nice to go to work every day with the one you love and enjoy working at a business you created. Patti and Larry Watkins can teach us all a lesson in simplicity, hard work, and dedication.

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**"Kew Gardens" Continued From  
Page 15—**

tion of pretty plants and flowers. Its essential theme is "saving the world's plants for life." Its Mission statement goes on to further say, "To enable better management of the Earth's environment by increasing knowledge and understanding of the planet and fungal kingdoms – the basis of life on earth."

The educational programs for children at Kew are wonderfully creative. If I were a child, I could visit the Dipping Pond, the Stag Beetle Loggery and walk-in Badger Set. If I were really young, I could have some serious botanic fun in "Climbers and Creepers," opened in 2004; it is Britain's first interactive botanical play zone. Being well beyond either of these age groups, I had to settle to peaking in the giant windows. As "insects", children can climb inside a plant to learn about pollination and be a little scared by being "eaten" by a giant pitcher plant. What's a small mammal's life like in a woodland? How do bees make honey? Through this visit, botany changes from an unknown word to highly imaginative fun.

What's in the future for Kew Gardens? If you remember a few columns

back, I wrote about a "pharmacy in your garden" and the daring work accomplished by the plant-gathering scientists of the eighteenth century. They traveled to all parts of the then uncharted parts of South America and the Orient and brought back exotic plants, flowers and trees. Many of them took root in the New World and Europe, and became the basis of many life-saving medicines that are still being used. This underscores our need to protect the rainforests that are home to many endangered plant specimens. As they are diminished and exploited, our globe and a little bit of us slowly dies.

Last February, while visiting the Museum of Garden History in London, I learned about the Millennium Seed Bank. Its aim is to conserve biodiversity by storing the seeds of not only every native plant in Britain, but even more importantly, those of some 24,000 other species from around the globe. Kew was instrumental in starting this eighty million pound international project, which holds immense importance for our future generations.

I have visited Kew during all four seasons. It is much more than "a walk in the park." It shows us in a very tangible and moving way the close link between Man and Nature.

**"Local News" Continued from  
Page 7—**

a half dozen offices which include an office for the town manager, town clerk, and a reception area, waiting room, potential police workstation, and some storage space.

After leaving part-time space at St. Peter's Church a number of years ago, the town has been renting retail bays at the shopping center across from Whalen Commons. The limited and over-crowded space has been considered a temporary solution to the administrative needs of the town government.

The town budget has carried forward a line-item of nearly \$900,000 for use in establishing a new town hall. The actual cost from the town's budget will not be fully established until a final design has been accepted and the result of potential state grants have been determined. As the process moves forward, one request from the commissioners that is not apparent from the illustration that accompanies this report is for the entrance to be re-designed so as to emulate the columns and appearance of the old town hall.

## Big Board

### *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.

### *Washington National Opera Comes to Town*

The Poolesville Public Library is excited about the Washington National Opera's appearance at the library on March 11 at 2:30 p.m. The opera company is coming to perform a one-hour version of the classic Hansel and Gretel story. All attending families will receive a take-home family guide along with the art activity. This event is for ages six years old to twelve years old only. Sitting is limited to twenty-five people.

### *First Annual Mike Tyler 5K Walk/Run*

Mike Tyler was the wrestler from Watkins Mill High School who died

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after sustaining a paralyzing injury during a wrestling match. In his memory, the 5K Walk/Run will take place Saturday, March 11 to benefit the Mike Tyler Scholarship Foundation. The Run/Walk will begin at Watkins Mill High School at 9:00 a.m. with registration at 7:00 a.m. Questions can be directed to Brandi Heckert at 301-840-3986 or by email at [Brandice\\_C\\_Heckert@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Brandice_C_Heckert@mcpsmd.org)

### *Footsie and the Toe — Really!*

Locally produced by independent filmmaker Pepi Singh Khara, *Footsie and the Toe* is a drama about a shy, introverted, lonely old man who struggles to live up to his deceased mother's wishes; that her son get married to the perfect wife - as determined by the shape of her toes. The sure-fire film festival winner will be shown at the Weinberg Center for the Arts March 11 at 8:00 p.m. All tickets are \$12.00. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

### *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.

### *Moscow Festival Ballet Performs Sleeping Beauty at Montgomery College*

The Moscow Festival Ballet, under the artistic direction of Sergei Radchenko, will perform *Sleeping Beauty* at Montgomery College-Rockville on

Tuesday, March 14 at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Radchenko is the legendary former principal dancer for the Bolshoi and Kirov Ballet companies. This group has recently completed a world tour that included performances at festivals in Turkey, Greece, Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, and now, Rockville. They will be performing the fully-staged, full-length production of *Sleeping Beauty*. Tickets at \$40.00 for regular seating, \$38.00 for seniors/students.

### *Old-Fashioned Family Night of Entertainment*

On March 17, the Knights of Columbus and the Monocacy Lions Club will join together to offer a great family evening starting with a Crab Cake and Fish Stick dinner at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville. The dinner will also include cole slaw, French fries, and dessert. The dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. and is served to 7:00 p.m. Right after dinner, the Monocacy Lions will be hosting a two-bingo game night with prizes, door prizes, and snacks.

The cost of dinner is \$9.00 for those twelve and older, \$6.00 for six- to twelve-year-olds, and free for those under six years old. Admission to the bingo is just \$2.00 for those over twelve years of age and free for those under twelve. Individual games of bingo for just 25 cents.

### *St. Patrick's Day Sing-a-long and Dancing at the Comus Inn*

There will be a very night of fun and blarney on March 17 at the Comus Inn on St. Pattie's evening starting at 7:30 p.m. The Sugarloaf Sunset Terrace Room Bar & Grille will feature an Irish night of fabulous food and drink with entertainment by "the piano man" Dr. Billy O'Curtis. The

—Continued on Page 22.



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## Youth Sports

### On Becoming a Track Kid

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville High School girls' indoor track team had just finished second in the state championships when we sat down with Coach Scott Mathias and running prodigy, Meghan Rose, to talk about this past season and the sport.

Meghan Rose, a junior, was handed her large envelope from the coach as she came into the room. It contained another college coach's inquiry as to her willingness to consider his school when she graduates. This one happened to be from a Division I school, St. John's University.

The inquiries are starting to flood in now and with good reason. Meghan is not only a soccer and lacrosse standout, but she also finished the indoor track season ranked in the top ten nationally in the 500m. "The last time I looked she was ranked number seven," stated Mathias.

She had just won the state championship in the 300m, 500m, and 800m individuals. This is her second state title in the 500m, and she has the opportunity next year to become the first person ever to win an individual title three years in a row.

Great teams just don't win titles. They create traditions. The Poolesville girls' indoor track team knows something about tradition. They have just won their fifth regional title in a row. On top of that, this is the fifth year in a row a girl from Poolesville won the state title in the 500m. In 2002 and 2004, Erin Moore won the title. In 2003, it was Christina Mann, and, of course, Meghan won it in 2005 and 2006. While Megan didn't beat Erin's state record in the 500m during the state finals this year, she had beaten the state record time during the county championships.

PHS girls also came in second in the county championships which pits all twenty-four schools against each other. Many of the competing schools are four to five times bigger. After winning the Division III championship two years ago, and the Division II this year, the indoor track team will be moving up even more by competing in Division I next year.

Her family has inspired Meghan's interest in sports. "My sister, Emily, always played a lot of sports, and I

always wanted to be like her, so I played everything she played. My dad was very athletic, and he always helped us to play everything we could."

Meghan only started her interest in indoor track as she entered high school. Becoming a champ requires setting goals, so we wanted to know what goals she set. She admired Christina Mann and Erin Moore, so as she entered high school, one of her goals was to reach a point where she could be compared to these past PHS running stars. Goal met.

With her heart now set for Vanderbilt or Notre Dame, Coach Mathias is just hopeful that wherever she ends up will be close enough for him to go see her run.

Indoor track has a number of advantages over other team sports. It is one of those sports where size is not a critical factor. While Christina Mann and Meghan share championships in the 500m, they are physically quite different. Mann is tall while Meghan is just 5' 2". The girls' team, though, is not defined by just one runner but by the key performances by other team members in every event. Senior Kathleen Thompson, another star who was also inspired by her sister (Janelle), has not only brought extremely important leadership and experience to the team but has also been a key member on the champion relay team. She was an inspiration to the other

—Continued on Page 23

### "Big Board" Continued From Page 20—

night will feature a sing-a-long to Irish songs and dancing. Don't forget to wear your green.

### *The Son of the Sheik (1926)*

Accompanied live by the Weinberg Wurlitzer organ, Rudolph Valentino's last film may well be his best. A sequel to the 1922 blockbuster *The Sheik*, the 1926 film casts the legendary Latin Lover in the dual role of the now-older Sheik and his son Ahmed. The latter falls in love with bejeweled dancing girl Yasmin (Wilma Banky), the daughter of a scurrilous thief, who in turn is in cahoots with Ghabah (Montagu Love), "whose crimes outnumber the desert sands." Revenge, betrayal, escape, misunderstandings, and remorse follow. Showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts March 17 at 8:00 p.m. . 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.

### *Pajama Party Family Fun Night to Benefit Cantilena Medical Fund*

The Barnesville School is holding a family fun night Saturday, March 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The Pajama Party-themed evening will include a DJ, refreshments, games, crafts, a cake walk, and raffle. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to support a family at the school. Cathy Cantilena, mother of second grader Anna Cantilena, suffers from a rare lung disease, Lymphangiomyomatosis or LAM (there are currently fewer than one thousand cases in the U.S.), and is in critical need of a double-lung transplant. LAM manifests itself primarily in women of child-bearing age and will grow at a cancer-like rate eventually blocking the lungs and preventing oxygen from reaching the rest of the body. Cathy has been living in a hotel since February 24 in Durham, North Carolina where her lung transplant will take place at Duke University Medical Center, a world leader in lung transplants. Admission to the fundraiser is \$10.00 per person. For more information, call Amy Bauer at 301-601-0273.

### *Spirit of the Irish Dance*

March 18 at 8:00 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, enjoy the exuberance of the performance of the Irish International Dance Company. "Bursting with raw energy...foot-stomping...the world-champion dancers sound like a runaway express train and their frenzied skill and military precision sends shivers down your spine." Need we say more? Tickets are \$47.00, \$44.00, and \$39.00. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

### *Washington County Museum Consort*

The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown has a unique musical program on March 19. In 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century Europe, French was the language of the secular chanson, and Latin was the language for Mass and the sacred motet. Because of the high musical standards of the Papal Chapel Choir in Rome, musicians from across Europe were attracted there. This program, entitled "In the Shadow of St. Peter's Basilica," will feature selections by Constanzo Festa and Philippe Verdelot, among others. The program starts

at 2:30 p.m. For more information call 301-739-5727 or email [info@wcmfa.org](mailto:info@wcmfa.org).

### *To Go or Not to Go, That Is the Question*

The answer is yes. The Howard County Community College Rep stage, the professional theatre in residence, presents Shakespeare's *Hamlet* at 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 24 and at 2:30 p.m. on March 25. From beyond the grave, a father's tormented spirit demands his son commit revenge murder. Thus is launched one of literatures most profound, passionate confrontations with consciousness and mortality. The box office phone number is 410-772-4900 for more information.

### *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).

### *Save the Date: Thursday, May 25*

Mark your calendars for the return of Sandy Cameron to her alma mater, Poolesville High School. She will perform for the community in her third benefit concert entitled: *Memories Are Made of Music*. All proceeds from the concert and silent auction will go towards the music programs of the schools in the entire Poolesville cluster.

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**"Indoor Track" Continued From Page 22—**

girls when, after injuring her ankle, she ran in pain during the successful regional meets. "She has grown every year, and there have been times where her performance would have easily placed her in the top three or four in the state in years past," said Mathias. Her talent and style is classic, and Coach Mathias says he uses her as an example of how to run. "I tell the others to watch her. I just tell them that's how you are supposed to look as you run."

Up-and-coming freshman, Olivia Durr, qualified in the states in four events. Another outstanding track star is senior Dana Soper. She won the county shot put title and as a key team leader, she also helps to inspire the team even when she is not competing. She is the captain of the cheering squad. The PHS indoor track team distinguishes itself at meets by their enthusiastic, boisterous, and inspirational support of each other during the individual competition. "You can always tell when a Poolesville athlete is performing at meets even if you can't see them. The kids have put together a cheering squad that would rival anything that happens at the

basketball or football game. This is a great group of kids attitude-wise. We have a great mix of older athletes with younger ones trying to learn how to do it. The two work real well together. There is real strong chemistry on this team, and it is fun because of the kids on the team."

While the girls get more publicity, the boys' team has had impressive success. Although this year was more of a building season for them, the relay team qualified for the states in the 4 x 800 and the 4 x 200. "They just missed qualifying in the 4 x 400," stated Coach Mathias.

"Seniors Matt Schulzinger and Jami Higley have been outstanding. A big contributor has been Chris Hren, although we have had to bounce him around this year. Freshman Jackson Jordan was the only boy to qualify in an individual event in the states. He broke the school record in the 55m hurdles."

In ending our conversation with the coach, we wanted to know two things: What makes for a great track star, and what are your expectations for your outdoor track and field team this spring? The coach responded: "To what makes a great track star, there are three things. First, you have to have natural ability. Then, you have



*Elements of the much feared Poolesville Cheer Squad.*

to have what I call internal drive, the willingness to work hard – each run is not enough, you have to have the drive to do better the next time. Finally, you have to stay healthy. You often can find the talent, and you often can find someone willing to work hard, but you do not often find it in the same person. When that occurs, you can find greatness. Of course, they still have to stay healthy."

Coach Mathias looks to the outdoor team season with a whole lot

of excitement. "This is going to be a young team. There will be lots of them that have to learn everything from the start. That makes coaching real fun because you have to teach them everything about the sport. The progression is so cool to watch. It's real neat to see them start off by knowing nothing – of being scared about their event. Then they begin to understand it – then they start to really like it. Finally, you watch it happen – they become a Track Kid."



*Coach Scott Mathias and track kid star Meghan Rose.*



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