

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 12, 2006

Volume III, Number 5

## Inside the Monocle



Fred George

You do not want to miss Sandy Cameron's concert on May 25. Read more on Page 12.



Hilary Schwab

PHS's Stacy Gilbert is a control freak? What could that possibly mean? Turn to Youth Sports on Page 23 for the full story.



It starts with the t-shirts. Then the bumper stickers. Can the lawn signs be far behind? More on the Lt. Governor's appearance on Page 13.

## Maryland's First Lady Visits Local Home

By Rande Davis  
Maryland First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, visited the home of Nancy and Ben Daughtry on White's Store Road in Barnesville for an afternoon with invited guests. The afternoon reception was not held as a strictly Republican event, and, in fact, had many Democrats and Independents among the crowd of over fifty people.

After arriving at the home and spending some time greeting and chatting with the guests, the first lady made a heart-felt plea for the reelection of her husband. In a rapid-fire, twenty-five minute presentation, Mrs. Ehrlich articulated an enthusiastic defense of the administration, which, at the same time, demonstrated her impressive talents honed as both a public defender and prosecutor.

Mrs. Ehrlich shared with the group her keen interests in education, the environment, and drug/alcohol abuse by youth.

We had three questions for the first lady, which she actually answered in her overall presentation.

With young children (Drew, six, and Josh, two) the question arises as to how she manages the family priorities with such an involved public life. She

at Drew's school, but they also try to keep it real and normal by doing the things all families do such as "joining the local pool, and taking the kids to the playground."

We wanted to know what accomplishments the governor might be most proud of in the first term. Clearly, the turnaround in the state budget from a \$4 billion deficit to a \$2.4 billion surplus without raising taxes is something they will emphasize throughout the campaign. Fast-tracking the I.C.C. (Inter-County Connector highway) and the creation of 100,000 new private sector jobs is right at the top of the list, as well. In education, she sited a \$1.4 billion increase in public

school funding and did not spare the legislature's prevention of a proposed takeover of some public schools in Baltimore. In this regard, she not only

—Continued on Page 14.



Suzanna Shorts, First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, and Josephine Baca.

shared how she and the governor balance public responsibilities with their family life by making sure that life in the mansion and in their neighborhood is as normal as possible. She not only makes sure to do her share

## Focus on Business

By Rande Davis  
Jones Premium Builders and Remodeling is a small, family-owned enterprise ten years in the making. Owner, Chris Jones, has a family history in Barnesville going back to the late 1800s. In fact, he runs the business from the thirty-six acre farm and farmhouse owned by his great grandfather, Charles M. Ward. Hey, if you are going to live in a home that is one hundred and fifteen years old, it's darned convenient to be a home remodeler, don't you think?

## Keeping up with the Joneses

After high school, Chris's first calling was to answer the call of Uncle Sam. He is a deservedly proud former marine who served for four years, coming out as a lance corporal before going to Montgomery College. At that point, he had an interest in pursuing law enforcement studies. As things worked out, though, he went into home building work instead and



Chris and Mary Lu Jones

—Continued on Page 22.



# Family Album

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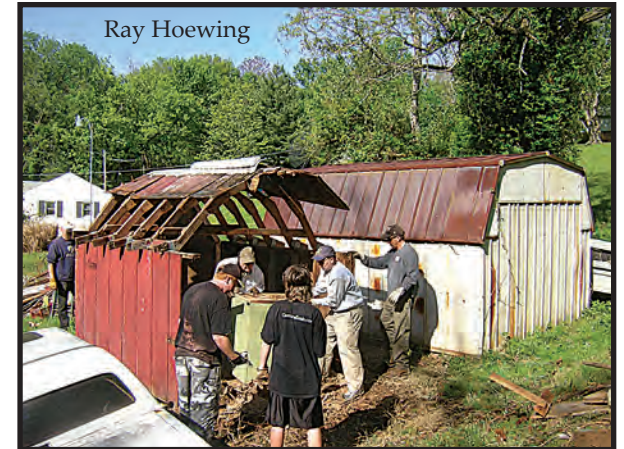


Ray Hoewing

Dave Johnson, house captain, briefs Rebuilding Together volunteers.



Rabbi David Shneyer at the Grand Opening of the Am Kolel Sanctuary Retreat Center in Beallsville.



Ray Hoewing

Rebuilding Together volunteers take out a shed.



The scene at the Am Kolel Sanctuary Retreat Center Grand Opening.



Lt. Governor Steele regales the GOP base at the Frederick County Lincoln Day Dinner.



A motorist gets a close shave at the barbershop.

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## Tributes

### Bill Bliss Recognized for Extensive Public Service

By Rande Davis

Poolesville town resident, William "Bill" Bliss, was honored at the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Safety Awards luncheon recently. He received the Leslie B. Thompson Community Service Award, given to those representing the best in long-term volunteer service in public safety.

This event, one of the most prestigious in the county and in Maryland, drew nearly one thousand luncheon guests this year. The award program gives special recognition to those who serve the community in the Mont-

gomery County Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Maryland-National Capital Park Police (Montgomery Division), Sheriff's Office, and Department of Correction and Rehabilitation.

Speakers for this special occasion included Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, County Executive Doug Duncan, and County Council President, George Leventhal. Doreen Gentzler and Jim Vance of NBC News narrated the afternoon's program.

Bill Bliss, seventy-nine years old, started his public volunteer service with the Upper Montgomery County VFD in March of 1953 and has served in all the ranks of the fire department including assistant chief for fifteen years, and chief for one year. He has also been its training officer for fifteen years, and remarkably, he has been recognized as the department's top responder thirty times over the years.

While not "out on the call" today, he continues to serve the department as a member of its Board of Directors. In addition to his service with UMCVFD, he has also contributed to the cause of fire and rescue services in

many other ways including president of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire/Rescue Association, a group of which he has been a member for forty years. In the presentation of the award to Mr. Bliss, it was commented that he is "highly-regarded, trusted, and respected by both those who know him and those who only know of him. He is considered one of the main founders and developers of the [fire and rescue] service." Impressively, he has not only been selected for the Montgomery County Fire/Rescue Association Hall of Fame but also has been selected similarly for the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

In 1965, the Fire Board of Montgomery County was given the authority to act on behalf of the fire/rescue service of Montgomery County. Chief

Bliss was one of the primary leads in the development of this act and thereby, one of the primary founders of the establishment of the Fire and Rescue Services of Montgomery County government.

In citing his dedicated and outstanding service to the fire and rescue services of the State of Maryland, Montgomery County, and the community, it was stated that "Chief Bliss represents the truest spirit of volunteerism."

Finally, in gaining the nomination and the award, he was further recognized for his service as a member of the Maryland Fire Chief's Association, the IAFC (International Association of Fire Chiefs), the IAFC Foundation, and the IAFC Heritage Club.

On top of everything else, Chief Bliss was the pitcher for many years on his department's championship slow-pitch softball team. The *Monocle* joins with so many others in the county and in the community in expressing our gratitude for his extended public service. We look forward to a more extensive profile article on this important public servant in the not-too-distant future.



Bill Bliss

## To Poolesville Residents and Commuters of White's Ferry

*I, as the wife of Captain Garcey Flury, would like to thank all of you for your kindness and support during these last two months. Though the death of Garcey has been tragic and untimely, you in the community have helped raise me up. For that I am truly grateful. There is something to be said for small communities and I want all of you to know that the outpouring of your gracious thoughts and prayers were appreciated.*

*Sincerely,  
Rachel Flury*

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## Editorial

### And They're Off

By John Clayton

The election season is upon us. There is but one short summer before the Maryland primary elections. Here at the *Monocle*, we realize it is high time we began placing more emphasis on our local elected officials and elections, and, to this end, we're off to a good start with our front page story.

There are many races to occupy our attention that could potentially affect our lives here in Monocacy Country. The marquee event is the race for governor, and leading that is the September 12 Democratic primary between Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan and Baltimore Mayor (and Montgomery County native) Michael O'Malley. On the Republican side, incumbent Governor Robert Ehrlich will try to overcome the Democrat's numerical advantage one more time, perhaps hoping that the winner of the O'Malley-Duncan prelim will be battered beyond repair. Stay tuned.

Maryland is also the site of a nationally significant election for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Paul Sarbanes. (Of course, since the U.S.

Senate majority may be in play this year, pretty much any senate race is significant.) The Republicans appear to be well on their way to selecting Lt. Governor Michael Steele who has spent the last four years building his case as a serious candidate and garnering support around the state. (For more on Lt. Governor Steele as he appeared at a local political dinner, please see our article in Local News on page 13.) Opposing Mr. Steele on the Democratic side will be either Baltimore area Congressman Ben Cardin or former Baltimore area Congressman Kweisi Mifune.

Part of what makes this election so compelling is that there are so many viable minority candidates for statewide office, as befitting a state with a high percentage of minority voters. Most prominent is Lt. Governor Steele running for the U.S. Senate. Michael O'Malley and Douglas Duncan have each chosen African-American running mates, and Mr. Mifune, an African American, is the nationally prominent former head of the NAACP.

On the local front, our entire District 15 State Delegation is up for reelection, including Senator Rob Garagiola (Democrat), and delegates Jean Cryor (Republican), Brian Feldman (Democrat), and Kathleen Dumais

(Democrat). All except Mrs. Cryor are finishing their first terms. The senate race in particular is of interest because the Republicans would only need to gain a few seats statewide to give them enough votes to prevent the override of vetoes by the governor, assuming the governor is still a Republican.

Our local representative to the Montgomery County council is first-time council member Michael Knapp. Mr. Knapp was elected as part of County Executive Duncan's slate of candidates in support of the Inter-County Connector, and he defeated longtime Republican councilman Nancy Dacek who was firmly against the ICC and had enjoyed widespread bipartisan support. This time, the Clarksburg planning board irregularities will occupy much of the debate for the county council. For the record, area voters will also vote for four at-large candidates, in addition to Mr. Knapp's local District 2 seat.

Since the incumbent county executive, the aforementioned Doug Duncan, is seeking greener pastures, there will be an entirely new slate of candidates. As we went to press, announced candidates were former county councilman Isiah Leggett, current county councilman Steven Sil-

verman, former state delegate Robin Ficker, and Chuck Floyd.

We will not necessarily tell you how to vote, but we will try to provide information on the candidates in the local races to help our readers reach a decision, or perhaps hopefully even to encourage them to vote. In the next few issues, we will run individual profiles of our current state delegation and county councilman. Closer to the election, we will repeat our special election issue, giving each local candidate room to speak directly to our readers. We plan to cover the following races in that issue: State Senate, State Delegate, County Executive, County Council, and School Board

Remember, even if you can't find someone to vote for, you can almost always find someone to vote against.

### The Monocacy MONOCLE

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## Remembrance

### Florence Van Emon

By Rande Davis

Poolesville's Florence Van Emon, 86, passed away on April 24, 2006 at the Kline Hospice House in Mt. Airy, Maryland.

Born on August 11, 1919, her maiden name was Florence Jones White. Her parents were Benjamin White, Jr. and Sarah. Mr. White at one time was the president of the Poolesville bank (formerly Farmer's Bank and Trust) which later became the Town Hall. Mr. White's uncle was the famed Civil War officer, Col. Elijah V. White (C.S.A.) Florence was born in the upstairs of the family home on Elgin Road now owned by her daughter and son-in-law, Dean and Edward "Ted" Wroth.

Well-known and well-beloved throughout the area, Florence is best known for her caring and nurturing love of her family. After graduating from Poolesville High School, she went on to complete Baltimore's Union Memorial Hospital's nursing program. Later, she studied French at the University of Maryland for three years. While at the college, she was

tapped for the Mortar Board Society (an honors recognition) and president of her sorority, Alpha Omega Pi.

In October of 1941, Florence married Mason W. Gray III, who served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. Florence was practically the



Poolesville's Florence Van Emon.

"girl next door" as Mr. Gray grew up on the Gray Haven Manor estate, now referred to as Chiswell's Inheritance. Their three children also include their son, Mason Gray IV (wife Hannah), and their other daughter, Jane Peters (husband Jim). Mr. Gray IV was a Montgomery County Policeman until September of 1950, when, at the early age of 34, he tragically suffered head pains and one week later died of polio.

In 1954, Florence married Carlton G. Van Emon. Mr. Van Emon was the first president of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. After his passing in 1968, Florence went to work at Poolesville Elementary School as a teacher's aid. Working with the young children became one of the great pleasures of her life. She had always been there to help her children and grandchildren learn to read, so this experience was natural for her. She especially enjoyed sharing the many humorous stories that came from working and helping young schoolchil-

dren.

Mrs. Van Emon devoted her life to the care of her family and loved being involved in the community. A lifelong member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, she was very involved in the Fellowship Circle (today called the Women of St. Peter's) and the altar guild. She was also one of the earliest members of the Monocacy Garden Club. Her daughter, Dean Wroth, fondly remembers the beautiful flowers and her equally beautiful arrangements that became Florence's personal trademark. One of her most-valued pastimes and great joys was her bridge club. Dots Elgin, a fellow bridge club member, and friend from childhood, recalls how as girls they formed a little club called the Prisses. "The Ya-Ya sisterhood didn't have anything over us," recalls Dots.

Florence was preceded in death by one sister, Jane Blair, and is survived by her other sister, Sarah Carter Boland.

Gracious, warm, and ever helpful, Florence Van Emon is fondly remembered and will be sorely missed. The family will have a memorial service at St. Peter's on June 3. In lieu of flowers, Florence asked that a donation be made to the St. Peter's building fund.

## Poolesville Basketball Summer Youth Hoops Schedule

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## In the Garden

### An Annual Treat

By Maureen O'Connell

Frederick McGourty is one of the country's most distinguished practicing horticulturalists—a lecturer, teacher, nurseryman, landscape designer, consultant, and writer. In his 1989 book, *The Perennial Gardener*, there is a chapter entitled “Plant Snobs.” In it, he recalls meeting at a party “a fair lass” who gardened in the fashionable East Seventies of New York and in East Hampton. They were getting along very well discussing the resurgence of popularity for perennials in America. He says, “I even offered to refill her Perrier spritzer. Then, I made the mistake of mentioning my fondness for sweet-alyssum, an annual. A frown came to her face, as if she had seen someone walking barefoot in seaweed. Her head snapped back so quickly I feared a whiplash injury. Retracting her eyeballs, she peered thirty inches down her nose and declared, “But no experienced gardener plants annuals.” I had blown my chance for a garden party weekend in East Hampton.”

Well, no plant snobbery here. I admit that I like annuals and plant them every year in my garden.

Look at your garden as a play in progress. You need a producer, director, settings, costumes, and actors. Actors fall into two categories: the Stars and the Supporting Cast. The Stars are the shrubs, ornamental trees, and the ever-faithful perennials that come back on the stage year after year, but, sometimes, the Stars are offstage and there is a gap that begs to be filled. Enter annuals. They have the vigor and tenacity to shine in every matinee and evening performance. There is no stopping their ever-blooming little heads. They provide the punch and the dazzle that breaks through the boredom of an all-perennial stage set.

Last week, I visited four garden centers in our area to see old friends and the new-on-the-block kids. In the past several years, the number of flower selections at these stores has exploded. Unless you go there with a grocery list, it is easy to become overwhelmed with the volume of plants. You end up buying more plants than you want or for which you have room. So I have taken the liberty of suggesting some annuals that I feel are well-suited for our climate and will fit

in nicely with many perennials.

*Gerbera* daisies are annuals that bloom non-stop from early May to October. It is hard to resist their ice cream-colored flower heads—soft lemon yellow, apricot, blushing pink, snowy white, magenta pink, hot orange, and brilliant yellow. I have a small garden in Middle Earth that is home to my hot-colored lilies in shades of orange and yellow. I am not a fan of hot colors for a summer garden; I prefer soft, cool pastels that seem more soothing in our hot and humid summers, but I planted this garden about fifteen years ago when my color preferences were in an experimental stage. Over the years, to turn down the temperature, I added soft apricot and lemon yellow daylilies. This year, I added twelve *Echinacea*, six Sunrise and six Sunset. I mentioned them in an article a few weeks ago, so I was anxious to see them in full bloom. Unfortunately, deer ate and uprooted ten of the twelve plants. I filled in this void with *Gerbera* daisies, three white, three apricot, and one soft pink. Their horizontal, fuzzy foliage is a pleasant contrast to the tall, vertical stalks of the lilies.

During the winter, I read about a new type of phlox that was to debut this spring. Unlike its perennial cousins, *Phlox intensia* is an annual. It is a vigorous and long-blooming variety that was developed specifically for use in landscapes and hanging baskets. When I visited the garden centers and asked if they carried this plant, the sales personnel said it was their biggest seller this year. I bought several on the spot. When I returned a few days later, they were sold out of the annual phlox. *Phlox intensia* “Lilac Rose” grows six to twelve inches high in full sun to part shade and is a low-maintenance plant that is both heat and cold tolerant. I planted them in the front of the border of my Upper Garden all-sun rose garden. They were to be an alternative to verbena. The variety “Sissinghurst” is an easy-to-grow, long-season performer that does well in hot and exposed locations and poor soil. It is also very heat and drought tolerant. Its only drawback as a front-of-the-border plant is its low, spreading habit. This tendency is great for choking out weeds in the garden, but it doesn't stop here. It creeps out onto the grass, around the corner, and down the sides of the bed. Every time you mow, you take down

half of the plant. It had no boundaries; as vigorous and beautiful as it was, it had to go. I hope that *Phlox intensia* “Lilac Rose” has better manners.

The annual tropical, genus *Lantana*, blooms abundantly and vigorously. Supposedly, it requires full sun, but I have grown it successfully in early to late morning sun. It thrives happily at the feet of my David

**R**ose Alert! Don't wait until your roses have black spot. You can prevent this fungal disease, but you can't cure it. I started spraying my roses in mid-April. I used to have to make my own mix of fungicide and insect control liquid, but this year many companies have combined them for you in one liquid. Invest in a good sprayer. Even if you don't have one hundred plus roses, you need a no-hassle pump sprayer. It is about time to fertilize your roses again. I do it every four weeks. Use a rose-specific fertilizer such as Rose Tone. If you wait until July to spray and fertilize your roses, you will have already lost them.

Austin roses, along with the equally prolific heliotrope. You cannot beat the heliotrope's vanilla scent. It is pure vanilla perfume, and this is what makes a heliotrope a heliotrope. I particularly like the variety “Fragrant Delight;” it is richer in color and more heavily perfumed than others in the genus. If you have never planted this wonderful flowering plant, give it a

chance this summer. You won't be disappointed.

White Flower Farm has put together a beautiful trio of plants that will flower non-stop all summer and into fall. The purplish-blue fans of *Scaevola aemule* “New Wonder” echo the eye color of its friends, *Osteospermum* “Orange Symphony” and *O. “Lemon Symphony.”* Planted in full sun, this trio would look smashing in the middle border or in a terra cotta planter.

I found at Poole's Store on River Road an annual that is new to me, *Diascia* Twinspur, of the *Diascia* genus. They are low-growing, sun-loving plants that produce many small, snapdragon-like flowers above very delicate foliage from summer to fall. I planted them along the front of the border in Molly's Garden. As with the annual *Phlox intensia* I am trying to find a low-spreading flower that will connect the front of the border without becoming invasive.





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## Local History

### Money in the Cellar

#### The Many Curious Stories of Herman Rabbitt

By Jack Toomey

Many people, if they are remembered at all, are usually remembered for one incident or one trait. Herman Rabbitt, born in Montgomery County in 1892, was remembered for many incidents, most of them curious. He had little formal education and began raising chickens and livestock while still a young man. Rabbitt became legendary in the Gaithersburg and Germantown area because of his thriftiness, knack for buying property, and skill at raising cattle. By the time of the Depression, Rabbitt was said to have hidden over sixty thousand dollars in an old well on one of his farms. The well collapsed, and the money was lost forever. He then deposited money made from real estate transactions and the sale of his cattle in Gaithersburg banks. When the banks failed, Rabbitt lost most of his money. That he learned a lesson would become apparent forty years later.

Herman Rabbitt had a checking account but did not bother with

checks. He would simply tear off the nearest piece of paper and write a check on a bag or the label of a feed sack. Even though he was a wealthy man, no one ever recalled him wearing a suit. Rabbitt would be seen around town wearing the same overalls everyday. Since he gave the railroad a considerable amount of business, he was granted privileges from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. There was an express passenger train that traveled everyday from Washington to Chicago. It only stopped at major cities like Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Toledo. Herman thought that it was foolhardy to travel to Washington to catch the train so he simply made arrangements for the train to stop for him at Gaithersburg when he wanted to travel to Chicago to purchase cattle. It was said that he would take along a sack of apples because he thought that it was wasteful to eat in the dining car. Once when he was in Chicago, he was stopped by the police in the lobby of a hotel because they were suspicious about his seedy appearance. Rabbitt picked up the hotel phone and called the president of the bank who told the officer that Herman had enough money to buy the hotel. Rabbitt would ride in one of the cattle cars on his way back from Chicago and

stop at a special siding [QE: What's a siding?] that had been built near Metropolitan Grove Road. Rabbitt would then unload his cattle and drive them up Clopper Road to one of his farms in that area. At one point, a doctor told him that he had tuberculosis, so Herman moved to Arizona. He found out that he didn't have the disease, so he purchased a motorcycle, drove it back to Gaithersburg, and then used it to drive his cattle when they needed to be moved.

Once Rabbitt went along on the St Peters Episcopal Church estate tour. They stopped at a sprawling estate in Dawsonville, and he noticed that the homeowner had a gun collection. He picked up a pistol and asked if it was loaded. The owner said it wasn't, and Rabbitt raised it in the air and blew a hole in the ceiling. The good ladies of the church scurried out the front door. On another occasion, Rabbitt was returning to one of his farms on Clopper Road when he stopped to open the gate. He heard a rifle shot and a bullet whizzed by his head. Herman drove directly to the home of Police Chief Garrett who lived nearby, and Garrett arranged for the farm to be guarded for the rest of the night. At the 1962 Montgomery County Fair, Herman bought a prize bull at auction. He

then noticed a fourteen-year-old girl crying. When he learned that the bull had belonged to the girl he told her to keep the bull and the money.

For years, Herman Rabbitt lived in a ramshackle old farmhouse without plumbing on Clopper Road near Longdraft Road. His longtime housekeeper finally said that she would never come back to work if Rabbitt did not improve the property or build a new house. Finally, Rabbitt built a brick house on Brown Station Road. At one time, he owned thousands of acres of land in the Gaithersburg area including the property where the Montgomery County fairgrounds now stand. Roger Burdette, a well known and retired farmer, told the *Monocle* that Herman owned the land where Chriswell Chevrolet is now built. He would sit outside the barn on Sunday mornings and tell tall tales to anyone who cared to stop by. Burdette said that Rabbitt would never purchase tobacco products. If a visitor was smoking a cigar Herman would simply break it in half and smoke the unused half. Once, Burdette was with Rabbitt, and they stopped at a country store for lunch. Herman purchased two hot dogs and received a dime in change.

—Continued on Page 16

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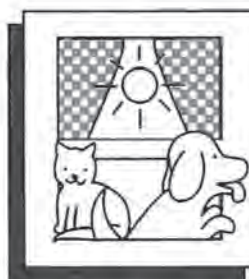
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## School News

### Monocacy Elementary School Building a Canal Boat

The campaign to raise money for the building of a new canal boat is going strong. The SGA has joined the C&O Canal Association and the Friends of Great Falls, both nonprofits, in their fundraising efforts to build a new canal boat to run on the canal at Great Falls. The last running canal boat has been out of commission for several years due to a few leaks. The SGA will continue selling T-shirts with a C&O Canal Association-approved design drawn by Emily Durr. The shirts sell for just \$10.00 each and are available in adult small, medium, large, and extra large. The SGA has nearly sold all 120 shirts ordered and hopes to order more. For more information, call the school at 301-972-7990.

There'll Be Singing, There'll Be Dancing

It's time again for the MES Variety Show. On May 24 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., check out the variety of talent at MES.

Speaking of Talent

May 31 at 7:00 p.m. is the Spring Chorus and Band concert.

Juggling Alumni?

Former alumni jugglers are being sought for a juggling reunion on Sunday, May 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Monocacy Elementary. R.S.V.P. 301-972-7990.

It's a Bird! It's a Plane!

No, it's Mr. Poole performing a stunt for the benefit of all Bobcat Readers! The Principal's Challenge is underway! If one hundred students read at least fifty thousand minutes by June 9, Mr. Poole will perform a stunt as selected by student votes. Readers, keep reading and keep track of time spent reading on tally sheets.

Poolesville Elementary School Career Day

May 12, all day, is career day at PES.

It's Time for the Fair

The book fair comes to PES May 15 to May 19. Books and other literary items will be available for purchase from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

John Poole Middle School In the Art Room

Twelve student works were selected to represent JPMS in the countywide display, "My Culture: Exploring Diversity through the Arts," May 1 through May 31. In this

—Continued on Page 17.

## Stephanie's Secret Garden

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**ELIZABETH'S DELIGHT:** Magnificent colonial w/ 4 BRs, 4.5 BAs. Dazzling two-story foyer & FR w/ Palladium windows, hwd flrs throughout main lvl, formal LR, DR w/ wainscoting & crown molding, Huge gourmet kitchen, elegant main flr library w/ bay windows & built-ins. Corner lot in private community. Offered at \$824,900.00. MLS#MC6017291



**COMUS/SUGARLOAF MT.:** Mature trees & tasteful landscaping complement this gracious colonial sitting on 2+/- acs. in Hunt country. Circular driveway, inviting center hallway, lovely kitchen, FR w/ FP, his & her studies. 4 BRs including Owner's suite w/ full BA, walk-in closet & dressing area. Lwr lvl w/walkout. Offered at \$695,000.00 MLS#MC5530911



**BOYDS:** Surrounded by mature trees & farmland, this cozy 3 BR, 2 full BA rambler is nestled on 3+ ac. Amenities include a lovely eat-in kitchen w/ island, living rm. w/ FP, family rm. w/ log siding, lower lvl rec rm, hardwood flrs. & above-ground pool. Convenient to MARC station, Little Bennett Regional Park & the Clarksburg & Germantown Town Ctrs. MLS#MC6018089. Offered at \$645,000.



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#### LOTS AND LAND

**West of Poolesville 45.62 ac.** Build your dream home on this lovely, partially wooded property located 4 mi. from Poolesville and approx 2 mi. from Whites Ferry & the Leesburg, VA area. Enjoy the privacy of country living on a rustic road. One approved perc.. \$850,000.00

**Poolesville:** Surrounded by farmland with pastoral views, this 13.5 ac. building lot has an approved sound mound perc to service a 5 bedroom residence. Partially wooded with a stream, this lot is approx. 5 miles from the Town of Poolesville, and 14 miles from Potomac Village. MLS # MC5528055. Offered at \$750,000.00

**Barnesville/Dickerson:** This 6 ac. Building lot offers the best of both worlds: a totally private, wooded setting with a stream and close proximity to the MARC train station. Approved sound mound perc to service a 5 bedroom residence. MLS#MC5547275. Offered at \$550,000.00

**Dickerson:** 18.71 ac. Currently being utilized as a tree nursery, this property consists of 2 lots with one approved perc. Lovely homesite on high elevation. Easily accessible to the Frederick area and Gaithersburg/Rockville. MLS#MC5308569. Offered at \$550,000.00



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## Big Board

### *Memorial United Methodist Church's Annual Spring Flea Market*

The Crafty Ladies and Gents of the Memorial United Methodist Church have their very popular Spring Flea Market on May 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The rain date is May 20, 2006

### *Frederick Celtic Festival*

Also on May 13, the Urbana Fire Dept. hosts the 7th Annual Frederick Celtic Festival. The festival runs from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., with Celtic entertainment, Highland Athletics, Pipe & Drum Bands, Scottish Clans gathering, and, of course, food, drink, dancing, and music. The festival has a special evening concert. For more information, call 301-942-0086.

### *The Last Mango*

Catch a new, independent movie on May 13 at the Weinberg at 7:30 p.m. but do not take the kids. The film is based on a group of people on their way to happy hour in a Baltimore City suburb. The chances they take and the choices they make during the evening will change some lives forever. This film has not been rated and contains strong language and violence. The

recommended audience is for adults. Tickets are \$12.00. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

### *Share In a Day of Fun and Tribute to Our Soldiers*

It's that time of year again, when wounded soldiers from Walter Reed Medical Center come out to Whites Ferry for a day of fishing and picnicking. The soldiers will arrive at 10:30 a.m. on May 13 and will return to WRMC at 3:00 p.m. They enjoy the day of fishing and conversation away from the hospital. This event also helps raise money for the important Fisher Houses, which are visiting facilities for the families of wounded soldiers as they undergo treatment. If you need more information or can't attend but would love to send a donation, you can call Roger Strippey at 301-367-3080.

### *Grab Your Fishing Rod*

The 16th annual Poolesville Fishing Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 13. It will be held at Collier Circle Pond located off of Wootton Avenue and will start at 9:00 a.m. Youths six to sixteen are invited to participate. The cost is just \$1.00 per person. The pond is stocked with catfish, crappie, and bluegill. There will

—Continued on Page 21.

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## The Pulse Memories Are Made of Music

By Dominique Agnew

You've just completed a week of exams—tough exams. Maybe you're in high school, maybe you're in college (maybe you've graduated and remember those days). What do you want to do? Will you go to the beach? Will you go home and sleep for a week? Or will you fly to some small town to perform in a concert the next day to help that town's community?

Sandy Cameron, world-renowned violin soloist, has convinced four friends from Harvard University to do the unexpected. They will take their final exams Wednesday, May 24, then they're going to hop on the first flight out of Boston to get to Poolesville where they're performing the next day in the benefit concert: Memories Are Made of Music.

They must be crazy. Maybe only Sandy is crazy—crazy about her hometown of Poolesville. When she told her friends about the benefit and the reasons and goals of the concert, they expressed interest in helping. Sandy says they're also into helping communities. "We're gonna have a blast together," she laughs. Her special friends are: Ian Goh (violin), Brendan Gillis (viola), Mimi Yu (cello), and Alexander Brash (clarinet).

This will be the third year that Sandy is putting on a concert at the high school. In the first two years, the concerts raised money for the arts program at the high school, a new sound system for the PHS auditorium, and her graduating class's (2005) ceremony at Strathmore Hall. "This year, I have a larger goal," Sandy explains. "Musical education, in general, has declined." She wants to enhance the opportunities for musical education in the entire Poolesville community. "I want to start something," she continues, "and Poolesville is the perfect place." She cites the small community, the intelligence of the kids in general, and "also it's my home, so I'm a little biased."

As many in the community already know, Sandy has had an incredible musical education and her talent never ceases to amaze. She began studying the violin at the age of eight while her family was stationed in Germany. Soon after, upon the Cameron family's return to the U.S., she entered

the prestigious Juilliard School's Pre-College Division. For nine years, Sandy traveled from Poolesville to New York every weekend in order to attend lessons and courses in the Pre-College program. This past fall, Sandy



Sandy Cameron

began her studies at Harvard University and the New England Conservatory of Music.

Sandy made her European debut at the age of twelve and hasn't stopped performing ever since. She is in demand to perform with major orchestras all over the world and has received numerous honors and awards. Most recently, she performed in Korea this past October to play for the grand opening of the National Museum of Korea in Seoul; in January she joined the National Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Piotr Gajewski at Strathmore Hall; March found her in Georgia with the Macon Symphony Orchestra; and just this past weekend she performed at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York.

She has also performed for her new school, Harvard University, where she has had a fabulous year. "I came here [Harvard] thinking I'd be intimidated by all the smart people around me," she says, but she wasn't intimidated at all. All those smart people are also very nice—imagine that. She comments that her "classes are ridiculously hard, but they're ridiculously enjoyable," and she's learning so much from both her professors and her peers. She also has something to say about the music department at Harvard which may not necessarily have a great reputation. Sandy says, "Harvard has a fabulous music department," with courses at the "highest level."

So what does she have in store for her beloved hometown at the benefit concert? Well, Sandy doesn't want to give everything away, but in memory of the anniversary of Mozart's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday year, although the whole

program will not be all Mozart, it will feature composers who have been influenced by Mozart, including Sandy Cameron (a composition for two violins and viola). Along with her friends from Har-

vard, Sandy has asked for some other young friends to help out. Dancers from John Poole Middle will act out a story of their own set to one of the pieces. The choreography will be entirely created by the dancers. Sandy's purpose is to show how two art forms can be combined. It may seem impos-

sible—really, 250 years?—but Sandy says with assurance, "Mozart will be present at the concert."

Sandy has high hopes for the concert. "I'm hoping that people will not only have fun, of course, that's the most important thing, but that people will love having learned about [music]. Music is about sharing and enjoying." Sandy especially hopes the benefit concert will be successful in starting a fund for students in Poolesville.

Poolesville has provided Sandy with support in her endeavors, many fond memories, and special friends, so she wants to return the gift. The most precious gift she has to give is music—memories to last a lifetime.

The benefit concert will take place in the Poolesville High School auditorium Thursday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m., with the doors opening for the silent auction at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now in the high school business office: adults \$12.00 and students \$5.00. At the door, ticket prices will be adults \$15.00 and students \$7.00. A limited number of premier seats are available at special rates, and all tickets reserve specific seats, so don't wait to get tickets if you want the best seats. For more information, contact the high school at 301-972-7900 or 301-972-7908.

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## Local News

### Opening Round of Campaign 2006

#### In This Corner: The GOP

By Rande Davis

Lt. Governor Michael Steele has made two appearances in the area in recent days. One was at the grand opening of the St. Thomas More Academy in Buckeystown and the other was at the Frederick County Republican's annual Lincoln Day Dinner in Walkersville.

Unlike the first lady's visit to Barnesville, this was a fully partisan event scheduled to act as a motivating "kick off" for the upcoming campaign. Lt. Gov. Steele did not disappoint his enthusiastic supporters at the dinner. A crowd approaching three hundred gave the senatorial candidate numerous standing ovations throughout his thirty-minute speech.

The tall and imposing Steele, who is decidedly more conservative than the governor (i.e. Pro-Life) was introduced by Cong. Roscoe Bartlett. Steele is seeking to expand his support in a largely liberal state by emphasizing a message of "hope with action." His is a message positioned primar-

ily as a rebuttal to what he calls the "keep hope alive - but no action" crowd. He objected to their failure, in his opinion, to bring action to the hope-through-personal-empowerment programs such as programs to increase home ownership and entrepreneurship. Steele, who was raised

by a woman largely on her own who tried desperately to protect him from an abusive father, wove an emotional story of personal perseverance and dedication. Although he hails from Prince George's County, he is very familiar to the Frederick County GOP as he has attended their Lincoln Day



Lt. Governor Michael Steele and Will Farrell of the Frederick County Central Committee after the Lincoln Day dinner.

Dinner often in the past few years, first as a state party official, then as a statewide candidate for comptroller, and, finally, as a candidate for lieutenant governor.

The big news from the evening was Steele's announcement that through Gov. Ehrlich's personal support, the party will be announcing that Frederick County's State

Attorney, Scott Rolle, will be stepping forward as the party's statewide candidate for Attorney General. Mr. Rolle caused some stir in the party in 2004 when he openly challenged incumbent Cong. Bartlett in the party's primary. Mr. Rolle expressed to the *Monocle* that his candidacy represents "a great opportunity of the Frederick area and Western Maryland to have a local person seeking such an important state position." A formal statement was held back since the official announcement is planned for a special event on May 9.

## Local News

### Lillard and Burdette To Wed

Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Lillard, Jr. of Barnesville announce the engagement of their daughter, Janita Robin Lillard, to Gary L. Burdette, son of Helen C. Burdette, Dickerson, and the late Lloyd W. Burdette.

The bride-to-be is a 1981 gradu-




Janita Robin Lillard and Gary L. Burdette.

ate of Poolesville High School. She is a 1985 graduate of Towson University with a degree in business administration. She is employed as a paralegal specialist with the Office of the County Attorney for Montgomery County in Rockville.

The groom-to-be is a 1972 graduate of Poolesville High School. He is a 1976 graduate of Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, with a degree in economics. He is a past president of the Monocacy Lions Club and the first Monocacy club member to attain the office of District Governor with the organization. He is employed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, as an economist.

A September 23 wedding is planned.



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**"First Lady" Continued From Page 1—**

went a bit on the attack, but also did so with great gusto and passion. "The blocking of taking over the failed public schools (some Baltimore County schools showing only eighteen percent can read; less than nine percent can write) is sentencing them (students) to failure. It is playing politics on the backs of the children."

As to the governor's greatest disappointment, she felt it would be in the area of his relationship with Annapolis and in the media. She stated that she just does not read the papers

any more, especially the *Baltimore Sun* (no comment on the *Monocle* so far) and is more upset over information left out of the news than in outright errors. "We just have to go directly to the people to get our message out."

The Republicans in the group were obviously very thrilled with her appearance, and although some people voiced concern the event might have been too partisan for the crowd, one Democrat stated it didn't bother her. "I was not concerned. After all, she is the man's wife. I didn't come expecting anything different."



The First Lady addresses the crowd.




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## Things to Do

**May 13 and 14**

*A Celebration of Art: West Comes East*  
Simpson Gallagher Gallery of Cody, Wyoming  
Potomac Hunt Club, Dickerson  
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**May 13**

*Crafty Ladies and Gents*  
*Spring Flea Market*  
Memorial United Methodist Church  
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
*Walter Reed Soldiers' Fishing Day*  
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**May 14**

*Mother's Day*

**May 16**

*15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*  
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– Continued on Page 20.



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### "Herman Rabbit" Continued From Page 7 —

He objected and asked for two nickels reasoning that if he lost a nickel he would still have one coin left. Burdette said that Rabbitt would always wear denim overalls and "looked like a pauper." Rabbitt would never have been mistaken for a bookkeeper. Burdette said that Herman would often scribble financial records on the kitchen wall of his old farmhouse. When the IRS came calling, Herman pointed to the wall; the agents stared at the scribbling and left.

It had long been rumored that Rabbitt, having distrust in banks after the Depression, had hoarded cash somewhere on his farms. Roger Burdette said that after the new house was built, Rabbitt would wait until after 11:00 p.m. and then move portions of his money to the new house. When he wrote his will, he left sealed instructions inside a strongbox that was located in his house. When Rabbitt died in 1972, his attorneys, William and James Miller, went to the house and opened the strongbox. Retired Judge William Miller told this reporter that he had suspected that money was buried somewhere and when he found the directions, he thought that he had better call a police officer. Retired Montgomery County Police detective Jan Hutchison, who now lives in Texas, told the *Monocle* that he was sitting at his desk one rainy morning in October 1972 when his boss, knowing that he had been raised in Gaithersburg, directed him to report to the Rabbitt farm just off Clopper Road. Hutchison drove there and found the two attorneys, a half brother, and Rabbitt's only son waiting for him. They went to the root cellar of the house where they saw markings on the wall that seemed to point to a place where something was buried. The men started digging and discovered a metal plate with a long chain attached. The chain was attached to several pipes that were buried on end. The pipes were opened and inside they found tightly wrapped bundles of non-circulated one hundred dollar bills. Then they found other pipes that contained wrapped fifty dollar bills. All were wrapped in newspapers from the 1930s. More digging revealed a fifty-five gallon drum and two large milk cans filled with silver coins. There were so many coins that coffee cans had to be used to scoop out the coins and place them inside gunny sacks. Finally, the attorneys were satisfied that all of the money had been

found. Since Rabbitt did have an account at the Maryland National Bank, the money was loaded into police cars and driven to the bank. Jan Hutchison recalled that when he was driving down Route 355 to the bank, he jokingly told one of the attorneys that there was a huge amount of money in the car and that he was the only person with a gun! The doors of the bank were locked, and the attorneys and bank personnel started counting. There was over a half a million dollars in cash and coin. There was so much money that some of it had to be taken to another bank branch.

Judge Miller told the *Monocle* that almost immediately, Rabbitt's will was contested and a bitter dispute began with three people contesting the will. After three years, a settlement was reached, and the estate, worth over three million dollars, was divided among three people.

Today, shopping centers, apartments, housing developments, and the MVA are located on Herman Rabbitt's property. There are some that insist that all of the money was not found and that some of it is still buried out there somewhere. Unless you own a jackhammer and a metal detector, don't bother!



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**"School News" Continued From Page 9**

homage to Romare Bearden, students learned how Bearden used collage works to depict his background of the deep South. Students then collected photographs to honor Bearden's work and to examine their own roots. The students selected are: Melanie Murphy, Sean Folk, Evan Habib, Nick Jesuitas, Brandon Wong, Cody Savage, Justin Foreman, Kyle Twitchell, Tedi Tomares, Mike Knudson, and Jacob Caw.

Congratulations!

This year JPMS had thirteen eighth graders and one seventh grader participate in the Johns Hopkins Cen-

ter for Talented Youth by taking the SAT I. Out of the nine reported scores, six achieved a score of distinction (over 500 in one area) and five of those six will receive special awards for their performance of scoring over 600 in Verbal or Math. Our winners are: Elizabeth Hayden, Kevin Koeser, Gabrielle Lalonde, Geo Nikolov, Roxanne Pourshoushtari, and James Tyler.

*Congratulations to Abigail Tjornehoj!*

Abigail has been selected to receive a 2006 Outstanding Promise and Achievements Award in Mathematics/Science for eighth grade girls. This award is sponsored by the American Association of University Women. Abigail received this prestigious

award at a ceremony at Montgomery College on May 7, 2006.

Castaway on a Funny Island

There's something funny happening on that island! You may have seen "Lost," "Survivor," or even "Gilligan's Island," but wait until you meet our castaways! The John Poole Players will present their spring play, "Lagooned," on Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be sold at the door and in the cafeteria the week of the show. Refreshments will be available. So before you book your summer vacation, mark your calendars and join us on our wacky tropical island!

It's Academic in the Summer

Not the show, the students. JPMS will be offering academic summer school programs for math and literacy. There will be several programs offered for math and literacy that will prepare students for their upcoming school year. For more information, contact Mrs. Weitzel, Summer School Program Coordinator, at Yvonneke\_M\_Weitzel@mcpsmd.org or 301-972-7979.

*Poolesville High School*

*Senior Projects Abound*

On May 16 from 7:30 a.m. until 2:10 p.m., the culminating senior projects of the Global Ecology students

—Continued on Page 22.

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## Equestrian Steeplechasing: A Maryland Tradition

By Debby Lynn

What do steeplechasing and basketball have in common? They were both sports which evolved from practicing for another sport. Steeplechasing springs from the ancient sport of foxhunting. The English began seriously hunting fox in the 1700s when farming enterprises began to compromise stag hunting grounds. The increase in farming also made eradicating fox, with their devastating predations on hen houses and newborn lambs, an imperative. It was soon realized that fox-hunting provided more exciting and faster sport than stag hunting.



*Pretty much what to expect at the Potomac Hunt Club on May 21.*

Fox-hunters began crossing heavier horses used for hunting with fleet-of-foot racing thoroughbreds. Naturally, being of sporting inclination, these gentlemen soon enough began comparing and testing the mettle of their horses.

The first steeplechase of record took place in County Cork, Ireland in 1752. Two foxhunters raced across four and a half miles of fair hunting country from Buttevant church to St. Mary's using the church steeples as guideposts—hence the name steeplechasing.

American steeplechasing has its roots in Washington, D.C. Already a well-established sport in England and Ireland, the Washington Jockey

Club ran the first American steeplechase here in 1834. Steeplechasing has remained an integral part of sporting life in Maryland. The Maryland Hunt Cup was first run in 1894 and is still running today. It is widely considered to be the toughest course in the United States.

The Potomac Hunt Races have been a Maryland tradition for over half a century. You can catch the action of the 54th running of this race on May 21. You will find modern steeplechasing essentially unchanged in character from its early days. Chasing has retained its close ties to fox chasing, and the upcoming race is, indeed, put on by the Potomac Hunt Club. The races are as much a festive country affair as ever, and the Hunt Club Challenge race still reflects a friendly rivalry between clubs.

The races take place on the grounds of the Kiplinger Estate at Partnership and River Roads. Gates open at 11:00 a.m., post time is 12:30 p.m. General admission parking passes are available at Gate 3 on race day for \$20.00.

Tailgate parties are part of the fun on race day. Race goers compete for the most elaborate tailgate. Some are replete with fine china and chandeliers! So bring a picnic lunch or plan on purchasing a sumptuous catered meal. Either way, a day at the races always includes some great dining.

In addition to the thrill of watching thoroughbreds run and jump, your family will enjoy the exhibit of antique cars from the antique Cadillac and LeSalle Car Club, and the moon bounce and pony rides for the younger set.

For complete information on the Potomac Hunt Races, log on to [www.potomachuntraces.com](http://www.potomachuntraces.com).

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The staff is knowledgeable about the science of fitness, understands the need to make the most of every workout, and is able to adapt to every individual's fitness goals. No matter where you are in a training program and no matter what your fitness goals, everybody feels welcome and motivated. For me, Healthworks has been a key part of maintaining cardiovascular health in my 40s and sustaining a commitment to healthy living.

A big thanks to everyone at Healthworks for all that you do!  
*Andrew S. Gilmour, Poolesville*

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## Police Blotter Past and Present

### Present

Police are investigating a series of graffiti-related vandalisms that have been happening in Poolesville since early April. Mailboxes, street signs, electrical boxes, and lampposts in the Meadow Valley community have been defaced. Also damaged were the rear wall of Poolesville Baptist Church, Poolesville High School, John Poole Middle School, the library, the post office, and the elementary school. In some of the cases, the initials, "RXV," "RECH," and "ENO" have been painted on the buildings. In other cases, racially offensive and obscene words were written.. Anyone with information about who is committing these crimes can call the 5<sup>th</sup> District detectives at 301-840-2347. Callers can remain anonymous.

April 21. 18900 block of Beallsville Road. Residential burglary. Forced entry to a residence, nothing taken.

April 22. Blockbuster Video, 12619 Wisteria Drive, Germantown. A manager, with receipts from the store, was making a bank deposit when she was

approached by a man who demanded the cash and obtained it after a brief struggle. Police described the suspect as a black male, 5'-7", bald, thin, wearing a gray sweatshirt, black pants, and black sneakers.

April 29, 1:30 a.m.. Police responded to the Marriot Suites Hotel in Gaithersburg for a report of an underage drinking party. Six juveniles and six adults received citations at the party which was being held after a high school prom.

April 30, 12:15 a.m. Police responded to the Summerfield Suites Hotel in Gaithersburg for another underage drinking party. Three adults and five juveniles received citations for underage drinking. One adult was cited for furnishing alcohol to minors.

### Past

May 11, 1928. Montgomery County and local police were baffled in their efforts to apprehend the assailant of L. W. Kephart, Department of Agriculture agronomist. The suspect, who later used the automobile and revolver stolen from the scientist, attempted to kidnap the secretary of the National Savings and Trust Co., from his home on Rosemary Street in Chevy Chase.

—Continued on Page 22.



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**May 20**  
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**May 21**  
*Potomac Hunt Club Horse Races*  
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 Festivities from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**May 25**  
*Memories Are Made of Music*  
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**"Big Board" Continued From Page 11—**

be lots of prizes and fun rain or shine.

**Local Artists Sought for Exhibition at Poolesville Library**

The Poolesville Library is seeking local artists from Poolesville, Barnesville, and surrounding communities who would like to display their artwork for a special exhibit as

part of the 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Poolesville Library. The exhibit will be on display from May 10 through May 23. This exhibit will be part of several activities planned for the anniversary celebration starting April 15 and culminating with a special ceremony on May 16 at 7:00 p.m. Interested artists should contact Mary Ann Powell at 301-407-2121

before April 29. For additional information, call the Poolesville Library at 240-773-9550. The library is located at 19633 Fisher Avenue in Poolesville.

**Swashbuckling in Silence**

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of the silent era. Watch the Earl of Huntington outsmart Sir Guy of Gisbourne, steal from the rich, give to the poor, and still have time for wooing of fetching damsel. The 8:00 p.m. showing is on May 19. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

**1st Annual Scrapbook Fair**

To benefit Relay for Life, there will be a scrap book fair at the Poolesville Baptist Church on Saturday, May 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. This is a \$40.00 registration fee and there will be door prizes, plus creative memories, stampin' up and TLC vendors on site. Bring your favorite pictures and personal clippings and come and make memorable scrapbooks for yourself, friends, and family.

**Frederick Model Aircraft Youth Day**

The Frederick Model Aircraft club

will be holding an open house from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 at its flying field in Emmitsburg, MD. The field is 1.5 miles of Rte. 15 in Emmitsburg. This is perfect to introduce new comers to model air crafting. There will be static displays, food, flight demonstrations, and, on a limited basis, the opportunity to try flying. For more details click on [www.Frederickmodelaircraftclub.org](http://www.Frederickmodelaircraftclub.org).

**Fort Detrick Armed Forces Celebration**

Have you been wanting to really take a look at Ft. Detrick, see what it does? Join the post staff for a three day event starting May 17 and running through May 20. There will be a carnival, USO dance, outdoor movies, 10K run, U.S. Army soldier show, and fireworks. To pick your day go to [usagwrmarketing@det.amedd.army.mil](mailto:usagwrmarketing@det.amedd.army.mil) or call 301-619-2028.

—Continued on Page 22.

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**"Jones Premium" Continued  
From Page 1.**

never looked back. His early years in the building industry were with Ryan Homes, Crowell Baker, and Ausherman. We know he got off on the right foot since we spotted a brass-plated hammer on the office wall which he got for being selected by his employer as Rookie of the Year (1980). After an additional MVP award (1983), additional promotions came about which eventually led to his becoming a vice president with Ausherman. Finally, Chris decided to take the plunge as an entrepreneur in 1995.

This company has grown to eleven employees with supervisors Randy Adams, Rick Morris, and office staffer, Diana Braconi, as key personnel.

The work Jones Premium has done has garnered a number of awards and recognition over the years including special awards for quality from the National Association of Home Builders and a kitchen project written up in *Custom Homes* magazine. Chris talks of one of his favorite compliments coming after he finished work on Dr. Peter Eeg's home. "It was a complete job including residing with stone, and one person, after seeing the work, said he didn't know we tore the old house down and rebuilt a new

house. He couldn't believe it was a renovation job."

The firm's vice president and office manager is his wife, Mary Lu Jones. They met when she was an undergraduate at Frostburg State where she majored in economics. The couple, married for twenty years, have four children. The oldest of their four children is Emily, nineteen, who is attending Mount St. Mary's University in Emitsburg. She is followed by second daughter, Marjory, seventeen, who has just accepted a scholarship for lacrosse to attend Sacred Heart in Connecticut. Then there is son, Logan, fifteen (attending St. John's Catholic Prep), and youngest daughter, Meredith, who is in sixth grade at St. Thomas More Academy in Walkersville (which is moving to Buckeystown in the fall).

Being part of the community is important to the Joneses, and that is shown by their involvement with youth sports programs such as PAA and UMAC. Chris has coached his son in various sports. As a past president of the Monocacy Lions Club, this writer can personally attest to the hard work and dedication of Chris and Mary Lu in their co-chairmanship of the Lions Halloween Party at St. Mary's pavilion. For the past seven years, they have nearly single-hand-

edly managed that popular community event.

At the close of the interview, we asked this all-season sportsman who played tackle on a Marine Corps football team and who enjoys hunting, fishing, golfing, and working out at Healthworks what he likes best about

the career he has chosen. His reply was simple and immediate. He stated his appreciation for his customers by saying, "Our biggest thing is that our clients are people we really like to deal with. This up county clientele is a very good clientele to work for."

**"Police Blotter" Continued From  
Page 19—**

May 13, 1943. A young auto thief led Washington and Montgomery County police on a wild ninety-mile-an-hour chase for over an hour and half. The youth was sought in the hit and run death of a Bethesda woman and was spotted on the East West Highway. An alarm was sounded, and the youth, who was driving a stolen green sedan, outdistanced three police cars and three motorcycle officers in a pursuit throughout the county.

May 18, 1974. More than a dozen Montgomery County policemen were called to Rockville's Richard Montgomery High School to intervene in a fight between two groups of students.

May 19, 1905. The wife of a Maryland minister was given a preliminary hearing on the charge of assaulting Mrs. Hawkins of Boyds. Mrs. William Bennett, also of Boyds, was bound over for appearance before the grand jury. It was said to have been the deed of a jealous wife.

May 19, 1911. The body of a white man, apparently forty-five or fifty years old, was found floating in the Potomac River at the waterfront in Georgetown by two boys who were playing near the site. The police of Washington are inclined to believe that it is the body of William Myers, prosperous farmer of Potomac, who left several days ago for a visit to Washington. He was last seen driving a team of horses attached to a farm wagon and is known to have reached Cabin John. He has not been heard from since.

May 22, 1928. Five persons were held in jail in Rockville on charges of manslaughter in connection with the death of Maurice Thompson, twenty-four years old, of Poolesville. Thompson was struck by an auto while changing a tire in front of his residence near Poolesville. County policeman Barnes said that Thompson's wife was sitting in the car when she saw her husband killed.

**"School News" Continued From  
Page 17—**

will be on display. This is a wonderful opportunity for younger students to see the variety and creativity of senior projects that can be done and for the community to observe the rigor and high expectations of the Global Ecology Program.

Save the Date: May 25, 2006:  
Memories Are Made of Music

PHS's own violin prodigy, Sandy Cameron, will be returning to her hometown to perform in the third annual benefit concert. This time, she's bringing friends. Four musicians from Harvard University were so enthralled by her enthusiasm for Poolesville that, instead of going home after finals, they're coming to PHS to perform with Sandy. Proceeds will go towards the music programs of all the schools in the Poolesville cluster. Don't miss the exciting concert and amazing Silent Auction.

**"Big Board" Continued From  
Page 21—**

**Star Search**

The Frederick Children's Chorus will captivate the audience with its excellence and perfection. Directed by Judith DuBose and accompanied by Mary Miller, prepare to be amazed. Saturday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Governor Thomas Johnson High School, tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors. Tickets available at the door. For more information, visit [www.fredcc.org](http://www.fredcc.org) or call 301-845-2451.

**An Evening of Romance**

Piano sensation Jim Brickman combines contemporary pop with classical influences to create a musical affair of the heart. May 20, 2006, at 8:00 p.m., tickets range from \$39.00 to \$47.00. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

**Avalon**

Contemporary Christian rock to entertain the whole family. Tickets go on sale May 14 for the May 21, 7:30 performance with prices ranging from \$18.00 to \$28.00. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

**Memories Are Made of Music**

Violinist Sandy Cameron returns to her alma mater with guests in tow to perform in her third benefit concert. Expect not only her stunning virtuosity, but there will also be chamber music, dancing, and an appearance by Mozart, alive and well. Tickets for the Thursday, May 25 performance are now on sale, \$12.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. Tickets will also be sold at the door, \$15.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students. A limited number of premier seats are available at special prices. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the PHS business office or by phone at 301-972-7900 or 301-972-7908. Do not wait to get your tickets as the best seats will sell quickly. All proceeds from the concert and silent auction will go towards the music programs of the schools in the entire Poolesville cluster.

**Frederick Airport Fly-In**

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is hosting its big fly-in on June 3 at Frederick Airport, which includes aviation exhibits, aircraft display, and aviation seminars. For more information, visit [www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org).

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## Youth Sports

### Falcons Softball: Division Champs and Going for

By Rande Davis

The PHS softball team got off to a great 5-1 start and never looked back. The *Monocle* got to look at this team when it had just one week left in the regular season, and while some of the individual stats undoubtedly will change as the season winds down, they are, nevertheless, indicative of the season as a whole.

Currently at 10-1 and confirmed both as division champs and the number one seed in the regional competition, some early season concern about their offense proved to be of little consequence as the team gained valuable experience. With four of the nine starters carrying a batting average better than .400, they had time for their three freshmen starters to gain some needed varsity experience.

Naturally, fast pitch softball is dominated by the quality of the pitcher. While a pitcher's speed is very important, her control will always trump speed. When it comes to control, the Falcon's starting pitcher and team co-captain, senior Stacy Gilbert, is a master. At the time of our interview with coach Laurie Wohnhas and with just five games remaining, Stacy's pitching accomplishments were nothing short of astounding.

While a team's overall win-loss record is due to all aspects of the game — pitching, fielding, and batting — in fast pitch, it always comes down to the pitcher. An effective fast pitch hurler, Stacy Gilbert may not be the fastest in the league, but few can compete with her control. Consider that through the first eleven games she had given up only two walks in facing 244 batters. Of that number, she struck out 76. Quick calculations translate that to at least one strikeout per inning and one walk about every five and a half games. In the last week of the season, Stacy was carrying an ERA (earned run average) of 1.02, completed nine of eleven games, and had 7.79 strikeouts per game (K/G).

"She is very precise, has a great deal of confidence in the team's defense, moves the ball around, and is very consistent. She and the catcher,

Allison Gost, work well together with Alli calling the pitches," says Coach Wohnhas. Gilbert has it all. She throws fast, has an effective drop, curve, and change up, and, most importantly, has an uncanny yet hard-earned ability to maintain control. Coach Wohnhas can't praise Gilbert enough. "She (Gilbert) is a big part of our success. She gets a lot of what she has through hard work. She works really hard over the winter with her dad. She just works her butt off. I have been so lucky. Stacy has been so prepared, and she is ready to go at game time. She is always well rested. She will always tell me if she needs to throw a little bit (before the game)."

At the start of the 2006 season, Coach Laurie Wohnhas was concerned about hitting. "We were relying so much on Hardwick, Stream, and Gost. These three were consistently getting one or two hits per game. We were starting three freshmen, but as the season progressed, they started to come around."



Hilary Schwab

*The Falcons celebrate another victory.*

Team co-captain, Alice Hardwick, has brought her best game to her senior year. This shortstop bats clean up for very good reasons. She not only leads the team in batting average (.545 at time of the interview) but also is first in home runs (5), RBIs (20), and in runs scored (18). In addition, this power slugger (slugging percentage of 1.061) gets on base just about sixty percent of her time at bat and, impressively, has only struck out three times all year.

Sophomore Rachel Stream plays third base and bats third. She is joined by freshman, Jackie Winning (first base), and sophomore, Casey Brown, in carrying a batting average above .400. With such young players starting and a strong junior varsity team this year, the future is promising for the Falcons.

With all due respect to the boys playing hardball, playing the infield in

### Clash of the Titans

By Curtis Osborne

Youth wrestling programs have been on the upswing with the increasing popularity and success of college programs. Many wrestling-crazy states like Iowa and Oklahoma (the NCAA wrestling tournament finished last month and perennial champion Oklahoma State won its unprecedented 34<sup>th</sup> team wrestling title) have numerous youth programs to help groom future stars. Closer to home in Frederick is the Tuscarora Wrestling Club. It is an intensive program started in 2004 by Tuscarora High School wrestling coaches Tim Ford and James Hrykas. The club has grown rapidly and now consists of two intramural teams that participate in the Damascus Sports Association. "The junior wrestling program was started in an effort to have an established feeder program for Tuscarora High School's new varsity wrestling team," states James, who is also an assistant coach for the school.

Both James and Head Coach Tim Ford, along with Athletic Director Jim Deegan, established this goal to help grow the program and make it top notch. "It was all in an effort to make

fast-pitch softball is more demanding than in baseball. This higher-paced game is played on a smaller, little league-sized field, with a ball just as hard as a baseball. Unlike baseball, in softball there is no such thing as a routine ground ball to the infield. If an infielder bobbles the ball, the runner will most likely make it safely to the base. With such high-paced pressure, fielding and throwing errors can abound. Yet, this talented team averages less than two errors a game. Their field percentage (rate of plays without an error) is .907.

As this issue of the *Monocle* comes off the press, the regional competition will have just begun. With Paint Branch and Seneca Valley as key rivals in the 3A/2A/1A division, PHS Falcons look at the field with the confidence that all aspects of the team's game are at peak levels. While it is true that at this point the competition only gets better, it is also true that this team is still peaking. Through the leadership of Gilbert, Hardwick, and Gost, and the determined coaching of Wohnhas, the *Monocle's* expectations for the 2006 Falcons softball team is at its peak, as well.

THS wrestling be competitive at the varsity level as quickly as possible," says James. James, with all of his duties, is also the commissioner of the program. He went looking for a coach and Mark Guglielmini signed on.

The main goal of the program is to establish a junior league wrestling program that introduces the sport to the youths within the THS district. Just as important, the goal is also to help establish THS varsity wrestling as one of the premier wrestling programs in the state of Maryland. In the future, a more advanced traveling team will be started at the club to give experienced wrestlers better competition. During the wrestling season, they concentrate on folk-style wrestling, and freestyle and Greco-Roman in the off-season.

The coaches in the program are dedicated and extremely well-versed in the sport. Though the goals are lofty, they can certainly be achieved. The coaches all come with excellent credentials. Tim Ford, who is Head Coach at THS, was on the all-Marines wrestling team as a member of the United States Marines, as well as a member of the Eastern Michigan University wrestling team. In his "spare time," he is also a football coach and gym manager and conditioning coach for the United Spirit competitive cheerleading club.

James Hrykas has twenty-plus years of coaching in the Damascus Sports Association youth wrestling program. Mark Guglielmini has over fifteen years of experience coaching in the DSA as well and is a former state finalist and regional champion.

It's important to remember, however, that wrestling is not for the faint of heart. Kids must be prepared to work extremely hard. The practices can be grueling and taxing on the body, but it will put the kids in excellent physical condition. Anyone associated with wrestling or who has ever tried the sport would agree that wrestling competitions and practices are more strenuous than for any other sport. "There is no comparison," says James. "Wrestling is much more intense than football. A wrestler who is in good condition can outperform any other sport as far as being healthy and in better shape."

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