

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Falcon Football 2022: The Impossible Posse

By Jeff Stuart

The Impossible Posse: Twenty-five roster players—all in. The 2022 Poolesville High School Falcon Football Team (7-2) made impossible comebacks throughout the season, starting with a week-one comeback overtime 29-21 win over B-CC at home. After a convincing 23-8 road win at Wootton, the team returned home to post an even

more improbable comeback overtime win over Rockville. The Falcons trailed 15-0 at halftime in this one, but senior running back Evan Taylor, a standout all season, scored on a thirty-eight-yard run at 5:38 of the third quarter. Junior Tyler Shefter, whose kicks would prove decisive several times during the season, made good on the extra point. A few minutes later, the

Rams turned the ball over on downs, and Taylor scored again on a sixty-seven-yard run with two minutes left in the third. The Falcons ran for the two-point conversion to tie the game. There was no scoring in the fourth.

“Rockville had the ball first in overtime,” said PHS athletic director

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The 2022 Falcon Football Team

PHS Boys' Cross Country Is Tops in County for First Time Ever

By Jeff Stuart

Honoring a tradition, Poolesville High School has turned out a number of exceptional distance runners. Nandini Satsangi, Chase Weaverling, and Ryan Lockett have all previously finished first individually in the Montgomery County Cross Country Championships. The Poolesville boys did not claim a top individual spot on Saturday, October 22 at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. Senior Caleb Dastrup set a PR to finish second to Richard Montgomery's Noah Fisher, but what Caleb, senior Aaron Longbrake (9th), senior William Beane (14th), sophomore Connor Kohne (16th), and senior Ian Boehm (43rd) did do, as the top five

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County champion team!



JPMS Principal Jon Green helped kick off the first ever PTA 5K Run and Walk. More pictures on page 2.



Former "Mayor" Spurrier pointed to someone buried beneath the church. Read our ghost stories on page 5.



He's helped keep Poolesville clean for twenty-five years. Find out who in Tidbits on page 8.



Out-of-this-world characters were seen at this Halloween party. See page 18 for more photos.

Family Album

1st JPMS PTA 5K
Run/Walk Fundraiser



A few of the participants chose to run in their Halloween costumes.



PTA volunteers for the JPMS 5K.



The burst of energy at the start always comes down to stamina by the end.



The 5K was a fun run—and a fun walk as well.



Principal Joe Green was joined by his daughter in the JPMS PTA 5K.



Enthusiastic JPMS runners with their mascot, the Timberwolf.

Re-Elect JIM BROWN

for TOWN COMMISSIONER
For the Poolesville YOU Love!

Poolesville Leadership Means Focusing on Local Issues,
Teamwork, Advocacy, Listening...and Results!



Leadership at Town Hall

Restored order at Town Hall by bringing back Town Manager Wade Yost and working closely with our amazing Town Staff to make sure they have competitive compensation and strong benefits. I love our team!

Leadership for a NEW Poolesville High School!

Created the new Fair Access Committee to bring to Poolesville a new high school and a multi-use facility to provide community, health, and youth services. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



Leadership on Safety

Led the charge for our Fisher Avenue takeover from the State of Maryland for the Pedestrian Safety of Poolesville Residents and it got FUNDED!

More Sidewalks and Better Pedestrian Crossings Streetscape in Downtown Poolesville for Safety and Economic Vitality. Coming to Poolesville in 2023!



Leadership on Economic Development

Always focused on the success of our commercial corridor, with an emphasis on helping our women-owned businesses thrive and expand!

Worked directly with Locals Restaurant owners in order to ensure the success of their anchor position in our West End Historic District, including a new push and county investment for a regional arts center!

Helped to create the idea of Crossvines, the new home of Maryland winemaking and Agritourism in Poolesville! Worked hand-in-hand with county and state officials to bring this project to fruition, including testifying several times at the Annapolis statehouse for proper funding!



Leadership on Senior Care and Services

Pushed to create our official "Poolesville Seniors" group, helped define their funding needs, and have always 100% supported their direction, growth, and programming!

Channeled the voices of our seniors by working with our Parks Board and Parks and Streets Director Preston King to bring in MORE PICKLEBALL COURTS. Seniors, we hear you loud and clear!



VOTE NOV. 8th AT TOWN HALL!

election platform: poolesville.wordpress.com

Rande(m) Thoughts Dancing in the Streets

By Rande Davis

With the town elections taking place on November 8, it looks like our commissioners decided to adjourn town governance until the new commission election is decided with the next meeting now scheduled for November 14. I'm not a pollster, but if my heavily scientific system of counting lawn signs, gauging results on comments offered freely, and throwing five straws to the wind to see which of five colored eggs placed on the ground seem to have the most straws pointing at it doesn't work, I guess I will just have to bite my nails for another week. My poll says it will be Jim Brown and someone else. That's the best I can do.

Fortunately, we, have, for the most part, avoided the decisiveness of party politics, and the only political wave I see for Poolesville is two candidates waving hello and three candidates waving goodbye. The closest thing we may have to party politics since the 1960s is something of a growth versus no-growth divide. Sometimes, the verbal heat is greater than an actual divide. It's clear to most that some level of growth is required for a healthy economic future. There are only three places for such growth to occur: the Willard property next to Poolesville Town Hall, the land behind the post office, and the triangular piece near CVS.

We will continue to debate what number works best for us, but with the normative of 3.25 people per household used in town planning, even one hundred homes would mean only a population increase of about five percent of the current population. The economic benefit of new homes has more to do with the location than size. Many of the new homes off Jerusalem Road impact local businesses far below their number since almost all can come home from outside work and never really drive through Poolesville.

Perhaps some town homes around where we have town homes now, and new homes downsized from the standard McMansion-type, more suitable to seniors and young couples, may be a good mix for our town and good for our future.

All our discussions today are piddling in comparison to the public conversations on growth swirling around about a decade before I arrived in 1976. Bernie Siegel, a developer with a grand design for a planned community of thirty thousand residents with

the Potomac Country Club as its centerpiece was the big divide back then. A referendum to annex land to expand town limits was the key, and in a close election (less than five hundred total votes), the requisition request was turned down. With the end of that prospect, the rise of the legendary ghost at the Poolesville Golf Club emerged. Ol' Bernie is said to wander around the upstairs of the clubhouse, occasionally making his presence visible in the second-floor window.

In the seventies, the growth discussion seemed to head the town towards a population of 7,500. This triggered Roy Selby to build his new supermarket to prevent a sizeable competitor from coming to town. Despite all our cries for a grocery store today, the foregone fate of Selby's Market is now a public record, and that record is not encouraging. Folks, for all of you still dreaming of a full-service grocery store, the most sobering fact is this community did not support Selby's anywhere near what was needed. His per customer receipts in his new supermarket were lower than when he was a small grocery located where Anytime Fitness is now. We as a community just did not put our money where our mouth was.

While we have enough water, we do not have enough sewage capacity to even grow to the old 7,500-person plan.

Our future now is more in quality of life than in quantity, and everyone pretty much agrees to that. With the news in this issue of the purchase of our new performing arts center where the Old Thrift Shop stood, this will become a dramatic new change for a better life in town. It was the perfect choice for such a historical venue. Saturday nights in Poolesville, even in the middle of the Civil War, involved a lot of singing and dancing in the streets within just a few yards of the new Riverworks Art Center. The singers and dancers were free and slave. Matty Owens, a legendary and popular Poolesville slave, who was personally given a horse by Abe Lincoln, used to sing in the loft of St. Peter's, and he along his wife, Polly, helped spur the people's dancing spirit during those weekend nights. Town folk were big into community dances. Back then we danced together on Saturday nights and prayed together on Sunday, even if the whites and blacks sat in separate pews.

Before our next issue, we will have a new town commission makeup, our new high school is taking shape, the possibility of a new town community center is bubbling up from the people,

Continued on page 11.

Garden

A Garden in Ireland

By Maureen O'Connell

While in Ireland in September, I had the pleasure of staying at and enjoying the gardens of a unique ivy-covered country house, Ballymaloe. It is an old family-run hotel and restaurant on three hundred acres of farmland located in the east Cork countryside, about one hour from the Cork airport. It is internationally recognized as the birthplace of Modern Irish Cuisine. Myrtle and Ivan Allen bought Ballymaloe in 1948. There are documented records dating back to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The eighteenth-century house, which is now the hotel, is joined to a medieval tower in the middle of the Cork countryside. It was a castle of the Imokilly Geraldines and was probably built in 1440. It has changed family names many times from 1440 to 1602, 1640 to 1672, and 1700 to 1948.

Ivan Allen had a wide farming interest, and he longed for a mixed-use farm. When Ballymaloe came up for sale, he decided to buy it. He and Myrtle spend the next sixteen years farming and raising their children there.

What is the history of farming and



Ballymaloe Country House
in Ireland.

gardening in Ireland? It is a strongly Celtic country, and the ancient Celts were not known to have made gardens on their farmland, but Ireland's warm weather and wet climate are well suited to creating wonderful gardens. The arrival of the Anglo-Saxons over the Irish sea brought new life to this idea. Irish gardens have benefited from the extraordinary number of exotic plants that became available on the return of the great plant-hunters in the early eighteenth and the late nineteenth centuries. Irishman William Robinson (1838-1935) was a practical gardener and journalist who had a great influence on bringing naturalistic garden principles to Irish gardens.

Ivan and Myrtle's life revolved around their farm. It produced milk, butter, cream, eggs, home-raised pork

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Halloween Special

The Ghosts of The Monocacy

By Rande Davis

The rich history of the Poolesville area stretches from Native Americans using an old extension of Beall Street as a trail from the Potomac River to deeper woodland hunting grounds going south, to airplane crashes and ejected pilots hanging from trees in a front yard on Peach Tree Road. We've had famous and near-famous Civil War soldiers on both sides of the American divide pass through our town. We have even had Russian spies hide stolen microfilm under a tree on Partnership Road in more recent times. With so much mystery and intrigue, it should not come as a surprise that we also have our share of ghostly tales and other scary legends in and around the town.

Monocle archives show a number of ghostly experiences in the Monocacy area, some of which will be part of the tour. The following tales may be true or simply legendary. We will let you decide for yourself.

Poolesville Golf Course

Bernard N. Siegel proposed a new planned community of fifty thousand people (similar to Columbia, Maryland) just outside of Poolesville in the early 1960s. The plan called for a full-service country club with tennis, pool, etc. It was also planned to include a bridge that would span the Potomac River to enhance the full potential of the development. Today, the only remnants of his vision are the Poolesville Golf Course and a decaying convention center. When the project failed, Siegel put a bullet to his head, and, every once in a while, it is reported that Bernie can be seen in the upper room to the left of the facility overlooking the course, his ghostly vision of a bridge over the Potomac and a community of tens of thousands of people still haunting us today.

Frederick Poole House

In this family home of Frederick Poole, son of John Poole, Jr., Colonel Baker's body was returned from the battle field at Ball's Bluff and lay in state in the Frederick Poole House, next to Bassett's. Baker was given the high and most respectful treatment of having Union Army honor guards placed at the front door during a mourning period until transportation to his home could be arranged.

Old, Old Town Hall—Thrift Shop

Right around the corner from Baker's



Col. Edward Baker haunted Annington more than a century after his death.

Poolesville resting spot is the white historic building on West Willard Road that hosts the Friendly Thrift Shop. At the time of the Civil War, it was used as a headquarters of the Union Signal Corps, and the site was also a cemetery. Buried in this small-town cemetery, with very little recognition, are the remains of at least thirty-one young Civil War soldiers. The graves are located in the historic Methodist Cemetery at 17605 West Willard Road in Poolesville.

A partial list of the soldiers interred at the site does exist, and Heritage Montgomery has begun researching their histories. Of the thirty-one buried in Poolesville, fourteen are from Massachusetts, eleven from the 15th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and three from the famous 20th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. The 20th Massachusetts was known as the Harvard Brigade because the officers, as well as some of the soldiers, were young Harvard graduates. Among the officers were Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., who was injured at the battle of Ball's Bluff in October 1861, and Paul Revere, Jr.

Not included in the cemetery are the remains of one of the previous pastors of the church. Former Poolesville "Mayor" Spurrier was photographed for a news report about the pastor's body being buried beneath the church.

The Hall House: Civil War Home across from St. Peter's Parish

Linda and Henry Nessel owned the seven-bedroom Civil War house directly across the street from St. Peter's church in Poolesville. Linda

Continued on page 10.



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Football Is Back!!



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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

Are you looking for activities that stretch your mind, renew your body, and lift your spirits? Then visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, poolesvilleseniors.org, or call 301-875-7701 to register for a wide variety of virtual and in person events. **Registration is required, but all events are open to the community.**

November 10

Celebrate Veterans, A Career of Firsts

Join retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Blair Sawyer to learn about the distinguished career of Vice Admiral Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., who began his career as a seaman apprentice in 1942. A native of Richmond, Virginia, Gravely went on to become the U.S. Navy's first African American to command a navy ship, become fleet commander, captain, flag officer, rear admiral, and three-star vice admiral. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

November 17

Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Explore the next historic Ag Reserve Properties with local historian Kenny Sholes. Dotting the landscape is an array of impressive historic homes standing as a visual reminder of those who came before us and the important part they played in American history for centuries. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

November 18

Friday Movie Night: Top Gun Maverick

Watch the recently-released *Top Gun Maverick* on a 100-inch screen, enjoy popcorn, and stay for snacks and conversation about the film. *Speer Hall, Poolesville Presbyterian Church.* 7:00 p.m.

November 21

PS Book Club

In her biography, *The Undocumented American*, Karla Cornejo Villavicencio reveals the hidden lives of her fellow undocumented Americans in this deeply personal and groundbreaking portrait of a nation. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Weekly Events

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Outdoor Pickle Ball. *Stevens Park.* 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays

Bridge and Other Games

Snacks provided. Registration required. *Speer Hall.* 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Virtual. New day and time.

Zumba Gold with Karen McPhatter. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Virtual.

Trivia Game Night

If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors. For more information, email info@poolesvilleseniors.org. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Thursdays

Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Speer Hall.* 10:00 a.m. to Noon. NO CLASS 11/24.

Fridays

Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski. Please register for each Friday class. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Virtual.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their Facebook page and recorded

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Continued from page 4.

A Garden in Ireland

and veal, as well as fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Myrtle became highly knowledgeable about cooking, and in 1964, she opened a restaurant at Ballymaloe. Her children, over time, all became involved in running the farm, the hotel, and the restaurant. Today, there are large gardens near the house that provide vegetables, fruits, and flowers for the hotel rooms and the restaurant. Times and family members have changed at Ballymaloe, but the essential spirit of the place is rooted in these humble beginnings and the relationship of the farm to table.

In 1983, Darina and Timmy Allen, daughter-in-law and eldest son of Myrtle and Ivan Allen, opened the Ballymaloe Cooking School on a hundred-acre organic farm, twenty minutes from the hotel. Darina is a celebrated chef, cookbook author, and pioneer of the slow food movement (a global grassroots organization founded in 1989 to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions) in Ireland.

The school offers long and short cooking classes and courses. Sustainability is one of the garden's principles. Darina totally banished the image of Irish food being only about over-boiled cabbage, brown bread, and greasy chops. Having been inspired by a visit to the potager and herb gardens at Villandry in the Loire Valley in France, her herb gardens contain every conceivable culinary and medicinal herb: thyme, sage, lemon balm, lemon verbena, garlic, chives, tarragon, sorrel, comfrey, hyssop, evening primrose, camphor, and many kinds of mint. The kitchen gardens are the heart and soul of the gardens at Ballymaloe Country House and Ballymaloe Cooking School.

These gardens have been responsible for changing how an entire Irish generation thinks about food, the source of food, and the countryside. If Alice Waters were to go to cooking school, she would go to Ballymaloe.

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

for later viewing on their YouTube channel. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your smartphone or just listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and Password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.



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Tidbits

Old Methodist Church Purchased, Destined to Become Art Center

On November 1, Sandy Wright and David Therriault settled with the Town of Poolesville on the purchase of the Old Methodist Church for \$50,000. The site is to become the performing home of Riverworks Art Center, destined to bring the cultural and performing arts to the center of the town.



The Old Thrift Shop is now officially owned by David Therriault and Sandy Wright.

After signing the legal documents, Commission President Jim Brown stated, "Today, we have concluded a process that not only helps the town dispose of a property we don't need, but more importantly, put it into the hands of someone who will do something amazing with the facility. David and Sandy are going to create a regional art center and a place that can bring not just tourism but fans of the arts and revitalize that entire section of town. These are exciting times."

The project is anticipated to take less than a year to fully complete. David noted, "It took us about a year, and most of the commissioners were in it the whole time, and it came out well, and we look forward to opening our art center."

He observed that they have engineers and builders who have been waiting for this day and are ready to get started. Riverworks Art Center, a nonprofit, will need to develop capital campaign to gather the funds to get the job done. Brown said, "The town is definitely looking forward to working with David and Sandy to help create their vision. We know they will be fundraising, and we stand ready to partner with them along with their investment in the town in the west end historic site. We are very fortunate to have two local partners who have decided to invest in our town, and we plan on working with them until everyone's vision is realized."

While essentially an art and cultural center, the couple has also made a commitment to the town to keep this as a heritage site, so that graves, the building, and the property will always be protected and available to view with an eye to history by the public.

Wreaths across America Returns to Our Area

Monocacy Cemetery will again be hosting Wreaths across America at Monocacy Cemetery this year. The response to last year's inaugural event was so wonderful that they are going to make it an annual event to honor our veterans.

The date this year is Saturday, December 17 at 12:00 p.m. at Monocacy Cemetery. Details to sponsor wreaths and volunteering to place them are available at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/170100.

Visit www.monocacycemetery.com for links to Find a Grave and its Facebook group.

Twenty-Five Years of Serving Poolesville

Congratulations to Ali Safavih of Professional Cleaners on entering his twenty-fifth year of serving Poolesville through his dry cleaning and washing service. Ali offers a personal touch to his customers with his now famous and appreciated broad smile and positive attitude to everyone who comes through the door. His loyal customer base saw him through the deep challenges of the pandemic, with so many people working at home and having radically-reduced dry

cleaning needs. His uphill battle to survive through COVID did not defeat him though. After all, he once ascended Mount Damavand, the highest peak in Iran at an elevation of 5,609 meters, so life's challenges and bumps are relatively simple to him.

Ali and his customers have a bit of a mutual admiration society going on with each other with so many local people enjoying the sharing of the day's events with each other. Professional Cleaners is now the sole cleaner in town, so hopefully many new customers will come to him and discover the unique and joyous customer service only he provides.

Congratulations to the Class of 1972!

Thirty members of the PHS Class of 1972 gathered at Dutch's Daughter to celebrate their fiftieth reunion. We recognize Link Hoewing and Gary Burdette. Perhaps you can identify others.



Poolesville High School Class of 1972: 50th Reunion

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In Your Own Backyard

Late Summer and Early Fall Adventures

By Jon Wolz

During the late summer and the early fall, I have participated in several memorable events and activities in our area. I met old friends and acquaintances as well as new people at Poolesville Day where I sat at the booths for the *Monocacy Monocle* and the Sons of the American Revolution. From my memory of attending every Poolesville Day Parade since 1993, this year's parade was the most entertaining. I love marching bands and enjoyed watching and listening to Seneca Valley High School's marching band. As you know, I write an occasional story for the *Monocacy Monocle*, but in September, I was inducted into the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Gen. William Smallwood Chapter by President Lucas Ginn. My induction was at Mission Barbecue restaurant in Germantown, and the after-dinner speaker was Glenn Wallace who gave a wonderful talk about the Monocacy Cemetery. My ancestor is John Howe who took the "Oath of Fidelity and Support" (Oath of Allegiance) in Montgomery County, Maryland.

In September, I was invited to attend the dedication and ribbon cutting of the new headquarters building for the C&O Canal National Historical Park in Williamsport, Maryland. Many people received recognition for making this project successful, including but not limited to: the past Superintendent Kevin Brandt, current Deputy Superintendent John Noel, Williamsport Town and Washington County leaders, and State of Maryland elected officials, including Governor Hogan, Congressman Trone, and Senators Cardin and Van Hollen. The building is located across the street from the Cushwa Basin and the C&O Canal. The building is modern and has two levels. I enjoyed seeing the library and the file room of past canal projects. People doing research about the canal who want access to these resources can contact Blyth McManus at blyth_mcmamus@nps.gov. There is a statue in front of the building of a canal mule similar to those that pulled canal boats. The mule has been named "Pawpaw."



The story of Seneca marble.

In late July and early August, I participated in replacing the vandalized picket fence at Lock 24 (Riley's Lock) with volunteers from the C&O Canal Association under the leadership of Jim Heins. Vandals had been pulling slats off of the old fence and burning them in a fire next to the Potomac River. It took three very hot days to rebuild the fence using pressure treated wood. Hopefully, the new fence will be spared. After the fence project, Jim got his "bench bunch" crew together where they installed fourteen park benches along the towpath from Carderock (Mile 11) to near the Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct (Mile 137). I helped with the

Continued on page 19.



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Market Minute
The Long & Foster

Focus On: Poolesville, Dickerson, and Northwestern Montgomery County Housing Market February 2022

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Units Sold 41	Active Inventory 22	Median Sale Price \$666,000	Days On Market 35
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Down -32%
Vs. Year Ago



Up 23%
Vs. Year Ago



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Continued from page 5.

The Ghosts of the Monocacy

reported a number of incidents that have no explanation. Here are just a few of her ghost stories.

A few months after we moved in, Henry's mom became bed-bound, and we moved her into the house with us. One evening, we heard her talking to someone. We went to check on her and asked with whom she had been speaking. She told us she was talking to the Gray Lady. "The Gray Lady?" we asked. "Yes," she replied. We asked her who the Gray Lady was, and she said she did not know, but the lady was dressed all in gray clothing. We asked her what the Gray Lady was doing, and she said, "Waiting." She added that the Gray Lady didn't talk but just stood at the foot of the bed, and when her feet got tired, the Gray Lady would float a few inches off the floor at the foot of the bed.

Henry's mom died a few weeks later, and we've always wondered if the Gray Lady was standing watch, waiting for Henry's mom to pass on to the next world.

In a sort of related story, when my dad was very ill and living with us, a few weeks before he died, he told me he saw young men in uniform standing outside his window. I asked if they said anything or if they frightened him, but he said no to both questions. Dad was in the navy in World War II and was attached to the U.S. Marines during the bloody battle of Guadalcanal. Again, I wonder if the young men Dad saw were sailors and marines waiting to bring him home.

Stang Home in Darnestown

The Stang home in Darnestown was once owned by Gina Beck. Gina reports this history of the home and past reports of a resident ghost.

The stone part of the house was constructed between 1810 and 1820. The addition and current configuration of the house were completed in 1865. The house was possibly an early tollhouse/resting place for people traveling to White's Ferry and was also thought to be part of the Underground Railroad. There was a sleeping loft above the original stone section of the house. The original owner was Oscar Stang. Mr. Stang was also the owner of the general store at the corner of White's Ferry Road and Sugarland Road. The building is still standing though significantly leaning. Mr. Stang died in the house and haunts the house. His primary presence is in the stone room on the first level, although he ventures to other parts of the house.



Bernie Siegel wanted to build a planned community of fifty thousand. What if, in place of the Ag Reserve, his development had succeeded? That's a scary thought for the season.

Oscar is believed to be a friendly spirit. His presence has been felt by some visitors as soon as they cross the threshold into the house. We believe it has also been felt by our dog based on his unwillingness to enter the stone room. He was also known to occasionally moan and whine while sitting outside the stone room looking in.

Mr. Money's Lost Finger

While not a ghost story, it's still scary and weird. When the Money family resided in the John Poole House, Mr. Money accidentally cut a finger off while working in the field around the facility. Concerned that he didn't want to die and go to heaven without his finger, he placed the amputated digit in a jar and buried it in the yard with the instructions to dig it up and, upon his death, place it with him in his casket so he would have it with him on arriving at the other side. Unfortunately, it is reported the family never did find the finger and, to this day, the finger rests somewhere around the yard, awaiting its heavenly reunification with him.

Tidbits of Ghosts

We have reports from various Poolesville residents of ghostly stories around town. A historic home in Darnestown is reported to have extensive tunnels that are not only spooky in their own right, but the house is reported to be so disturbed by unexplained noises and furniture moving that no one has lived in the house for decades. Another on Edwards Ferry Road had such strange phenomena coming from the attic, that a local realtor with a potential buyer fled the home in terror and never went back. John Speelman tells us that a house on Mt. Nebo Road is also possessed with wandering spirits capable of moving furniture.

Pitt Quips



Clyde never missed a chance to grab a nap whenever possible.

By Terri Pitts

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Local News

Poolesville Area Citizens Gather To Discuss Plaque Commemorating The Lynching of George Peck

By Link Hoewing

Almost forty Poolesville area citizens gathered on the evening of October 25 at the Poolesville High School media center to discuss the erection of a commemorative plaque to observe the lynching of George Peck in Poolesville in 1880. Peck was a freed slave who worked in the Beallsville area. In January of 1880, he was accused of attempted assault on a White girl and was arrested by the constable. Before he could be transported to Rockville for a trial, a crowd of local citizens seized him and hanged him from a tree in a vacant lot across from the Poolesville Presbyterian Church.

The meeting was sponsored by the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project which is affiliated with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) based in Alabama. EJI has done research and sponsored events commemorating lynchings that occurred in over eight hundred counties in many parts of the U.S. A commemoration ceremony about the Peck lynching has already been held, and the meeting on the twenty-fifth was convened to discuss locating the plaque somewhere near the site of the actual lynching. Forty-four lynchings were carried out in Maryland, according to research done by the University of Maryland, including three in Montgomery County, two in Rockville and one in Poolesville.

Participants, led by Troy Gardner, a teacher at Poolesville High School and lifelong resident of the area, discussed a broad array of issues related to the history of the Poolesville area, including the rich history of African American communities that surround the town. They also discussed why such a commemorative plaque is important, what questions it has raised among citizens, and the timing of the erection of the plaque. Representatives from the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project said that a spring ceremony to place the plaque is possible.

Continued from page 4.

Dancing in the Streets

and our business community is looking forward to a future more prosperous and hopeful than at any time in our entire history. Heck, maybe we should all go out and dance in the streets!

Fun Fact...

wikipedia.org

"Dancing in the Street" is a song written by Marvin Gaye, William "Mickey" Stevenson, and Ivy Jo Hunter. It first became popular in 1964 when recorded by Martha Reeves & The Vandellas whose version reached No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 Chart and peaked at No. 4 in the U.K. Singles Chart. It is one of Motown's signature songs and is the group's premier signature song. A 1966 cover by the Mamas & the Papas was a minor hit on the Hot 100, reaching No. 73. In 1982, the rock group Van Halen took their cover of "Dancing in the Street" to No. 38 on the Hot 100 Chart and to No. 15 in Canada on the RPM Chart. A 1985 duet cover by David Bowie and Mick Jagger charted at No. 1 in the U.K. and reached No. 7 in the U.S. The song has been covered by many other artists, including The Kinks, Tages, Grateful Dead, Little Richard, Myra, and The Struts.

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10
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Youth Sports

PHS Field Hockey Mixed Season

By Jeff Stuart

On Senior Day, Saturday, October 11, the Poolesville High School field hockey team got an early goal from senior Cienna Stowers and cruised to a 4-0 win over Kennedy High School. It was their fifth win in a row, so there was a lot to celebrate.

"This team has really worked hard this season," said coach Katie Hackey at practice the following Monday. "They have really improved the skills and fundamentals. They are working well together. There has been a lot of improvement on the field, and that is why we have been successful. It has been a team effort. We have multiple girls scoring, and everyone is getting to play. In the off-season, we did a clinic at the middle school to introduce them to our program. We are trying to build interest in our program, so when they come to Poolesville, it is not the first time that they have ever picked up a field hockey stick."

"It's been lots of fun," said senior goalie Lauren Hopkins. "We have a lot of underclassmen that have stepped



Lauren Anderson, Gaby Tuwiner, Cienna Stowers, Coach Krista Kennedy, Phoebe Snelson, Lauren Hopkins, Coach Katie Hackey, Sydney Rorke, Annabelle Yontef, and Erin Dower.

up this year, and I feel that our team chemistry is better than it ever has been. I think our win against Einstein was a really good one for this team. We lost to them last year in a pretty ugly game, but we came back and beat them this year, 1-0, and it was our first win. Senior Erin Dower has really stepped up in the sweeper spot this year. She

has been a good leader for our defense. We have an important stretch of three games coming up. It will really show how far we have come if we win these games. After having a pretty bad record last year, I cannot wait to see how we do."

Continued on page 20.

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Things to Do

Farmers' Market

Local bakers, makers, and growers. *Whalen Commons*. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

November 5

PACC Special Event: Murder Mystery Party

Drinks and dessert free! Tickets \$30 at poolesvillechamber.com. *Kettler Forlines model home, Elgin Road, Poolesville*. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Bassett's Entertainment: Music on the Patio

Featuring: Donuts for Dinner. Heated patio. 7:00 p.m.

November 8

Election Day

State and federal elections at standard election districts. Poolesville town commissioner election at *Poolesville Town Hall*.

November 12

Fall Festival

Food, games, raffles, moon bounce, and more. Fun for all ages. *Barnesville Baptist Church*. 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bassett's Entertainment: Music on the Patio

Featuring: Jeff Carmella. Heated patio. 7:00 p.m.

Save up Food for Scouting for Food Drive

The annual local scouting-for-food drive will be seeking canned goods,

including canned meats, fruits, vegetables, soups, rice, dried and canned beans, mac and cheese, and cereals. The scouts will drop off collection bags for residents to fill and place near their curbside mailboxes. There will be touchless pickup point at WUMCO next to Methodist church. Starting at 9:30 a.m.

November 14

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting
Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

November 16

Planning Commission Meeting
Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00p.m.

November 18 and 19

St. Peter's Annual Christmas Attic Sale

New and gently-used items. Christmas decorations, ornaments, greens, jewelry, pecans, and much more. Donations welcome through November 15. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville*. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

November 18, 19, and 20

Mid-Atlantic Antiques Festival

Fabulous antique dealers bringing fresh to market furniture, art, primitives, glassware, linens, jewelry, and more. Craft beer available from Land-made Brewing, live music, and local food trucks. Ages 25 and older, \$10; younger than 25, free. *Aix-la-Chapelle Farm, Poolesville*. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 21

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting
Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

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Continued from page 1.

Falcon Football 2022: The Impossible Posse

Gina Grubb, recapping the overtime. "They scored on a running play, but they were stopped as they went for the two-point conversion. Poolesville got the ball second, Evan Taylor scored on a running play to tie the game, then Shefter kicked the extra point to win the game, 22-21."

In week eight, the Falcons trailed, 12-0, at the half on a chilly night at Kennedy High School. A scramble by Shefter at quarterback put the Falcons on the Kennedy ten-yard line as time ran out in the half. A sixty-four-yard punt return by senior Mason "Trippy" Hopkins and a Shefter extra point in the third quarter closed the gap. An eighteen-yard run by Taylor early in the fourth gave the Falcons the lead and eventually a 13-12 win.

The familiar pattern continued in the final game of the regular season against Manchester Valley High School at home. The Mavericks jumped out to a 13-0 lead. The Falcons trimmed it to 13-7 and were deep in Manchester Valley territory as the half expired. Manchester Valley scored first in the second half, again going up by thirteen, but the Falcons rallied with two touchdowns to take a 21-20 lead with five minutes left. The MVHS passing attack overcame two holding penalties and converted three third and long situations to retake the lead at 26-21. Poolesville got the ball back with two minutes left and drove down the six-yard line as the game ended. That time they came up just short.

There have been a lot of thrills. If you bought a ticket, you got your money's worth. Even in their lone loss to Churchill at homecoming, Hopkins got PHS off to a great start by returning the opening kickoff forty yards.

Falcon teams in the recent past have felt that—but for COVID and injuries—they were a play or two away from doing something special. What was the difference this year? "Team chemistry," said senior guard and defensive end Nick Pioli. "We are a smaller team than other teams out there, but we work the best together, and we just have a special bond. Our best game was the comeback against Rockville. It showed who we are. We are a tightknit community, and we do not give up. It is really the whole team. I do not want to point to anyone specifically. We were down like six key players who played both ways against Kennedy, so that made that game difficult, but we came through."

"My best game of the year was our second game at Wootton. I threw two touchdown passes to senior Mason Hillegas," said Gaddis. "Our team chemistry is good. When we were younger, a lot of us played tackle football together in PAA, not that flag football stuff. We were built for this. Against Kennedy, the backup players really came through for us. I have to give a shoutout to Evan Taylor, obviously, and Mason Hopkins. He is a senior, but he's a rookie, new to football this year. He has been a good pickup."

"I think this season just goes to show how much heart Poolesville has," said senior offensive and defensive lineman Luke Pappano. "We have been down in multiple games, and we found a way to fight back. That is something we did not have last year. Last year, we felt we had a better team, physically speaking, but this year, we just have lots of heart, and the team chemistry is unmatched. For me, the Kennedy game was the most exciting. It went to show how good Poolesville is at overcoming adversity. We were down twelve starting positions. Those positions were vacant and had to be filled by backup players. We had to pull people up from the JV, and while it might not have been our prettiest win, it showed that we can overcome adversity, no matter the situation. I would give a shoutout to the new guys that showed up. Mason Hillegas, Mason Hopkins, and Connor Folk are all seniors, but this is their first year playing. They have really adapted to the game quickly, and senior outside linebacker Ethan Zhang, too. He is a smart guy and picks up the plays quick. He's shown up big in a lot of games."

"Our line definitely has stepped up from last year," said Taylor. "We have gained some players. They are doing a tremendous job. I have to say my best game was against Catocin. I had 345 yards rushing and a twenty-seven-yard reception. That got me *Washington Post* Player of the Week honors. I must mention senior running back and defensive tackle Stefan Rich. He came in very late in the season, but he has made a big impact on the defensive line. Against Kennedy, he was the guy who started it off. He really pushed us to the next level in that comeback."

"It has been a fun season," said coach Tony Nazzaro. "I am proud of the way our kids compete week in and week out. A lot of people make a big deal about the size of our roster (twenty-five players). I understand that. It creates challenges that other teams do not necessarily have to deal with—both in practices/preparation for the games, and in the games itself with us having several two-way players—but as I have told the kids all year, we may only have twenty-

five on the team, but the eleven we put out on the field are really tough, hard-nosed football players that can compete with anyone else's eleven."

Outstanding on defense all year were senior Jack Feys, who had four sacks on the year, Hopkins, with five interceptions, and linebacker Seth Lemarr, with six tackles per game.

Other seniors are Garrett Howell, Zach Brooks, Max Stempler, Seamus Brennan, Mark Vandervort, Charlie Labarge, and Ian Rodriguez. Juniors are wide receivers Connor Shelburne and Maverick Trone, kicker Arman Akdag, and lineman Andrew Fraser. Sophomores are running back and cornerback Aiden Kang and lineman Hayden Myers.

The last time a Poolesville football team had this many wins was before many of the current players were born. It has been a season to remember.

Do you have any interesting local history or fun facts to share with our readers? The *Monocle* welcomes your contribution.

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Youth Sports

PHS Boys' Soccer on the Rise Despite Growing Pains

By Jeff Stuart

After opening their season with a loss against undefeated Churchill, the Poolesville High School boys' soccer team returned home, tying Wheaton on September 9, 3-3, and tying Seneca Valley on September 13, 2-2. They came from behind in the second half to take the lead briefly in both games. Their first win came on the road at Watkins Mill on September 27.

"As we progress through the season," said coach Kamron Azizi, "our focus and objectives have remained the same: to strike a balance between exceling on the field and in the classroom. So far, the 2022 season has been a great learning experience for the entire team. We've had to deal with some inclement weather and a few rescheduled games, but as a team, we have been able to put forth our best effort. You can always pick a few instances and wish for better circumstances, but we are at a stage in our development where the program is learning how to be adaptable. In the first half of the season, we earned two ties and won a divisional game at Watkins Mill, so we will be pushing forward into the second half of the season with the mindset to apply our lessons learned. In the game against Watkins Mills, we finished the first half tied at 1-1 with an equalizer from junior, Rohun Sarkar, and then applied a lot more pressure in the second half by creating more goal-scoring opportunities. The game-winning goal was scored by senior captain Sampson Yeager."

"The win over Watkins Mill was very emotional," said Yeager, "because it was our first win, and before the game, we had to revisit our game plan. The coach had a nice sitdown with us thirty minutes before the game. He wanted to get us calmed down and focused on what our main mission has to be. Watkins Mill scored first in the first half. I think that really motivated us to come back and get this win. We did everything we could in the second half. We got the two clean goals, and then all we had to do was defend and hold the game."



The 2022 PHS boys' varsity soccer team.

I was not at the Seneca Valley game because I had COVID, but the tie with Wheaton was also emotional. We fell behind, 1-0, in the first half, but we stormed back to take a 3-2 lead in second half. We could not hold it. They scored twice late in the game to tie it. I scored once, Nico Martinez, a sophomore, scored once, and Sam Corbin, another sophomore, scored one.

"I would like to give a shoutout to my teammate Josh Torres, another senior. He is always giving me the best passes, so I can finish off the goal. Honestly, I have to give it up for the whole team because what I saw from everybody when I was on the bench was amazing. Even if they were not playing in the game, they were always involved with everything that was going on. They were trying to keep our heads up and keep us in the game mentally. I am looking forward

Continued on page 21.

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Continued from page 9.

Late Summer and Early Fall Adventures

installation of ten of these benches this summer. Two of the new benches near our area installed were at Lock 22 (Pennyfield) and between Lock 23 (Violette's Lock) and Riley's Lock. We worked under the leadership of Jim Heins, and since the installation of benches began in 2017, Jim has overseen the installation of eighty-seven benches along the towpath! More benches will be installed in 2023.

In August, I was invited by Nick "Chief" Markoff to give a brief talk about White's Ford to American Legion Post 247, and afterwards we walked across Calleva Farm to the towpath crossing White's Ford and back. The water was very comfortable on that warm August evening. I did slip once on a rock on the way back, landing with my hands on the river bottom. Fortunately, only my shorts and shirt got wet as I was able to keep my head out of the water. In late September, I walked across White's Ford and back with Mary Bernardo and some of her friends. I used a walking stick to help me. The river level was lower in September, and the water was cooler as compared to August. In August, the Edwards Ferry flood gauge showed the river at 3'4". In September, it was at 3'. When the river is lower there is less current, and it's easier to traverse the river. By the way, never attempt walking across White's Ford by yourself, be sure to always have a companion with you.

In late September, I participated in a paddle trip Jane Thompson of Barnesville organized with her friends. I shared my canoe with Lauren Greenberger of Dickerson. We put in onto the Monocacy River at the Monocacy Aqueduct boat ramp, and we paddled down the Potomac River to White's Ferry. As we began our trip, it began to lightly rain. We saw great blue herons, egrets, cormorants, and one bald eagle. When we got to an area of rocks or rapids, Rusty Smith of Poolesville guided our group of paddlers safely through the rough spots. He was always closely followed by his wife Susan. We ate lunch at the tip of Mason Island at White's Ford. Lauren was curious about the ford and walked across almost to the other side before turning back. On the Virginia side, there were several cormorants perched on a log, keeping their eyes on her as she approached them. When we got back into our vessels, we went down the river between the island and the Maryland shore. As we departed, the rain came down harder,

but we were not deterred. Near the location of Latrobe's Marble Quarry, I noticed a stone wall along the riverbank where the towpath is very near the river. We did not stop to examine the wall, but I planned on going back another day to examine the wall. We safely arrived at White's Ferry a little wet but filled with a sense of accomplishment for having completed the six-mile adventure.

In late September, I participated in a walk that was led by Leesburg historian and master naturalist, Paul Kreingold, to Latrobe's Marble Quarry. Walking with us were Chief Markoff, Mary Markoff, and Milt Andrews. Paul spoke of the history surrounding the quarry, and we all had a wonderful walk to and from the quarry along the towpath. The C&O Canal Company destroyed a lot of the quarry when building the canal, and we wondered what happened to the rocks that were removed to dig the canal prism. They were probably buried in the towpath. On a subsequent day, I took a bike ride and climbed down a steep embankment to the river to examine that wall I had seen on the paddle trip. The wall is laid against the ground and the stones are red sandstone and Potomac marble! The Potomac marble was what was left after the quarry was partially dismantled. That wall was constructed about 1832 and has survived 190 years! Paul Kreingold has written a book titled Potomac Marble. The History of the Search for the Ideal Stone. The book will be available in bookstores on February 23, 2023 and online.

In September, I participated in a pawpaw pop-up walk with the Poolesville Area Senior Center, and that was a very successful expedition.

I had more adventures that I experienced recently in your own backyard, but those are stories for another time.



The Cushwa Brick building, the headquarters for the C&O Canal National Historical Park in Williamsport, Maryland

Photo by Monica Larcom for NPS.



Lewis Orchards

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cauliflower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cider
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broccoli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fresh Garlic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cranberries
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AND JAMS NOW

Continued from page 14.

PHS Field Hockey Mixed Season

"We have definitely come a long way," said senior centerback Gabi Tuwiner. "We had a little bit of a rough start, but now we are getting into the swing of things. I think our best game of the year was definitely against Northwest. We have been rivals with them for a long time. Last year, we went in triple overtime with them and lost in a shootout. It was really hard, so when we beat them this year, it was really kind of encouraging. We have a stretch of important games coming up. If we stick it out and work really hard this week, I think we can win the division. I want to give a shoutout to Erin, our sweeper. She plays behind me on the field. We just work really well together. Kate Dacanay and Laney Sofelkanik are two sophomores on our team, and I think their confidence has built up this season, and they have made a significant contribution. I don't point to any one game. I just look forward to every game."

A sweeper plays behind the defense, usually close to the goal. They can slow down an attack and try to regain possession for the team.

"Our best game was against Northwest," said senior forward Cienna Stowers. "We had not beaten them in a lot of years, but we finally pulled off a win this year. I think our team chemistry is better this year. As a team, we have just been meshing well and working together. I think if we put in the hard work, and we keep our team rhythm going, we can finish really strong. I think Gabi has stepped up as a leader on this team. Obviously, she is a great defender."

"At the beginning, we started off slow in our practices and early scrimmages," said senior midfielder Phoebe Snelson, "but we are getting better with each game. Our defense is getting better. Our shots are getting better. Everything is really progressing. I think our best games so far have been against Walter Johnson (a 1-0 loss) and Einstein (a 1-0 win). We just had a lot of drive behind us. We were really aggressive. Both times we thought we could win, but we knew we had to come out and show our best, and it was very exciting to beat Northwest this year without going into overtime, especially after being disappointed last year. So far, I think that Lauren Hopkins has just had an amazing season. This is only her second season playing goalie. We really needed her to step up last game, and Gabby Tuwiner has been a lock-down defender, keeping the ball on the offensive side of the field."

The Falcons ended the season with a 5-7 record and lost the Class 2A West Region II Semifinal to Manchester Valley High School, 5-0.

The team is also coached by Krista Kennedy. Other seniors are Lauren Anderson, forward Sydney Rorke, and midfielder Annabelle Yontef. Juniors are forward Souyma Jailwala and defenders, Rachel Carreras and Meredith Abramson. Rachel Longbrake, Evie Smalley, Jillian Maher, and Paige Soskin are sophomores.

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Remembrances

Kenneth Walter Cline

Kenneth Walter Cline, 75, of Rockville, died on October 21, 2022.

Born on June 11, 1947, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Walter and Jean E. (Stokes) Cline.

Kenny served his country in the United States Air Force and was a Vietnam Veteran.

He was employed by C&P Telephone Company and retired after thirty years.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Carolyn E. Cline of Poolesville; two nieces, Lynda Sweet (Ben), and Deborah Stewart (Jason); one nephew, William Cline (Sara); and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

Kenny was preceded in death by one brother, Robert Allen Cline, in November of 2020.



Kenneth Walter Cline

Mary Sue Zajdel

Mary Sue Zajdel, devoted wife and mother of six children, passed away on October 24 at the age of 74.

Mary was born on May 18, 1948, in Washington, D.C. to James Wilson and Bonnie Marie Richards.

Mary received an associate's degree in nursing from Montgomery College. She worked at several local hospitals and spent most of her career as a postpartum nurse at Shady Grove Hospital. In August 1968, she married Thomas James Zajdel.

Mary was a devout Catholic, serving the church in a variety of roles throughout her life. Mary was known as a selfless person who would help anyone who needed assistance. She was fiercely independent and determined. The Zajdel household was always full of people, including four-legged creatures. She was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2001 and fought a long battle with this disease.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Tom, daughter, Katherine, son, Michael, and son-in-law Peter.

She is survived by four of her six children, Ann Marie (Peter), James (Gen), John (Brenda), and Joseph (Brandy); her sister Lynne Sadlowski (Dennis); nine grandchildren Sarai (Donald), Aja (Alex), Cody, Elijah, Mya, Cayenne, Allyson, Austin, and Joshua; one great-grandchild, Faye; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.



Mary Sue Zajdel

Continued from page 17.

PHS Boys' Soccer on the Rise Despite Growing Pains

to our next game against Kennedy because, coming off a win, we have an opportunity to change our season around just like that."

"It was unfortunate that Sampson missed the Seneca Valley game," said sophomore Samuel Corbin. "I feel like we had a lot of heart to come back with the tie. Josh and Nico scored in that game. We have been missing a lot of players due to sickness and injury. I feel like, if we had our full team, we would have a lot more wins. I can definitely see growth in the program with each game that passes. I like to give a shoutout to our freshman Omar Elkoshairi, a forward. He has put in a lot of good work. To come onto varsity as a freshman and perform like that is very impressive."

"In my opinion, the beginning of the season was rough," said senior Lorenzo Jaramillo, "but I think now we are starting to pick it up. You can definitely see it in our games. We are getting better together. We are all putting in the hard work in practice. The end of the season is looking up. Last night's win over Watkins Mill was big. We definitely needed a win. The ties are a sign that we are hanging in there. We didn't lose, but we have to get better. There is tough competition in the county. I would like to give a shoutout to senior Mostafa Elamin, one of our centerbacks on defense. He didn't play last year, but he came back this season, and he has really shown that he is a top player."

Other seniors include captain Jack Forcey at midfield, Soren Brown and Isaias Cruz at forward, Jonathan Martinez on defense, and goalkeeper Aidan Vaca.

Other juniors are Lamin Bojang, Leonardo Jorge, and Marco Torres at midfield, Nicholas Khalil at forward, and Andrew Sha and Jay Wankhede on defense. Other sophomores are Aaron Bhattachan, Keefer Bowen, Nico Martinez Torres, and Evan Schneider.

The assistant coach and JV coach is Christian Hellwig.

Fun Fact...

discoverpoetry.com

November

The low dull, hollow sound within
the forest,
The leafy tree that seems to
stand aghast
Beside the ghostly lines of
flickering shadow,
Proclaim the summer gone, the
harvest past.

The rustling reeds that erst gave up
their juices
To sighing winds, are standing stark
and gray;
Health breezes blow among the pines
and spruces,
And down the rocky leaf-strewn
gorges play.

- William Wallace Maxim

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Continued from page 1.

PHS Boys' Cross Country Is Tops in County for First Time Ever

runners, was finish with 84 points to 97 for runnerup Winston Churchill. Collectively, they had the five fastest times.

Four of the five ran personal bests. Seniors Caleb Bodmer and Kevin Hsu ran PRs. "This is the first time in the school's history," said coach Prasad Gerard, "that Poolesville has won the county tournament as a team. They came together and ran great races. Our first and second were in the top ten, and our third and fourth were not far behind. Our fifth runner, Ian, really moved up to seal the deal." Gerard, who oversees a pack of ninety runners, felt his team would do it, though the Mocerunning.com website's predicted order of finish was Thomas S. Wootton, Walter Johnson, Bethesda Chevy Chase, Churchill, and Walt Whitman All did finish in the top six.

Senior Flynn Barger and junior Anil Ghosh also finished in the top half of the field of runners.

The boys won the 2A state meet last season and will be favored to do so again. This is a big deal because PHS is the smallest school in the county in terms of number of students, and in the county meet, they competed against larger 3A and 4A schools. The field of competitors was stronger. The Falcons' accomplishment received the attention of the *Washington Post*.

"I ran in middle school," said Beane. "My friends and I really enjoyed it, so I decided to join the high school team, and I have had a lot of fun so far. I ran the Poolesville Day race in middle school. That is when I first started, and I was not that fast back then. I could not even run the whole thing, but now I have gotten a lot better.

"Before the county, my best meet of the year was the Manhattan Invitational on October 8 at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, New York. I set a PR in the 2.5 mile. I ran a lot faster than I would have in a 5K race. As for shoutouts, Bryan Yung is a freshman. He is really energetic and helps me keep my spirits up. I think our best meet as a team was the Barnhart Memorial Invitational at Dulaney High School in Baltimore. I think we all set PRs. It was definitely harder competition, but we performed very well."

"Winning the counties had to be the big highlight for me," said Longbrake, "and going to New York with the team. I was hopeful we would win the county meet. We were definitely the underdogs going into it, but I thought we could do it. The New York trip for the Manhattan Invitational was great. We walked, like, sixteen miles before we ran. It might not have been the best race, but it was definitely the most fun. We won the states last year, so just getting back out and

running with everyone and winning the Brunswick Invitational to open the season was a lot of fun. Jonathan Dastrup, a freshman, deserves a shoutout. He won the boys' JV 9-10 race at the county meet, and Connor and Billy ran really well in the varsity meet, and Ian ran extremely well. He is our fifth runner, and he really helped us out."

On the girls' side, Poolesville received recognition for winning their division, and finished sixth. Junior Daisy Dastrup finished third. Senior Anna Bodmer finished fourteenth, followed closely by sophomore Roma Diak who finished fifteenth. Seven of the eight girls competing set PRs, including juniors, Ava Wagner and Faith Nah, and senior, Abigail King.

"I started running on the cross country team in middle school," said Daisy, "and I really wanted to run again. I saw how much fun my older brother was having on the high school team, so I was excited to join. The county meet was definitely a big highlight. Our team definitely came together. A lot of people got some big PRs. Natalia ran a PR, and I ran a PR, and at the meet they presented us with a division title plaque. That was really exciting. Anna is a junior. Watching her career as a runner and the challenges she has pushed through since I have been at the school have been an inspiration to me. She has improved a lot and been a really good friend to me, and Natalia had a great season. She dropped a lot of time which really helped our team."

"The season had been going really well so far," said Anna. "It has been nice to have a really good girls' team this year. Most of the invitationals have been highlights for me. I did like the Manhattan Invitational. It was 2.5 miles, so it was a little bit shorter, but it was a really cool course, and we all had pretty good times. We all enjoyed the trip to New York. My PR was at the counties. I was able to beat my last season's time by thirty seconds. I beat my best this year by five seconds. Roma Diak, who joined as a sophomore, has been really awesome. She is so positive and encouraging."

"I run because it sort of runs in my family," said Roma. "My parents run, and I really enjoy it. I like to get a good night's sleep, and I listen to music before I run. I just try to relax. I am enjoying the season a lot. There is a strong sense of family on this team. I think my best meet was the Bull Run Invitational on September 17. I set a PR in the three-mile, and winning the Brunswick Invitational to open the season was pretty great. I would like to give shoutouts to senior Abigail King, who is really awesome, juniors, Ava Wagner and Daisy Dastrup, and seniors, Anna Bodmer and Peri Nelson."

"The Brunswick meet was great," said Coach Gerard. "The girls and the boys ran very well. It was a great way to open the season."

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Peter H. Eeg, DVM

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How do I get my furry friends to let me brush? you ask. That is the million-dollar question. It is always best to begin as a puppy or kitten and combine with treats to make the experience rewarding and attractive to your four-legged pals. Keep it short and do not brush a lot. One or two swipes with the toothbrush is all you need to disperse the enzymatic toothpaste over the tooth's surface. This gives the toothpaste a chance to mix with their saliva and coat the teeth uniformly.

Daily brushing of your cats' and dogs' teeth starting at a young age can reduce tartar buildup over 56% and reduce the chances of gum/root disease and the need for anesthetized dentals.

Be sure to schedule annual examinations so your veterinarian can check your four-footed pals' teeth along with a general checkup. Catching dental disease early can significantly improve the chances for your pets to keep their pretty teeth for their whole lives.

For your pets that do not like or will not tolerate a toothbrush in the mouth, a one-inch section of the enzymatic toothpaste on their upper lip for them to lick can help to reduce tartar buildup. There are also several mouthwashes that can be added to their drinking water daily to help reduce the tartar-building bacteria that is in their mouths.

Please discuss your furry pals' dental needs with your veterinarian the next time they are in for a checkup. If you have concerns about their oral health, make a separate appointment to specifically check the teeth.



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