

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Alli Haddaway and the 2018 Falcons are on the road to the state finals. See Family Album on page 2 for more photos of their journey.



Wild and blustering winds slammed trees onto this walkway bridge between Tama I and Tama II. Read about it in Tidbits on page 5.



Hope can begin on a horse. Find out why in Yeas and Neighs on page 10.



Even three defenders couldn't stop the wily Doug Robbins on a scoring drive. Find out why in Tidbits on page 19.

## New Citizen Initiatives to Fight for Educational Needs Take Flight

By Rande Davis

Two separate initiatives have recently begun the process of launching a pro-active campaign to address public concern about the infrastructure shortcomings and the future of Poolesville High School.

After Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) superintendent, Dr. Jack Smith, attended a town meeting on January 22, there were three items that caught the attention of those attending over and above other multiple issues regarding the high school.

The first was that any decision on expanded infrastructure improvements in the school will not be made until the end of November, with the final decision to be announced in December, giving residents time and hope to respond

Second, and not surprisingly, the superintendent supported the town government seeking additional funding for school needs, beyond the MCPS budget, by expanding the role of the facility to meet some other community



A town committee exploring dual use of PHS and potential areas of additional financial resources for facilities improvement met with Montgomery County Recreation executives. Clockwise from the left, Jeff Bourne, Cathy Matthews, Link Hoewing, Jerry Klobukowski, Jim Brown, John Strong, Wade Yost, Kevin Schramm, and Greg Ossont.

needs. Such a proposal would combine the town's interest in a community center with the needs of improving the high school infrastructure. Funds for such a multipurpose

endeavor come from other county and even state resources.

Dr. Smith, who hails from a family farm in Washington State, also voiced

Continued on page 14.

## On the Road to States: Poolesville Girls Win Region Championship

By Jeff Stuart

It was a matchup both teams had anticipated for months as each team racked up twenty wins. Although Middletown (22-2) did lose to Linganore on February 13, the loss did little to dampen the enthusiasm for the March 1 game at Poolesville. Middletown retained its number-one ranking in the 2A division, and Poolesville (24-0) remained undefeated. Poolesville rolled to a 51-23 semifinal win over Williamsport, and the Knights won their semifinal 50-45 over Walkersville.

There was an overflow crowd at the small PHS gym. The game was streamed live over the internet. It all lived up to expectations. Poolesville

Continued on page 12



2018 2A Regional Champs: Front: Madeleine Thompson, Alexis Abrugio, Alli Haddaway, Kelliann Lee, Logan Rohde, and JV assistant coach Katie Hockey; rear: Coach Swick, Makayla Lemarr, Mackenzie Magaha, Julia Hobbs, Erin Green, Brooke Hamm, Sarah Mullikin, Kalie Terragno, and Mary Hobbs.

# Family Album

## FALCONS ON THE ROAD TO THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



© T. Pitts



Pitts



Caitlyn Potts (yellow shirt), from the 2008 PHS basketball team, was joined by friends at Cugini's in cheering the younger Falcons during their drive to the state championship.



T. Pitts



T. Pitts



Some of the Falcons' younger fans cheered them on at Cugini's as they watched on the giant screen TV.

## Town Government

### Commissioners Continue with Plan to Take Over Fisher Avenue

By Link Hoewing

At their regularly-scheduled monthly meeting on March 5, the Town of Poolesville commissioners agreed to push ahead in negotiating a legal agreement with the county which would result in the town assuming control over Fisher Avenue. The county currently has control over the main roadway through town, and the commissioners have consistently pointed to the lack of maintenance and the unresponsiveness of the county to the demands of the town in areas such as pedestrian safety in arguing for assuming control over the thoroughfare.

Before discussing the transfer proposal, the commissioners heard from another in a long line of candidates for county office who have come before them during this election season to discuss their campaigns. Reggie Oldak, who hails from Bethesda, said that supporting the county's school system, reducing traffic congestion, and encouraging more growth and diversity in the economy to increase revenues that can be used to fund county priorities are her key areas of focus.

Oldak was asked why Poolesville's citizens should support her given the lack of support and responsiveness the town's needs have gotten from most county leaders (District 1 stretches from Bethesda all the way north to the Poolesville area). Several commissioners were skeptical that Poolesville's needs would have much weight when compared to the demands of citizens in the highly-populated and vote-heavy parts of the District.

Oldak said she had come to listen to the commissioners' concerns and was supportive of efforts now underway to help push for a new high school via the idea of a multi-purpose building that could garner wider support in the county government and might lead to a modernized high school; however, her comments suggested she is much more knowledgeable about higher level county issues than Poolesville's needs.

Under new business, the commissioners heard from Faith Etheridge, the chair of the Poolesville Day Committee, and Cathy Bupp, the Town Events Coordinator, regarding budget requests for the upcoming FY 2019 budget.

Etheridge enthused about the very successful Poolesville Day event that had been held last fall and said that the committee's goal was, as always, to hold the "best free fair in the region." She said a number of changes were in the works again this year to improve on the success of the event. For example, one idea is to move Falcon Lane, the part of the fair that includes Poolesville schools and students running a variety of events and activities, to the parking lot of Dollar General. This would integrate teens and young people more closely into the activities of Poolesville Day and spur more interest and support.

Etheridge asked the commissioners for a \$15,000 grant, less than what the committee asked for last year. This is due to the fact that the committee has attracted more private sponsors to support Poolesville Day.

Bupp manages the many activities the town sponsors on Whalen Commons, including the Holiday Lighting Ceremony, Fridays on the Commons, and Springfest. Efforts have been made to incorporate more kids' activities into Friday on the Commons events in particular, and that costs had gone up for some of the activities as they have grown. There are no new events this year, but that she had added a series of health seminars that are being held at Poolesville Town Hall but cost nothing to operate. She asked for a \$45,000 budget, a slight increase over last year's request.

Commission president Jim Brown said that there is almost nothing the town does that garners the positive publicity that Poolesville Day generates and lauded the quality and management of both Poolesville Day and the events on the commons. Both budget requests were supported unanimously by the five commissioners.

The final item of business concerned a proposed draft agreement that would finally lead to the transfer of control of Fisher Avenue from the county to Poolesville, a goal of the commissioners for several years.

Town attorney Jay Gullo discussed a memorandum he had drafted that outlined how a transfer might be structured. There are two basic approaches that might be taken: a Transfer Agreement or a Quick Claim. A model Transfer

Continued on page 21.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts A Bold, New Educational Future For Poolesville

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville area community, through its town government and various civic and spiritual groups, has always been a community where the voice of its citizens is clearly heard and responded to through implementation of many of the ideas put forward by resident involvement.

Today, there is a two-pronged initiative with a mission of immense importance to the town's future, academically and economically. One is formed to find additional, community-wide use of the high school building in order to secure outside funds for its renovation, so far not addressed through MCPS budgets. Another goal is exploring the possibilities and benefits of a world-class secondary Agricultural Sciences program at the high school and ultimately at the middle school as well (see front page story in this issue).

For us, community involvement fighting for educational improvements is in our civic DNA. There is no example of this better than the issues surrounding Poolesville High School, past or present. When the concern about the possibilities of closing the school back in the seventies occurred, local leadership took action that stopped that consideration. When a need for a middle school became a priority, mobilization of the citizenry resulted in the beautiful school we have today. More recently, no school in the county, despite our school size, has had a more consistent and/or loud voice in addressing our local needs and concerns before the Montgomery County Board of Education. We are renowned for busloads of residents, including young students, willingly and boldly congregating at BOE meetings to make our case for our needs. Through the years, the MCPS Board of Education has made many decisions highly beneficial to our school system with none more important than the placement of the magnet educational

houses of study at PHS, a new science building to support that effort, agreement not to close Monocacy Elementary—even during a time of highly-stretched budgets—and, of course, the addition of the aforementioned John Poole Middle School. In each case, residents mobilized with great success. While any possibility of a new high school is at least well over a decade away, if at all, important decisions on upgrading and renovations will be decided this fall and confirmed by the end of the year. This much you can be sure of, the BOE will hear from Poolesville. They have heard and responded to us before, and I believe they will hear and respond to us once again.

Our community's strength in meeting our educational needs through citizen participation is anything but new though. It began even before the town was incorporated. These early school improvement initiatives started from our farming roots and one such farmer named Upton Darby. In 1865, he and neighbors sold subscriptions for a proposed school building for the community. By using local Seneca stone, they built our first ever local school, the Seneca Schoolhouse, the historic one-room schoolhouse on River Road. That school and Mr. Darby's home still stand in Seneca today as a testament to the time-honored importance and success of our citizen involvement through effective leadership.

Today, we are a community of Darbys. Surely, we can get the job done for a new generation. Let us get an Ag Sciences program started at PHS, one that could one day expand to such a degree that any possible loss of a magnet program or two would not jeopardize the school's very existence and, just as importantly, give our students a unique pathway for success beyond high school—and let's bring to our hometown a revolutionary concept of what a high school building can be: One offering not only dynamic educational programs for the young geared to the future needs of a nation, but a building that is a vibrant educational, entertainment, and healthy-living center for those well beyond their high school days.

In 1865, our predecessors bought into the concept of a new school and a better life. We can do no less today.

## Letter to the Editor On School Shootings

*To the Editor:* May I express my appreciation to the *Monocle* for providing a public forum to consider recent events in nearby Clarksburg and more distant Parkland, Florida. While education is primarily a state and local responsibility, national security is largely a federal one and especially a responsibility of Congress, which must write laws and provide means to maintain our security.

Having spent many years working in national security, both in the Reagan Administration and, subsequently, as a private consultant, I realize security is not just something to be applied at the airport or in busy public spaces. It must be a concern everywhere that Americans gather, whether along the route of a marathon or in a high school corridor. No one should have to feel the terror those students at Parkland must have felt. Wherever Americans are likely to be threatened, whether from foreign or domestic terrorists, our federal government should use its authority to first see that existing laws are faithfully executed and then to determine what more can effectively be done. Some, legitimately concerned for their children's safety, cry, "Do something now!" That is understandable but insufficient and, possibly, even counterproductive. The focus should be on doing something effective and constitutional even if it takes a little time.

In my campaign for Congress, I am often asked, "What can be done to keep our kids safe?" My answer is, "Whatever it takes, beginning with seeing that existing laws and safeguards are being followed." Then, Congress can and should make school security a condition for receiving further federal school funds—and only when we can say with certainty that the laws already on the books are being obeyed should we consider enacting new ones, especially if they would come at a price of our freedoms. It is hard to say in the still-so-close tragedy in Parkland, but there are those who would use the moments of terror those children faced to advance some partisan or parochial cause. We must be alert to that, for down that road lies danger and disappointment.

It is up to Congress, holding the proxy of the people, to sort out the facts. That's not as quick or sensational as "doing something, anything, now," but it is far more likely to bear lasting results at a lesser cost to our freedoms.

Amie Hoerber

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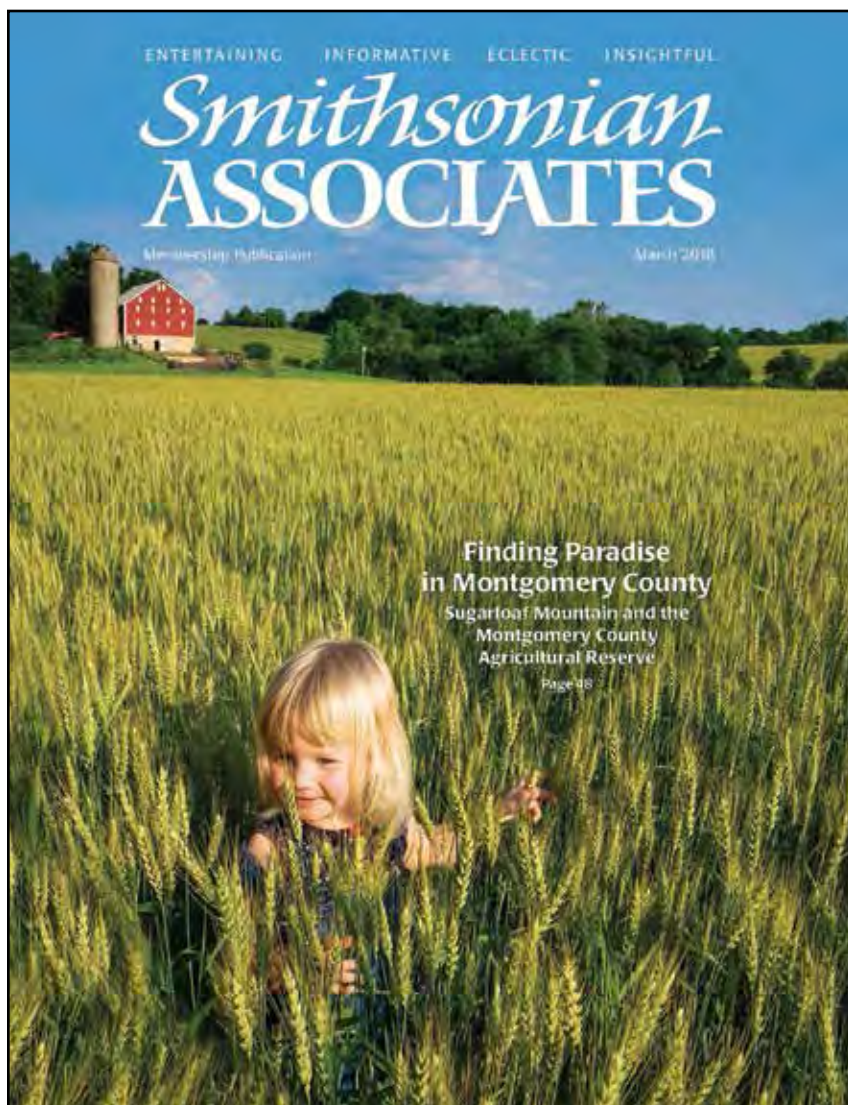
## Tidbits

### Help a Scout Help Others

Local Boy Scout Liam Speck-McMorris is collecting items to create care bags for chemotherapy patients for his Eagle Scout project. He is collecting hospital socks, chap stick, hand sanitizer, eye sleeping masks, medical masks, ginger candy, tissues, journals, sudoku books, pens, pencils, encouragement jars, earplugs, folders, lotion, playing cards, and handwipes. Please contact Liam if you are able to make a donation at liam.garethmsm@gmail.com or 202-617-9039.

### The Cutest Cover Girl Ever

Congratulations to Martin Radigan on his beautiful countryside portrayal of an Ag Reserve barnyard field being selected for the cover of the March issue of the *Smithsonian Associates* membership magazine. The photo begs the question: Is she the cutest cover girl or what?



A photograph by Poolesville's Martin Radigan was selected for Smithsonian Associates magazine.

### Bridge over Troubled Waters

Electrical outages were sparked all over town the weekend of March 3 and 4 due to the Nor'easter, and a tree near the walkway bridge from Tama I to Tama II sliced the railings in half. Glad no walkers were out and about at the time.

### So Cool, Even if Reported a Bit Late

Poolesville's Kerri Cook reports to us that on February 8, a heated Poolesville Elementary rivalry was born. Teachers fouled dads. Staff members charged moms. There were bruises (both real and to the ego). It was the night of the inaugural Staff vs. Parents Basketball Showdown. The PES Staff team, led by our

Continued on page 19.

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## Garden

### What's in a Name?

By Maureen O'Connell

*Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam' Tickseed, *Asclepias incarnata* 'Cinderella' Milkweed, *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena' Witch Hazel—do these twelve names belong to twelve different plants? No. The words refer to just three plants. All organisms have two names: a scientific (or botanical name) and a common name. The scientific name consists of two terms, the genus name and the species name. The genus name always starts with a capital letter and the species name always starts with a lower case letter. It might also carry a cultivar name, for example, 'Jelena,' and sometimes a common name, witch hazel. This process of naming organisms scientifically is known as "taxonomy" and was first developed by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778). Now the average gardener might not care what a plant's Latin name is, but scientists use this information to better understand the study of living things. This classification is very interesting to me as it gives a look into a plant's history and life cycle.

I have always been fascinated by the witch hazel tree. For native plant aficionados, there is the North American native *Hamamelis virginiana*. It is hardy and puts on a spectacular show in autumn, as it flowers at the same time as its leaves turn golden yellow. It is the witch hazel grown and harvested for the extract of its bark and roots which is distilled into the common astringent that bears its name. Even more bewitching are the many cultivars of *Hamamelis x intermedia*, the hybrid witch hazel born from the cross between two species' parents: *Hamamelis mollis* (Chinese witch hazel) and *Hamamelis japonica* (Japanese witch hazel). They are the only plants that put out flowers in the cold winter months of January and February. You don't have to wait for Punxsutawney Phil to make his pronouncement on spring's arrival. Go out to your garden—if you are lucky enough to have a winter-blooming witch hazel.

Last November, I gave in to the witch hazel's spell and planted two of the cultivars 'Arnold Promise.' You can see in the photo (taken at the end of February) its beautiful, spidery, lemon-yellow flowers bursting forth along the leafless branches, like tiny citrus peelings.

There are many *Hamamelis* breeders around the world, but one couple, Jelena and Robert De Belder, have been a world-renowned leader with their breeding program at Arboretum Kalmthout, near Antwerp in Belgium. The arboretum began as a successful nursery in 1856 under its founder Charles Van Geert. It housed unusual trees and shrubs and developed a notable collection of rarities. Forty years later, it was sold to Antoine Kort; it was closed in the 1930s and weeds took over the site until the De Belders bought it in 1952. Robert and Jelena were passionate about plants; their daughter Diane said that "their love was always in the garden." While they grew other plants at their arboretum, it is with *Hamamelis* that the names Kalmthout and De Belder are inextricably tied. Jelena's scientific and agricultural background contributed heavily to the success of their breeding program. *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena' was named by Robert in honor of the celebration of their marriage. Over sixty years later, this plant is still one of the best orange witch hazels. Its large ribbon-like petals gleam copper orange and bring much-needed color to the winter garden. In autumn, the shrub lights up again as its green leaves turn fiery shades of red and yellow. The De Belders inherited the cultivar 'Ruby Glow,' the first red variety, from Kort. They then grew thousands of seedlings to be rewarded with a single intensely-red-flowered plant that they named 'Diane,' after their young daughter. White Flower Farm



*A beautiful flower by any name, Latin, English, or what have you.*

still sells these two varieties today. The De Belders' *Hamamelis* collection and the way they laid out the arboretum and the atmosphere they created within a small site are their greatest legacy. Students, botanists, and gardeners flowed almost continually through Kalmthout's doors. Seeds and knowledge were exchanged with scientists all over the world.

The garden is no longer owned by the De Belder family; it was acquired by the Province of Antwerp in the late 1980s, after Robert's business failed in the wake of the decade's oil crisis. Abraham Rammeloo, the current director, has managed the arboretum at Kalmthout for the last nineteen years. Jelena and Robert's daughter Diane has a seat on its advisory board and is dedicated to keeping the particular atmosphere and spirit of this garden alive. Its legacy blazes today in Belgium in a variety of witch hazels. It is all in a name.

Do you have a garden-related topic you would like to read about?

The Monocle welcomes your suggestions.

Send to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

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## Local News

### Police Issue Warning to Students and Parents

By Jack Toomey

Since the Parkland, Florida high school shooting, the Montgomery County Police has investigated a significant number of threats directed at schools in the county. Some have come by the way of phone calls, social media, comments, and emails. Some were direct threats towards certain schools while others used indirect threats using images or words. The majority of the threats were deemed not credible after an investigation.

Those who were identified as originators of the threats were wanting to disrupt school activities while others thought they were playing a prank.

The police department has fully investigated each threat and has been successful in identifying the person(s) responsible. They were criminally charged.

Some of the applicable charges are:

- Disrupting School Activities
- Threats of Mass Violence
- Threats of Arson or Destructive Device

Parents should monitor their child's social media and talk to him/her about using social media responsibly. If a parent or the teenager becomes aware of a threat or other suspicious activity, please call the police. In cases of social media, please do not share or retweet the threat. That just makes things worse. Remind your teenager that any threat will be investigated thoroughly even if the intent was meant to be humorous.

## A Monocacy Moment Lost in Time



After nearly a hundred years, the center of Poolesville has changed greatly. Can you identify items in the picture not there today? See page 21 for answers.

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## Things To Do

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

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

*Free Form Movement:* Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Rm 129.

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

*Mahjong:* Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the café.

### March 9

#### PHS Girls' Basketball State Semifinal

The PHS girls' basketball team plays Gwynn Park High School in the state semifinal game. The winning team will play in the state final on Saturday. *Towson University.* 3:00 p.m.

#### Knights of Columbus Lenten Dinners

Baked salmon, fish sticks, baked ziti, salad, garlic bread, French fries, dessert, and water. Assorted beverages available for donation. \$9 per person, \$30 per family. *St. Mary's Pavilion.* 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### March 10

#### St. Mary's 10th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Featuring your favorite Irish dishes and beer plus Ceili dancing, Irish music, and entertainment. \$15 per person or \$30 per family. *St. Mary's Pavilion.* 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### March 13

#### PASC Special Event: Movie and Dinner Night

Featuring *Just Getting Started.* *Poolesville Baptist Church café.* 6:00 p.m.

### March 14

#### Poolesville Planning Commissioners' Meeting

*Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

### March 15

#### PASC Book Discussion Club

Featuring: *When the English Fell.* *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 7:00 p.m.

### March 16, 17, and 18

#### The Blue Hearth Market Weekend

Fabulous, creative, and unique refurbished décor items just in time for spring and the Easter holidays. Friday: noon to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

### March 16

#### Knights of Columbus Lenten Dinners

Baked salmon, fish sticks, baked ziti, salad, garlic bread, French fries, dessert, and water. Assorted beverages available for donation. \$9 per person, \$30 per family. *St. Mary's Pavilion.* 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### March 17

#### St. Patrick's Day

Celebrate the Irish in ya by feasting and imbibing at a local restaurant.

### March 19

#### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

*Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

### March 20

#### PASC Special Event: Community Wildlife Habitat Project

Sponsored by Sustainable Poolesville with presentation by Donald Street. *Poolesville Baptist Church.* 2:00 p.m.

### March 21

#### WUMCO Wednesday at Bassett's

Bassett's Restaurant will donate 10% of the proceeds for food purchases to WUMCO. Lunch, dinner, carryout, or eat in—it all counts!

#### PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' lacrosse. Richard Montgomery. 7:15 p.m.

### March 23

#### Knights of Columbus Lenten Dinners

Baked salmon, fish sticks, baked ziti, salad, garlic bread, French fries, dessert, and water. Assorted beverages available for donation. \$9 per person, \$30 per family. *St. Mary's Pavilion.* 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' lacrosse. Springbrook. 7:00 p.m.

### March 24

#### PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball and softball. Richard Montgomery. 1:00 p.m.

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

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## School News

### Florida Shooting Victims Visit Montgomery County High School

By Melody Zhang

A recent tragedy in the United States has put the students, victims, and community members of Parkland, Florida in the nation's spotlight. On February 14, a nineteen-year-old gunman opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, taking the lives of seventeen students and faculty.

Following the shooting, many survivors from the high school have spoken out via social media platforms and local news sources, sparking a movement to push for change in preventing further gun violence in the United States.

U.S. Representative of Maryland's 8th congressional district, Jamie Raskin, teamed up with Florida Congressman Ted Deutch to invite the student activists from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School to Montgomery Blair High School. According to the congressmen, they arranged this event to allow students of Parkland, Florida "to interact with students from high schools in Montgomery County who wish to express their support and solidarity."

On Monday, February 26, over six hundred students from every corner of Montgomery County gathered in the auditorium of MBHS. According to Raskin, the event was planned in less than twenty-four hours, thanks to the cooperation and support from the Blair High School administration as well as the Florida visitors.



Local students showed support for Florida students.

The principal of Montgomery Blair, Renay C. Johnson, kicked off the event with a greeting and introduction, followed by a ten-minute performance from Blair's choir group. Congressman Raskin followed with welcoming words in which he praised the students in the audience as well as those from Florida for taking action in the wake of a "hopeless situation."

Raskin then welcomed the students from Parkland and Florida Representative Ted Deutch. The Parkland students entered the auditorium, as Deutch presented a short speech sharing his thoughts to the crowd. The Parkland students introduced themselves on stage, where the students spoke for a few minutes about who they were and their messages to the students. The representatives from Parkland included juniors and seniors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas as well as recently-graduated alumni; each student received enthusiastic applause from audience members. This was followed by a question-and-answer session during which the floor was opened to students in the audience.

Throughout the event, the main focus of discussion regarded what students could do to further the conversation about gun violence prevention. Students in the audience and on stage were able to interact and have a discussion together about gun laws, the legislative aspect of change, the influence of lawmakers and politicians, as well as future events for students to participate in, such as the March for Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C.

Continued on page 18.



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## Yeas and Neighs

### Hope Strides Full Circle

By Andie Devynck

It's four in the afternoon on a bright and breezy Sunday, and Danny has arrived for his session on Papa. He knows the routine, as does everyone else at the Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding (CHTR) in Barnesville, and the crew is ready to make it happen. Danny's parents, April and Mike, park their van next to the arena doors, and the staff of CHTR helps Danny from it and into a wheelchair, rolling him inside the arena where Papa, a twenty-four-year-old Quarter horse, stands patiently waiting. A specialized hydraulic lift with a sling-chair raises

of varying types and levels of disabilities to provide therapy and rehabilitation. Safety is the first consideration for all concerned; each participant in a private session is guided by a volunteer who leads the horse, as well as flanked by a pair on foot who stay close at hand to provide emotional support and to help maintain the participant's balanced position. While continually monitoring horse and participant safety, the team uses cognitive, behavioral, psychological, and physical goals to increase self-confidence, self-esteem, independence, social skills, and awareness.

Executive director and head instructor Lesley Shear, who has run the program for twenty years, explains the process of therapeutic riding evoking different effects depending on the participant's challenge (or set of challenges). For instance, for those



Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding staff and volunteers assisted one of their well-deserved clients.

thirty-four-year-old Danny, who was diagnosed at just eight weeks with cerebral hypotonia, up and over Papa's back, slowly lowering him into the saddle specially chosen for Danny who continues to work on strengthening his core muscles and improving his balance and coordination through riding and games on horseback.

Circle of Hope offers an Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) program to people of all ages with disabilities. It is also a Premier Accredited Member Center of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH). CHTR matches highly-trained horses and human volunteers with participants

with physical disabilities, the warm, gentle, and rhythmic movement of the horse stimulates the muscles while improving balance and coordination. For those with developmental disabilities, the benefits center on improved language, attention, concentration, and communication.

As a charitable organization, Circle of Hope relies not only on its network of supporting "actors" such as Jewish Social Services (which has provided years of therapeutic riding to Danny and scores of other people with disabilities) but also on individual donors, grantors, and foundations

Continued on page 21.

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Continued from page 1.

**On the Road to States: Poolesville Girls Win Region Championship**

won, 60-58, racing to a 19-14 lead in a very-fast-paced first period—but, as it should be with two quality teams, there were punch and counterpunch. The Knights answered with a twenty-two-point second period, easily the most points scored by any Poolesville opponent this season. Middletown took a 36-33 lead into the half.

The Knights stretched their lead to five a few times in the third period. Saylor Poffenbarger and Brianna Walker each had twenty-two points for Middletown. It seemed as if every time they hit a three-pointer, Poolesville's Madeleine Thompson, who scored a team-high nineteen points, answered with a three-pointer for the Falcons. That and a few key timeouts by Coach Fred Swick kept the game from slipping away.

Poffenbarger had an incredible seventeen rebounds for the Knights who took a 51-47 lead into the final period. She also had five assists. Thompson hit five three-pointers for the Falcons.

The game that featured a lot of offense, but, in the end, it was defense that won it for Poolesville. That defense, strong all year, shut down Middletown in the fourth, holding them to just seven points and creating key turnovers. The Falcons took the lead midway through the final period and led by as many as six. They scored thirteen in the fourth.

The Knights had a chance to tie the score with 3.1 seconds left but were unable to convert a couple of free throws. They had a final chance following a missed foul shot attempt by the Falcons, but the shot missed.

"It was a great event," said Swick. "Maddie was awesome. Both teams played their hearts out." The PHS girls endured. They took the measure of the Knights, took their best shot, and won.

Kelliann Lee scored fifteen points for the Falcons, Erin Green had twelve, Allie Haddaway six, Julia Hobbs five, and Makayla Lemarr scored three. Hobbs made three of four free throws and they came at key times.

In the semifinal win over Williamsport, Green had a team-high twenty-three points, Lee had nine, and Haddaway had eight.

The Falcons (25-0) now advance to the state semifinal at Towson State University on Friday, March 9 at 3:00 p.m. to face Gwynn Park. Oakland Mills and Queen Anne's face each other in the other semifinal.

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## Youth Sports

### Poolesville Poms Win Division I Championship

By Jeff Stuart

The halftime performance by the Poolesville High School pompon team at the girls' home basketball game on January 31 was unusually intense and focused. On her knees on the sidelines, Coach Tanya Ventura was just as intense as she scrutinized and directed the routine. This was a final tune-up for the team's last competitive event of the season—and on February 3, 2018 at Blair High School, they won the Division I championship and were featured on MCPSTV.

"In poms, divisions are based on how well teams place at the past county championship," explained Ventura. "In most other sports, divisions are based on the size of the school. When I began coaching years ago, we were at the bottom of Division III. What seemed impossible years ago became a dream come true this year. Working our way up from the bottom of Division III took years of relentless

hard work, perseverance, and deep passion for our sport. In eight years, we've not only been able to work our way up to the top division, but we achieved five championships along the way. I am so proud the PHS poms have finally earned a Division I championship! It was certainly a well-deserved win!"

There are seventeen girls on the team, captained by seniors, Chloe Insalaco and Camille Awono, and junior Tiara Ventura. Co-captains are juniors Amy Zhu and Izzi Gibbs. All of the captains placed this year at competition events. Other team members are: freshmen Indira Fayson and Hailee Tull, sophomores Madison Repass, Brianna Hobbs, Holly Raines, Kaeli Potts, Ashley Kraekel, Aly Gotlewski, and Elizabeth Perelshteyn, juniors Julia Ouart and Taylor Ramirez, and senior Katie Morrow. Most of the girls on the team don't have prior dance experience and learn all of their skills on the team.

Throughout the year, the poms not only performed at home varsity football and basketball games, but they also performed at Poolesville Day, FOX 5's visit to Poolesville, and at the Naval Academy in honor of Veterans Day. The team also held its sixth

Continued on page 17.



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Continued from page 1.

### New Citizen Initiatives to Fight for Educational Needs Take Flight

a positive reaction to introducing new academic opportunity at PHS by offering an agricultural sciences curriculum. Proponents of ag sciences seek the new academic discipline as a magnet-like program that would be uniquely suited to the school's community and economic interests and history. Such a program would also improve the school's prospects for the desperately-needed renovation funds, as well as for building additional space.

An ag sciences program would also indemnify the future of the school in the event of any of the other magnet programs being moved from PHS to other schools. While it was made clear by Dr. Smith that no such consideration is currently on the table, the potential for losing up to more than half of our student population if such a decision is ever made is very disconcerting. The term used during the meeting was "for the foreseeable future." In county-speak, that translates to six years. Beyond that, assurances diminish.

The town commissioners have established an exploratory committee to investigate expanded use of the high school. Link Hoewing, who is a member of that group, reports that "its mission is to develop a vision and a prototype of what a multiuse facility could look like in Poolesville and how it would mesh with the community's needs, demographics, and service requirements. The intent is to provide something concrete that can help convince various units in the county government that they have a stake in helping support the renovation of PHS based on a multiuse model that could incorporate programs these units could or should be offering to area residents. We are trying to come up with a concept plan that is attractive and entices a broad range of county offices to contribute to and work with us and the school system to come up with a design and approach to a new building that meets educational, social, and service needs in our area and can overcome budget restrictions in particular by sharing the load." Members of this committee also include Jim Brown, Jerry Klobukowski, Kevin Schramm, and Wade Yost.

As a follow up to a call by the *Monocle* in the January 12 issue for the county to consider an Agricultural Sciences program for PHS to more solidly protect the school's future, Rande Davis met with Dave Miller, the director of High School and Post-Secondary Programs with the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) to learn more about how a program might be developed. Joining in the exploratory meeting were Bob Cissel, Director of Montgomery Agricultural Producers and a board of directors member of the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board to the County Council, William Jamison, a representative for local farming and real estate interests, and Kevin Schramm, cluster coordinator for the PHS schools, met with the *Monocle* to discuss an agricultural sciences program. It is believed by members of this exploratory committee that a vigorous ag sciences program at PHS could serve the multiple objectives of the state, county, and the Town of Poolesville.

Miller pointed out that high school-level students would be exposed to hundreds of potential career opportunities in the agriculture industry, the single largest employer in the United States, which includes twenty-three million people in agriculture and related fields; ninety-eight percent of those persons come from outside of just farming.

A high school ag program could put students onto a prosperous career path that would include hundreds of opportunities that require less than a bachelor's degree, but also hundreds of careers requiring graduate and post-graduate studies and degrees. In other words, this program could meet the needs of all students, college-bound and those not planning to attend college.

Students would have the dynamic study experience beyond standard classroom education to include on-site internships and participation in technical-professional organizations, according to Miller. An ag program would include practical studies such as leadership skills, marketing, research, business administration, and management.

The ag studies program he outlined comes from the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) program. CASE facilitates purposeful pathways in agricultural education programs that are integrated with science and mathematics while providing a structural sequence of courses and identifying multiple Program for Study pathways, including animal science, plant science, agricultural engineering, biotechnology, and natural resources.

Miller stated that the initial stages of this academic pathway at PHS might possibly begin as early as the fall of 2019, starting with an introductory-level course and selecting just one pathway to implement.

Miller's expertise and knowledge reassured those attending that if such a magnet program is determined by parents to be worthwhile for PHS, MAEF

through CASE studies is prepared to assist in its implementation at Poolesville as it has in many schools throughout the county and state.

The meeting concluded with the decision that Miller needs to bring his expertise and message to various interested groups in the community starting with the PHS and JPMS PTAs, town commissioners, school administrators, and the many farming and other environmentally-concerned groups within the area like Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Protect Our Poolesville, and Poolesville Green. Both Kevin Schramm and Bob Cissel agreed to present the ag sciences concept to their respective groups. William Jamison will introduce him to other town civic groups such as the Monocacy Lions Club. Rande Davis agreed to brief the town commissioners and the other concerned groups within the community.

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## Youth Sports

### PHS Swimmers Power Their Way to State Titles—Again

By Jeff Stuart

It was the astounding seventh straight title for the Poolesville High School boys' swim team and the fourth consecutive crown for the girls' team—this makes their fifth win. Coach Jon Leong likes to refer to the Swimming Wall where the championship banners are hung. They are soon going to need more wall space—or a bigger gym.

One again, the Poolesville swimmers showed great depth, dominating their competition—and once again they won the first two events of the day, the men's and women's 200-yard medley relay. They never looked back. The girls closed out the day's events by winning the 400-yard freestyle relay. Both boys and girls won the 200-yard freestyle relay. Youth and experience were on display across the board. Of the six relay races competed on that day, PHS won five.

The Class 3A/2A/1A 2018 State Swim and Dive Championships were held on February 23, 2018 at the University of Maryland - Eppley Recreation Center. The boys outpaced second-place Patterson Mill High School 323 to 200. The girls finished well ahead of Easton High School 365 to 213.

The opening relay teams were seniors Roger Yerger, Kevin Song, David Umansky, and junior Jisu Kim for the boys; and sophomores Moshelle Borjigin, Helena Narisu, and seniors Katarina Lechner and Julia Wang for the girls.

Borjigin won four golds for the Falcons including individual titles in the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle events and the closing 400-yard freestyle relay.

Seniors Kevin Song and David Umansky, junior Jisu Kim, and sophomore Kenny Song each won two golds for the boys. The first place 200-yard freestyle relay included Kenny and Kevin Song, Umansky, and Kim. Kenny Song won the only individual medal for the boys, winning the 500-yard freestyle.

Seniors Julia Wang and Katarina Lechner, and sophomore Helena Narisu each won two for the girls.

The winning 200-yard freestyle relay for the girls included juniors Rachel Ryan, Autum Wang, and Miranda Liu as well as freshman Helen Matia. The 400-yard freestyle relay included Borjigin, Wang, Lechner, and Ryan.

Second place finishes for the boys included Kevin Song in the 100-yard breaststroke and senior Roger Yerger in the 50-yard freestyle.

Second place finishes for the girls went to Lechner in the 100-yard butterfly and Wang in the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke.

Ryan finished third in the 100-yard backstroke. Narisu was third in the 200-yard IM and the 100-yard breaststroke. Other third place finishes went to Kim in the 200-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard butterfly.

Continued on page 17.



State Champions! The 2018 Falcon PHS Swim and Dive Team.

## Spiritual Renewal Weekend

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**MARCH 17 & 18**

*Saturday, 5 pm Spaghetti Dinner*

*6:30 Hymn Sing*

*7:00 Message part 1*

*Sunday, 9:30 am Message part 2*

*10:30 Refreshments*

*10:45 Worship; Message part 3*

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Continued from page 13.

**Poolesville Poms Win Division I Championship**

annual week-long Junior Falcon youth clinic for over one hundred students aged kindergarten through eighth grade.

Three invitational competitions led up to the county championship. The girls are judged on five categories, choreography, pom technique, dance technique, group execution, and overall presentation, and several sub categories. "The invitational competitions are designed to give us feedback before the championship. We take the feedback given to us by the judges and make changes accordingly," explained Ventura. "We were very pleased to place second at each invitational... This was a first for us since we've been in D1. For the county championship, we added in a new hip-hop section which was an exciting surprise for everyone. Our routine this year was dynamic, energetic, diverse, and just plain fun! The girls truly enjoyed performing this routine because the choreography complemented the music perfectly. The captains really focused on correlation to music, creative movements, clean transitions and formation changes, variety of styles and movements, and degree of difficulty this year when choreographing the routine."

Choreography design for the routines starts in the summer. "We begin by selecting the music, then deciding the order of the routine, then finally adding choreography and placing girls in their formations. It's like a puzzle, getting all the right pieces to fit together," said Ventura. As the season progresses, changes are made until a choreography is finalized by December. Then comes the work to polish the routine. "It is tedious. I need to make sure all seventeen girls are moving as one. One arm placement too high or too low makes a huge difference in the general effect."

Routines are typically comprised of a jazz section, a hip-hop section, a pom section, and a kick line section. "Competition routines are six minutes long, whereas football and basketball halftime routines are three minutes long. Definitely does test their endurance."

There is also a Spirit Award for the most spirited crowd. "Of course, Poolesville won one of these this competition season, at the Northwest Invitational."

Ventura shared her enthusiasm for the sport: "Poms is much more than dancing. These girls are developing their self-confidence, discipline, determination,



2018 Falcon Pompon Champs!

resiliency, work ethic, leadership skills, and respect for others. They learn the importance and value of setting goals and have developed a true understanding of the immense amount of effort it takes to achieve these goals. These are skills that they'll be able to carry on with them for the rest of their lives."

Continued from page 16.

**PHS Swimmers Power Their Way to State Titles— Again**

Yerger placed fourth in the 100-yard backstroke as did the 400-yard relay team of seniors Eric Qian, Zachary Nachod, Christian Fuhrmann, and Yerger.

Wang placed fourth for the girls in the 50-yard freestyle.

Congratulations to Coach Leong and to his outstanding swimmers!

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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Theft:** 17000 block of Spates Hill Road, 17400 and 19300 blocks of White Ground Road.

**Theft from auto:** Numerous cases of thefts from unlocked autos in the Boyds area.

**Vandalism:** 15800 block of River Road.

### Past Crime: 1925

Guy Grayson, an alleged moonshiner, was shot in the abdomen by Montgomery County Police as they approached a still near Viers Mill, a settlement about three miles from Rockville. It was reported that Officers Bodmer, Burdine, Jones, and Snyder had approached the still when Grayson opened fire on them. The officers returned the fire, wounding Grayson. Clay Edwards, present at the still at the time of the gunfire, was also arrested. He said that he had been hunting in the woods when he just happened to wander into the area of the still.

The continuing drive against Montgomery County residents who used District license tags continued. County police snagged twenty-four more violators, making for a total of 152 for the week. Of the few who had stood trial, Judge Riggs had suspended their fines on a promise that the violators would obtain new tags. In those days, an automobile owner needed to display tags for every state through which he passed. It was conceivable that an auto could display up to twenty-five sets of tags.

The Circuit Court convened after a recess of two weeks. The most important case was that of codefendants county officer Leroy Rodgers and Lee Ball of Poolesville. Both were accused

of beating Littleton Poole in the basement of the Rockville jail. Poole had been accused of raping a fourteen-year-old girl. At the time, Ball was serving as a special policeman. Poole had previously been convicted of the rape and was serving five years in the House of Corrections but had been returned to Rockville to appear at the trial.

Both Rodgers and Ball were found not guilty.

Judge Riggs warned George Duvall in no uncertain terms that it was against the law to give or sell intoxicating liquor to a minor. Duvall had brought a large suitcase of liquor to Rockville and had set up shop on the sidewalk outside of the high school. Students were seen approaching him. This arose the suspicions of Deputy Howard who approached Duvall's liquor stand. Howard found that the suitcase contained twenty pints and several jars of corn liquor. Howard escorted Duvall to the courthouse where Judge Riggs was sitting. Duvall, after the tongue lashing, was given the option of paying a fifty-dollar fine or of spending sixty days in the county jail. Duvall chose the fine and left Rockville.

Officer Joe Oldfield, one of the most popular members of the county police force, was badly injured when his motorcycle skidded on wet pavement on the Laytonsville Pike while he was on his regular patrol. He apparently lay by the roadside unconscious for an hour until a passerby happened by. The man put Oldfield into his machine and drove him to the Washington Hospital. Oldfield did not fully gain consciousness until the next morning, and he was diagnosed with a head injury and a badly-injured shoulder.

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

Continued from page 9.

### Florida Shooting Victims Visit Montgomery County High School

Saran Kaur, a junior at Poolesville High, said that she was inspired by the Parkland students' initiative, drive, and passion for change, although "it was saddening that [they] had to meet under such circumstances."

Another junior from Poolesville High School, Lahari Tammera, attended the event as well and expressed her thoughts after the meeting, "The overall experience was honestly very empowering. There was just this sense of unity and solidarity within the room, and I could feel the passion of every single student." Tammera summed up the evening: "Seeing the raw strength and power that the students from that traumatic experience had truly put things into perspective for me. My biggest takeaway was that we are here now, and we are ready to make a change."



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### Celebrating 50 Years of Service

by R. Adam DeBaugh, Assistant Executive Director

#### Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Year

Throughout our Anniversary Year this column will be featuring the services that WUMCO Help provides to people in need in Poolesville, Dickerson, Barnesville, Beallsville, and Boyds. While we are best known for our food pantry, we are also a financial assistance program. Last year, we distributed \$60,800 in financial assistance to people in need in our service area. Financial assistance comes in three broad categories, housing/auto, medical, and heating oil/propane.

In terms of the first category, housing and auto financial assistance, we help prevent clients from being evicted by assisting with their mortgage or rent. We also pay electric, gas, water/sewage, and telephone bills to prevent cut off for clients in emergency need. We can also assist with moving and storage expenses, household repairs, security deposits, and taxes. We assist clients who are in danger of losing their cars, paying car payments or insurance, car repairs, auto registration, driver's licenses, and gasoline.

Our clients are elderly, unemployed or underemployed, handicapped, living on disability or social security, ill, or just plain poor. Many are short term and let us know when they get jobs and will no longer need WUMCO's assistance—a time of celebration for all!—but others require ongoing support and assistance.

We couldn't provide this help for the neediest in our community without your help and generous contributions. Thank you for your support!

#### Wednesday for WUMCO!

On Wednesday, March 21, all who dine at Bassett's in Poolesville will also be contributing to helping those in need. Bassett's will give 10% of their income that day – dine in or carry out – to WUMCO Help. Please mark your calendars and join WUMCO at Bassett's on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Volunteer Drivers Needed

Please visit [www.wumcohelp.org/Volunteer](http://www.wumcohelp.org/Volunteer) to sign up as a driver.

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#### Questions?

Please write Adam DeBaugh at [wumco2@gmail.com](mailto:wumco2@gmail.com) if you have any questions, comments, or ideas for this column.

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Continued from page 5.

Tidbits



A fierce rivalry was born as the parents took on PES staff in a rousing Challenge of the Century basketball game.

own Principal Doug Robbins, charged the court ready to rumble. The PES Parents, led by youth basketball coach, Russ Schlosburg, gave the packed stands a show to remember. Families came out to root for their favorite math teacher or mommy, and there wasn't an empty seat in the PHS gym! Local resident, George Deyo, was the game's ref; the PAA junior Falcons poms squad and PES hip hop squad provided a halftime show; MoCo County Council Candidate, Bill Cook, served as tiger mascot, Stripes; and town commissioners Jerry Klobukowski and Valaree Dickerson emceed. The community event, which raised \$2,000 for the PES PTA Emergency Fund, also included an announcement from PTA president, Kerri Cook, of the nomination of Principal Robbins for the *Washington Post* Principal of the Year Award. A friendly competition made for an exciting evening and, in the end, the parents took home the trophy with a final score of 34-25. PES will be looking forward to the rematch next year!

**In Honor of a Brave Local Son Killed in Action**

State Delegate William Folden's office has gained approval for his office's application to name the Route 28 bridge over the Monocacy River near the Monocacy Battlefield in Frederick County on behalf of local resident USMC Corp. Kirk J. Bosselmann. The dedication is hoped for Memorial weekend this spring. The *Monocle* will prepare a full tribute to Corporal Bosselmann in conjunction with that event.

**Another Agnew?**

Yes, by golly! Tessa and Mika Agnew are pleased to announce the arrival of their little brother, Zen. They make their home in Orlando, Florida with their parents, Eric and Lindsay Agnew.



Welcome Baby Zen!



**Barnesville Baptist Church  
 Easter 2018 Schedule**

**Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday**  
 ❖ Worship 10:45 am

**Friday, March 30 Good Friday**  
 ❖ Good Friday Service 7:00 pm

**Sunday, April 1 Easter Sunday**  
 ❖ Easter Sunrise Service on Sugarloaf Mountain 6:15 am  
 ❖ Worship 10:45 am: "Calvary's Love"  
 Easter Cantata

**Sunday, April 8**  
 ❖ Worship Service 10:45 am: Easter Bell Choir Concert

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# A Monocacy Moment *Lost in Time*

## Answers

Right side of street, beginning on the right:

1. Buildings 2, 3, 4, and 5 were lost to the fire of 1935
2. Wooden sidewalks
3. Large tree
4. People relaxing in front the homes, not so much today
5. Mystery item in street in front of building 5 from right.  
Any ideas?
6. Trees in front of what would be the parking lot of  
Discovery Learning Center.
7. Pole in front of the bank
8. Front door of bank missing the triangular roof  
and columns
9. Pegs block off entrance to bank

Continued from page 3.

### Commissioners Continue with Plan to Take Over Fisher Avenue

Agreement used in Gaithersburg could provide a template for how such an agreement might be structured.

In discussing these two approaches, Gullo observed a number of concerns that needed to be considered. A Transfer Agreement, he said, would not necessarily result in the permanent transfer of control to the town. He also said that the issue of how the town would be indemnified with regard to events that had happened on or along Fisher Avenue when it was under county control needed to be addressed.

Fisher Avenue was originally constructed in the 1840s when town citizens petitioned the state for approval to build a road. Over the decades, the issue of where private land boundaries ended with respect to the roadway had never been clarified, and the right-of-way is not well defined. Possibly a few dozen properties are involved, and it would be impossible to determine how to define the boundaries without a detailed survey that could cost up to \$35,000. Even then, such a survey would only identify possible boundary definitions based on a historical review. Finalizing boundaries and firmly establishing the right-of-way would require negotiating with many private landowners, a time-consuming endeavor.

Gullo suggested the town use the Quick Claim approach and said he could go back to the county and ask them to come up with language on key issues, such as indemnification, that he could then use to negotiate final language. Using the Quick Claim approach would mean the county is firmly “out” when it comes to any future claim to the road. He also said that it would be better just to leave the issue of boundaries where it is until the town needs to proceed on a specific project where boundaries would be an issue. In those instances, the town could then negotiate with affected landowners.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski expressed discomfort at not having all boundaries settled before the transfer takes place. Gullo reiterated how long it would take to negotiate all boundary issues. Even where an existing right of way is in place—such as for a sewer pipe—the agreement only applies to that single purpose. If the town wants to install a cable, for example, in such a right-of-way, it would need to negotiate a new agreement. That is why, Gullo said, it would be better to sort out boundary issues when the town has a specific need.

The five commissioners agreed to authorize Gullo to go back to the county to try and work out a Quick Claim agreement.

Continued from page 10.

### Hope Strides Full Circle

who give to CHTR year-round. Also, CHTR holds a high-profile annual fundraising event, whose activity and focus changes from year to year. This year’s Taste of Derby Dinner, to be held at the Wine Kitchen Restaurant on Carroll Creek in Frederick on March 19 at 6:30 p.m., will feature a six-course dinner paired with beer and wine by Flying Dog and Old Westminster. Guests will vote on which they thought was a better pairing with Chef Jeff’s courses; the dinner will be followed by a silent auction.

Danny has come a long way since he started with CHTR. He can now ask Papa to “walk on” and “whoa” and to turn right and left, using his hands and his voice commands, all of which have increased his ability to communicate with Papa and with the many humans in his life. With everyone pitching in to toss Danny the soft balls he throws into a basketball net in the middle of the arena, he can now even shoot hoops while on horseback. Over the years, Danny has endeared himself to the bevy of volunteers (mostly women) who describe him as quite the charmer and flirt. Even his parents jokingly call him the Prince and refer to themselves, the rest of his family, and the diverse team of people who support him daily as his servants. Danny’s parents and the CHTR team agree that therapeutic riding has greatly contributed to and continues to improve his quality of life. Individuals like Danny, Papa, Lesley, and the horses and volunteers at Circle of Hope embody the CHTR motto: They are changing lives—one stride at a time.

For more information about Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding, call 301-873-3383, visit their website at [www.chtr.org](http://www.chtr.org), or email them at [info@chtr.org](mailto:info@chtr.org). To purchase tickets to their upcoming fundraiser, call the Wine Kitchen at 301-693-6968.

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### Editor's Note

Would you like to voice your opinion on an important issue? The *Monocle* welcomes responsible commentary on a wide range of topics, although Upcounty issues are a lot more likely to get printed. Articles for this page are subject to our discretion and may be edited. No anonymous articles will be considered.

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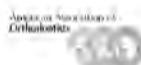
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## Celebrating 30 Years of Service

### Asian Ticks (Mysteriously) Turned Up on a New Jersey Sheep

Adapted by Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

How did a tick that's native to East Asia make it to rural New Jersey? The tick in question is *Haemaphysalis longicornis*—also known as the long-horned tick or bush tick.

It can reproduce by essentially cloning itself, allowing it to multiply quickly. It feeds on the blood of a variety of mammals, including people. In China, it has been linked to the spread of SFTS virus, described in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report as "an emerging hemorrhagic fever."

The tick story started last August. A resident of Hunterdon County, N.J. went to a county office because she had been shearing her sheep and noticed she was getting ticks on her arms.

What she didn't know was her entire clothing, pants and everything, was covered in ticks, a larval stage smaller than 0.03 inches and tough to spot.

At first, it was assumed the parasites were deer ticks, a native species common in the area, but the sheer number of ticks on the resident's clothing, more than 1,000 does not fit. Usually, finding 20 to 50 larval deer ticks in that situation would be quite a bit. What's more, under the microscope, they didn't look like deer ticks.

Investigators later went to the paddock where the sheep lived to collect ticks. Within two minutes, they were covered in ticks. Investigators found hundreds on the sheep and collected nearly 1,000 more from the one-acre paddock.

The tick has previously been found in the U.S. on large animals in quarantine, including a horse in New Jersey in the 1960s. This is the first time all life stages of this species (larvae, nymphs, and adults) have been found on an unquarantined animal in the U.S.

Now here's the thing: This sheep had definitely not visited Asia. It had no "travel history." So how did it pick up the ticks? There were no other domestic animals on that property, so it's a really big mystery exactly how it got there. One or more ticks could have hitched a ride into the U.S. on a large animal such as a horse or a cow, or even on a dog or a person.

The sheep's owner gave it a chemical wash to rid it of ticks. In a follow-up visit in November, no ticks were found. County workers treated the property with chemicals and cut the high grass. By late November, they couldn't find any ticks either on the sheep or in the paddock.

But that doesn't mean they're gone.

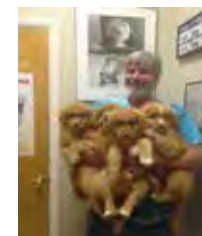
Experts feel it is possible that they were all killed, but they also don't know if, before the property was treated, they were spread out of that property by wild animals. Then again, maybe the weather did them in.

There are some populations [of this tick] that are less cold-tolerant, so there is a possibility that the winter killed them, but they could also be the ultimate survivors. These invasive species are notorious for having survival strategies that outwit us at every corner. This spring, the researchers plan to go back to the site to look for any ticks that might have survived the winter and chemical treatments.



## Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

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