

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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Lion Bill Lavelly attended the Lions golf outing in traditional attire. There are more golf pictures in Family Alum on page 2.



Natalie Dodson from Torchlight Productions recording a song. Read about the studio in Center Stage on page 5.



PHS Falcon Luka Brizhik took first place in the Poolesville Day 5K. More results on page 9.



Volleyball players Kendall Griffith and Ainslee Barger. Read the article about the Falcons on page 15.

Fair Access Committee Files Freedom of Information Act Request for Background Data on School Building Rating System

By Link Hoewing

The Fair Access Committee for the Western County filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the county government to gain access to the underlying data and analysis that led to the ratings of the physical condition of school buildings called the Key Facilities Indicators (KFIs). The KFI report was released earlier this year and included a series of color-coded ratings related to various aspects of the physical condition of school buildings, including such things as the electrical system, the superstructure, the roof, security, ADA compliance, and lighting. The report rated Poolesville High School as “red” on an overall basis, the only high school in the county assessed at such a low level. The committee had welcomed the release of the original report as supporting the need for the replacement of the existing high school with a new building.

The KFI report, however, contains only very high-level information. It does not indicate how the assessments were done, what the investigators actually found that led them to rate PHS at red, and what actual work was done to complete the evaluations. Without such information, it will be difficult to understand and evaluate any future decisions made by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) about the future of the high school’s building.

The county has already determined that PHS should be included on a list of eight other schools as a “major capital project,” meaning the school needs major investments in order to bring it up to today’s standards and ensure a good learning environment, but PHS is competing with the other schools on the list to be put in the next Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for 2021 to



Fair Access is a grassroots community initiative organized to ensure a modernized high school and other services for Poolesville that the rest of Montgomery County takes for granted.

2026, and MCPS could decide to do any range of things from completely rebuilding the school to simply doing renovations of various kinds, or even

Continued on page 7.

Poolesville Awarded Community Wildlife Habitat Certificate

By Maureen O’Connell

On September 27, 2019, Town of Poolesville Commissioner Kerri Cook welcomed guests to Campbell Park for the Community Wildlife Habitat Certificate Presentation and the Campbell Park Rededication. Ms. Cook opened her remarks by thanking the many people whose efforts brought us to this ceremony on a beautiful September fall day. They helped Poolesville join Sustainable Maryland in recognizing “its responsibility to minimize negative impacts on human health and the environment while supporting a diverse, equitable, and vibrant community and economy.” She thanked Town Manager Wade Yost and his



Don Street, Doug McKenney, Councilman Andrew Friedson, Kerri Cook, Jim Brown, and Preston King celebrated the reopening of Campbell Park as a Wildlife Habitat.

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Family Album



Beloved Roy Selby was a great Monocacy Lion and a great golfer to boot. The Selby family carried on the tradition: Lisa, Bruce, Betty Jean, and Lin.



The Jamison Real Estate team dinner following the Lions Club's annual golf outing.



The women's longest drive winner was Lisa Selby. We're here to tell you that it was longer than eighty percent of any man's drive! Bill Jamison stood in awe.



Bill Jamison awarded Bruce Selby for winning closest to the pin in Lions golf outing. Looked to be less than a foot a way.



Bassett's Eric Rose with Jeff Brooks of Java Cruiser smoked a hog purchased at the Montgomery County Fair by the restaurant in support of local 4-Hers, Tessa and Sava Brizhik.



Bill Jamison with the winning team at Lions golf outing: Stan Galbaugh, Claude Romano, Rusty McCabe, and Frank Wilmott.



Kelsey Carnahan and Dan Lewis fired off some pumpkins at Lewis Orchards's annual pumpkin chunkin' event.



The Monocle team of Bill Duce, Rande Davis, Ron Herberg, and Ross Koester.



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Rande(m) Thoughts Backslider

By Rande Davis

This past winter, in the words of Capt. James T. Kirk, I “boldly went where no man has gone before.” I publicly proclaimed in the *Monocle* my plan for a new year health kick with details, motivation, and all. I heard from quite a few people who thought that my announcing such a personal thing in public was amazing. I think the actual word they had in mind was nuts. The real method to my madness for speaking out was to lay a foundation of motivation to help me overcome times of weakness or sloth. I thought—with so many people watching—I was bound to succeed. I figured that, in a moment of any slippage, the realization that I would have to admit that failure to the whole world would fire me up with a strong desire to successfully persevere.

In my first two updates, things were all moving in the right direction: weight down thirty pounds, regular attendance at Anytime Fitness, regular and dedicated recording of calories and exercise details, and my Fitbit never left my wrist.

Then something happened to bring the progress to a stone-cold halt. That something was called summer. What I mean to say is: barbecues, really cold beer, corn on the cob with plenty of melted butter, ice cream cones, and sundaes. Added to this OOED Syndrome (Out of Order Eating Decisions)

was the overwhelming aura of the lazy, hazy days of summer; and much of my progress, unlike the springtime weight loss, melted away. What was the first sign of trouble? When I stopped recording the facts. I began to believe if I don't record the calories, maybe I really didn't eat them after all.

A few weeks before Poolesville Day and my pending Reader Update, I began to panic. I still had time to make a desperate move but had to move quickly. All I had to do was delay a couple of weeks, report in the middle of October instead. Just add four more weeks, and everything would be good again—or at least not as bad.

The time of reckoning has finally come—no more delay or excuse making. Although I did achieve a slight loss of weight from the start, the fact is, like *The Terminator* said, “I'm baaaack” to nearly all my robust glory.

As it turns out, I am not only a glutton for food but also for punishment, too. Should I try again? Rather than throw in the towel and admit my failure, I can hear your imaginary call to me: Don't quit! Start over! For all of you who in life had to start over at one time or another and then did so, I am getting back in the saddle. If I can get past the candy of Halloween, the turkey and fixings of Thanksgiving, and all the holiday parties, maybe it will work out after all. In the last year, I went from 275 to 245, then all the way to 215. Now I start again at 235. Prospects may look tenuous at best, but I will fill you in when January gets here. The really important thing is to know that if I can do this, so can you.

Town Government Town Hears Plans For Memorial Commemoration

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville commissioners heard from two representatives of the Lynching Memorial Project about plans to hold a memorial commemoration service in remembrance of an African American and former slave, George Peck, who was hanged by local residents in Poolesville during the post-Civil War era. The proposed remembrance ceremony will take place on Sunday, November 3 in the area across from the Presbyterian Church on Elgin Road. This is in the general vicinity of where the hanging is thought to have taken place.

Local pastor Chuck Copeland and project representative Barbara Drazin made a presentation to the commissioners about the plans for the event. Drazin said she recognized that a historical event like this is “going to be seen as a blot on the town's history,” but she reminded that it is a part of the town's history and that it is important to acknowledge events like these even

if they are painful. Poolesville is in a part of Montgomery County where many residents in the 1860s were sympathetic to the Confederate cause. A number of Poolesville residents actually crossed the Potomac to join Confederate military units. As a result, it may not be surprising that a hanging of a former slave took place in Poolesville.

Drazin said that Poolesville is not alone in having a legacy that includes “lynching,” as it was often called in the post-Civil War era leading all the way up to the passage of civil rights and voting rights laws. These were hangings of African Americans—many former slaves—who were summarily caught and hanged without trials by mobs. In Maryland, there were fifty “lynchings” during this period, said Drazin, and nearby towns, including Rockville, had such horrific incidents. In the case of Poolesville, Peck (see the February 22, 2019 issue of the *Monocle* for more information about the Peck case) was in jail for an alleged crime against a local citizen. The local sheriff tried to keep Peck from being assaulted and eventually lynched but was attacked and injured.

Drazin said the Lynching Memorial Project was started under the auspices

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It's Getting Scary in Poolesville

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and vote for your favorite at
wumcohelp.org.



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Center Stage

Torchlight to Torch Commons

By Tor Ofsthun

What torchlight on yonder Commons breaks? Fear not! There will not be an angry mob bearing torches and pitchforks on Whalen Commons on October 19, but there will be talented musicians aplenty from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., bearing the torches of creativity and entertainment. Whence do they hail? They come from all over the Counties of Baltimore and Montgomery and Frederick. They follow the flame of creativity to Torchlight Productions Recording Studio in the Ville of Beall, where wise counsel, earnest encouragement, and expert engineering propel them to musical and artistic excellence. The owner and chief engineer, Jeff Feit (pronounced "fight"), and producer Mike Conway are the experts that lend support and direction to Torchlight's artists. The concert on the Commons is a showcase to feature eight songwriter/musicians.

Every torch needs a spark, and Jeff Feit is the spark that has kindled the fire of Torchlight a score of years ago as a vehicle to market his own music. Feit thought of the image of the Statue of Liberty when he came up with the name. Torchlight would beckon to all souls, lost or not as lost, as long as the spirit of creativity and music lead them there. After some years, he found himself more dedicated to recording for others. His partner in crime in the studio is Mike Conway. They met ten years ago when Conway and another artist with whom he was working employed Feit's services. Conway was so pleased with his experience with Feit that he continued to utilize Torchlight over the years.

"I came in and recorded my own album. I loved the way Jeff worked, and I've been with him ever since. He can't get rid of me," Conway explained with a laugh.

A couple of years ago, after having worked on many projects together, Feit proposed that Conway join Torchlight as a producer. They have been a team ever since.

"In all the times we had worked together, I really liked the way that Mike worked in the studio. He had a producer's ear unlike any of the other clients that I had ever worked with, and I thought it would be beneficial for the studio for us to team up."

This reporter, having witnessed the two in action as they overdubbed a



Torchlight's Jeff Feit and Mike Conway.

new vocal into a previously recorded vocal track, can attest to their expertise. I discovered some terminology specific to the recording industry. Example: a singer sings a song that is recorded at a studio. It is called "the bed" and the next recordings, such as another singer or instrumental addition to the bed, is the process of overdubbing. This is also referred to as "laying down a track." They also refer to overdubbing at a specific point in the bed, as "punching it," and the final mix is all the overdubs combined with the bed. Just another reason to make the bed every day, to say nothing of having clean sheets—and who's punching whom? Makes sense that it gets laid down with a punch, too.

Professional singer and vocal coach, Natalie Dodson, was in the "booth" singing as Feit overdubbed her voice onto the bed. Hauntingly beautiful, the song "I'm Lonely Here" laments someone dear who has passed to the other side. Terry Scott, aka Retro T, who wrote and sang the song, requested Dodson sing both in answer and as background vocals. The results were a thing of beauty, the two lovely voices interlaid with one another adeptly by Feit and Conway. That song alone is worth a listen live, and Scott will be performing at the showcase concert. Her handle Retro T originates from a minister who had spoken about going back and getting blessings.

"I decided to go back and get those blessings that I left on the table twenty or thirty years ago," Scott remarked.

Among the other performers featured is local-grown Brian Jamison, songwriter, guitar player, and vocalist.

"Brian is a phenomenal guitar player," Feit said. "He's got a bluesy rockabilly thing going on."

Also, on the ticket, is eighteen-year old Jazilyn Sligh, who recently won the STEP UP! Student Songwriting Contest for high school students in Frederick County by Chords of Courage, a nonprofit organization, started by Caron Dale (CEO and

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Local News

Local Man Killed In Car Wreck

By Jack Toomey

Emergency responders were called to Darnestown Road near Bucklodge Road on September 28 at around 9:00 p.m. They found that a 2006 Mercedes, that had been traveling east, had run off of the road and struck two utility poles. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police identified the driver as Stephen Fený, age 35, of Beatriz

Avenue in Poolesville. Police concluded that Fený had failed to negotiate a slight curve, crossed the center line, run up on an embankment on the other side of the roadway, struck one pole demolishing it, and then struck a second pole before coming to rest. They could not pinpoint the exact cause of the wreck as it was too early in their investigation.

Poolesville Town Commissioner Valaree Dickerson said, "Stephen was a kind young man with a good heart. He always wanted to be a special person in the eyes of his son, Isaac. Every time we chatted, he would tell me about things he had done trying to ensure (that) those dreams came true."

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Continued from page 1.

Fair Access Committee Files Freedom of Information Act Request For Background Data on School Building Rating System

delaying investing in the school until future CIPs. This is why the committee thinks the release of the detailed data and analysis is critical.

The Fair Access Committee has been meeting with both county departments and MCPS officials about its proposals for a new high school co-located with a community/senior center, wellness center and clinic, and police satellite station. In these meetings, it received indications that MCPS would release the requested detailed information and analysis, but repeated requests have failed to elicit a response, so the committee felt compelled to file the FOIA request.

In explaining the FOIA filing, Fair Access Chair Kevin Schramm said, "We are adamant about doing all we can to understand the BOE's (Board of Education) new KFI processes and its analysis of the data to assure fairness is at the heart of the process by allowing everyone to have the data used within this CIP cycle." The press release from the committee further explained that "the data will allow the committee, PHS students, and Western Montgomery County residents to understand the factors that led to the current ratings. They will also see which issues within PHS are weighted as most pressing and why the construction of a new, modern school building is necessary."

Committee member and Poolesville Commission President Jerry Klobukowski said, "Transparency is critical to the committee and to this evaluation process. This is only fair given the history of how PHS has been denied a new school building after waiting more than ten years. Then in 2017, PHS was again denied when it was moved to a 'To Be Determined' funding date. We have been patient and supportive of MCPS's budget requests and always sought to be treated equitably; however, that word has not rung true for Poolesville and Western Montgomery County. PHS should be treated fairly during this new process."

The committee request was officially filed on October 1. It was told by county spokesperson Veronica Marmoi that a response should be expected within "ten business days."

In a related development, the Fair Access Committee released a request for Upcounty residents and parents and students of PHS to send messages to all county leaders—the county executive, the county council, the county school board, and the superintendent—urging them to support the rebuilding of PHS and the co-location of new county facilities with the school, including a community/senior center, a wellness center and clinic, and a police satellite station.

The committee established a special link <https://app.muster.com/take-action/v8Vxk3yC1E/?t=9cfc3bbae430e1b1642a21f621a6be1> that residents can use to send their messages. As the committee noted in urging residents to send messages, "We are now at a critical point in our efforts to get approval for a fully-funded new high school co-located with a new community/senior center, a wellness center/clinic, and police satellite station... Important decisions will be made by the county in just a few weeks that will determine whether we succeed in ensuring these recommendations become approved county projects. You have worked with the Fair Access Committee, and now we need to raise our voices to ensure the decision makers hear us loud and clear... We know the support of the community will make a big difference."

Continued from page 5.

Torchlight to Torch Commons

founder). Her winning song "Freedom Ride" is about the Freedom Rides of the early Civil Rights Movement circa 1961.

Todd Walker, who is well known particularly in the Frederick area, plays guitar and spins the yarn as it were in the old Homeric art of storytelling. A gifted songwriter, Walker won the 2003 Honorable Mention of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest for his song "No Other Man" as well as the 2006 SAW (Songwriters' Association of Washington) Contest.

"Todd has great stories, great songs, and is charismatic," Feit said of one the elder statesmen of the Torchlight artists.

Tim Kirkner, Joe Murry, Rick Wicker, and Rick Windon round out the other artists who will be performing.

"Tim's songs are very powerful. They're dynamic. They go from hard hitting songs to beautiful ballads. Now, Joe Murry is a rocker from way back. He plays

Continued on page 8.

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Town Hears Plans for Memorial Commemoration

of the Equal Justice Initiative based in Montgomery, Alabama. The initiative was founded to help develop evidence to support convicts who may have been unjustly incarcerated.

Pastor Chuck Copeland, who leads the Hosanna Worship congregation that meets at Poolesville Baptist Church, said that he has been living in the Poolesville area since 1994. He lives on property that was originally purchased by one of his forebears, Albert Thompson, a former slave. Copeland said in all of his time living in this area, he had never heard of George Peck or the hanging incident. "I am all about reconciliation. I am not here to exonerate or convict Poolesville or George Peck." He said that it is important to recognize that in our past there are incidents, both good and bad, that are important markers. "When I think of lynchings, I usually think of very southern states such as Mississippi or Alabama, but they happened here, too."

Copeland and Drazin said the event will be solemn and designed to make people think about our past in all of its dimensions. They said there will be songs and prayers, including by young people, and jars will be filled with some soil from the approximate area where the hanging occurred. One of the jars will be sent to Equal Justice Initiative offices which already have jars of earth from many places in the U. S. where hangings occurred.

In the next order of business, the commissioners presented a recognition certificate to Catherine Beliveau, the former executive director of WUMCO Help which provides assistance to many in need in the Upcounty. Commissioner President Jerry Klobukowski read from a certificate praising Beliveau for her work in making WUMCO stronger. Her efforts had helped improve the "health and wellness of many" in the Western County. He also praised her leadership, saying it is emblematic of the fact that there are many "caring people in our community." Commissioner Valaree Dickerson, who worked with WUMCO for many years, added that Beliveau has been a leader who has substantially increased the impact and reach of WUMCO. She said Beliveau had taken WUMCO "to a level that is unbelievable."

In general discussion after these presentations, it was announced that eight people have submitted résumés in response to the solicitation for a new town

manager. The final date for submissions of résumés and applications is October 28.

Finally, a 7-11 is in the process of developing a proposal to build a store on the corner of Wootton Avenue and Fisher Avenue on the property of the Donovan Shopping Center. They plan to make a presentation about their initial ideas before the Planning Commission on October 16. Concerns have been expressed that the new store might cause more traffic congestion around the already-crowded roads near Poolesville Elementary School. Commissioner Jim Brown said that 7-11 is just in the very early stages of looking at the idea. He urged everyone to look carefully at what the company is proposing before coming to conclusions.

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Torchlight to Torch Commons

acoustic rock, too, and a lot of classics. Rick Wicker is a session bass player. I mean, we call him to lay down tracks for other people. He's that good. He is with another Rick, Rick Windon, and together they are Windon and Ricker. They've got unbelievable talent."

Both Feit and Conway talk about their clients as family. They immerse themselves in their work, which is helping their clients get the best possible results. They not only lead them through the technical aspects of the recording process, but both being songwriters themselves, they also aid them through creative stumbling blocks and such. One might come in with just lyrics, and Conway will help them flesh out music to marry with the lyrics—song development. This immersion in their clients, however, limits their own songwriting projects.

"When you're a studio, your clients come first," Feit declared.

"That's the name of the game," Conway, who has penned over one hundred songs (the first at age eleven) agreed with a laugh.

In other words, the show must go on.

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Local News

Poolesville Day 5K Results

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce and Monocacy Lions Club had another strong showing of runners and sponsors for the annual Poolesville Day 5K Walk/Run. There were 248 runners and a robust lineup of area sponsors. Proceeds from the run support the community work of both organizations.

First place: Luka Brizhik, 17, Poolesville, 19:00

Second place: Zander Leff, 17, Poolesville, 19:17

Third place: Billy Bean, 14, Poolesville, 19:20

First place women: Madeline Bachman, 21, Portsmouth, NH, 20:25



For one runner, the excitement of the start of the 2019 Poolesville Day 5K was hard to tamp down.

Second place women: Kathy Cea, 59, Gaithersburg, 23:25

Third place women: Grace Bodmer, 18, Dickerson, 23:31

Youngest finisher: Tommy Barker, 5, Poolesville, 43:29

Oldest finisher: Richard Strock, 76, Poolesville, 34:10

Fun Fact...

The Poolesville Day 5K is an annual community event and is part of the Poolesville Day celebrations. Runners and walkers of all levels of ability are encouraged to participate.



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Poolesville

Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center

All events at 17750 W. Willard Road, Poolesville

Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

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

Mahjong: Thursdays, Room 129, 10:00 a.m.

Chair/Slow Flow Yoga: Mondays, 11:00 am in the café

The Blue Hearth is open every weekend.

SAVE THE DATES:

Halloween Costume Party fun at House of Poolesville and Cugini's on October 31 and Bassett's on November 1. All three have fast passes to Markoff's Haunted Forest.

Markoff's Haunted Forest open weekends for Black Death Forest or Enchanted Forest. Deadly Dinners every Saturday. Visit markoffshauntedforest.com and Calleva.org/deadly-dinners/ or Calleva.org/enchanted-forest/ for details.

HMD Deadly District Ghost Tours: October 19 and 26. Early family tours and later spookier tours available on each date. Details and purchase tickets online through the HMD website: historicmedley.org.

October 11

PHS Homecoming Weekend Home Game

Football. Magruder. 6:30 p.m.

October 12 and 13

Pumpkin Chunkin'

Great kids' fun. Fire the pumpkin cannon and hit the target to win prizes. Get fall apples, pumpkins, gourds, and fall décor! Lewis Orchards. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 13

UMCVFD Open House

Enjoy hayride to the pumpkin patch, visit the fire engines, and try a real fire hose. Learn about the CO alarm law. Fire hall in Beallsville. Noon to 3:00 p.m.

October 16

PHS Varsity Home Game

Field hockey. Magruder. 6:00 p.m.

October 17

PHS Varsity Home Games

Churchill. Boys' soccer at 5:15 p.m.; girls' soccer at 7:15 p.m.

October 18

PHS Varsity Home Game

Football. Walter Johnson. 6:30 p.m.

October 19

PMUMC Lord's Acre Fall Festival

Delicious breakfast and lunch; Fall decorations; vendors; silent auction; crafts; bake sale; kid zone; and music. Poolesville Memorial UMC. 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

2019 Torchlight Productions

Recording Studio Artist Showcase

A free musical extravaganza for the whole family. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic baskets or carryout food and drinks available from nearby local restaurants. Featuring nine of the very best of local musical talent. Enjoy original music as the sun sets on Whalen Commons. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PASC Special Event

Pickleball Clinic: Learners from 12 years of age and up for America's fastest-growing sport. Two sessions: 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 to 12:15 p.m. 17750 West Willard Road. \$25 per person. Must register by October 16.

October 21

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

October 22

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' volleyball. Churchill. 6:30 p.m.

October 24

Clean Energy Zoning: A Panel Discussion

Sponsored by Poolesville Green, Inc. A panel discussion on what Clean Energy Zoning could mean for the residents of the Town of Poolesville. Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

October 26

WUMCO Walk and Oktoberfest

Support WUMCO. Attend the WUMCO Walk and Oktoberfest. Kids' Costume Parade, Pumpkin Painting, Scarecrow Making, Beer & Wine Garden, DJ, German Food, and much more. Community Scarecrow Contest winners will also be announced. Whalen Commons. Noon to 6:00 p.m.

St. Mary's 90th Annual Ham and Turkey Dinner

Mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, sauerkraut, and rolls. Crafts, baked goods, pumpkins, country store, Christmas shop. \$16 adults and all carry-outs. Guests 10 and under free. Debit/credit cards accepted. St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville. Noon to 6:30 p.m.

Continued on page 20.

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WUMCO is more than a food pantry! We also provide financial assistance to those in need and rides to the homebound for appointments.

How can you support WUMCO?

- Become a supporting member with a financial gift! Your gift gives assistance to those in our area who are in need. To become a member, go to WUMCO's website or call the office for more information.
- Volunteer!** WUMCO needs volunteers in our food pantry. We also need volunteers who can drive a client to an appointment as needed.
- Donate food** to WUMCO's pantry. We accept non-perishable food as well as fresh produce and meat for our freezers. Non-perishable donations are accepted at the WUMCO office, in the Poolesville Town Hall, at many area churches, and anytime at the WUMCO box outside of the Pike and Valega dental offices.

Oktoberfest

- Join us **October 26 from 12:00-6:00**. Walk for WUMCO! and join us for an afternoon of fall festivities, all for a wonderful cause. More information: <http://www.wumcohelp.org/WUMCOWalkandOktoberfest2019.html>

WUMCO Wednesdays

- You can support WUMCO and a local restaurant at the same time! The **Watershed Café** on the **SECOND Wednesday** of each month. The next date is November 13. And the **Mexican Grill** on the **THIRD Wednesday** of each month. The next date is October 16. Both of these fine Poolesville restaurants will donate 10% of their income to WUMCO. Join us!

Visit our Web page and follow us on Facebook and Twitter:
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 17550 W. Willard Rd., Poolesville, MD 20837

Questions?
Please write Adam DeBaugh at wumco2@gmail.com or call the WUMCO office.



**Memorial UMC's
LORD'S ACRE
FALL FESTIVAL
OCT. 19th, 8AM-2PM**

Breakfast Served 8-10:30am

(Sausage, Egg, Cheese or any combo Sandwich & Hot Coffee)

Lunch Served 11am-2pm

(Pork BBQ, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Bean Soup, Vegetable Soup, Chicken & Corn Soup)

Kid Zone 10am-2pm

(Moon Bounce, Children's Games, Face Painting)

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Tidbits

New Electrical Vehicle Charger Installed on Whalen Commons.

The Electric Vehicle Institute (EVI) installed two new "L3" 480V DC to DC Fast Chargers (DCFC) recently next to Whalen Commons in Poolesville. Presently, EVI is waiting for Potomac Edison to install interface gear and is expected to come online in a couple of months. The new chargers provide about ninety miles of charge in thirty minutes to electric vehicles (EV) versus the smaller, older version at the park. They are the "L2" 240V EV chargers that provide about twenty-five miles of charge per hour. Poolesville is one of seven locations statewide to be included in a Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) \$786,000 Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Program grant received by EVI. The grant covers all equipment and installation costs, as mentioned in Governor Hogan's press release celebrating the nation's first gas-to-electric station conversion in Takoma Park.

Normally, charging is offered as a community amenity for a period of time after which the credit card payment feature can be turned on. Unlike gasoline, EV charging contributes to a healthier environment for all by eliminating dirty tailpipe emissions so we can all breathe more easily. As Mary Beth Tung, MEA director, stated in the press release, "Our state's energy programs are strategically advancing toward 100% clean electricity, which benefits all Marylanders and the environment."

PES Walk or Ride to School Day

On Monday, October 7, you may have noticed many more kids on foot and bike and many more police in cars and on horses. They were all participating in the annual Walk 'n Roll to School Day event. As part of the Montgomery County Safe Routes to School program, all three of the schools in Poolesville participated in the day aimed at bringing awareness to health and active lifestyles, street safety, and the reduction of traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution. Officer Tara Bond led the effort to have an increased police presence in the town throughout neighborhoods. Countless children were seen walking and biking from various locations all over town. A "walking and biking school bus" was organized at Whalen Commons that attracted (among other neighbors) the PES principal on tractor, an officer on horseback, PES mascot Stripes the Tiger on paw, and Betty Ritorto on her usual morning routine, standing in front of her house on Fisher Avenue holding up a sign that pleads with everyone coming through town each morning to slow down for the school zone.

Dickerson Woman Following Dairy Science Major

Catherine Savage of Dickerson, a dairy science major at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) is entering her junior year with plans to make her career in the dairy industry while continuing to breed, manage, and show her own Jersey herd. At school, she is involved with numerous dairy activities and has been awarded the AJCA's Cedarcrest Farm Scholarship. She is active with the Maryland Jersey Cattle Club, having served as both Maryland Jersey Queen and Princess. Catherine was also a member of Class V of Jersey Youth Academy.



Two new high-speed electric vehicle chargers at Whalen Commons to electrify soon.



PES students with Kerri Cook participated in the annual walk/ride to school event.



Catherine Savage

PASC Pickleball Clinic

The Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC) is hosting a pickleball clinic for beginners on October 19, in the Family Life Center at 17550 West Willard Road in Poolesville.

This clinic will be intergenerational, for ages 12 and up, and is suitable for those wishing to learn the basics of the one of the fastest-growing sports in America. Learn the rules and scoring, how to serve and how to dink; practice your strokes using a pickleball machine; and participate in a practice game. PASC will provide the equipment: paddles, balls, and nets.

There will be two ninety-minute sessions offered. Registration is \$25. There is a limit of thirty participants for each session. To register, email pvlleseniors@comncast.net or call 301-875-7701 to request a form. Registration will close on October 16.

7-11 Coming to Poolesville?

There is reported to be a proposal to build a 7-11 convenience store and gas station on the grassy lot adjacent to CVS. This plan will be brought before the Poolesville Planning Commission on Wednesday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m., Poolesville Town Hall.

Excess Time on a Computer Sometimes Is Best

Karen Wilson, owner of the Blue Hearth, joked that she was pleased to learn that her son was not just playing computer games all summer. Her son, Shelton Wilson, a senior Computer Science major, is among only one hundred finalists out of thirteen thousand contenders to solve nearly three hundred cybersecurity challenges and win a Cyber FastTrack full scholarship worth \$22,000 at the SANS Technology Institute.

"I've always been interested in computers, but I just never wanted to be a software developer," he said, explaining that he likes programming but uses it for smaller tasks. "Cybersecurity works with my strengths—logic, puzzle solving, and persistence. I would sit down for hours to solve the challenges."


Now, as he prepares for a career in which certificates complement and reinforce college degrees, Wilson will have the opportunity to earn three certificates in advanced immersion courses with his full scholarship to the SANS Applied Cybersecurity Program.

Wilson added, "We're all susceptible to the imposter syndrome, where you doubt yourself and your abilities and think maybe you don't belong in a particular field. Being one of the winners helped put those doubts away—I must have had some idea even if I don't know everything, and I certainly know enough to learn and complete challenges."



Shelton Wilson won a full scholarship.


Continued on page 19.



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School News

PHS Students Dedicated To Cleaner Environment

By Rande Davis

The Chesapeake Bay Coalition (CBC) is a student-led group united in their common belief that the environment is to be appreciated and protected. They promote environmental action, advocacy, and awareness within the general community. CBC promotes recycling for Poolesville Day, writing letters to Congresspersons about environmental bills like the Clean Energy Jobs Act, removing invasive species, and having student-led projects from within the coalition.

Many of the members of CBC also participate in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Student Leadership Program which provides students from all over the watershed the opportunity to come together, learn, share perspectives, and critically think about how to improve their own, their community, and society's overall environmental impact. After attending an immersive field experience with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, students are encouraged to use their newfound knowledge to implement a project in their own community. Accordingly, these student leaders banded together to perform outreach on Poolesville Day by establishing a completely student-run Chesapeake Bay Foundation booth.

The Chesapeake Bay Coalition Club wanted to make Poolesville Day as sustainable as possible this year. Frankie Willard and Julianna Hitchcock met with Cathy Bupp from the Town of Poolesville to ensure that cardboard recycling would be collected in addition to bottles. Poolesville Day itself was a major success with more than thirty students representing the coalition with additional students coming in from Quince Orchard and Tuscarora High Schools.

The group rallied together for the parade with pro-environmental and recycling chants such as, "Hey! Hey! Ho! Ho! Plastic waste has got to go!" and "Plastic pollution—we have a solution!" After the parade, the students collected recycling from all over the town, overflowing the dumpsters with plastic bottles. In addition to recycling collection, many students manned the Chesapeake Bay Foundation



Poolesville's Chesapeake Bay Coalition preparing for the Poolesville Day parade.

booth which hosted live crabs and had free handouts and information for environmental outreach.

This coming year, the CBC plans to join forces with local nonprofits such as the Muddy Branch Alliance to perform tree plantings, trash cleanups, and invasive species removal work. In addition to action, the club will hold two to three advocacy workshops where environmental bills are explained and people can borrow laptops to email their representatives.

Other student-run projects include:

Frankie Willard, Bradford Blair, Mahi Ganatra, and Phillip Lee created a daily information campaign on Instagram called @chesapeakebayfacts with over 100 facts and infographics reaching its 1,100 followers. In addition to spreading environmental awareness through social media, the group presented a lesson at the John Poole Middle School, teaching the students about the importance of the Chesapeake Bay and oysters.

Continued on page 17.

Join us at Memorial UMC in sharing Christ's love. All are welcome!

SUNDAYS' SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15-10:15am

All ages

WORSHIP: 10:30am

Communion 1st Sunday of Month

SMALL GROUPS - FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

GRIEF GROUP: Tuesdays, Oct 1st-Dec 17th, 7:30-9pm

CLASE DE APRENDIZAJE INGLÉS ("LEARN ENGLISH" CLASS):

Martes empieza 29 de Octubre, 7-8pm (*Tuesdays, starting Oct 29, 7-8pm*). Gratis (*Free*). Todos son bienvenidos (*Open to all*).

"LEARN SPANISH" CLASS: Mondays starting Oct 28, 7-8pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LORD'S ACRE FALL FESTIVAL: Sat., Oct. 19th, 8am-2pm

COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT: Sun., Oct. 27th, 5-7pm

Memorial United Methodist Church

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Open House

Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department



- Come out and enjoy the beautiful fall weather at the UMCVFD open house
- Ride the hay wagon out to the pumpkin patch
- visit the fire engines and try the real fire hose
- Learn about the CO Alarm Law

Sunday, Oct 13th
Noon to 3PM



In Your Own Backyard Seneca Creek Adventure

By Jon Wolz

On a very warm, breezy, and sunny September afternoon, I decided to try to find a Native American fish weir an acquaintance of mine had mentioned to me a few years ago. At that time, she was planning on kayaking up Seneca Creek from the Seneca Creek Aqueduct at Riley's Lock at the C&O Canal to just above the River Road bridge. I never heard back from her about her paddle trip, so I decided to canoe myself up the creek.

Native Americans built V-shaped stone weirs in rivers to guide fish in order to catch them. Several were constructed in the Potomac River. When I arrived at Riley's Lock, I parked my truck and first walked up the steps by the lockhouse and looked at the lock and the Seneca Creek Aqueduct. There was a couple biking from Pittsburgh to Georgetown, taking in the scenery, and I spoke with them for a few minutes and recounted the history of where we were standing. The aqueduct was the first one built for the



Tree debris against the Seneca Creek Aqueduct

C&O Canal and is the only combination lock and aqueduct. It was completed in 1832, and the stones used were quarried just upstream. The arches of the aqueduct show some damage from a flood in September 1971. The stone cap next to the end of the towpath at the aqueduct has "1889 June 2" over a horizontal line, both carved, to indicate the highwater mark from that year's flood.

I explained that I was a volunteer with the C&O Canal Association and

had wanted to check out the condition of the picnic tables nearby. We parted ways amicably. I remember when I was a Boy Scout in the late 1960s and crossed the Seneca Creek Aqueduct and admiring its beauty. After my brief stop, I went searching for picnic tables and found three that needed painting. On a different day I returned, cleaned, and painted the tables.

After boarding the canoe, I paddled up Seneca Creek. There seemed to be

no current. The wind was blowing towards me from upstream. Occasionally, I could hear the thuds of black walnuts hitting the ground in the woods as I paddled. Sycamore tree leaves had fallen and continued to fall from the trees, landing on top of the water, forming a patchwork of leaf-quilts as I paddled. The water was clear, but the rocks below were covered in silt. There were only a few small fish. As I approached the River Road bridge, I saw, to my great disappointment, that all three openings of the bridge were blocked with large tree debris. I decided to paddle to the bridge and then turn around. As I neared the bridge, I noticed a narrow opening near the far right wall of the bridge with water quickly flowing through it. I paddled hard and got through to the upstream side of the bridge. The water was shallow and, looking upstream, I could see rocks in the creek. I was excited and thought, Could this be the fish weir? I climbed out of the canoe to continue walking the canoe. The huge amount of debris to my left was jammed up against the bridge. As I continued upstream, the rocks came into clearer view. There were two long stone walls about two feet high about twenty feet wide and

Continued on page 16.

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Youth Sports

For the PHS Girls' Volleyball Team, The Thrills and the Fun Are Still There

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville girls' volleyball team would like to have more wins, but the effort and intensity have been there and have to be there because the level of competition in county girls' volleyball has improved a lot over the past three years because of the influx of club-volleyball-trained players.

There are few easy wins. There have been highlights and moments when they have played very well. They have always played hard, but it has often been a struggle.

"Starting off, our season was a little rough," said junior outside hitter Mackenzie Magaha. "We didn't know our coach. She was brand new, so meeting her was interesting—not really what we expected, I guess. Since we didn't have a JV coach at the time, she had to coach both, and we got off to a very slow start, but I think, collectively, all the girls on the team have punched through it. We didn't let it bother us. We are still playing volleyball and having fun. That is all that matters. I think our best game was against Watkins Mill. Even though we lost, we still fought as hard as we could, and it was really close. The crowd stayed with us. We appreciated that."



The PHS girls' volleyball team carried on the annual Dig Pink event this year in support of breast cancer awareness and research.

"The Watkins Mill match was a tough loss," said coach Michele Naughton, "but since we were missing one of our starting middles, I thought the girls played extremely well. Calls don't always go in your favor, and you gotta move on to the next point."


Against Watkins Mill, the Falcons lost the first set, 25-23. They won the second set, 25-19. Game three was another close loss, but Poolesville seemed ready to force a fifth-set tiebreaker in game four. It was hard fought by both teams, and the crowd got caught up in it. There were several terrific long rallies and some close calls that did not go their way, but the girls eventually lost a much-extended overtime thriller, 31-29.

"Coach Naughton coaches very differently," said junior captain Ainslee Barger. "She coaches the high school team like a club team. That is good for us. The drills that we run are more difficult. There are eighteen girls on the team, and our skills are very different. We have nine on a side during drills, so it has been difficult, but it is working. I think our first set against Whitman was the best we have every played and that was at the beginning of the season. I think Marie Brennan has played very well. She is a new student and a junior. She really doesn't like playing middle hitter, but the coach plays her there because we need her there. She is dealing with it. She has been playing very well. I think she is really good. I love her playing outside. She destroys outside. Senior Bryanna Sellers is our libero on the court. She shows her emotions on the court. That is not a bad thing. She does take charge of the whole back row. We need that. Somebody needs to call things and make sure who is going to get the ball."

Poolesville won that first set against Whitman on September 11, 25-19. A week

Continued on page 21.


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**Saturdays in
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6 - 9pm

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Dinner is cooked over an
open fire and includes local
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- Advanced Online
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calleva.org/deadly-dinners/

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**October
12, 18, 19, 25, 26**

6:15 - 8:30pm

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calleva.org/enchanted-forest/

Continued from page 14.

Seneca Creek Adventure

twenty-five yards long. I left the canoe on a sandbar at the mouth of what appeared to be a long stone sluice with water rushing through it. It was difficult for me to walk and stand in the rushing water. I later learned that this sluice is used for fun by swimmers and for tubing. To my left was Poole Store. I reached my objective, however, what I had come upon was not something Native Americans constructed. I decided to grab the canoe and start heading down the creek. As I got in the canoe and paddled beneath the bridge, I heard a loud splash downstream in front of me. A bald eagle had grabbed a fish, flapping its wings against the water and then rising into the air with its catch, up above the trees and out of sight.

After loading the canoe, I drove and parked at the Poole's Store. The exterior rehabilitation work being performed by Montgomery County Parks was coming along nicely, not only on the store but on the nearby house, as well. I walked down to a path below the store to the bank of Seneca Creek where I could see the sluice.

I later mentioned my paddle trip to my friend Jack Marshall, a volunteer with the Montgomery County Department of Parks who gave me some updates on the renovation of the property. The store was originally called the Seneca Store and was built in 1901 by Frederick Allnutt. In 1965, the store and business were sold to Raymond Poole and his wife who renamed them Poole's General Store. In 1976, the Montgomery County Department of Parks bought the store and the nearby house. In 2010, the store closed, but feed continued to be sold out of the adjacent warehouse, now under the aegis of Southern States but still fondly called Poole's Store. The store is now once again called the Seneca Store. The building and the landscape perimeter are being rehabilitated so the store can be leased to a commercial tenant. The outside work was monitored by a contract archeologist from a local cultural resource management (CRM) firm. In the course of their work, a stone foundation was unearthed. This led to the excavation and discovery of a wheel pit from a previously unknown mill site. The dig was carried out by the CRM firm, Parks archaeologists, and Parks archaeology volunteers earlier this year. A final report will be out soon, and interpretive signage will eventually be erected at the site.

Continued from page 13.

PHS Students Dedicated to Cleaner Environment

Additionally, Jacob Chu worked with the PHS Film Club to create a documentary about riparian buffers, winning second place in the Montgomery County Environmental Film Festival. Avery Groeninger created environmental lessons about conservation that were incorporated into a local nature camp, which was a part of her Girl Scout Gold Award.

After collecting data on the reusable water bottle fillers for a month, Frankie Willard, Mahi Ganatra, Phillip Lee, Alex Quigley, and Zac Goldstein challenged Poolesville High School to increase reusable water bottle usage and to stop using single-use bottles. Over the two-week challenge, reusable water bottle usage was increased by eighteen percent, which, if expanded to a year, would lead to six thousand fewer single-use water bottles being used.

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MHIC: 6812

Continued from page 1.

Poolesville Awarded Community Wildlife Habitat Certificate

staff for bringing new energy, new perspectives, and new ideas to fulfill Poolesville’s Sustainable Procurement Policy. They work endlessly to protect and enrich the community and the environment stewardship entrusted to them. In 2018, Poolesville was one of eight municipalities awarded Sustainable Maryland Certification Status. Campbell Park contributes to the mission of Sustainable Maryland in providing a peaceful haven for Poolesville residents and all town wildlife.

Douglass McKenney, chairman of Poolesville Parks and Streets Department, recalled how this park came to be. Named after Fred Campbell, a town commissioner from 1960 to 1972, it was an “orphan park” for a while. Many ideas were floated as to what the park was to “be about.” Among the various recommendations were a skate park, a dog park, and a soccer park. The resulting park identity was the perfect choice. If you are driving through town, you might even miss it, as it is nestled into a two-acre lot of open spaces, trees, and walkways. It is a quiet meditative spot in town to relax and quietly admire the greenery and its wildlife visitors. Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscape donated and planted the beautiful trees around the park. Many city residents, plus the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Poolesville High School students pitched in to help develop the park.

Ms. Cook introduced Donald Street of the Poolesville Sustainable Committee and thanked him and his colleagues for their work in leading the charge to help Poolesville achieve and maintain its Sustainable Maryland Certificate. In 2016, Poolesville registered with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to become a Community Wildlife Habitat. Since 1973, the NWF has provided millions of people with the basic guidelines for making the landscape more hospitable for wildlife. Through this program, NWF has certified 120,000 sites, including residential yards, parks, places of worship, and business landscape areas. Each of these sites must provide the four basic elements that all wildlife need to thrive: feed, water, cover, and places to raise their young.

Luisa Grant, NWF senior coordinator of community programs, was on hand to present the official Community Wildlife Certificate to Commissioner Cook. Ms. Grant commented that Poolesville was the eighth in the State of Maryland to receive this award. Today we are faced, she said, with threats to the environment on many fronts: habitat loss, invasive plants, pesticides, climate change, and pests. “It takes a community to provide an environmentally-friendly world to man and all wildlife.” The guidelines of NWF strive to provide ways to achieve this goal: more native plants, no pesticides, and educating the community on how they can help. She thanked Donald Street for his “star performance” in this endeavor.

Montgomery County Councilmember Andrew Freidson extended congratulations to the Town of Poolesville from the Montgomery County Council. He said, “As you all know, Poolesville is a great place for people to live, but it is also a great place for wildlife to live.”

We who live in the Agricultural Reserve also know that open spaces and the Ag Reserve didn’t happen by chance or accident. It took many years, many people, and a series of decisions by the County Council and community leaders to bring us to what we enjoy today in our county.

As a fitting end to the ceremony, Kerri Cook and town officials took part in the ribbon cutting for the rededication of Campbell Park.

Continued from page 12.

Tidbits

October Is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

The PHS girls’ varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams supported the Side-Out Foundation’s national drive to raise funds and awareness for Breast Cancer Research during its October 3 annual Dig Pink game.

Between games, they honored the survivors and those that have been touched by breast cancer. The girls enthusiastically support the Dig Pink initiative every year. While the main Dig Pink event is over, the campaign will continue through the entire month. There is still plenty of time left to contribute by making a donation by cash at their games during this month or by buying a shirt, bake sale items, or raffle tickets to win prizes at remaining home volleyball games. Dig Pink bake sale items will also be available at home games for football, soccer, and field hockey. For those not attending games, donations can be made at giving.side-out.org/campaigns/15700#/. Funds raised go toward a clinical trial specifically for patients with stage 4 breast cancer, the most advanced form of the disease and the least funded area of research.



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crimes

Assault: Poolesville High School, W. Willard Road.

Burglary: 19700 block of Fisher Avenue.

Drug Arrest: 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

Theft/Swindle: 15700 block of River Road.

Theft: Riley's Lock Road.

Vandalism: 24400 block of Old Hundred Road.

Past Crime: 1965

County police arrested three Prince George's County men and charged them with the rape of a Georgetown woman. Police said that the men forced the woman into their car in Georgetown and drove to a wooded area in Potomac where they raped her. The victim was able to give an accurate description of their car, and shortly afterwards, it was found by a D.C. detective.

Montgomery County Police arrested three men after the robbery of a D.C. liquor store. In a thrilling chase, two D.C. officers saw the robbery car leaving the scene of the holdup and chased the car into Montgomery County where it tried to elude police by driving through backyards and back onto residential streets. D.C. Police fired at the car several times, but their bullets did not stop the car. Finally, the car struck a tree, and the robbers jumped

out and were chased by a group of Montgomery and D.C. officers who finally were able to arrest the three men.

An officer on patrol discovered a car at a construction site on Stoneybrook Drive in Kensington. Upon inspection, they found the body of the cab driver inside. He had been shot to death, and his hands were tied behind him. This location was across the street from the future sight of the Mormon Temple.

A Wheaton man drove his car down a steep embankment near Viers Mill onto the railroad tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He was pinned in his car and officers could not get him out. A desk clerk at the Wheaton station checked the train schedules and discovered that two trains were to be converging at that spot in just a few minutes (this was before trains had radios). Officers were sent to Gaithersburg and Kensington where they were able to signal trains to stop. Both trains were able to stop just a few hundred yards before the wreck site. Rescue squad personnel were able to rescue the man who was taken to the hospital.

A county official went on a tour of the county with an on-duty officer working the night shift. The official later said that nearly all of the calls that they went to involved juveniles drinking alcohol. He later called for more stringent enforcement of liquor laws and an investigation about where juveniles were obtaining their beer.

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

Continued from page 10.

Things to Do

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Yeas and Neighs

Haulin' Ass – The 13th Annual Harrison Mule Days

By Andie Devynck

They call it “a celebration of the mule and the mule people.” Harrison Mule Days (which took place October 5 to 7 this year) boasts it offers something for everyone: the young and the young at heart, the mule riders and competitors, the mule lovers, and even for those spectators who may not know the difference between a mule, a donkey, and a horse. Folks from all around Maryland, Virginia, and neighboring Pennsylvania bring their mules of all colors, sizes, ages, and experience to compete in a variety of challenges—some quite specific to mules and their unique history as work animals.

Harrison Mules Days, which takes place at the Carroll County Equestrian Center in Woodbine, Maryland, pays homage to Gene and Jered Harrison, both of whom passed away in 2003 and 2005, respectively. Gene introduced the family to mules and lauded its versatility as a breed. Jered Harrison followed Gene into the passion and began coon hunting on his beloved mule, Brownie, as well as competing in coon mule jumping competitions. Sadly, Jered was only twenty-six when he lost his life in a farming accident, devastating the family, who needed a way to channel their grief and love for both men. The result was the establishment of a memorial fund to ensure that there would always be mule events in their neck of the woods.



Who says mules are not for jumping?

Whoa! Hold your—mules. Before describing the various and sundry Harrison Mule Days, raise your hand if you don't know the difference between a horse, a mule, a donkey, or an ass. Sit the next two paragraphs out if you do, but for those who don't, here's the lowdown: Donkeys are a different species than a horse, but part of the same horse family Equidae. Donkeys and asses are the same animal (*Equus africanus asinus*) and were originally bred in Egypt or Mesopotamia around five thousand years ago. Mules, on the other hand, are a cross between a female horse and a male donkey or “jack” (hence the word “jackass”!).

Female donkeys are called jennies, but a hinny does not refer to a either a donkey or an ass; it is the hybrid between a female donkey (a jenny) and a male horse (stallion). Genealogically, it is more difficult to reproduce a hinny than a mule. Mules and hinnies have a reputation for stubbornness, but this is more to do with the animal knowing its limitations and letting its owner know, too. They have great stamina, require less food than a horse, and are less likely to startle. It is also harder to breed mules and hinnies. This is because these animals usually have “bad” genes. They have sixty-three chromosomes, as they are a mix between horses which have sixty-four and donkeys which have sixty-two. This results in almost all of them being sterile.

Back to the Harrison Mule Days activities! This year, the Extreme Trail Challenge (picking up barrels and scary balloons; walking over twin mattresses, steel teeter-totters, and wooden platforms; and stepping over and through a tractor tire) opened the Friday afternoon festivities, followed by the Coon Mule

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For the PHS Girls' Volleyball Team, the Thrills and the Fun Are Still There

later, Whitman beat four-time state champion Northwest in five sets.

“I have been playing since I was, like, five,” said sophomore Kelsey Alfaro, a libero and outside hitter. “Our season has been getting a lot better now that Coach Naughton can actually coach us. Before she was coaching both the JV and varsity teams and running both practices. Yes, I think we have improved. Each coach is different. She has taught us many different things that the other coaches haven't, so I think that is good. That Watkins Mill match was fun to watch and play. None of us were giving up on anything. You could see that we were actually working together as a team.”

“We have seen a lot of difficulty this season and a lot of adversity,” said senior captain Kendall Griffith. “I think we have overcome that. We can't get caught looking to the past, especially with a new coach. We lost a lot of really strong talented players from last year, but I think that we have done a great job of recovering from that and doing what we can. We have a new coach and a new playing style. We are looking to the future and looking to improve ourselves. We are establishing a new identity. I want to give a shout out to our two setters, Ainslee and Sofia Lopez, a junior, especially Sofia. She has such a great attitude and is a great friend and teammate on and off the court. Even if we are losing badly and not playing well, she is always bright sunshine.”

With two freshmen, four sophomores, and seven juniors returning next year, that future Kendall talks about looks bright.

In a curious switch of roles, new JV coach Ashley Kuronya had to fill in for Coach Naughton for the Dig Pink match against visiting Damascus on October 3. She had to coach both the JV and varsity matches. The JV swept two games to win their match. Damascus won three very close and intense games in the varsity contest. There were many long rallies, and the Dig Pink crowd was appreciative of their effort.

Other seniors are Megan Nee and Solomiya Brannman. Yara Daher, Katherine Adah, and Olivia Paksima are juniors. Christine Kim, Mary Abbago, and Anna Stanoyevitch are sophomores. Mary Tang and Jasmine Duan are freshmen.

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Continued from page 21.

Haulin' Ass – The 13th Annual Harrison Mule Days

Jump, where mules are led by hand to jump, and then encouraged to jump over from a standstill. Jumps of over four feet remained the crowd pleasers. As the sky darkened, the Mule Hay Rides & Soccer Games, as well as the human music and dancing began.

Saturday morning's opening ceremonies and the mule show start the packed day. The children's corner, vendors, and silent auction are open all day, while the trick roping demonstration, the cornhole tournament and the mule pull mark the afternoon's highlights. The All-Day Saturday Mule Show runs the gamut of classes: Halter, Leadline, Children's, English Hunter, Equitation, and Pleasure, Western Pleasure, and Mulemanship, Youth and Adult Barrel Racing, and Versatility and Agility Races, with the Mule Pull wrapping up the day.

After the mules and kids were tucked in for the night, the live music and auction began. Early Sunday morning there was Cowboy Church, a guided trail ride (even non-mules are welcome!) and the mule show started up again. The Sunday Mule Show featured trail and driving classes for adults and children, single mules, and hitched pairs, and in the afternoon, youth and adult races and speed jumping competitions. As the weekend came to a close, it was all fun and games: Beach Volleyball, Animal Dress-Up Competition (all species and humans encouraged to participate), and the Dog Water Races at Harrison Pond finished Harrison Mule Days 2019 with a splash.

If you are raring to go now to next year's Harrison Mule Days, check out their website, HarrisonMuleDays.com, then haul ass up to Woodbine for some super pulled pork sandwiches, cinnamon roasted almonds, mules, music, and fun. Make a few new friends. Mule people will go out of their way to show you how sweet the Mule way of life really is.

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Sometimes It Is Not Good to Be the “Fat Cat”

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Pet obesity is a huge problem in the United States, with nearly 60% of all U. S. dogs and cats classified as overweight or obese in 2018. It is interesting that this correlates with the percentage of humans in the U.S. that are overweight to obese.

As the complexity of feeding our pets grows, with the increasing amount of online information available to pet owners, it becomes harder for pet owners to understand if, when, and what foods should be considered when a determination that their pet is overweight to obese is made by their veterinarian.

It is unfortunate that in the U. S. there are so many weight loss, weight change, and weight management programs. Each has a different rationale for how the weight is to be removed and how that is to take place. Pet owners further have a wide spectrum of beliefs when it comes to their own pets and that pets' weight. Many think that a little extra weight is good or “healthy” for their pets. Others believe trying to lose weight for your pet never gives permanent results.

The evidence is clear: The only current proven treatment for pet obesity is a therapeutic diet plan combined with lifestyle changes. Typically, when a human member of the family decides to lose weight, the pet benefits from being given less treats and getting increased exercise.

New weight loss and management diets are highly researched and trial-tested for effectiveness and safety. Amazing research, weight-loss formulations, and nutritional technology have been placed in a convenient bag or can of therapeutic pet food for easy use by the owner for the pet.

Weight control and weight loss are as much art as science in the 21st century. Attempting weight control for your pet is not often a “one and done” event. It takes a great deal of interaction between you and your veterinarian along with a truthful review about what you are or are not feeding your pet outside of the recommended therapeutic diet.

If you adjust your pets' diet, exercise, and/or lifestyle, there should be positive changes to their weight within 90 days. It is highly recommended to weigh your pet at your veterinarian's office and not at home. There is a greater chance you will maintain your weight loss plan if weight is reviewed by someone other than yourself.

Owners that place themselves on a weight management program along with their pets have a much greater chance of being successful with their pets' weight control and their own.

Weight loss, simply put, requires fewer calories per cup, higher protein, lower carbohydrates, and more soluble fibers. This along with getting repeat weigh-ins for your pet will give you the best chance to help your pets lose weight and maintain a new leaner form.



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