

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

December 23, 2005

Volume 2, Number 19

Inside the Monocle



Mr. Haviland went missing near Muncaster Mill. Local History on Page 8.



Pearl and Plum are in Center Stage on Page 13.



Angelic young carolers at Whalen Commons. More pics on Page 2, and maybe elsewhere if we have room.



The boys can belt it out too.

Local Woman is Victim of Hit-and-Run in Colorado

By Rande Davis

Stephanie Ferris-McSweeney, Poolesville High School class of 1977, was the victim of a hit-and-run accident on November 28, 2005 in Aurora, Colorado, where she now resides.

The forty-six-year-old mother of seven was walking from her job as director of the Aurora Day Care Center, which is attached to the Salvation Army, at about 6:30 p.m. when a dark-colored early 1990s Chevrolet Cavalier struck her. The impact threw her forty to sixty feet. The driver of the car, who reportedly ran a red light, did not stop. The tragedy was compounded as some drivers drove around her, not realizing they were driving past a person in the road. Fortunately, a driver finally stopped and blocked traffic from hitting her again.

As of December 15, Stephanie

remains in a coma suffering from a broken neck, broken shoulder, a pelvis broken in two places, a right leg broken in two places, along with other injuries.

Mrs. Ferris-McSweeney is the



Stephanie Ferris-McSweeney and her sister, Samantha Baker

daughter of Pat Ferris of Wasche Road. She is also the sister of Poolesville's Samantha Ferris Baker, Sandy Ziffer, and Susan Ferris. Pat Ferris has gone to Colorado to be with her

daughter who has been moved to a rehabilitation center. When living in Poolesville, Mrs. McSweeney was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Her husband, John McSweeney, has taken comfort with the exceptional and compassionate care shown by the doctors and nurses at the Medical Center of Aurora. Mr. McSweeney told the *Rocky Mountain News*, "Quite frankly, if it wasn't for these people (medical staff) my wife would be dead. She's broken from head to toe."

The McSweeneys were married in 1993 and have five adopted children ranging from six to fifteen years of age. She also has a son, Ben Honemond, 23, and a daughter, Aubrey Honemond Sigarst, 25, from a previous marriage. The couple, who share a passion for caring for young people, have had nineteen foster and respite-care juveniles staying with them for varying lengths of time over a six-year period.

Friends from the area may send a card or note to the McSweeney family at 437 Oswega Street, Aurora, CO 80010.

Parts of this report were taken from a news report written by Julie Poppen of the *Rocky Mountain News*.

The Changing Face of Upper Montgomery County

By Jack Toomey

Historically, the northwest portion of Montgomery County has always consisted of white and African American citizens. In the past, it was almost unheard of to see a Hispanic, Asian, or African person in the upper county or to hear any language besides English being spoken. The latest census data, compiled in 2000, revealed that the Town of Poolesville consisted of ninety-three percent white citizens, one percent Asian,



Maxim Henze and Ya-Ting Wang.

and two percent Hispanics. In fact, the Town of Barnesville did not record a single Hispanic or Asian resident. However, in the last five years, some people from other countries have come to the upper county in search of small-town living, employment, and a chance for a better life. The *Monocle* selected three young persons, all recent arrivals from abroad, to be interviewed about their experiences adjusting to life in the United States

—Changing Face Continued on Page 23.

The Monocle Wishes Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Family Album

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Santa at the Odd Fellows #97 Widows, Widowers and Orphans Luncheon.



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Santa inspected the trees at Amish Direct.



Local Nativity scene.



Carol Baxter and her French Horn.



PHS senior, Eniola Eboda, attended the recent town commission meeting as part of the merit program as he works for his Eagle Scout.



Christmas carols at Whalen Park.



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Romans 12: 5

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Editorial

Another Year

By John Clayton

I get contemplative this time of year. I think it may be from the way the sun rises slowly behind the trees in the morning and then just seems to move sideways across the sky for the rest of the day before settling back below the horizon at a ridiculously early hour. The light and the shadows are different all day, and no matter which way I look when I drive in the afternoon, the sun seems to be in my eyes.

As another holiday season arrives and the calendar year comes to an end, we at the *Monocle* want to thank all of our readers and advertisers for their support, suggestions, and generally kind thoughts throughout the year. (More of those thoughts would be nice, by the way, and they don't even have to be kind. Drop us a line.)

There will be no shortage of year-end retrospectives available in the media over the period this issue is on the street (as they say), and I have not tried to create another one here. I think it is sufficient to observe what a thoroughly humbling year this has been. There are always natural disasters abounding in the world, but this year the power and devastation of the

tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and the earthquakes in Pakistan resounded over and above all the "normal" fires, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. The necessity of caring for those affected by cataclysm has been highlighted for all of us. In the face of great tragedy and suffering, the kindness and generosity of so many people shines brightly.

On our front page, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The sentiment is heartfelt, and we do not apologize for it because it is not an exclusionary statement. It is in fact the Christmas season, and Rande and I are Christmas-celebrating Christians, and "Merry Christmas" is the most sincere sentiment we can offer. We hope you enjoy these days regardless of whether you have Christian or Jewish or Muslim or some other set of spiritual beliefs. We wish you the best regardless of whether you celebrate Christmas in any way or even believe in portly elves that domesticate reindeer. Whether your particular holiday celebration is faith based or secular in nature, we thank you for being a part of the *Monocacy Monocle* and wish you good health and prosperity.

In the new year, there will be plenty of time to report or comment on the agricultural reserve, local development, local people of interest, bridges, births, gardening, roads, deaths, traffic, graduations, politics, elections, foreign wars, cooking, sports, and other issues and events that may demand our attention. We plan to be doing just that with our crackerjack team of writers: Dominique Agnew, Maureen O'Connell, Jack Toomey, Debby Lynn, Curtis Osborne, Marcie Gross, and others appearing less frequently but appreciated nevertheless. We are grateful for all these associations and enjoy presenting them for your edification. See you next year.



Kids. Snow. No school.

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The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Big Board

Winter Lights in Gaithersburg

Winter Lights is a magical Christmas light display at Seneca Creek State Park in Gaithersburg, Maryland, through January 1. See more than 350 illuminated displays along a 3.5-mile drive through the park. \$10 per car Sunday-Thursday, \$12 per car Friday and Saturday. Hours are Sunday-Thursday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Winter Lights benefit local charities such as the American Red Cross, the Friends of Seneca Creek State Park, the Friends of Wells/Robertson House, the Gaithersburg Community Volunteer Soup Kitchen, Inc., Shady Grove Adventist Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the Upper Montgomery Assistance Network.

Sandy's Four Seasons

Local violin phenomenon Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron will be performing Vivaldi's Four Seasons with the National Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra conducted by Piotr Gajewski

on January 7, 8:00 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore Hall. Tickets are required, children ages 7 through 17 are free. For tickets and reservations, visit www.strathmore.org or call the ticket office at 301-581-5100.

First Night Montgomery

First Night Montgomery 2005, the County's alcohol-free New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts, will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg on December 31, beginning with children's activities from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and evening festivities beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Laser and fireworks shows will be held at 6:00 p.m. and midnight. Cost is \$10.00 with those under ten years old free. Call 301-565-7599 for more information.

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School News

All FCPS students

December 23 through January 2, schools closed for all students and teachers for the winter holidays.

All MCPS students

December 26 through January 2, schools closed for all students and teachers for the winter holidays.

Monocacy Elementary

Yearbook Pictures Wanted

Pictures are needed for this year's yearbook. Please send copies in an envelope marked "Yearbook." They will be accepted through January 6.

December 23 is grandparents' day. Grandparents are invited to join their grandchildren in their classes. Visitors are asked to check in at the front office upon their arrival.

Poolesville Elementary School

Poolesville Elementary School brought in a special magician, Joe Romano, for an assembly promoting the magical wonder of reading. As

the students enthusiastically laughed, applauded, and occasionally shouted their joy for his light-hearted humor, Mr. Romano gained the students' appreciation for the benefits of reading.

In bringing individual students on stage to assist in his presentation, he maintained their apt attention throughout the event. With books that ignited in flames, a special shoe



Magician Joe Romano high-fives an enthusiastic reader.

cleaning machine that seemed to burn up one student's sneaker, and other sleight of hand tricks, the smiles and wide eyes of the students proved that they loved his performance. Using books that most the students were familiar with, he was able to gain their support for the joys of reading. One of his more spectacular tricks was riding a Harry Potter-like broom, as it appeared to lift off the podium. Gently teasing the principal, teachers, and students, Mr. Romano's most important trick was ending the performance while leaving the students loving the idea of reading books.

John Poole Middle School

The highly successful annual Career Day at John Poole Middle School will be held February 27 and the administration is seeking individuals within the community who will volunteer to speak to the students about their particular career. The event is for eighth grade students and would be presented in ten- to fifteen-minute increments several times as the students rotate from speaker to speaker. The

event will be from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Those willing to participate should call Diane Kitts at 301-972-7980.

Poolesville High School

On December 23, PHS alumni are encouraged to come and talk about their experiences beyond high school. Between 8:30 and 9:00, breakfast is offered to the arriving alumni. Then current juniors and seniors are invited (if allowed by their teachers) to query their former classmates. All-important questions are answered by alumni in the know: advice, tastiness of the food, issues, etc. Alumni are welcome to stay during lunch and visit with teachers.

MCPS plans to expand its group of high school magnet programs to PHS for students entering grade nine. Poolesville High School Magnet is slated to open in August 2006 as the first whole-school magnet in Montgomery County. The program will accommodate students selected through an application process, as well as local students interested in the magnet focus areas. This new program will be in addition to the Global Ecology Studies Program.

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Local History

What Happened to Mr. Haviland?

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County has had its share of mysterious cases. The disappearance of the Lyon sisters in Wheaton during the 1970s and the case of fugitive Bradford Bishop who is still wanted for killing his family in Bethesda are two mysterious disappearances that come to mind – but who has heard of one of the most perplexing mystery cases in the history of Montgomery County?


Phillip Haviland, who was about fifty-five years old, was the operator of the Muncaster Mill on the northern branch of Rock Creek. He was married with three children, apparently led a sober and industrious life, and had come from Charles County around 1880. On December 16, 1885, Mr. Haviland left his home bound for Washington City on an errand for William Muncaster who owned the mill. He was carrying a piece of machinery that needed repairs. He also was carrying sixty dollars in silver that he hoped to exchange for paper

money. On the afternoon of December 17, after taking care of his business in Washington, he left the city bound for his home near Norbeck. He traveled out the Seventh Street Pike and onto the Brookeville–Washington turnpike, later to be named Georgia Avenue. He stopped at the tollgate at Sligo, where Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road now intersect, around 9:00 p.m. Haviland joked with the toll keeper saying, “I see that you come out for my twenty cents.” He then arrived at A. J. Graves store between Sligo and Wheaton. In 1885, Wheaton was considered to be the area around Georgia Avenue and Forest Glen Road. He went inside and bought some crackers and cheese and exchanged small talk with the proprietor and some customers. He then went out into the cold winter night and was never seen again.

At about the same time, Ernest Fuller was attending a church social near Wheaton. He was taking a young lady home on his wagon when they encountered a team of horses and wagon without a rider just north of Wheaton. He took the young lady home and returned, but the wagon

—“Mr. Haviland”

Continued on Page 20.



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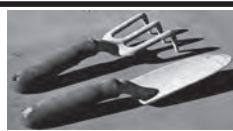
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In the Garden

A Gardener's Wishes

By Maureen O'Connell

No gardener would be a gardener if he did not live in hope. (Vita Sackville-West)

This issue of the *Monocle* will be out on Friday, December 23, two days before Christmas and eight days until the start of the New Year 2006. This time of the year is a time of reflection and taking into account the 'soon-to-be past' year. Despite the cold weather, I and my two sous-gardeners Max and Sam have not given up



on our late-afternoon garden walks. I like to sit on a my old, blue bench, the only one I leave out all winter, and recall the highlights of the past year in my gardens. I fondly remember the glorious late days of May and early June when all is right with the world, at least in my garden.



The emerging plants were young, energized and waiting to take on whatever summer may bring. Then came July and August and one's hope of glory in the garden began to fade. The pesky bugs arrived, along with ninety degree days, humidity and no rain. Now, it is not such a joy to work in the garden. During this lull in

the garden's cycle, I looked ahead to the cooler days of autumn, when the dahlias, sedum and chrysanthemums would slowly explode into colors of rich magenta, gold, purple, rose, red and all shades of yellow. And through all these days, we, as gardeners, harbor wishes for a perfect garden, which we know does not exist, outside of Eden. It is our hope and our struggle to keep our gardens beautiful during all of its changes. For without change the garden would be without its essential spark- and, no doubt, so would we.

Wishes – what would a gardener wish for? The other night, as I sat on my blue bench with Max and Sam, I looked around at my gardens and asked myself what would I wish for my Garden 2006.

I wished that I had followed my own advice regarding the mature size of a plant, and not planted the wonderful, carefree roses, "Knock-out",

so close together. They are strangling each other and are eyeing their pretty, little pink azalea neighbor. I love tulips in spring, but I have almost given-up growing them, because deer love them also. So I wish that the deer don't find the sixty pink and white tulip bulbs I hid among the daylilies and Knock-out roses. I am hoping that they are too near the house for the deer to dare to approach.

Roses need a minimum of three to four hours of strong sunlight to flourish and bloom. I wish that Mr. Lincoln, my oldest rose, could get more sunlight. When I planted him and five other hybrid tea roses twenty years ago in a rectangular bed perpendicular to a long stretch of garden, the white pines, the weeping willow, and the red maple were all good neighbors. There was sufficient sunlight and ground moisture for all. But over the years, the trees became greedier; their roots demanded more water and their canopy of leaves blotted out the sun for all those living beneath them or near them. Mr. Lincoln is considered by many rosarians as the best red rose ever. He is tall and robust and sets flowers that are the envy of every florist. But, my Mr. Lincoln is getting old now, and he struggles to find even a few rays of sun every day. Like his namesake, he is growing more lanky and lean. If he were younger, I would move him to a sunnier spot, but he is now too old to move. Every summer he still manages to produce a few, though still exquisite, rich, glowing maroon flowers on stems that hover at about six feet tall. I wish Mr. Lincoln another good year and a bit of sunshine.

The American Cemetery in the Normandy area of France contains the graves of 9,387 American military dead, most of whom gave their lives during the landings along the French coastline and the ensuing operations of World War Two. As you enter these hallowed grounds, the walkways are lined with magenta Rosa Rugosas. Every year the gardeners cut them back almost to the ground, and every year they come back even more vigorous and beautiful. They have an amazing ability to send out new canes from old, dead-looking wood. My Rugosas, *Roseraie De L'Hay*, were the gifts of a

—See "Wishes" on Page 16.

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Remembrance

Elsie Lee Pyles of Barnesville

By Rande Davis

Lifelong Barnesville resident, Elsie Lee Pyles, passed away on November 8 at her residence. Born on St. Patrick's Day in 1921, Elsie is fondly remembered by her friends as a most caring and compassionate person more concerned about her friends than herself. She and her husband, William D. Pyles, lived on a dairy farm on Sellman Road until they moved to Peachtree Road.

Elsie Pyles was one of ten children. She went to Strayer Secretarial School and became a secretary for the Montgomery County School Board for twenty years. Mrs. Pyles was honored in 2004 for her fifty years of volunteer

service to the Montgomery County Agriculture Center in Gaithersburg.

She joined her husband in his devotion to the Monocacy Lions Club by taking part in many club events



Elsie Lee Pyles

and continued to come to special Lion events long after his passing. Elsie's special passion was her yard and garden. Her family often remarked how hard the winter was on her, since she couldn't use her riding lawn mower and tend to the yard. Elsie continued to do her own lawn mowing and chauffeuring of friends to the doctor right to the very day she died. She was blowing leaves from the yard with her lawn mower when she had a heart attack. Known for maintaining deep and abiding friendships over decades, she would phone one of her dearest friends, Mary White Lok of Barnesville, every night at 9:00 p.m. so the two could check on one another.

William and Elsie were a fun-loving couple who very often had friends over

every Sunday for an informal gathering they called Sunday school where they would have breakfast and talk about everything from farming to politics. Frequent "Sunday schoolers" were Charles Knill and Clark Poole. Her friends selected our picture of Elsie since it seems to typify her love of life, as she seems to be toasting a fond farewell to her friends and family.

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Focus on Business

Poolesville Physical Therapy

By Jack Toomey

Next to McDonald's on Fisher Avenue, there is a rather ordinary white building that houses two apartments on the upper level and a barbershop downstairs. The other space in this building is a refuge that many residents of Poolesville and the upper part of the county have depended on to mend sore body parts, to recover from surgery, and for long term care. Poolesville Physical Therapy, under the direction of owner Patricia Hess, has treated thousands of patients since its opening in 1992. Some residents are probably not aware that the building has not al-



Patricia Hess

ways occupied this site. Before 1960, it was a one-story rambler-style private residence that occupied the corner of Fisher Avenue and Cattail Road. In the early 1960s, the Jamison family moved the building to its present location and built an addition.

Patricia Hess was born in Buffalo, New York and graduated from the State University of New York with a B.S. in Physical Therapy and moved to

the Maryland area in 1982. Pat worked at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital for a time, and that experience gave her



Santa and kids at the Upper MC Volunteer Fire Department's Santa Breakfast.

valuable experience in treating many different injuries and ailments. She opened Poolesville Physical Therapy in 1992, and her family moved to Poolesville in 1994. With office manager Julie Giarratano as her only employee, Pat started business and soon doctors began referring their patients to her office. Mrs. Hess estimates that she has treated over two thousand patients whose afflictions range from orthopedic problems, neuromuscular

troubles, neck and back pain, recovery from surgery, to joint replacement therapy. Her youngest patient was a three-month-old infant, and she has treated senior citizens in their nineties. She has even treated a soldier who was injured in Iraq. The office is filled with equipment that is necessary for treatment. A visitor was shown an ultrasound machine, traction, electrical — "Poolesville Physical Therapy" Continued on Page 22.

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Plum Good Stuff!

By Dominique Agnew

Enter the grounds of Ellen Pearl's Plum Stuff Studio and whimsy abounds. All around the yard surrounding the log house are strange creatures of unusual fabrication. Items usually seen in one context are transformed into charming garden sculptures. Here and there amongst the figures are beautiful pieces of furniture, iron tables with unique tile designs. There may also be a cute little white dog running around – and that would be Plum.

These one-of-a-kind pieces are the heart of Plum Stuff, but Ellen has only been at it for about ten years. Ellen is a prime example of how it's best to do what one loves, and sometimes, what one loves has to wait until later in life. She also has a revealing message for college-bound students or present college students: "Nothing I ever studied prepared me for my life; life prepares you for life." This from a psychology major.

Ellen grew up in New Jersey, and although she remembers loving art class as a child, her main childhood artistic emphases were on the performing arts. After attending Ohio State University, she married, had two children, divorced, and had to put any kind of artistic yearnings aside in the wake of the responsibilities that lay in providing for the kids. So she became an executive secretary, then a stockbroker.

After her children had grown and left home, Ellen realized she no longer had to do the corporate businesswoman gig. At this time, a friend had asked her to spend the summer giving horse riding lessons at Camp Tapawingo in Maine where she herself had spent summers as a child. That summer was the beginning of the end of the business suits. It took her "out of the business world and back into the ethereal," she says. "I didn't want to go back to the corporate world."

When she herself had attended Camp Tapawingo as a girl, she remembers that when her mother would come for visits, they would go antiquing together. At the time, New England was the place to go for the best antiques. As an adult, antiquing

would become a hobby which would stand her in good stead when left the suits behind. As it was, she would go to Georgetown for the flea markets on the weekends, then when that was no longer viable, she went to Capitol Hill and did well there. To replace her day job, she worked at the Gallery St. Elmo, a consignment store in Bethesda that sold furnishings. During this period where she worked at the gallery and toted antiques on the weekends, she met a dealer of Mexican iron furniture and was also successful in selling the furniture.

In 1997, Ellen decided to strike out on her own making tile and iron tables and furniture. She had become a little disappointed that the Mexican iron furniture was being made in China, so she found iron-workers nearby who would make furniture to her specifications, and she began creating her own designs. Iron Kingdom in Hyattsville makes the tabletops with bent lips (as opposed to having a second piece of iron soldered to the table) creating a better, stronger table. As she describes it, "It's good stuff. I'm very proud of



Three samples of Ellen Pearl's work.

the work." Her pieces are of a different quality than what can be found at the local department stores, and her customers are also of a different variety. She compares the contrasts of quality to vehicles. There are some people who buy KIAs and others who buy Rolls Royces. "I consider myself a Cadillac, at least." Ellen explains, "You can sit on [the tables]. They will outlast us."

In recent years, Ellen has settled into a pace that is "like a perfect fit for me." She has replaced the shows, "a real ego boost" that wasn't making any money, and the antiquing for teaching and creating. She teaches in the mornings at Butler School. There, she is a librarian of sorts. She helps the children find resources, and sometimes she'll teach a small class. She just finished giving a class on tai chi, and she has given riding instruction. To explain how much she loves going to the Butler School, she quotes her grandson. Upon looking at the Grand Canyon when they were on vacation once, he had said, "Any kid would want to be me right now." So Ellen says, "Anybody would want to be me when the alarm goes off, that's how much I love it."

After her mornings at the school, Ellen has her art projects waiting for her. Most of the works she creates are done on commission. She rarely sells pieces out of the studio. The commis-

sioned tables she has created have come in varying shapes and sizes. Clients bring her their collections or pictures (she can put them under glass), or they give her a theme they want preserved. One memorable commission was a pair of tables made for her two children. She brought to Ellen numerous mementos which were incorporated into the tables. When Ellen brought the completed pieces to her, she broke down and cried.

Ellen is happy to open her studio whenever she's there to visitors, and she also makes house calls. If you're ever driving along on Comus Road, look for her perky Plum Stuff sign, she tries to have a "studio open" sign posted when possible, and stop in to admire her wares.

Oh, if you wonder about the teepee in the yard, "That's for my grandchildren." One last thing, the big blue ball, that's the free entertainment, just call to Plum to bring it to you, and the ball will come rolling with a little white dog barking and pushing and having a wonderful time – and doing Plum Stuff.

Sandy's Four Seasons at Strathmore

Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron, local violin prodigy from Poolesville, will be performing Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* accompanied by the National Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Piotr Gajewski on Saturday, January 7, 8:00 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore. Reservations are required, but children ages seven to seventeen are free.

This will be Sandy's first local performance since graduating from Poolesville High School last spring.



Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron

This past September, she left for Boston where she has been attending Harvard University and the New England Conservatory of Music. Despite her busy schedule, she traveled to Korea in October to per-

form with the Seoul Baroque Chamber Orchestra for the grand opening of the National Museum in Seoul.

Sandy is very excited to be coming home and performing for the local community.

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Tributes

Local Student Wins Award

The University of Maryland at College Park recently selected Karen Toomey, a 2002 graduate of Poolesville High School, for the prestigious Excellence in Family Studies Award. Ms. Toomey, a family studies major, won first place in the department's symposium after submitting a semester-long research project concerning children's issues. Karen said "I was very surprised when the judges announced that my research project had won". "I

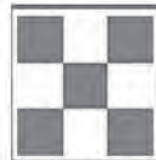


Karen Toomey

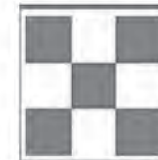
worked for a long time on this study and am very proud of my effort and hard work". During her research Karen interviewed over sixty students and had to analyze the data that she collected.

Ms. Toomey, who has been a member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority since 2002 and is involved in the Greek Inter-Varsity and the National Christian Group, hopes to go into teaching after her graduation in the spring of 2006. As a reward for her efforts Ms. Toomey recently dined with University President Dr. C. D. Mote. Karen is the daughter of John Toomey and Carla Toomey, both of Poolesville.

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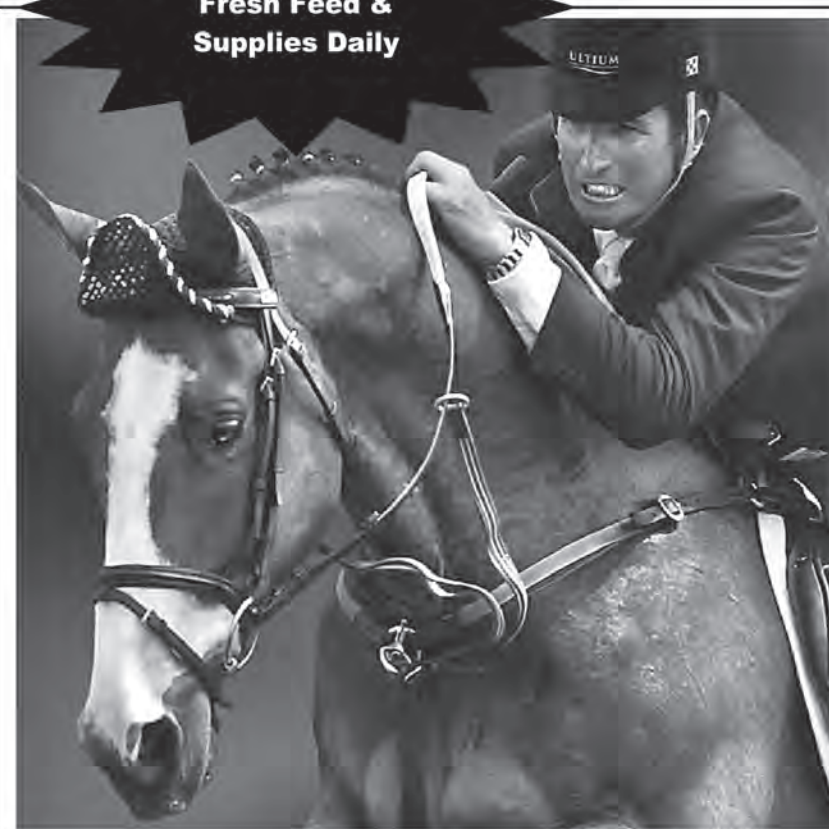


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**"Wishes" Continued From
Page 9—**

friend almost twenty years ago. I am always amazed at their hardiness and ability to dazzle me with their gorgeous double blooms and intoxicating scent throughout the summer. Rugosas, I wish you continued good health in 2006.

My much-loved David Austin roses had a tough year in 2005. They started out with a bang in early May and were the picture of health in June. Then, the heat, drought and Japanese beetles took their toll. By mid-summer, I had to severely prune them, some almost to the ground. They semi-rallied towards the end of August, but they had been dealt a harsh blow. I wish that they surprise me this May and bounce back even better than ever.

Rosemary is for remembrance. Molly's Garden, named after our wonderful Golden Retriever who died in April 2005, had a wonderful first year. The mixture of plants, roses, snapdragons, zinnias, Shasta daisies, coreopsis 'Moonbeam', and rosemary grew very well together. May my little garden grow up to be just as sweet and manageable as my Molly.

Last year I planted the romantic, fragrant, old-fashioned Bourbon Rose "Zephirine Drouhin" along the fence line of the Upper Garden. Unfortunately, I planted it on the wrong side of the fence. I wished that I had remembered the location of the fence in relation to the location of the sun. In its effort to face the sun, its canes are growing away from the fence and flopping on the grass. I tried tying it to the fence. No, it wanted to face the sun. So, Mr. Sun, do me a favor in 2006, and grant my wish for you to


shine on the other side of the fence.

What else do I wish for? I wish that the Japanese Beetles arrive in Barnesville late and leave early, or better yet, not arrive at all. I wish that the pesky, in-your-face-gnats disappear. I wish for a garden hose that doesn't kink around corners or get caught in its own coils like an angry snake. It is highly annoying to have to keep backtracking from the upper garden to straighten it out. I wish for a pair of pruners with a beeping device to tell me where I left them. I wish for my two dedicated and talented sous-gardeners, Max and Sam, another great and healthy year of chasing squirrels and slow ground-hogs, hot and sunny days swimming in the pool, giant leaps from the dock into the Chesapeake Bay, and long, cool naps under the white pine trees. Oh, and I strongly wish that they would stop digging deep holes in my garden. And lastly, I wish all my readers and their families a very joyful and peaceful holiday season and best wishes for the New Year. See you back here in 2006.

Then may you shoulder spade and hoe,
And heavy-booted homeward go,
For no new flowers shall be born
Save hellebore on Christmas morn.
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The Pulse

The Monocacy Lions Club

By Rande Davis

Maybe you heard the joke about the salesman, the farmer, and the priest who sat down one day just before Christmas to try figure out how they could make the world better. The only twist to this old story is that it was no joke. It really happened. The salesman was Lloyd Jones, the farmer was Benoni Allnut, and the priest was Rev. Carl Hess. It was December 5, 1940 when these gentlemen looked around at a world on the verge of war and decided the best way to make the world better was to start at home. It was then that they and twenty-one other men from the area chartered the Monocacy Lions Club.

Although Benoni Allnut is technically the last of the club's charter members, Dickerson's Edmond Brown, the renowned country lawyer, transferred to the Monocacy Club in 1941, missing the charter list by only a few months.

In our story, the names aren't changed to protect the innocent. Many of the sons of these men picked up the baton and today help carry on their legacy. Most readers will recognize the names. Frank and Bill Jamison have carried on for their father, Charles. William and Woody Hilton have done the same. Herb Brown is fortunate enough to be able to be involved in the club along with his father, Ed.

Some of the founding members' names read a bit like a Poolesville street map. The postmaster at the time, Charles Elgin, was not only one of the charter leaders, but he also went on

to dedicate a lifetime of service to the area as a town commissioner.

Sixty-five years later, this group of like-minded, concerned citizens has grown to just under eighty members. Their mission and good deeds have grown, too. Over the decades, their work has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars of help to people primarily right in the community.

The Lions are most famous for their work for those with vision problems. It was Helen Keller who challenged the members at the first national convention to make blindness their primary mission. Today's Monocacy Lions continue that challenge by recycling used eyeglasses for persons around the world, and paying for eye exams and glasses for those in need right in our community who cannot afford the service. Their vision mission has expanded in areas of prevention by providing preschool vision screening that can catch serious eye problems at a time when corrective action can be most effective. Such screening has been done at almost all the daycare centers in the area.

The Lions District organization sponsors Camp Merrick, a wonderful outdoor and recreational facility for children with vision and hearing problems.

For the Monocacy Lions, their mission on vision is just the beginning; they provide hearing aids, as well. Over the years, scores and scores of students from Poolesville High School have gotten scholarship assistance for their college education. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Lions sponsor and deliver food baskets to those less fortunate in the

—**"Monocacy Lions" Continued on
Page 20.**

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Present

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Lock your car doors and hide packages in the trunk.

Don't carry large sums of cash and use credit cards or checks if possible.

Carry your closed purse as close to your body as possible.

Carry your wallet in an inside coat pocket or in a front pants pocket.

Trust your instincts. If something makes you uneasy, leave the area or avoid the person.

Don't flash large amounts of cash

or wear expensive jewelry when shopping.

Don't be too distracted by your shopping. Stay alert and be aware of everything around you at all times.

November 23 at 12:00 p.m. Cutting. A nine-year-old boy from Poolesville was cut with a sharp object at the Germantown Elementary School, 19100 Liberty Mill Road. The suspect is known to the victim and the investigation is continuing.

December 9 at 2:19 a.m. Commercial burglary. 10000 Falls Road, Potomac. Officers responding to a burglar alarm found an ATM machine badly damaged at the Bank of America branch in Potomac. An undisclosed amount of cash had been taken from the machine.

Past

December 21, 1931. Hunters discovered a human skeleton in the woods in Big Pines, between River Road and the road to Travilah. The discovery was made by Game Warden George Van Horn who found a wrist watch, jewelry, a pocketbook with a two-cent piece dated 1856, and shoes normally worn by a woman of means. The next day it was proven that the remains were that of a one hundred-

year-old woman who had disappeared from her home at Travilah nearly one year ago.

December 23, 1887. The Rev. George Isreal, an aged clergyman who resides in Clarksbug, Montgomery County, disappeared last Saturday under very mysterious circumstances and has not been seen since. He was in Rockville and left the hotel in the midst of a snowstorm to go to the train but was not seen again either at the depot or on the street leading there. As he is a very infirm gentleman, there is concern for his welfare.

December 24, 1942. Montgomery County police received many calls from people who were concerned about the sighting of a fast-moving object in the sky. The object, which seemingly was operated by a man dressed in red and being propelled by deer, was seen landing on the rooftops of farmhouses in Dickerson, Barnesville, and Beallsville. Police cars, recently equipped with two-way radios, had difficulty at times receiving radio signals from headquarters in the more rural areas. Apparently the object was never identified.

December 28, 1932. One volunteer fireman was injured and five escaped injury when a Gaithersburg-Wash-

ington Grove Fire Department engine overturned on the way to a fire which caused damage of \$24,000 to the general store of S. Creighton Jones in Dickerson.

December 31, 1906. Several Montgomery County residents were among the dead and injured after the appalling calamity that occurred on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad near Terra Cotta Station in Washington, D.C. At least forty-three people were counted among the dead including Dr. E. Oliver Belt and his son who had been visiting relatives in Dickerson. They were returning on the ill-fated train from their pleasant excursion when tragedy struck. Also killed was Nettie Lee Compher of Dickerson.

January 6, 1937. A twenty-seven-year-old man was shot in the head, probably fatally, and four other persons suffered minor wounds in a free-for-all shotgun fight at the tiny hamlet of Martinsburg, Montgomery County.

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**"Monocacy Lions" Continued
From Page 16—**

area so their holiday can be a joy. They donate, collect, and help deliver the toys at Christmas.

The list of those they assist just keeps getting bigger as they also make cash donations to WUMCO, Hands of Love, Building Together, UMCVFD, Lions Eye Bank, and they also make donations when disasters like the tsunami and Katrina occur.

To make sure the next generation is ready to pick up the baton of help, the Monocacy Lions also sponsor two youth clubs called the Leo Clubs. The Leos are at JPMS and PHS.

There are a number of reasons why the club has grown over the years. The first is probably due to the bonding of its members through two dinner meetings twice a month and a calendar of fun events like a crab feast, Christmas Party, family picnic, and even, occasionally, a trip to the ball park. The other reason may be even more important in today's fast-paced lifestyle. Each member decides for himself the level of his involvement. While most choose to be involved year-round, others select just one or two causes or fundraising events in which to participate. While there may be varying degrees of involvement among members, the definition of a good Lion is broad enough to suit most people. In fact, the Lions toast says it best: "Not above you, not below you, but with you."

The truth is that the founding members were younger than today's group. Maybe the greatest generation was a time when men were really men, and the idea of giving back to the community was the best way for an individual to make the world better.

If you are interested in learning more about the Monocacy Lions or just want to make a donation to the Monocacy Lions Foundation, you may call the *Monocle* and talk to either Lion

**"Mr. Haviland " Continued From
Page 8—**

and horses were gone. George Plyer, the postmaster at Wheaton, was returning from the same church with his wife and children when they sighted a wagon and horses about two hundred yards north of their house on the turnpike. Mr. Plyer wondered why someone would be out so late, and Mrs. Plyer remarked, "Why, ain't we out late?" At about 11:15 p.m., Mrs. Plyer heard someone screaming for help but attributed it to drunkards who sometimes came down the pike. At about midnight, John Bowman, a farmer, found a riderless wagon and team of horses in front of his place. Thinking that the horses had wandered off, he stabled them and went to bed. The next day, Bowman inquired in Wheaton about the wagon and horses and learned that Mr. Haviland was missing. Col. Bowie, a friend of Haviland, came to Wheaton and identified the wagon as Haviland's and found bloodstains on the wagon floor.

Someone decided that the sheriff should be notified, and Sheriff Miller came from Rockville. He organized a search party and every able bodied man and boy began walking along both sides of the pike. One of them found a coat, turned inside out with crackers in the pockets, hanging on a fence about two hundred yards from the road. It was the coat of Mr. Haviland. Suspicion fell on a small village between Sligo and Wheaton. Mr. Plyer, the postmaster, had an opinion about the residents of this place. He was quoted as saying, "They steal whatever they can and would slit a man's throat for a dollar bill." As was the custom of the time, all of the houses were searched and the men questioned, but nothing of value was found.

Since Montgomery County had no police force, the Washington police sent several officers and detectives to Wheaton to help. During their

investigation, a blood-stained rock, crushed bushes, and disturbed grass were found near the spot where the coat was found. Professor Desmedt, a noted chemist living in the area, examined the rock and stated that the spots were indeed human blood. In the meantime, the railroad ticket agent at Rockville told Sheriff Miller that two men had come into his station and excitedly inquired about when the next train left for Washington. They were also seen with a wad of greenbacks. This information was telegraphed to Washington, but nothing came of it.

Christmas Day did not deter the residents of the area. An estimated three hundred men and boys turned out to search the woods, ditches, and swamps along the pike. Nothing was found.

On December 29, Alexander Kilgour, an attorney practicing in Rockville, came to Rockville and announced that the body of Mr. Haviland had been found in an abandoned well near Wheaton. This news caused great excitement, and the sentiment was that if the persons were found who committed the crime, they should be immediately hanged. Later that night, word reached Rockville that men searching the well had actually found a dead raccoon and not a human body. The embarrassed Mr. Kilgour had to explain that he was merely repeating a rumor he had heard.

By December 30, large crowds of Washingtonians had come to Montgomery County lured by the rumor that the body of Haviland had been found. Bean's Store, near the Silver Springs, did a thriving business selling cider and cakes to the travelers. Many theories were advanced, and heated discussions broke out. In the meantime, a trunk, with a highly offensive odor, was delivered by train to Boyds. It was addressed to a Mrs. Elliott who was unknown in those

parts. Fearing the worst, the sheriff broke open the trunk and found that it contained rotten meat.


On January 5, 1886, Farmer Heffner was working on his property on the Rockville Road when he was attracted by an unpleasant odor coming from some bushes near the road. Upon investigating, Heffner found the body of a man holding a pistol. Incredibly, Heffner, thinking of the reward that had been offered, took the head of the corpse and put it into a basket and stored it in his barn. He later took it to Pyles Store which was serving as the headquarters for news and gossip. A huge crowd gathered upon hearing the news. The coroner empanelled a jury, and the facts were presented. After visiting Heffner's farm and examining the torso and clothing of the deceased person, it was determined that it was not the body of Mr. Haviland. Instead, it was the body of a notorious criminal named Toli-var who had been widely sought by the Sheriff. The jury adjourned, and everyone went home.

During the winter and spring of 1886, rumors persisted that Haviland's body had been found in Rock Creek, that his watch had been found, and that he had been seen in the vicinity of his home at Norbeck. Each time, excited citizens gathered only to be disappointed when the rumors proved false. It was rumored by some that Haviland had disappeared to avoid a debt. Mr. Muncaster, the owner of the mill, vigorously denied that and said that Haviland owed a small amount of money to him that could have easily been paid back with the assets that Haviland was known to have.

As late as 1889, the newspapers continued to carry news of the disappearance of Haviland and published letters from citizens who expressed their theories and even recounted dreams that they had. Researchers who have studied the case can find no mention of Phillip Haviland after this decade. His family moved back to Charles County; however, Mr. Haviland is not mentioned in any census or death reports during that time.

So what happened to Phillip Haviland? We will never know for sure, but most believe that he was waylaid while traveling home and was murdered. Others think that he left on his own accord and simply changed his name and lived out his life somewhere else. One hundred and twenty years later, the case remains unsolved.

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For the second year in a row, the Poolesville High School Boys' Soccer team has won the 1A Region Championships.

Despite graduating eight seniors from last year's lineup, the team had a good showing in its regular season, ending up 4-6-1 in the county, and winning its two out of county games. This was just short of Coach Mark Agnew's first goal of the season in which he hoped to go .500 in the county. In his first year as coach last year, the team also won four games, but the previous two years had seen the team winning only one regular season game.

Coach Agnew's second goal was also met, resoundingly. The team won the three regional playoff games with three shutouts, including the Region Championship game. The third goal for the season will remain as unfinished business: advancing to the state championships. This year, Poolesville lost to Rising Sun of Cecil County in the state semi-finals, 1-0, "despite pressuring the entire game." Says Coach Agnew, "We out-shot them ten to one."

The season began with much uncertainty. Two key players, returning starters from the year before, were missing due to injuries sustained in spring club ball, and the team was young. There were five sophomores all season, and three more were brought up from junior varsity for the playoff run, as well as one freshman. Nonetheless, Coach Agnew was "very pleased with how the team came together the last month of the regular season and the playoffs."

This year the team is losing five seniors: Jimmy Stout (who was able to return to playing midfield near the end of the season after his spring injury); Luis Mejia, captain and defensive mid; Chris Hren, defender; Jason Norton, forward; and Steve Bradford, midfielder.

Coach Mark Agnew has high hopes for next year, however, with so many returning players. There will be six returning starters: juniors Russell Karn, captain and offensive center mid with great speed and skill; Jay Lowe, midfielder, a great play maker with a great vision of the field; Matt Weber, forward, who has a good



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scoring touch; and Jason Kramek, an all-around solid player — according to Coach Agnew, "Nobody that I've seen can throw in better than he." The returning sophomore starters are: Mark Fales, one of the best defenders in the county, and Matt Robillard as goalkeeper with outstanding quickness in the goal.

All-Met in Two Sports — at the Same Time

By Rande Davis

Many athletes have made the *Washington Post's* All-Met team in more than one sport. Few have done what Paul Potemra of Poolesville has done this fall. Paul made the *Post's* All-Met soccer and football team at the same time.

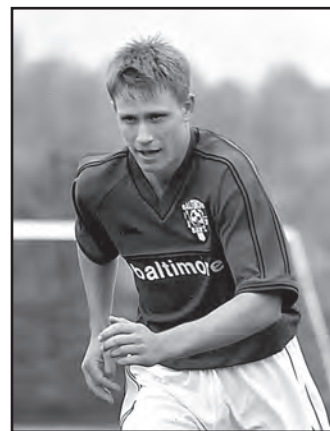
As a four-year starter for the soccer powerhouse, Bullis Bulldogs, the *Washington Post* selected Paul as a first team defensive player for his outstanding defensive performance. The newspaper cited his "stellar vision, accurate passing, and team leadership" in making their selection. The Bulldogs not only went 17-1 for the season, but they held their opponents to only seven goals all year. In seventeen games, there were twelve shutouts and the Bulldogs went on to win the IAC championship. Adding to his credits, he was also selected first team All-Gazette for his defensive play. The Gazette newspaper also recognized his coach, George Moore, as their soccer coach of the year. In addition, Paul made the All-Examiner team selection as a kicker and for soccer defender. The accolades just kept rolling in. He also was the Bullis soccer team's MVP, All League IAC place kicker in football as a junior and senior, and All League IAC as a junior.

Paul's parents, Conrad and Susan Potemra, justifiably beam with pride in their son's accomplishments.

Although Paul played and practiced with the soccer team, he still suited up with the football team as their punter, kickoff specialist, and field goal kicker. When the *Post* selected him as their second team kicker,

the newspaper made a clear mistake. We think he should have been chosen first team. Their selection for first team had as his longest field goal a forty-one yard kick. Very nice for a high school kid. Just consider, though, that Paul's longest kick was fifty-one yards. He also kicked field goals of forty-nine and forty-eight yards. How strong a kicker is he? That came to light on one kickoff that he sailed straight through the goal post for seventy-five yards.

Asked about the mental pressure of kicking, Paul states that he simply puts all his focus on the ball with less emphasis on the distance. He will step



Paul Potemra

up to the ball, swing his arm to mentally "split" the goal posts, move back three steps and two steps left. If the hike is sound and the holder does his job, Paul stays confident throughout.

Keeping his legs limber and in shape is not too hard for him since he plays sports all year round at Bullis. He currently stays busy playing bas-

ketball, and he will be playing baseball for Bullis again in the spring.

The six foot, 175 pound star thinks soccer has some advantages since he has ninety minutes to work hard to recover from a bad shot and help the team win. In his football role, he has two seconds to shine or not. While he seems to prefer soccer, he admits that college football has a lot of appeal with "those large crowds that would be fun."

For all our readers who have coached little league, we think they would like the fact that Paul gives a lot of credit to his P.A.A. coaches when he was in eighth grade. He fondly remembers his coach Woody Bierly spending many summer days working with him. He also recalls Dr. Malcolm Fields helping him as a kicker even though the coach was a toe kicker. Paul uses today's more preferred soccer kicking style unlike the old straight on technique remembered by Mark Mosley fans.

Where does Paul go from here after his senior year? He has a list of more than eight colleges he is considering. He is torn a bit between football and soccer. Upon reflection, he thinks that playing either professional or European Club soccer may be his best bet in the long run. As far as professional football is considered, he thinks he needs to get through a couple of years of college to better analyze this prospect.

Paul comes from a highly athletic family with his brother Colin starting in lacrosse and coaching young lacrosse hopefuls in Poolesville. Brother Cory played soccer, and his sister, Meghan, played field hockey. The *Monocle* thinks that a high school kid who can kick a fifty-one yard field goal; who has shown his ability to work hard to achieve; and who clearly

— "All-Met" Continued on Page 22.

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**"All-Met" Continued From
Page 21—**

has his head on straight, needs to be taken very seriously. How seriously? We like to think that maybe one day Paul will kick the "big one" while wearing burgundy and gold.

**Poolesville Rooters Rout
Rivals**

Congratulations to the Poolesville High School Varsity Cheerleaders who participated in the Montgomery County Cheerleading Competition, Saturday, December 10, 2005. They brought home the first place trophy once again!

The annual competition consists of three divisions. Divisions are determined by the size of the squad: Division I - fifteen members or less, Division II - sixteen to twenty members, Division III - twenty-one and up. The teams competing in Division III were: Poolesville, Northwest, Kennedy, Wheaton, B-CC, Einstein, and Walter Johnson.

Poolesville competed in Division III with fifteen members including: six seniors, Jessica Winnovich, Chrissy Dabbondanza, Alex Adkins, Colleen Conway, Melanie Stidham, Angela Witt; seven juniors, Caroline Hayden, Allee Swick, Jenni Fisher, Amanda Fogle, Emily Ricigliano, Ebone Pruitt, Suzy Grochowski; one sophomore, Ashley Turner; and one freshman, Maureen Conway.

The girls were amazing. The mighty Falcons dazzled the crowd as they soared to the roof with their highflying baskets, jumps, cheers, dances, and beautiful smiles. They were breathtaking. The true Poolesville spirit showed in everything they did. They were the showstoppers!

Coach Eddy Pratt was ecstatic with the victory saying, "I want to give a special thanks to the girls for their hard work and dedication to our squad, and also thank them for making me feel like the luckiest coach ever! I have been back at PHS coaching for four years and our record is three first place awards and one second place award. Poolesville Cheerleaders rock!"

The results of Division III had Poolesville coming in first, followed by Northwest, Kennedy, and then Wheaton winning the Spirit Award.

**"Poolesville Physical Therapy"
Continued From Page 11—**

stimulation, and exercise and traction equipment. There is also a whirlpool and hot and cold therapy devices.

Poolesville Physical Therapy has one full-time employee, two part-time staff members, and an intern from Poolesville High School. Julie Giarratano, who has been the office manager since the first day, said, "I have been very blessed to work at Poolesville Physical Therapy. How many people can say that they only have a two-minute commute and be home for their kids after school? I've had the pleasure to meet the great people of Poolesville and have made many wonderful friends. Many walking miracles have come in and out of here, and it's been a true gift from God to work here." Julie handles patient appointments, insurance claims, and assists Pat when necessary. A visitor to



the Poolesville Physical Therapy office encountered two patients. John Roberts, who is recovering from a serious leg and knee injury, said, "I am getting great care, I highly recommend Pat." John was resolute when he said, "My doctor said, 'I want you to go to Pat'" Maureen Walter has been a patient for years. Maureen, always upbeat and jovial, said, "Pat and Julie have helped me so much, they are very caring, and are very good at taking your mind off of the pain." In case there are those who are not familiar with physical therapy, some exercises cause pain, but that is not a bad thing. Pat remarked that some people come in with a complaint, and "the treatment sometimes causes discomfort, but you need to help them through it for (the patient) to recover." Mrs. Hess said, "My greatest satisfaction is seeing people getting better and increasing the quality of their lives."

Perhaps the most remarkable case that Pat Hess has handled involved an eleven-year-old Poolesville boy. Three years ago, Kevin McNealy, who was playing football for the Poolesville Athletic Association at the time, was brought to PPT with a complaint of pain in the back of the leg. After only a few visits, Pat realized that

the problem was much more serious. She insisted that the boy be taken to a neurologist, and within a few days, a tumor was identified at the base of Kevin's spine. Surgery was indicated, and the tumor was removed and was revealed to be cancerous. For three years, Kevin has undergone chemotherapy and strengthening treatments at PPT and just finished his ninth grade football season on the Poolesville High School JV team. Cindy McNealy, Kevin's mother, said, "Pat is phenomenal, all of Kevin's doctors said that she kept him in great shape and keeping him physically fit and mobile." Kevin remarked, "Mrs. Hess was wonderful, if I never went to her, I never would be doing the sports that I do now." Due in part to the instinct of this learned lady, Kevin McNealy is playing high school football, track, and baseball.

PPT accepts most major insurance policies including Medicare, MAMSI, Alliance, Signa, all Blue Cross plans, Aetna, and Tri-Care. Pat sees patients Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings.

Pat Hess lives in Poolesville with her husband Larry, and her three children, Jessica, Daniel, and Alex.

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**“Changing Face” Continued
From Page 1—**

and upper Montgomery County.

Aldo Ventura came to the United States from Honduras in 2001. His family first settled in Silver Spring, but his father, who had lived in a small town in Honduras, decided to move the family to Poolesville. Aldo, who is nineteen and attends Montgomery College, described his native city, San Marcos, as a small town similar to Poolesville but said that things there were more compact and you “didn’t have to call your friends to meet them,” and here, “things are more spread out.” Aldo graduated from Quince Orchard High School because he was still learning English when he arrived and the Poolesville schools did not provide ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) services. He remarked that his school in Honduras was different because the students stayed in the same room all day. One thing he noticed right away is that he rarely sees a pick up soccer game. Aldo, who plays soccer for Montgomery College and played two years of varsity soccer at Quince Orchard, misses “the passion for soccer” that he experienced in Honduras. In Central America, there are vendors on the

street selling food, clothing, and other goods. He laughed when he said that the nearest McDonald’s was “six hours away” from his town. Ventura, who hopes to eventually study computer science, said, “I like the schools here; I see a better future for myself.”

Ya-Ting Wang came to the Montgomery County area from Taiwan in December of 2003. As some Asian students do, she adopted an American



Aldo Ventura

name and chose Irene. She came from a small city called Keelung which is less congested than Montgomery County and most people use bicycles or take a bus and few families own cars. Irene remembered her first day in the United States and said, “Everything was really wide (open), the sky was very blue, and things were

beautiful.” In Taiwan, students attend school from 7:30 until 5:30 p.m., usually stay in the same classroom all day, and elect a class officer – and the students clean the classroom. Irene was also surprised to see that American teenagers use makeup because in Taiwan, “we don’t use makeup until college.” She remarked, “American (teens) are more independent, and they think Asian people are smart and some make fun of our accent.” She hopes to study pharmaceutical science in college and then decide whether to stay in the United States.

Maxim Henze arrived in the United States from Russia in 2002 when he was fourteen. He had lived in Stavropole which is in the eastern part of Russia, about seven hundred miles from Moscow. If you have spent enough time in downtown Poolesville, you probably have seen Max riding his bike, rollerblading, or heading for the nearest fishing hole. Max vividly recalled his first day in America.

“There was a huge heat, many people, and nice-looking cars,” he said. Since he arrived during the summer, he quickly learned where the Western County Pool was located. Although he knew virtually no English, he made many friends by virtue of his outgoing personality and friendliness. Max said

that Poolesville is much smaller than his native city, and it took some time to acclimate himself to the different climate. In Russia, he experienced more snow and it wasn’t as hot. He noted that in Russia, “you would never see a deer crossing the street,” but in Poolesville he was surprised to see that happening. Max is also enrolled at Quince Orchard where he has made great strides in learning English. He plays varsity soccer and volleyball for the high school team. Max said, “American people are very friendly and the teachers and my friends try to help me. Coming to America was great, and I have a better chance to have a better life and be successful.”

Aldo, Irene, and Max are still adjusting to American culture and learning the language. They are only three of the many immigrants who have chosen the upper county as their home. They have bright futures and are changing the face of upper Montgomery County just like our ancestors changed the face of America during the great wave of immigration of the late 1800s and early 1900s. There is hardly any doubt that the census of 2010 will be vastly different in its composition because of the arrival of industrious and intelligent people like Irene, Max, and Aldo.

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