



No mystery here and there's seven more you can visit.

— see Mystery History Page 10



Day Tripper Summer Bonanza!
Three trip ideas in one issue!

— Starts on page 12



Who's up for 7 a.m. swim practice?

— see Piranhas page 16



Mikaela Jewell and her Hyattstown sculpture.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

June 25, 2004

Volume 1, Number 8

Great Expectations in Literature

If you think that modern education has left the classics behind, then Lou Glover of John Poole Middle School wants you to think again. With the excitement and challenge usually associated with sports, Mr. Glover has coached a team of young scholars in the art of writing original adventure stories. Mind you, these are not just your regular adventure stories, but stories in the ancient Greek tradition.

Sixth grade students at JPMS were participants in an educational process that is referred to as a “culminating activity.” Mr. Glover’s objective is to initiate an activity that merges lessons learned in various non-related courses into one project that results in “a celebration of synthesizing learning across curriculums.” The project draws from classes in English, World

Studies, and Reading. It helps sharpen student skills in public speaking and the use of grammar, and in learning to

accept constructive criticism from teachers as well as peers.

— See Authors on page 2



Front: Claire Jones, Brittany Bonnefield, Elizabeth Hayden, Amy Stamm, Laura Brockdorff, Halie O'Farrell, and Erin Burke. Back: Dakota Bierly, Ellie Lalonde, Nikolay Michalowskij, Lori Defnet, and Roxy Pourshourstari.

Renaissance Traffic Control

If you have traveled on Route 355 in Hyattstown any time within the last couple of years, you probably have done what most of us have done while driving through—we have slowed down to gaze at the array of sculptures that seem to be on every lawn. The number one question of good reporting pops into the mind—“What’s that all about?”

Is it a new political movement with the theme “a chicken in every pot and a sculpture on every lawn?” Have the artists of Greenwich Village set up Hyattstown as their summer getaway? Or, has the phrase “taking the show on the road” finally reached its logical conclusion? We decided we needed to find out.

After just a little bit of inquiry around town we were directed to the Maple Grove Studio that is right in the center of town. (Then, again, everything in Hyattstown is in the center of town.) We were greeted warmly by proprietor Linda Tetens and Tom Barse. While we didn't know them, they knew us. Tom's sculpture appeared in the Family Album section of the first edition of *The Monocle*

under the caption “Hiya from Hyattstown,” and they have been fans of the paper ever since.

In our pursuit of “what’s that all about” we discovered the answer to what must surely be an unasked question, “How would an artist handle a law and order question?” Or more to the point, how would an artist slow down traffic? Most of the homes on Frederick Road are historic and consequently do not sit back very far from the main. After a very bad accident involving a neighbor and a motorcycle, Linda knew something had to be done.

Most of the authorities they turned to for help turned them over to others. “Not our area of responsibility” was the common denominator. So, when all else failed, the artists turned to their number one asset—creativity. Joining their peers Cindy and Bobby Donovan from the Hyattstown Mill Art Project, the notion of the Summer Roadside Art Show emerged.

Forget about orange SLOW signs, speed bumps, caution lights, or narrowing of the road for “traffic

calming” devices. This whimsical presentation in sculpture is getting people to slow down 24/7. Regional artists created the sculptures and the residents were pleased to donate their front yards. The myriad of artistic displays is fascinating, ranging from smaller movable displays that make you smile all the way up to a near billboard-sized peace poster that makes you wish.

Of course, most art shows involve judging and this one is no different. We rode up and down and finally selected the one, sure winner of them all. Dangling from a hooked pole just a little bit up an embankment on the east side of Route 355 sits our favorite sculpture. It's a block of wood with nails pounded half way in ending up in the shape of a heart. This is the smallest of sculptures created by the smallest of artists. Six year old, Mikaela Jewell, who lives on the main road and wanted to participate, created a sculpture which seems to say it all—“Have a heart, slow down”.

— By Rande Davis

— Authors continued

Students in sixth grade reading classes have been studying Greek mythology, and in their World Studies classes they have been learning about the Greek civilization. Through these two experiences, Mr. Glover challenged them to write their very own adventure story in the ancient Greek tradition.

It may be that your awareness of what makes for an ancient Greek adventure is a bit rusty, so we will share the criteria Mr. Glover set as the challenge for the students. Each story had to have five elements. It had to have a grand "quest" involving a God/Goddess, feature a protagonist and hero who had to overcome a monster or beast, and it had to be set in ancient Greece. There you have it—the same formula that made Homer the Tom Clancy of his time.

Of course it doesn't stop there for these young scribes. The plot must be coherent enough to provide a logical plot. Each story would be graded on grammar, dialogue, punctuation, and be paragraphed correctly with extra points for word choice.

The adventure stories ranged in size from six pages to as many as twenty pages. Mr. Glover was so impressed by the stories that he wanted to find a way to recognize

some of the very best ones. He selected the twelve most outstanding stories and teamed up with Mrs. Kierce, the staff support specialist at Poolesville Elementary School, to arrange for a public reading of the stories to fifth grade classes. With the cooperation of Mr. Orth, Mr. Stevens, and Mrs. Freely the dozen writers broke up into teams and read their adventures to the PES graduating students.

This exercise not only provided some recognition for their efforts, but also gave them an opportunity to hone their public speaking and reading skills. The fifth graders listened intently and provided some insightful yet gentle constructive criticism after each reading.

The twelve young authors were Brittany Bonnefond, Dakota Bierly, Elizabeth Hayden, Lori Defnet, Amy Stamm, Laura Brockdorff, Ellie Lalonde, Halie O'Farrell, Roxy Pourshoushtari, Nikolay Michalowskij, Claire Jones, and Erin Burke.

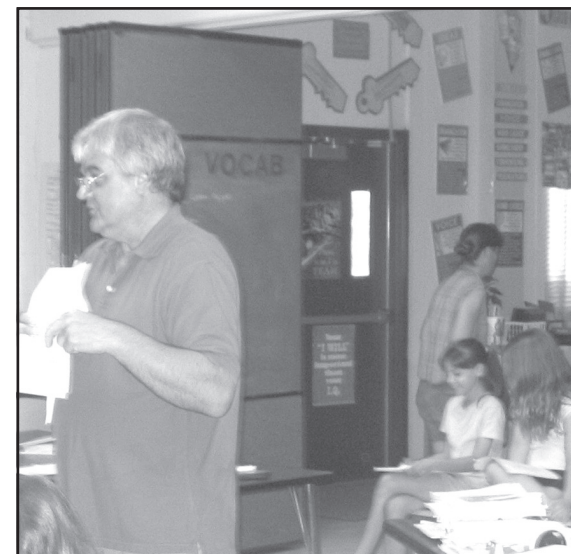
To give the fifth graders a sense of the rigor they will face at JPMS, Mr. Glover handed out a booklet entitled "How to spend Your Summer Vacation in 2004." This booklet assigns all students who will be attending JPMS

next fall a reading assignment of two books to be read over the summer. The assignment provided a list of eighteen books and twenty-two authors from which the students could make their selection. It also allowed them to choose an age-appropriate biography or autobiography as their selection. In addition to reading the books, each student must fill out a questionnaire provided in the booklet to answer inquiries about the books they read. Parents have some homework, too. They must supervise their kids and sign a certificate verifying that their child accomplished the reading assignment.

The Monocle could not attend all the readings, but we did listen to those read in Mr. Orth's class. We were very impressed by the level of attention and the questions and comments made by the listeners in his class after each reading. Discipline in Mr. Orth's class didn't surprise us since he brings back memories of a drill sergeant we once had. Something tells us discipline is never a problem in his class.

Mr. Glover has been teaching in our area over 20 years, and while we hear a lot about burnout these days, it was obvious that he is still very enthusiastic about teaching. As each child read their story to the class, Mr. Glover gazed on them intently with an expression that could only be described as that of a "proud papa." And, our readers should be proud of them and our teachers, too.

— By Rande Davis



Mr. Glover introduces his special writing program to Mr. Orth's fifth grade class.



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Family Album



Town Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski and town employee Wesley Clem lower the flag at Whalen Commons to half mast in honor of President Reagan.



Families from Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church get together for their summer picnic.



Doug Miller (right) was joined by friends and fellow teachers at Bassett's Restaurant to celebrate his announcement of retirement.



Cub Scout Pack 247 celebrated their annual scout picnic under the leadership of new scout master Bruce Kirby.



A fundraising "Tea on the Lawn" at Aix La Chapelle was attended by many people from our area.



Poole family reunion.


Profile

This picture of chicks born in a mail box in Comus was graciously submitted to *The Monocle* by Officer Brandan Mengedoht of the Montgomery County Police Department.

No word on whether the birds were under arrest or just suspicion.



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Tributes

Socrates to Socket Wrenches

Sarah E. Roberts, daughter of William J. Roberts, Esq. and Lisa Roberts of the Poolesville area, received her B.A. degree in the Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis on Sunday, May 16. Located between the State House and the U.S. Naval Academy, St. John's is one of the oldest colleges in the country, originally established as the College of King William in 1695. St. John's employs what it calls the "great books" program, which requires all candidates to study the writings of the great philosophers, teachers and scientists.

Sarah attended The Barnesville School and St. Andrew's Episcopal, and she entered St. John's College following her junior year of high school. This past academic year she served as an intern in the office of State Senator Rob Garagiola, and in the Annapolis office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she was primarily responsible for the preparation of the 2004 *Maryland Congressional Briefing on the Environment* for that office.

Over the past two summers and occasional weekends, readers will no doubt remember meeting Sarah at Poolesville Hardware, and should look forward to seeing her there in the future. She'll be home for a year, and plans to attend graduate school beginning the fall of 2005. If you see her at the hardware store, be sure to say hello. She is just as adept in discussing the writings of Plato, mercury emissions in Maryland or the nuances of French poetry with you as she is in filling your propane tank for the weekend barbecue, mixing your paint, or finding that all-important bolt to fix your lawnmower.

Al Chaffman Proclamation

Whereas, Al Chaffman, for 21 of his 32 years with the Montgomery County Public School System, has been the Physical Education teacher at Poolesville Elementary School and served as the school's Safety Patrol sponsor for the last 15 years;

Whereas, he has assisted PES students to recognize that there is a physical as well as a mental component which can contribute to success in life; he promoted understanding

and respect for differences among people in physical activity settings;

Whereas, through sports, he instilled the qualities of initiative, perseverance and team work and cultivated the ability to rapidly assess and react to challenging situations;

Whereas, in his role as Safety Patrol sponsor he was able to impart to students the importance of the responsibility, accountability and service;

Whereas, he sought to build in each student the skills and confidence necessary to succeed throughout one's life;

Now therefore, on behalf of the Commissioners of Poolesville and the community, I, Paul E. Kuhlman, II, President Pro Tem of the Commissioners of Poolesville, do hereby show our appreciation and recognize the achievement of Al Chaffman on the occasion of his retirement.

Volunteer of the Quarter Nomination

(From Jerry Klobukowski to All Commissioners and Wade Yost)

1. I nominate Mrs. Maggie Nightingale for Volunteer of the Quarter.

2. Commencing in 1978 and for over 25 years, Mrs. Nightingale has worked both vigorously and tirelessly to ensure Poolesville's and Western Montgomery County's residents are provided with the type of library services found in other parts of the county. To this end, she has succeeded.

She recognized that the library co-located and shared with the Poolesville Junior – Senior High School was limited in space and its ability to provide the wide range of services found in other Montgomery County libraries and would not meet the areas future needs, particularly in view of the ongoing and planned development within Poolesville and Western Montgomery County. She has been a long time member of the Poolesville Library Advisory Committee. For years, she continuously lobbied the County Executive and County Council to relocate and establish a separate library branch within Poolesville to better service the entire Western Montgomery County community. Her efforts were finally rewarded in 1991 with the opening of the Poolesville Library in the Poolesville Towne Center. Even with this success, she was not satisfied with the limited space and services it was able to

Calendar

June 26

Widows/Widowers & Orphans Picnic
Oddfellows Lodge #97
Owens Park – 2 to 5 p.m.
(301) 972-8512

Shakespeare in the Park

"The Comedy of Errors"
City Hall Pavilion-Gaithersburg
FREE – 8 p.m.

June 26 and 27

Historic Medley Art Show
John Poole General Store
Poolesville
(301) 972-8588

7th Annual Montgomery County Heritage Days

Various sites – see
History article this edition

July 4

Celebrate a Frederick 4th
Baker Park – noon to dusk
Fireworks, food, music

July 4

Fireworks and Concert
Big 100 Fairgrounds
Gaithersburg - FREE
Orioles &
WDJ (Otis Redding music)
7 p.m. to dusk

July 9

Starlight Concert Rock and Pop
"Cravin Dogs"
City Hall Pavilion Gaithersburg
7 p.m. – Free

July 11

Concert in the Park
Whalen Commons Poolesville
Perilla's Bluegrass
& Country Band
7 p.m. – Free

July 12 – 16th

Vacation Bible School
Mt. Zion-Warren
Beallsville (301) 916-3613

Bible Study: Then and Now
Dawsonville Mennonite Church
All ages (301) 349-9649

provide and she continued to press for further improvements. In 1999, when the opportunity arose for the library to expand, Maggie worked with library staff and lobbied the county government to make that happen. Now, the library has expanded space, more room for materials, computers for the public, a meeting room, and tables and chairs.

Even with these successes, she continues to be a voice in support of the library and for this we are both grateful and thankful for her time, effort and success.

The Full Sturgeon Moon

July 4, 2004 may be the nation's birthday, full of fireworks and fun, but July 2, 2004 is the night of the Full Sturgeon Moon. Most names of full moons come from Native American lore and reflect on the season and what normally would have been relevant to the tribes. Wait until August comes along, the full moon will be much more exciting – maybe even the color of the moon will change?



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The Pulse

Lions' Youth Clubs Flourishing

The Monocacy Lions Club sponsors two local clubs designed to encourage area youth to participate in community assistance programs. The youth groups are called Leo Clubs and are set up at Poolesville High School and John Poole Middle School.

Through financial support from the Monocacy Lions Club and various fundraisers, both organizations participate in a variety of community programs such as food baskets for WUMCO, Pennies for Patients, nursing home visitations, stockings for children at the Pediatric Ward, valentines for senior citizens, and other worthy activities.

The Middle School group also raised funds in order to donate a picnic table for use by their fellow students during lunch when weather permits.

Area residents Lisa Langevin, Lynn Becknell (JPMS) and Beth Jones

(PHS) have taken on the task of being the groups' adult supervisors. One of the key elements of the organization is to provide leadership education opportunities for the club members. This spring new leadership was sworn in by Regional Lion Chairman Bill Jamison and the Monocacy Lions President-elect, Rande Davis. The Lions District Governor-elect, Gary Burdette, did the honors of inducting new members into the JPMS Middle School Leos.

The PHS Leos recently honored their member, Molly Reed, as the "Leo of the Year" and the JPMS club chose Kerianne Lartz and Laura Gilfrich to share that honor in their club.

The following are the incoming officers of both clubs:

PHS Leos – Elizabeth Wolfinger, President, Maddie Kephart, Vice President, Emly Terrell, Treasurer, and Gracie Jones, Secretary.

JPMS Leos – Kristyn Kirshbaum, President, Claire Jones, Vice President, Amy Stamm, Treasurer, and Sarah Jansson, Secretary.



Poolesville High School Leo Club Officers.



John Poole Middle School Leo Club Officers.

Swim for Sarah

Mark the date on your calendars: July 28 is the second annual Swim for Sarah to be hosted by the Poolesville Piranhas at the Western County Pool.

Like last year, the focus of this event is, of course, swimming. Swimming had been a dominant force in Sarah Auer's life growing up and she happily gave back to the community by being the coach of the Piranhas for four summers, touching the lives of so many children and families in the area before her death on December 3, 2002. Sarah is sorely missed, but her spirit is not forgotten. The Sarah E. Auer Memorial Fund was established to provide scholarships to graduating seniors.

This year, from the end of June through July, swimmers of all ages, even those not on the swim team, will be collecting pledges based on the number of laps they swim - cash donations are also accepted.

The other highlight of Swim for Sarah is the wildly popular silent auction. Many exciting and interesting services and products are sold to the highest bidder. One of the items already donated for this year's auction is a collection of autographs of an Olympic gold medal contender and world record holder.

Last year, sixty-nine different businesses, individual donors, and corporate sponsors contributed to the event. To donate items or make

contributions, contact Mary Beth Preuss at 301-349-5912 or Lisa Thompson 301-349-3769.

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Registration cards are available at
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(301) 349-2073

Big Board

Soccer Tryouts

The SSA Red Dragons, who will be playing U12 WAGS soccer in Fall 2004, are now holding tryouts for girls with birthdays after July 31, 1992. We have a number of girls from the Poolesville area but we also have girls from Damascus, Silver Spring, Rockville, Takoma Park and North Potomac. The Dragons focus is on skill development, working together as a team and preparing the girls for middle school and high school play. The team started out slowly their first season last fall but the girls have shown fantastic improvement and will finish near the top of their division this spring. Tryout sessions are **NOW** in North Potomac. For details, contact Bernie Mihm (USSF D license and successful premier league coach) bmihm@att.net 301-370-0471.

Prevention Health Screenings at Buckeystown Church

Two out of three stroke victims never show a warning sign. Adults are invited to take advantage of five different tests that may save a life! On Thursday, July 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m., St. Joseph's on Carrollton Manor

Catholic Church will be hosting Prevention Health Screenings to offer community members several life saving tests. On that day, you can find out your risk for having a stroke by participating in a carotid artery screening which uses painless ultrasound technology to visualize the carotid arteries in your neck for plaque buildup. They will also offer two other vascular screenings as well as an osteoporosis and a pulmonary lung function test. With early detection, these problems can be treated. The results are given directly to you and *are referred back to your own doctor.* The prices of the tests range from \$10 to \$40. Call 1-800-446-0925 to register for an appointment or more information. Register early because space is limited to the first 50 people that call in. St. Joseph's on Carrollton Manor Catholic Church is located at 5843 Manor Woods Road in Buckeystown.

Poolesville Day is on the Way

The Poolesville Day Committee is proud to announce that Poolesville Day 2004 will be held on Saturday, September 11th. In honor of that date, this year's grand marshals will be representatives from the Montgomery County Police Department and the

Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department.

As always, Poolesville Day is not possible without the help of the community. If you are interested in assisting with the planning and running of Poolesville Day, please contact our message line at 301-349-2123 or call Jake Perkins at 301-407-0425.

Vendor and parade applications are also now available by calling 301-349-2123. The forms will be available online by July 15th at the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce website (www.pacc.cc). The initial deadline for filing is July 30th. No applications for the parade or vendors will be accepted after August 23rd.

If you are thinking about being a vendor, please remember that all vendors will need (1) a sales and use tax license or a 30-day temporary permit; (2) that each vendor is solely responsible for the collection and reporting of sales tax; (3) and that food vendors need a covered area to prepare and sell their food and a permit from the Montgomery County Health Department to operate their stand. You will be required to provide copies of these licenses. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Equestrian News

These Doctors Make House Calls

By Debby Lynn
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

Ever wish for a doctor who made house calls? One who would even come to see you after hours if necessary? There are some lucky patients in this area who get this special care. They are the equine patients of Monocacy Equine Veterinary Associates.

Monocacy is one of the larger equine veterinary practices in this area. The practice has four staff veterinarians; Dr. Richard Forfa, who started the practice in 1983, His partner Dr. Peter O'Halloran, and two associate veterinarians, Dr. Lisa Jeanes and Dr. Javier Donatelli. Together with more than a dozen dedicated support personnel, they run a state-of-the-art clinic facility.

The facility is reminiscent of human "Doc in a box" places, in that you can get both emergency and

routine care at the clinic. While they don't take the place of a large hospital, such as the Marion-Scott Dupont equine medical center, they can provide a good alternative to an expensive hospital visit for certain procedures and surgeries.

Each doctor specializes in certain areas, which allows the clinic to offer an amazing array of comprehensive services. Dr. Forfa specializes in reproductive work, such as artificial insemination and embryo transfer. These procedures are useful to horse owners for slightly different reasons than is usual for humans. Both AI and embryo transfer allow an owner to keep a competitive sport horse in training, and still raise its valuable offspring.

One of Dr. Jeanes' specialties is acupuncture. The clinic offers dry needle, electro, and aqua acupuncture.

Just like a well staffed human practice, they have specialists on call. Dr. Peter Eeg provides laser surgery, in such cases as tumor removal. Ray

Carter, the resident farrier, does hoof resections, a procedure used to help horses which have foundered.

The clinic has four stalls, which are set up to allow for 24 hour monitoring. Two of the doctors, as well as a veterinary technician live on the premises, and are available 'round the clock, if necessary.

Everyone on the staff owns and rides horses, which helps create an

atmosphere of horsemen's sympathy and empathy. They are truly "animal people." In fact, some are just plain animals. You may be greeted at the front desk by Jezzibear, a Labrador Retriever Bloodhound cross, who holds forth standing on her hind legs, with both paws placed on the counter. She looks every bit the part of a receptionist, except perhaps the tell-tale (no pun intended) wagging tail.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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In the Garden

In the Herb Garden with "the humble chef"

By Maureen O'Connell
Contributing Writer

Fresh herbs are the cook's greatest allies. Cuisines throughout the world benefit from the hundreds of ways in which herbs bring dishes to light and please our palates. I hope that all of you who love to cook have planted your herb garden this season. It doesn't have to be a complicated Williamsburg knot garden. A sunny little patch near the kitchen door or a few pots on the porch steps will do nicely. I have tried various locations over the years. The small square garden near the fence line had great soil and sun exposure, but it was too handy for the deer and Mr. McGregor's rabbits. There is a seeping willow tree near the house with a medium sized circular of mulch at the base. It receives good dappled sunlight, so I moved the herbs there. The first couple of years yielded minimal results as I was planting the herbs mainly in mulch. After a few years the mulch broke down and it is now a wonderful loamy soil.

When you select herbs, choose those that you will use frequently in your cooking. Some are more suited to French, Italian or Mexican dishes. In my garden I grow perennial herbs: thyme, oregano, tarragon, lavender and mint. There are six annuals: basil, dill, chives, cilantro, Italian flat-leaf parsley and rosemary. Nasturtiums are not technically an herb, but I use their leaves as a peppery spice in many salads and their flowers for garnish.

The other night "the humble chef" and I tested the herb garden to see

what we could use in some summer recipes. Basil—basil pesto—there are many variations of pesto. I find some too overpowering and others too oily. This is the classic approach and it seems to have just enough zing.

3 cups fresh basil
¼ cup pine nuts toasted
(place on a cookie sheet in
a 325° oven for 4 to 7 minutes)
2 cloves garlic
1 tsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
¾ tsp. salt
1 tsp. black pepper
½ cup good quality olive oil
½ cup grated parmesan cheese

In a food processor, process the basil, nuts, garlic, lemon juice, salt and pepper until almost smooth. Slowly add the oil in a steady stream and mix until completely combined. Stir in the cheese. Taste and if desired, adjust the ingredients accordingly.

There are many recipes calling for fresh pesto. I enjoy it the most in the winter. I freeze small amounts in ice cube trays and pop out two or three when needed. Pesto is great over piping hot linguine. An easy hot or cold hors d'oeuvre is steamed shrimp tossed with pesto.

There is no end to the many uses of herbs. Let your imagination flow. The important thing is to "use them." They are more than pretty plants in the garden. If your cooking is in a slump, look to herbs to add a new spark. Next edition: Mid-season garden rescue. A mid-summer night.

Editors Note: "the humble chef" has provided a number of recipes for the other herbs in the garden, which we will print as space permits in upcoming editions. So hang on to those herbs!

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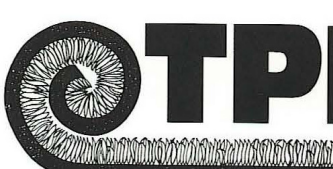
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Focus on Business

Local Entrepreneur Cliff Neal

By Rande Davis

When you are born in Paradise, where do you go from there? For Cliff Neal of Barnesville being born in Paradise Valley, Montana was a great place to obtain his roots but living in this area is "living my dreams".

Cliff and his six siblings hail from the railroad town of Livingston, Montana, which is the last significant town just before Yellowstone National Park. One of his favorite memories is the world-class trout fishing in that area—"Best in the world," says Cliff. Even though anglers have been known to exaggerate, many experts would agree with him.

In his early years, Cliff lived with two sisters and three brothers in the house his Dad built. Another sibling came along after they moved to Livingston. Cliff almost didn't make it past age five, since he was a victim of the 1921 flu epidemic. With loving care and lots of mustard plasters, he made it through.

His little house on the prairie, although humble, was grandiose in its role of building family bonds and establishing solid values that would guide Mr. Neal throughout his 88 years. The home was small but the view was magnificent. Surely this is where Cliff first obtained his positive and graceful view of life.

Cliff has been married to the love of his life Vivian for 66 years and although they both went to the same high school (they were separated by three years) they didn't date until he was out of high school. They have raised four children and today have fifteen grandchildren (counting spouses) and two great grandchildren.

Coming from a large family, Mr. Neal worked out of high school for the Northern Pacific Railroad, which had him traveling on the rails from Montana west beyond the Rocky Mountains on a train that was powered by a steam engine. He also worked in a men's clothing store, where he was impressed with the "classy dressed, well-versed, and highly personable salesmen" for such manufacturers as Arrow shirts and Florsheim shoes, giving him the idea of becoming a salesman.

In 1946, he made his move east, where he was hired by a recently released army major who was creating a new sales staff for Brown & Bigelow, a specialty advertising and calendar publisher. He became the district sales manager in Washington, DC.

While B&B might not ring a bell, at one time or another, many of us may have had direct contact with the result of Mr. Neal's work. Try checking out what's on your refrigerator door; you see, Mr. Neal specialized in sales of complimentary calendars for companies to give to their customers



View of Montana mountains from the Little House.

and clients. His most famous calendar was the bicentennial "We the People" calendar that was purchased by almost all members of congress to send to their constituents.

Through the years his entrepreneurial spirit moved him to try various endeavors. At one time on his nearly 50 acre farm on Peachtree Road, they had 2000 peach trees. But on October 29, 1979 he awoke to what sounded like rifle shots through the woods. Tragically, the sound was of peach tree branches cracking and breaking and eventually wiping out the orchard, the result of a surprise ice storm which resulted in his moving on to other things.

His frontier spirit, which is well grounded in his soul, didn't let him down and his faith and gratitude for his Lord has always seen him through the difficult times. Cliff Neal steadfastly moved on.

Mr. Neal also raised purebred Arabian horses on the farm and at one time had 22 horses. He had a prized stallion named Bosphorus, which sired Redmann, a two-time winner of the National 100 Mile Race. In 1988, after bypass surgery Cliff decided to give up the horse business and sold out.

In 1980 the Neal family was contemplating new uses for the farm when the notion of introducing a full service pet cemetery evolved. The family's deep love of their property and desire to preserve its natural setting coupled with a profound love of animals and empathy for those who lose their pets prompted them to establish Sugarloaf Pet Cemetery on Peach Tree Road in Barnesville.

The neophyte can be excused if their imagination leaves them to

believe the cemetery is just an antiseptic method of handling the death of a pet. Sugarloaf Pet Cemetery's mission is to provide a complete, dignified, and respectful funeral service for grieving pet owners who have lost their special friend. Who among us has not experienced the deep, wonderful and unique love of our pet?

Sugarloaf Pet Cemetery has lovingly handled the burial of upward of 1500 pets and animals. Their approach is very professional, offering all the needs of the pet owner, including pre-burial preparation, selection of a casket, customized funeral services and arrangements and selection of burial site and marker. The gardens are beautifully landscaped to allow for calm, quiet, and natural meditation for those visiting the gravesite of a beloved pet.

As *The Monocle* was interviewing him, his strength and drive was abundant and impressive not simply because of his age but especially since he was recuperating from his second hip surgery. His enthusiasm for life was totally undiminished. In fact, he was very concerned about getting to his mail inbox, which he hadn't seen in two weeks.

It is said that idle hands are the devil's playground. If that is so then it can be said that the energetic spirit of Cliff Neal has driven the devil mad. With family close by and a homestead to be proud of, Mr. Neal is filled with gratitude. Through his long and experienced life, through trials and tribulations, Mr. Neal pensively looks across his kitchen table, and looks you right in the eye proclaiming his special appreciation for "living his dreams." May we all be so guided.



Vivian, granddaughter Sarah and Cliff at home.

Mystery History

Not All History is a Mystery

By Rande Davis

The Monocle's "Mystery History" focuses on out-of-the-way historical sites that do not show up on your standard tourist guide. These sites are often privately owned and do not come with a road-side marker and brief history. In this edition, we make a departure and bring you the No-Mystery History! Or, put another way, we will focus on more well-known historical museums and locations in the Monocacy region, and specifically in Montgomery County. We do this because we want to encourage you to enjoy the 7th Annual Montgomery County Heritage Days. This is a free countywide event that invites you to visit 32 sites of historical significance. The special event will run Saturday and Sunday June 26 and 27 from noon to 4 p.m.

Thirteen of the sites highlighted are in the Monocacy region. If you want to visit all 32 sites or if you need directions to the various exhibits, you can pick up a complete motorists

guide—a full-color brochure outlining the entire offerings of Heritage Days—at any of the locations mentioned in this article.

Many of these very special museums have varying dates and times when they are open so Heritage Days is the perfect time for you to visit them. For those persons who are especially appreciative of these sites and their importance to all of us, we encourage you to make contact with the Historic Medley District, Inc. (301-349-8588) and/or the Montgomery County Historical Society.

JOHN POOLE HOUSE GENERAL STORE

19223 Fisher Ave. Poolesville
Behind the old Town Hall

If you have never visited this authentic living-history presentation of the general store that was at the root of the development of Poolesville, now is the time to go. If you haven't stopped in at the John Poole House General Store in a while, you are in for some pleasant surprises, especially this weekend.

During Heritage Days, The Historic Medley District, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the area's history and historic sites, will present their Art Show and Sale. This year's theme is "Historic Places and Open Spaces." The theme comes from the Historic Medley District's Statement of Purpose. HMD was established in 1974 and manages two primary facilities: the John Poole House and the Seneca Schoolhouse museum. The art show will be under tents so don't concern yourself about the weather. The entries will be judged by area artists Forrest Meader and Bobby Donovan. The artwork is available for purchase.

The museum's gift shop has undergone major improvement. If you haven't come by lately, will be pleased with the extensive and wide-ranging gifts that stock this store. You will find books, antiques, glassware, prints, games, and toys available for purchase. On any occasion, this is a great store for gifts, especially for those appreciative of our proud history.

A docent will be on location to give tours and answer questions.

CLARKSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Clarksburg Elementary School
Redgrave Place

This is a two-room schoolhouse built in 1909 and preserved in its original condition. You will enjoy a display of vintage photographs of past teachers, students and historic Clarksburg.

ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

14730 Sugarland Lane,
Poolesville

This was the community center of a freed slave community now known as Sugarland Forest (See *The Monocle*, May 13, "The Sweet Taste of Liberty.") On-site tours of the building, cemetery, artifacts, and history of the community will be on display with an afternoon concert compliments of the "Will of God Mission."

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SENECA SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

16800 River Road
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You have driven by this a million times. This is a terrific time to look inside, where there will be a real "school marm." Just make sure you behave since there is a dunce hat and corner chair waiting for anyone lacking discipline. Historic Medley offer an ice cream social and cordially invites those wanting to picnic under the trees. Children will love to visit this real school from a bygone era.

HMD uses this one room schoolhouse to offer real-life teaching classes for area school children. Teachers please note that this very special classroom can be reserved by calling 301-972-8588.

WARREN HISTORIC SITE

22625 Whites Ferry Road
Martinsburg

This is a group of buildings going back to the 1860s. The church on-site is still in use and along with tours there will be photographs on display. A docent will present the area's oral history.

DAVIS HOUSE IN HYATTSTOWN

26020 Frederick Road, Hyattstown

This brick federal style home, now called the "Georgetown to Frederick" Great Road Museum, was built in 1812 and is undergoing restoration. There will photographs and tours of the house throughout the afternoon.

HYATTSTOWN MILL ARTS PROJECT

14920 Hyattstown Mill Road,
Hyattstown

During Heritage Days this art gallery and grounds will feature a photographic exhibit by Michael Dwyer which will document many of the lost building and treasures in the county. (Look for a future "Center Stage" focus on this group in a future edition of *The Monocle*.)

MONOCACY CONFEDERATE CHAPEL AND CEMETERY

Route 28 and Route 109,
Beallsville

The confederate chapel will have an open house with historic civil war artifacts on display.

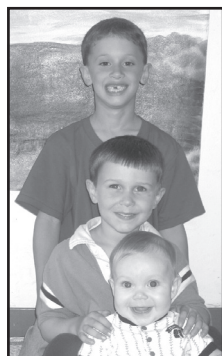
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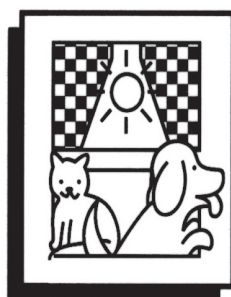
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Day Tripper

Monocacy National Battlefield: The Final Attempt

By Dominique Agnew
Contributing Writer

It's only 8:30 a.m. and the heat is nearly unbearable. It's a typical Monocacy area July day – hazy, hot and humid, and the temperature will reach the mid-nineties. It has also been dry – the usual drought of the area. Obviously, this is not the summer of 2003 or of 2004. The day in question is July 9, 1864. The Confederate army, after having just walked hundreds of miles from Petersburg, Virginia, west and north through the Shenandoah Valley, was planning on attacking a mostly defenseless Washington, D.C. from the north. Lieutenant General Jubal Early (of ferry fame for us) was leading the attack.

Although small in scope, the battle that ensued is historically a relevant one. The plan was for the Confederate army to sweep down into

the capital from the north while another army would free confederate soldiers imprisoned at Point Lookout and head north to join Early's troops. In short, the mostly inexperienced and heavily outnumbered Union troops led by Major General Lew Wallace were able to hold off the Confederate troops at the Battle of Monocacy for a full twenty-four hours, allowing the capital to be fortified with new troops. After the battle, it was deemed too risky by the Confederates to try to take Washington, D.C., and that was the last attempt ever made during the Civil War.

The Monocacy National Battlefield Memorial is relatively young having opened in 1991. Much of the land was purchased in the 1980s with one farm being acquired as recently as 2001. In 1928, a bill was passed in Congress authorizing a national park, but the funds were not made available for another fifty years. Interestingly, it was a survivor of the battle who petitioned Congress. Glenn Worthington, of Worthington Farm, one of the stops on the auto tour, was six years old and watched much of the

battle from the basement window of his family's farmhouse. He later wrote a book about his experience, *Fighting for Time*.

Much of the Memorial can be seen by an auto tour. After arriving at the Gambrill's Mill Visitor Center and taking in an instructive audio describing the battle, one can enjoy a short hike along the Monocacy River and Bush Creek, a one-mile walk which will be more easily accessible to the handicapped by the beginning of July. The auto tour is a guide to the nearby farms on which the battle was fought. A small booklet for children is also available with activities for their enjoyment.

With 2004 as the 140th anniversary of the battle, there will be a com-

memoration of the "battle that saved Washington" on July 10 and 11. The National Park Service does not do reenactments, but provides living history programs. These programs will have costumed interpreters doing demonstrations and interacting with visitors to give them an opportunity to learn about the battle.

Being right in the Monocacy area, the Memorial makes a perfect short day trip. It can even be enjoyed on the way to other activities in nearby Frederick or just as a short excursion for itself. Nearly every day of the week programs are presented to the public. The park is open daily from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Entry and all programs are free to the public.



Photo courtesy of NPS



Drs. D. Timothy Pike and Margaret A. Valega
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Day Tripper

The Inn at Buckeystown

By Dominique Agnew
Contributing Writer

Elegance prevails at the Inn at Buckeystown. This charming bed and breakfast, located in the heart of Buckeystown, Maryland, brings to its guests an ambiance of wondrous whimsy. One cannot help but delight in the details that abound – from the miniature china pitchers on the hand railing of the exterior porch to the dainty teacup-topped skewers used during High Tea for mini-kabobs. The

eye is drawn to a variety of decorative accents which only serve to send patrons in search of other details.

Janet Wells, proprietress of the inn and mastermind behind the décor, does not disappoint. When she purchased the inn in October of 1998, she inherited bare walls, ceilings and floors – literally. Although the property had been an inn since 1981, everything was sold at auction, even the chandeliers. The result of Wells's renovation is beyond charming.

"What an experience. The moment I set eyes on the Inn, tears welled up inside," wrote a recent guest from San Jose, California in the journal of her room. Guests are encouraged to write in the room

journals. "Sometimes, when I'm having a rough day, I just read these journals, and I feel better," says Janet Wells.

Of course, much of the appeal of this stately property evoking yesteryear is that it is a true Victorian Painted Lady. Fine, detailed woodwork on the exterior of the house has been highlighted by contrasting paint colors to create a pleasing effect. Built in 1897 by Charles E. Keller, developer of the nearby lime kiln, blacksmith, and coach maker, the house is a replica of one he had seen in Rockville, Maryland. The property remained in the hands of Kellers until the Great Depression. The early thirties and forties marked an era of

neglect and disrepair for the home. There were squatters, the ceiling was falling in - at one point, an eviction notice for renters read, "The tenants cohabitated with goats, chickens, geese, and turkey." Fortunately, there are no signs of this now.

Nineteen forty-six marked a turning point for the home. Charles Kehne purchased the property for three thousand dollars – not the value of the house, but the value of the three walnut trees on the property. Recently, Kehne's two daughters who grew up in the house told the memorable story to Janet Wells over tea. When Mrs. Kehne saw the house for the first time

– See Inn on page 14.

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Day Tripper

One of Our Area's Best Kept Secrets

By Linda Nessul
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

George Washington did it. General Robert E. Lee did it. African-American slaves did it. Navajo Indians did it. Adolph Hitler did it. President John F. Kennedy did it. And lots of folks still do it today.

What do these very different people and groups have in common? They all used machines and devices to pass secret messages and to keep important information hidden from the enemy during times of war. Want to see how they did it? Visit the National Cryptologic Museum at the National Security Agency between Washington and Baltimore. It's free, and well worth the short trip up the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from Route 495.

Cryptology has come a long way from the days of simple scrambled alphabets of the 1600s to today's high-speed super computers that can decipher huge amounts of information in the wink of an eye. The

Cryptologic Museum shows visitors some of the most dramatic moments in American history. Exhibits cover everything from the Civil War to the Cold War, including World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Also displayed are the stories of the Slave Quilts, which guided travelers on the Underground Railroad; the Navajo Codetalkers, whose unwritten language protected the battleground communications of US Marines in the Pacific Theater of World War II; and the women who, from the early days of America, made great contributions to our national security.

The Cryptologic Museum is a great educational tool for adults and children alike. It is visited by 50,000 people each year and contains thousands of artifacts that map the history of the cryptologic profession. Adjacent to the Museum is the National Vigilance Park, which houses two reconnaissance aircraft used for secret missions.

The museum is open to the public Monday — Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the first and third Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit the National Cryptologic Museum website at www.nsa.gov/museum or call 301-688-5849.

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Day Tripper

— Inn Continued from page 13

in its deplorable state, she wept. Mr. Kehne tried to console her by telling her it was alright, he would tear down the house for the wood inside, when she turned to him and said, "Don't you see the potential in this house?"

They spent the next twenty years bringing the house back to its regal elegance. Everything works properly — the fireplaces, the pocket doors. Many of the bathrooms in the rooms, although updated with modern fixtures by Mrs. Wells, retain their original tiling and style from the forties.

Each room or suite on the second floor has its own character, and again, Janet Wells's attention to detail is evident throughout. The beautiful chestnut staircase goes up three stories to an attic suite that is suitable for large families, bridal parties, and yes, those crazy girls' nights out.

However, do not confuse "attention to detail" with rigidity. There is

no set schedule at the Inn, everything is by reservation only. High Tea can be available most afternoons, as well as prix fixe five-course elegant dinners on Friday and Saturday nights. Like the décor, the meals delight. Mrs. Wells is also the head chef and calls her dinners "chef's whimsy."

This just isn't enough, though, is it? Once a month, the Inn hosts a Mansion Murder Mystery. During hors d'oeuvres and BYOB cocktails, the guests mingle with actors, many from the Frederick Community College. Some regular guests even dress as themselves to liven up the fun — doctors and police officers. At times, it's rather obvious the actors are dressed in costumes according to the mystery, but for other mysteries, even Mrs. Wells has been stymied as to who was an actor and who was a guest. The entertainment continues throughout the five-course dinner ending "with a dessert to die for." Upcoming murder mysteries include "Elvis's Blue Suede Clues" on July 17 and "House of Trump Cards" on August 14 — don't forget the reservation. In December, there are no murders, just "merry mirth" on

Thursday nights with Dickens Dinners — evenings of delicious food and caroling.

Voted number one bed and breakfast in Frederick for 2003 and 2004 by Frederick Magazine and

favorite tea room by the Afternoon Tea Society, the Inn at Buckeystown is flexible in that it can be reserved for special private occasions, and it hosts unique parties open to the public.



Janet Wells of the Buckeystown Inn.

Youth Sports

Town Manager Manages Town Softball

By Rande Davis

The success of girls' softball is well established in the area and the Poolesville High School varsity and junior varsity teams were the subject of our sports focus in the May 13 edition of *The Monocle*. One of the main reasons for the success of the PHS girls' teams is due to feeder programs like the Germantown Athletic Clubs girls' softball program. Poolesville fields a team of area girls aged 12 and 13 years old in this fast-pitch league.

Poolesville Town Manager, Wade Yost, spends his "off duty" time coaching these energetic girls as they develop their softball skills. Coaching young people is a passion for Mr. Yost as he has coached PAA football for seven years, UMAC baseball for four years, and softball for two years. Coaching has many demands and can at times affect quality time with one's family. The Yost's solved this problem in a unique but effective way — Theresa Yost teamed up with her husband as team manager, a position that has her setting the schedules, keeping score, and keeping the lines of communication with parents intact.

Mr. Yost credits the assistant coaches, Frank Brown and Brian Conway, for making coaching great fun. He says, "(they) spend several nights a week with the team and are great role models for the girls."

This year's team is the youngest and least experienced team in the league. While the girls won their slow

pitch division last year, they are dedicated this year to advancing to the next level of play. Mr. Yost says, "this is advanced play in every way including aspects of the game like stealing bases, game strategies, and signs. Unlike slow pitch, this game has the challenge of high speed pitching and the game itself has a much faster pace in general with real tough competition. As the season advanced Mr. Yost noted that so did their progress in skills, double plays, but more importantly, "they have begun to pull together as a team."

The area girls on this team are Jennifer Bateman (center field), Jenny Better (catcher), Stephanie Boyland (third base/fielder), Alexa Brown (pitcher), Maureen Conway (fielder), Megan Foy (pitcher/shortstop), Taylor Garber (fielder), Brianna Giarratano (fielder), Whitney Moran (second base), Kandyce Praniewski (fielder), Niocle Stottlemeyer (first base), Jacqueline Winning (shortstop), and Katie Yost (third base).

In looking toward the future Yost has plans for off-season clinics for the girls to improve their skills. He will utilize Rusty Dillon of Comus, who does a great job of instructing the girls.

As interest in girls' softball continues to build in the area; we are expecting even more girls to come out for the sport next year. Their first play-off game was very exciting since they won in extra innings. The season isn't over yet, but based on their play, effort, and attitude, "this team has already exceeded my expectations and I am very proud of them" says Wade. We will enjoy monitoring the progress of these girls over the years to come.



Poolesville's 12 and 13 year old girls softball team.



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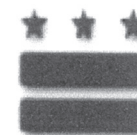
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Youth Sports

Carroll Manor Athletic Association Spring Roundup

By Curtis Osborne

Special to the Monocacy Monocle

Another exciting season of spring baseball and soccer has come to an end for the CMAA. The playoffs have begun and the excitement of postseason play is in the air. The anticipation of crowning a new champion is renewed and mixes with the excitement of summer vacation approaching.

The baseball regular season got off in a glorious and moving fashion with the dedication and renaming of Field 1 at Carroll Manor Elementary School in honor of the late Nick Jarvis, a student at the school and a participant in CMAA sports. The dedication was presided over by CMAA baseball commissioner William Benzing. Fifteen of the sixteen teams surrounded the field and watched as several people whose lives were

touched by Nick spoke lovingly and eloquently about him. Tears flowed, even for those who did not know him, as he obviously was a tremendous young man. The season was kicked off with the release of balloons into a cloudless blue sky.

Several CMAA teams competed very well in the Tri-County PONY league and established themselves as topnotch competition with a disciplined approach to the game. The CM Mudcats ended the regular season as Mustang American Division champs with a 12-1 record. They are coached by Tom Baugher and appear to be the team to beat going into the playoffs. Three Carroll Manor teams finished on a high note as they battled it out in the highly competitive Pinto Division, with the three teams all finishing within one game of one another. The Blaze, the Blue Jays and the Bombers, coached by Ed Burke, Scott Price and Ed Smith respectively, all fielded highly skilled teams. They all have a core group of players who will continue to excel as they move up in age brackets. In the Bronco American Division, The CM Critters coached by

Tom Vaughan made second place with a 13-3 record. (If nothing else, you have to love the team for their name.)

CMAA also kicked off a successful first season with girls' youth softball by fielding three teams (U8, U10 and U12) in the Frederick Girls' Youth Softball League.

In CMAA soccer news, the CM Volunteers, coached by John Chantiles, finished the U12 girls' season with a perfect 8-0 record, with six shutouts, scoring 28 goals and only giving up four goals. The CM Heat, coached by Dennis Bendorf, also went undefeated in the U8 division with a perfect 8-0 record, with four shutouts, scoring 29 goals and only giving up five. DC United, look out!

Registration is in progress for fall CMAA baseball and soccer. Soccer registration will be at Carroll Manor Elementary every Saturday from 9 to 12 through the end of June and on-line through July 15. Baseball registration is going on through the end of June as well. You can register on-line at www.eteamz.com/cmaa.

Poolesville PIRANHAS Take the Plunge

By Rande Davis

The 2004 swim team season is about to unfold for the Poolesville Piranhas. They are getting ready to face some new challenges. This year the team advances to the C division of competition the highest division the team has competed in to date. The first of five dual meets will be on Saturday, June 19th against Darnestown.

The girls are working hard to get ready for the season despite some local controversy over the condition of the pool area. First year head coach Tim Auer credits his late sister Sarah

with teaching him everything he knows about coaching. Sarah Auer was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 2002. The team honors her coaching leadership having a major "Swim for Sarah" fundraiser every July (see article page 5). Tim expects the team "to work hard, do their best, and continue to carry on and honor the legacy of Sarah Auer."

Tim Auer is grateful for all the help he gets from assistant coaches Catherine Ruprecht, Christina Smith, and Amanda Bettinger. He keeps a busy schedule as a junior at University of Maryland (where he plays water polo) with a dual major in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics. He is currently interning at Thales

Communications, Inc. an electrical engineering firm in Clarksburg.

Tim likes to win as much as anyone else but he emphasizes that is not the primary expectation of the coaches. "The benefits of hard work shows when an individual continually improves his or her time. As this is a team sport, when other teammates witness someone's improvement and work ethic they too will be pushed."

This year's team is young with many of the swimmers at the bottom of their respective age groups. Returning all-star swimmers include Lauren James (7 years old), Julia Smith (9 years), Olya Helt and Chris Carney (9 years), Brendan Carney (10 years), Elizabeth Pepper, (11 years), Ursa Remondi, Laurent Thomas, and Mark Fales (all 13 years). Other returning swimmers include Samantha Hatfield (15 years), Kelly Burnett (15 years), and Kirk Jackson (15 years) and Joey Gordon (18 years).

Attend any practice and there will be as many parents at the pool as there are swimmers— maybe more. The Piranhas have a long, proud history in the community and this year promises to keep the tradition strong. *The Monocle* will stay focused on their season in the summer issues to come.



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