

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 16, 2007

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Vikki Dimisa is reunited with one of her dogs which was found over two miles away after a tornado destroyed their Florida home. Read all about it on Page 14.



Chontelle Hockenbery and Chrissie Harney receive kudos for their efforts. Read about Relay for Life on Page 12.



Read all about the Clarksburg High School wrestling team—in their own words—on Page 3.



When the ferry is closed, there's a good reason. Ice is one of those reasons. There may be a wintry Monocacy Moment somewhere inside.

Town Stunned By Death Of Community Leader

By Rande Davis

The news of the death of Jake Perkins rippled through the community like a shock wave.

Neighbors and friends watched in recent years as Jake bravely struggled with the personal challenge of kidney failure and having to spend up to fifteen hours every week on dialysis. He had a highly unusual run-in with a bug or insect while playing golf in West Virginia in 2001, and thirty-six hours later he was in an emergency room with a temperature of 106 degrees. The infection that resulted in kidney failure put him on a path in life that would have sunk most people.

This young lawyer, so very active in the community as a leader and volunteer, had devoted most of his personal time, and even a significant part of his professional time, to working on behalf of so many community organizations.

Viva la Voce

By Dominique Agnew

Gracie Jones, senior at Poolesville High School, has an amazing singing voice. Beautiful timbre, clear tone, precise pitch—her voice resonates across audiences with grace and elegance. If you attended the Poolesville Relay for Life Kick-off Dinner a few weeks ago or the Monocacy Lions Club Christmas Party in December, you heard that voice, and you probably haven't forgotten it.

Gracie can't remember when she hasn't been singing. Her mother, Beth Fayard-Jones, avers that she was singing before she began talking. She remembers when Gracie, as a baby, would crawl in front of the television when Sesame Street aired to sing along with the songs.

At the age of nine, Gracie joined



Jake Perkins, with Dawn Albert, at Poolesville Day, 2004.

If Jake Perkins had a slogan to live by, it most assuredly was: making every minute count. His sense of urgency seemed to define his life and his leadership style. While the rest of us had the luxury of leisure, he always seemed to have his eye on the clock.

In high school (Class of 1987), he was just about everywhere. He played football, basketball, baseball, and ran indoor track. He played French horn in the band when he wasn't practicing on the Academic Team and the Math Team. Just so he didn't get too bored, he was also the

Student Government President.

After entering Virginia Tech, he didn't slow down. He was Speaker of the Student House of Representatives, member of the SGA Executive Council, participated in the Council on Athletics, and was a member of the Residents Hall Federation.

He became an intern with Sen. John Warner (R-VA) for a year and a half and worked as a special

education assistant at MCPS before entering the University of Maryland School of Law where he graduated in 1997. He is a member of the Maryland and Virginia bars.

After graduation, he joined a law firm specializing in insurance defense litigation and participated in a major and successful case litigating against appraisal fraud in Baltimore. He ran two firms: Jacob N. Perkins, P.A., and he had partnered with Frank Jamison in Perkins Title, Inc. For him, choosing law was easy. Jake

-Continued on Page 14.



Gracie Jones

the Frederick Children's Chorus under Judith Dubose and the school chorus at Poolesville Elementary School. The following year, she sang with the Upper Montgomery County Elemen-

tary Honors chorus. She continued with the Frederick Children's Chorus until her junior year of high school. During her years in the Frederick Children's Chorus, she auditioned for and received numerous solo parts for concerts.

She has also graced the stage of PHS in the cast of numerous productions of the Midnight Players. When she began in her freshman year, she claims she got lucky. The first show was "The Clumsy Custard Horror Show" which was, in Gracie's own words, "cheesy," so much so, that most of the seniors didn't want to take part in it. Gracie ended up with a principal role. The next production was "Anything Goes" in which Gracie was a chorus girl. "That was a blast," she says. "One of the best times I've ever had was being a chorus girl." During

-Continued on Page 19.

Family Album

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Smokin' Ray Reese at work.



Some of the volunteers attending The Relay for Life 2007 Kick Off Dinner: Lilly Dice (on lap), Heather Dice, Ava Read, Esther Read, Gregory Dice, Gary Harney, and Gibbie Harney.

Jeffrey Carpenter, Mary Gillespie, and Collin Leese-Thompson present their blue ribbon project depicting Poolesville in the year 2150 at John Poole Middle School science fair.



Ashley Slagle and Pam Slagle (J.D.'s Beer and Wine) flank Lynne Stillson (Cugini's Restaurant) at the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce dinner.

Local News

Voice of the Violin

Sandy Cameron, world-renowned violinist and former child prodigy, will again take the stage for the fourth Sandy Cameron Benefit Concert at Poolesville High School, Friday, April 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. Her previous three concerts have been huge successes, and the community is beginning to see the fruits of her vision. On January 25, Poolesville High School hosted a cluster concert, and the public got to see the first orchestra PHS has put forth in many a year. This year, again, Sandy plans to share her extraordinary talent to raise funds to benefit

the music program for the Poolesville School Cluster. The Benefit Concert Committee is in its initial planning stages and they want to alert past sponsors and new contributors about this highly successful concert which will continue the Cameron Music Fund. For the third year, there will also be an exciting Silent Auction with an incredible variety of goods and services going to the highest bidders. More information will be forthcoming, and those who would like to help or sponsor the event may contact Roger Hayden (rah22222@netscape.net), Dominique Agnew (violin@intairnet.com), Suzanne Tallia (stallia@verizon.net) or Pam Green (301-349-2403).

A Monocacy Moment

Sugarloaf Mountain in the snow

Photograph by Jack Toomey

**Poolesville
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&
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February is the month of Love...
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Things to Do

February

Library Lovers Month
Month Long Special Events and Activities
Candy treats, raffles for local restaurants, gift certificates

February 17

Basket Bingo
St. Mary's Holy Name Society
St. Mary's Pavilion - Barnesville
5:00 p.m. doors open
7:00 p.m. games start

Preschool Story Time

Quince Orchard Public Library
Ages two and half up to six, 1:15 a.m.

February 17

Gospel Concert for African American History Month
Concert by Fairhaven Methodist Church gospel choir
Quince Orchard Library, 2:00 p.m.

February 20

Homemade Kinklings Sale
Benefit of Carroll Manor Fire Company
\$6.00/dozen - \$3.50/half dozen
Station 14 Adamstown
Starting at 6:00 a.m., (snow date Feb. 23)

February 22

Storytime, Three to Six Years
Poolesville Public Library
Stories, finger plays, music, 10:30 a.m.
Librarian's Choice Book Discussion
Quince Orchard Public Library
Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
7:30 p.m.

February 23

Annual Spaghetti Dinner
(All You Can Eat)
Poolesville Methodist Unite Memorial Church
Adults: \$8.00, Children: 6-12 - \$4.00, Under 6: \$1.00
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Youth Sports

Why They Wrestle Interviews with Clarksburg Coyote Wrestlers

By Jeff Stuart

Why did you become interested in wrestling? What is it like wrestling for a new school? I asked those questions of members of the Coyote wrestling team. One by one they sat with me on the edge of the mat as practice continued. After each interview, Coach Josh Munsey elaborated on each wrestler's progress.

Mario Caldwell is a tenth grader who moved to Clarksburg from Baltimore. After getting cut from the basketball team, he said Coach Munsey told him he could win a state

Business Briefs

PACC Announces Community Service Winner

At their annual banquet, the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce announced that its community service award was given to Kathy Mihm, a geologist with the S. S. Papadopoulos and Associates environmental consulting firm. The PACC wants to recognize Mrs. Mihm for her volunteer work for the Chamber as well as many similar contributions to the community at large.

In particular, Mrs. Mihm was praised for the many years of leadership in helping to coordinate the 5K race during Poolesville Day. The race provides financial resources that allow the Chamber to make many of its community contributions such as a Poolesville High School scholarship program. She was also cited for other community volunteer work such as assisting the town commissioners in environmental and water resource analyses, and her involvement in volunteer work with St. Peter's Church.

February 26

Poolesville Public Library
Book Discussion Group
Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*
Dessert and Donations
Mont. College's Sharon Anthony facilitator
7:30 p.m.

February 27

Family Storytime
Poolesville Public Library
Stories, finger plays, and music

championship if he went out for wrestling. Caldwell said, "I like the hard practices. They are longer and harder than any other sport. The practices are harder than the real matches." Coach Munsey said, "Mario's having a terrific season. He's a first-year wrestler who is beating guys who have been wrestling for much longer. This kid has a tremendous upside. He uses his hips to throw every opponent he wrestles. He was the first Coyote wrestler to place in his first two tournaments."

Chris Williamson, a 135-pound ninth grader, began wrestling in the sixth grade. "I like the aggressiveness of [wrestling]. It's like fighting with rules," he says. "I like to win." Chris has won matches against older, more

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PACC Elects New Directors

New members of the Board of Directors for the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce were officially elected at the recent annual banquet. Joining the BOD for 2007 are: Linda Lewis (Lewis Orchards), Dennis Stillson (Cugini's Restaurant), Dr. Timothy Pike (Family Dentistry), and Alex Markoff (Caleva Outdoor Adventures.).

Leaving the board are members Dawn Albert, Joe Angulo (Domino's), Alex Rosenzweig, and William Price (William Price & Associates, CPA).

Just to Make Your White's Ferry Commute a Little More Pleasant

Poolesville's Jeff Brooks of Mayorga Coffee, Inc. plans to open a coffee concession at White's Ferry from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the weekdays. The usual snack bar facilities are closed for the winter, and if all goes well, you should see his big, yellow mobile coffee truck on site at the Ferry about the time this issue hits the streets. Mr. Brooks is in marketing and sales with the organic coffee company, and many of our readers have seen him providing free coffee at various non-profit fundraising events in the

area, most notably last January's Relay for Life Kick-Off Dinner.


Speelman Custom Designs New Tack Box

Poolesville Hardware often offers unique items not necessarily found in your standard hardware store. John Speelman has gone one step further by personally designing a mobile tack box, which he has custom-produced by a firm that specializes in making animal caskets.

Speelman recognized the need since the tack boxes he has seen were heavy, cumbersome, and dull. His design (32" tall, 26" wide, and 30" long) comes with custom molding to provide a unique box to each customer. The unit has wheels at one end for easy maneuverability "just like a suitcase." Inside, there are various compartments to hold the necessary tools and personal items for the horse owner.

No word from John as to whether he has plans beyond Poolesville for this new line of tack boxes, but he has plenty available this month so it might be wise to go there now if you think this is something you are interested in.

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Commentary

Reflections on a Cold Day

By John Clayton

It is very, very cold. Perhaps next week, when this issue is out on the street, it won't be cold, but it is very cold today, and it has snowed. I am sitting at my desk watching cardinals and woodpeckers at our feeders. There are many flashes of red, which is quite attractive to watch on such a cold snowy day. I knew this day would come, when I would sit down to write and nothing would come to mind, and I would write about our bird feeders. Thank God for the red-bellied woodpecker.

Super Bowl Sunday has come and gone. It is no more, at least until XLII arrives. I have often mockingly referred to Super Bowl Sunday as America's holiest day because of the attention it receives. This SBS, I was, however, struck by how well attended my morning church service was. Our rector affirmed that, yes, the earlier service was also well attended. I offered him some variation of my holiest day spiel, but it pretty much went thud, and he glanced at me not unkindly with a look that seemed to say, "Perhaps God has other uses for him of which I am not aware." Do you know that look? I do.

Shortly thereafter, at Selby's Market, I noticed that all the customers in line at the checkout with me were men, and we were all buying chips. A woman subsequently joined the parade, and I shared this hilarious

Youth Sports

Following a Legend

By Skip Etheridge

How do you follow in the footsteps of a legend? Those are probably the thoughts of new Poolesville High School girls' varsity basketball coach Randy Berger. Berger has the unenviable task of taking over one of the most successful basketball programs in the county. A program proctored for ten seasons by his current boss, Poolesville's Athletic Director Fred Swick.

Having taught in the county school system for nearly thirty years, Swick has coached baseball and football, as well as boys' and girls' basketball at a very high level. When asked about his success, his peers point to

observation with her. She received it graciously, commented politely on the "big day," but peered at me a little askance with a look that seemed to say, "I wonder where security is." I have resolved not to accost strangers with my observations anymore—except in print.

In our February 2 issue, my partner wrote a long piece ("The Whole Truth and Nothing But") explaining, among other things, why he won't see the movie "An Inconvenient Truth," as a response to my January 19 commentary ("Inconvenient Truths"). I guess I should say something.

I would say that timing is, if not everything, at least a source of irony. In the week following this exchange the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an organization of scientists from 113 countries, released the summary of a report that states that global warming/climate change (take your pick) is real, it is to a great degree the result of human activity, and that continuing to ignore remedies to the threat based on the shreds of doubt that remain would be irresponsible. The scientists have moved to a ninety percent certainty on mankind's impact on "unequivocal" global warming.

My partner and I have each received feedback on our efforts, and suffice it to say we have each been chastised for looking for truth in all the wrong places. We have been supplied enough informative web links to keep us each busy for a good long while. I hope one of us finds a solution; the red bellied woodpeckers are depending on us.

his organizational skills, his attention to detail, and his passion for the game. They say his players revere him, his opponents fear him, even game official respect him; but now the program must go on without him.

Even in the personified long shadow cast by this man, a veritable giant in the coaching world, Berger seems up to the task. Swick has left a team with a strong nucleus that Berger has obviously nurtured to maturity. The Lady Falcons are 12-3 with two thirds of the season behind them. To watch them play under the steely stare of Coach Berger patrolling the sidelines is a credit to his skills. He clearly brings his own passion to the game. With only one senior on the current roster, Co-Captain Jacqueline Orona, the Falcons fear no one. Orona,

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301-349-0071
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301-349-0070
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dagnew@intairnet.com

Departments
editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 175
Poolesville, MD 20837
301 349-0071 • FAX 301 349-5646

Contributing Writers
Dominique Agnew
dagnew@intairnet.com

Debby Lynn
debbylynn@comcast.net
Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com

Curtis Osborne
cptoz@aol.com

Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com

Contributing Photographer
Hilary Schwab

hiliary@hschwabphotography.com
Graphics

WhipSmart Graphics
Karie@WhipSmartGraphics.com

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Youth Sports

PHS Cheerleaders Victorious Once Again

On December 9, 2006, the Poolesville Varsity Cheerleaders were victorious in claiming the Division III County Championship winning first place for the third year in a row. The 2006-2007 squad, led by coach Katie Loughney, was made up of seniors and captains, Allee Swiek and Eboné Pruitt; seniors Amanda Fogel, Jennifer Fischer, Caroline Hayden, Amanda Lynch, and Emily Ricigliano. Junior squad members included Kimberly Zisman, Megan Guise, Kelly Dalrymple, and Ashley Taylor. Sophomores, Maureen Conway and Patricia Robinson, as well as freshmen, Abi Stefanelli and Jasmine Snowden, were also a part of this championship squad.

Competing schools were equally as talented, creating a

nervous, but exciting atmosphere in the Montgomery Blair High School gym. The PHS varsity squad rose to this challenge executing stunts and motions flawlessly as they performed their routine to a mix of upbeat pop music. It was the determination of the squad and the support from parents and classmates in attendance that gave the girls the confidence they needed to take first place home to Poolesville. Congratulations to the Poolesville varsity cheerleaders for their successes this season in the Division III County Championship.



The Poolesville High School cheerleading squad.



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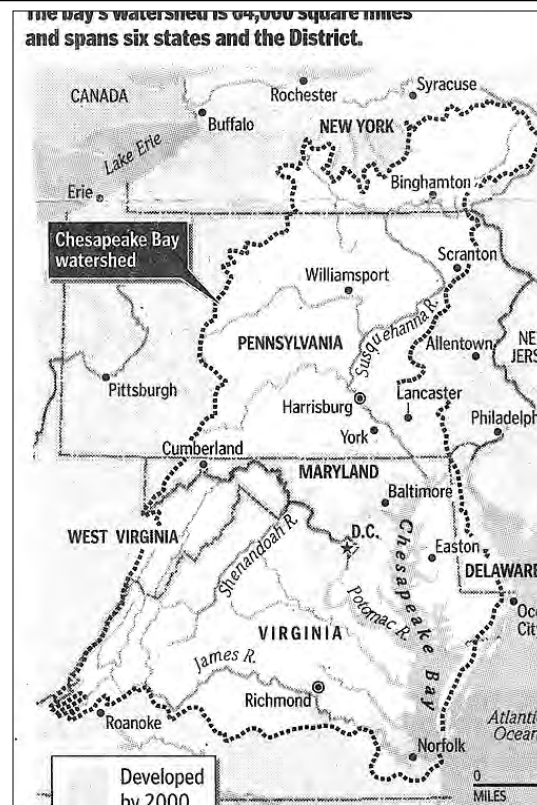


In the Garden

Can We Clean Up the Bay By 2010?

By Maureen O'Connell

In 1987, there was an agreement between the federal government and the state governments of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania to clean up the Chesapeake Bay by the year 2000. It had been polluted for years with dirt, algae blooms, human wastes, and toxic chemicals. That might have been too large and ambitious a promise. The year 2000 came and went, and the bay was still far from being healthy. At first, federal and state officials thought that the project was a no-brainer. The biggest offenders must be the big industrial corporations. Jack Greer, an official at the Sea Grant program at the University of Maryland, said, "We thought it was going to be Bethlehem Steel. We thought we were going to be able to point to big polluters." Instead, they found that the culprits were closer to home—some in their own backyards. Some of the bay's worst pollutants come from such quotidian things as manure from farm



The Chesapeake Bay watershed.

animals, lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides, and human wastes. A new approach had to be taken. The leaders of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a new

deadline of 2010. They promised, again, to improve the quality of the bay's water, increase its dwindling oyster and crab populations, and address the issues of underwater grasses and other environmental indicators. This project would not come cheap. The estimated spending needs were \$28 billion—\$15 billion to capture pollution from storm water, \$6 billion to overhaul sewage treatment plants, \$4.6 billion to upgrade septic tanks, \$2 billion to keep farm pollutants from washing downstream, and \$800 million to plant trees to filter air and water. It is quite a challenging and expensive task list, but state and federal officials are halfway towards budgeting funds to support these programs. But, the buck doesn't stop here. There is enough blame to be spread across the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. The bay's watershed is 64,000 square miles and spans six states and the District

of Columbia. Wherever you live, you live in a watershed. Everyone living in these regions has an impact on the bay. Every drop of rain or snow falling in the bay's watershed eventually drains into the Chesapeake Bay. The precipitation comes from the sky pure, but as it traverses the landscape on its journey to the bay, it carries oil and dirt from the parking lots around our mega-shopping malls, soil from construction sites, fertilizers and pesticides from our farms, lawns, and flower gardens, and chemicals from industrial discharges. These pollutants enter one of fifty major tributaries and eventually flow into the bay.

What are the solutions? How do states reconcile their need to develop land for burgeoning populations with the needs of the bay? The U.S. Forest Service, the multi-state Chesapeake Bay Program, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation have done much work to address this problem, but there is a long way to go. Conservation groups, such as the Nature Conservancy and land trusts, are generally private, nonprofit charitable corporations dedicated to land conservation. The Nature Conservancy operates on a national level, but there are many local land trusts which are steadily growing and becoming major players in saving millions of acres of America's open spaces. In our Monocacy area, the Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy, Inc. has taken a very active role in

addressing environmental issues that impact our ecosystem. For information about this group, you can call 301-972-8307.

On a local level, what can you do to help? The protection of the Chesapeake Bay's watershed and our remaining forests lies not only in the hands of owners of large tracts of land, but in the many hands of small land and homeowners. There are many conservation groups in need of volunteers to carry out their work. Be aware of what is happening in the county government and your local town councils. The EPA says it will take \$800 million to plant trees to filter air and water. Do the trees in your backyard, along the streets, in public parks, and in your housing subdivision help prevent erosion and filter pollutants from rainwater runoff? Do they help bring cleaner water to our rivers and the Bay? You bet they do. All trees in our urban forests protect water quality, create habitats for all wildlife, improve air quality, and contribute to the economy. During photosynthesis, trees provide oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Despite what the skeptics say, one of the major causes of global warming, or climate change, or whatever you want to call it, is the emission of carbon dioxide into the air. Studies have shown that a large tree absorbs 330 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is actively working with the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, the state forestry agencies of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and many volunteer programs to protect and reforest our woodlands. You can encourage your civic and homeowners' associations and local town governments to start a tree-planting program. Arbor Day, which in Maryland is the first Wednesday in April, would be a good starting point. In your own backyard, besides planting trees, look into using natural, non-chemical fertilizers and pesticides. There is a company, Gardens Alive (www.GardensAlive.com), that I started dealing with several years ago, that sells environmentally responsible products that work. In environmental issues, there are no rewind buttons. Planting a tree in your backyard will not reverse years of polluting habits, or cure the Chesapeake Bay's problems. But, it will be one step further towards a greater sense of awareness and determination to make a change.





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Book Corner

Dust

By Martha Grimes

Viking. 342 pp. \$25.95

Reviewed by Maureen O'Connell

I enjoy reading many genres of books—biographies, historical novels, historical and political works of non-fiction, and murder mysteries. But, there is something very cozy about settling into your favorite, overstuffed chair by the fireplace, tea or glass of wine in hand, feet nestled in a soft, wooly blanket, and enjoying a good, well-written whodunit. I am particularly fond of British mystery writers, who can turn out novels with a full cast of well-developed characters, plots, and sub-plots. Murder seems more sinister and dark on the desolate Yorkshire moors, in the old vicar's study in the shadows of the rose-covered parsonage, or in the labyrinthine back streets of London on a cold, rainy night. I have read and thoroughly enjoyed the works of English mystery writers Ruth Rendell, P.D. James, Val Mc Dermid, and Ian Rankin, to name a few. Their stories take you from the small detective constable's office in his patch in the Cotswold to the lofty office of the New Scotland Yard Superintendent in Whitehall. The works of Martha Grimes came to my attention recently, with the January publication of her new book *Dust*. Grimes is an American, who lives in Washington, D.C., and is a graduate of the University of Maryland. She and fellow American mystery writers Elizabeth George and Jeffrey Deaver can turn out a chilling, page-turner whodunit with the best of any of the Brit writers. *Dust* is her twenty-first installment of the New Scotland Yard Superintendent Richard Jury saga. I usually like to read book series in chronological order, but in this case, I am doing it backwards. Grimes has been captivating her readers for almost three decades

with her masterful characters, driven plot lines, and her careful and realistic descriptions of present-day London and its surrounding areas.

The plot line is simple, but soon Grimes weaves the conflicting motives and questionable methods of the victim and the perpetrator into a tapestry of doubts that muddy the givens of the crime scene and keep you turning each page for more.

Billy Maples, a wealthy young patron of the arts, is found shot to death on the balcony of a seedy hotel in the up-and-coming neighborhood of Clerkenwell in north London, having been last seen in a trendy club named *Dust*. Why was he staying at this hotel, and what was the motive for murder? The victim was well liked and appeared to have no known enemies. Money was not an issue, since his inheritance would go entirely to his father, who was already very wealthy. Initially, the case is handled by the Islington police station, in whose jurisdiction the murder occurred. Through a friend who found the victim's body, Richard Jury of New Scotland Yard is called upon to assist the local police. A little sex is thrown in with Jury's encounter with Lu Aguilar, the seductive Chief of Detectives in the Islington police station. We soon find out that Jury is far from over-the-hill.

While the murder took place in London, much of the action takes place in the town of Rye and the historic home of novelist Henry James. Maples, an avid James fan, is watching over the house for a short period of time for the English National Trust, to whom the house was bequeathed. Weaving in and out of the picture is the First Great War, whose vivid images of death and destruction are never far from the minds of those men who experienced them, many of them Billy's relatives. Billy is the grandson of Sir Oswald Maples, a World War II code breaker who worked at Bletchley Park on the Enigma Project. We soon see a list of could-be perpetrators: Billy's over-

powering step-mother, Olivia, his male business partner Kurt Brunner, Mrs. Jessup, the James home cook, and several members of the wait staff at the hotel of the murder. The threads of intrigue unravel in many directions. We learn of the history of the German Kindertransport, the train of children fleeing pre-war Germany, and the doomed City of Benares children's ship, torpedoed en route from England to Canada in the early years of the war. All leads still leave Jury and Aguilar with nothing to explain why Billy was killed. We learn that the James house has secrets of its own. This case will take all of Jury's intelligence and charm to crack, as he finds himself wandering in a maze of unsatisfying and going-nowhere clues.

For me, the test of a good murder mystery is how long it takes me to figure out whodunit. With Grimes's new book, I did not discover it until the last couple of pages. Pull up a chair and settle in for a good read.



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Equestrian

Reclaiming the Racehorse: A Case Study

By Debby Lynn

There are a prolific number of thoroughbreds coming off the race-track every year. Many are well suited to other equine careers and provide a good source of supply for those wishing to make up their own horse. Retraining race horses is not for the inexperienced or faint of heart but, with care, can be a very rewarding venture. Here is the story of how one particular less-than-average-producer at the track became a promising field hunter.

As typically happens, Phoebe was



Retired racehorse Phoebe.

started as a two-year-old. She is a 16.1 hand daughter of Awad, a grade I stakes class Maryland stallion. She was well bred, well cared for, and properly started by an experienced trainer of good repute. She has the kind of conformation which makes for a fast horse. Deep through the heart girth and more than two fists wide between the front legs indicate plenty of lung capacity. Long legs on a short coupled body promise quick acceleration. Substantial enough bone to stand up to the rigors of the track. In short, Phoebe was a very promising filly as she began her career.

But racing does not suit every horse bred for it. Phoebe had several lackluster starts in claiming races as a two-year-old, earning her owners nothing in return for their care, love, and hope. It's not that she wasn't physically capable of succeeding, it was that racing did not suit her temperament. Like humans, horses mature mentally at different rates. Phoebe simply was not grown up enough to handle the track environment. Horses in general, and most particularly mares, are dependent on their herd for a sense of security. This trait

appears most obvious in young horses. As horses mature and gain experience beyond herd activities, they become less dependent on herd interaction for their mental stability. Horses sent to the track are separated from their herd and must adjust. Usually, they make friends with the other horses in their shed row, or perhaps befriend a goat, or develop a special attachment to a groom they trust. In Phoebe's case, she could not adjust. Her nervous tension and anxiety were expressed in stall walking and other negative behaviors, adversely affecting her ability to race.

Her owners decided racing was not her job and opted to take a loss and sell her into a non-racing career. Phoebe was fortunate to belong to the kind of race trainer willing to do this, rather than sell a perfectly sound and fit horse on to another race trainer. When I heard about the horse, I was actively looking for a youngster to bring along to eventually replace my current well-seasoned hunt and event horse. I made an appointment to see the horse.

I was told she was nervous and talked to both a steeplechase jockey and an advanced level 3 day event rider who had turned her down because she was a nervous mare. What was I thinking? If she was too much horse for those men, what could a smallish, fiftyish woman do? I decided to keep the appointment just to be polite, but I planned on walking away from trouble.

When I arrived, the owner asked me what I wanted to do with the horse. I said hunt and event, both mentally-taxing equine activities. "Oh, my dear!" exclaimed the kindly owner. "I don't know. Maybe she would be more suitable for trail riding." By now I was sure I didn't want her, but figured I'd take a look since I was there. As we walked out to the paddock, the owner told me the mare could not be stall kept due to her frenzied stall walking. The paddock sloped gently downhill from where we stood. Phoebe was grazing quietly at the bottom in the company of another horse. Upon hearing her name called, she lifted her head and folded those long, graceful legs in a

-Continued on Page 11.



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Local News

County Provides an Update On PHS Air Quality

Continued concern among some staff and teachers over the air quality at Poolesville High School sparked augmented interest in a January meeting scheduled by the county. While concern over health issues by the staff, students, and teachers has increased recently, an increase in illnesses has not been documented. However, the teachers attending the meeting estimated that more than twenty teachers have voiced increased allergies and other health problems due to air quality at the school.

Kathy Bettinger, a chemistry teacher with over thirty-two years at PHS, voiced frustration over repeated eye irritation and itchiness that gets worse through the working week only to subside during the weekends. Dan Savino, a physics teacher, who suffered pneumonia even though he seldom suffers a cold, was frustrated by a lack of response on a previous inquiry as to the nature of the liquid that was removed from under his classroom. He

inquired about the large amount of liquid that was pumped out from below Room 6. He reports that a Haz-Mat tanker truck and workers were at the school for two days pumping it out and that the fluid was approximately five feet deep. Mr. Yarup reported that an investigation was completed, but that he would have to get back to Mr. Sovino as to the results of that investigation.

Mr. Sovino, who reports that he has seen mold in his room, reported that the county representatives told another teacher at the school that a sample of an apparent mold from her room was not mold. That teacher had it tested in a lab at Hood College where it was confirmed to be mold.

County representative, Sean Yarup, had scheduled a meeting week of January 28, but due to personal matters had to reschedule. Since many teachers did not make the February 5 meeting, Yarup agreed to reschedule his presentation a third time.

The summation of the report submitted by M. A. Cecil & Associates, Inc., the industrial hygiene and environmental health firm used by the county for such analysis, stated, "At the time of their survey, the results for the evaluated parameters

were acceptable and within recommended limits." It went on to further recommend that humidity levels should be maintained within thirty-to sixty-percent ranges at all times, even during the summer months.

One of the complications relating to issues of mold is the lack of guidelines on mold concentrations. The report states that it is not known what concentration of spores is required to evoke an allergic reaction. Allergic reactions vary from person to person. Currently, indoor mold levels that are less than outdoor levels are acceptable. In the most recent study (October 2006), only one classroom had indoor mold too close to the outdoor level. Individuals can experience uncomfortable symptoms whenever the relative humidity is less than or greater than the thirty-to sixty-percent range.

Due to overcrowding, former rooms designed only for stockroom use have been used as offices over the last twenty years. Recently, staff using such rooms have been moved since these rooms have inadequate air ventilation (intake and return) to be used properly as an office.

Mr. Yarup reported that all short-term action plans have been completed and that Phase I of the

Long Term Action plan is complete except for replacement of horizontal and vertical unit ventilators which is scheduled to be completed in August 2007.

All other long-term action plans (Phases II through IV) are in the Capital Improvement Projects budget for the summer of 2007. He expects that once air units with dehumidification systems are in place, much of the current concerns should be corrected. The new system will use an electronic direct digital control system. Since humidity monitoring is so critical, he agreed to immediately place temperature and relative humidity data loggers throughout the building to better track information. Placement of these monitors will be determined by certified industrial hygienists and at the request of concerned staff.

After the meeting, Michael Young, founder of the Healthy Air Alliance, which advocates for safe learning environments, stated, "I think we are heading in the right direction. Obviously, there is more work to be done, but we are headed in the right direction. We are moving along."

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**"Wrestling" Continued From
Page 3.**

experienced wrestlers, and the coaching staff is excited about his future. He took first place at the Reservoir Invitational Tournament and had the clinching win in an overtime victory against Wheaton. He is also an honor student.

Ben Asadi, a 103-pound ninth grader thought about playing football, but heard that "wrestling was a good sport for small people because you are going up against people your own size." He added, "People underestimate me. I like to make the first move." Coach Munsey said, "Ben routinely gives up ten pounds to heavier opponents, but he compensates with his intensity and determination. He works from the first whistle to the last." Asadi is also an excellent student and earned honor-roll status.

Eleventh grader Patrick Audain, who wrestles at 171 pounds, went out for wrestling at Walt Whitman High School as a ninth grader, but the team was focused on their State Champion wrestlers, and the coaches "weren't really teaching him anything." He says he finally got his chance at Clarksburg, and that Coach Munsey is a very good teacher. Patrick also likes that wrestling is "fighting with rules." Coach Munsey made Audain, who is an honor roll student, a captain in recognition of his leadership skills. He said he has "a terrific work ethic in practice, and in the classroom."

Coach Munsey said that Tanner Wrublik, a 119-pound freshman, is one of the elite wrestlers in the state. Wrublik likes the physical nature of wrestling, and dislikes other, more "boring" sports. Previously, Wrublik wrestled for the junior team for Damascus High School. For Clarksburg, he has a record of nine wins and only one loss. Seven of his wins are "by fall." (Editor's Note: A fall, also known as a pin, occurs when a wrestler holds both his opponents' shoulders on the mat simultaneously.)

Tanner's older brother, Zack Wrublik, is a tenth grader and a transfer from Watkins Mill High School. He wrestles at 152 pounds. "Both Tanner and I got started watching my brother Kyle (now in Iraq) wrestle at Watkins Mill. I liked it immediately." Following his father's advice, he wrestled in junior league to gain experience. Zack is the only wrestler on the team with prior varsity experience.

Big Board

Glen Echo Park Offers Weekend Shows for Families with Young Children

The Glen Echo Park presents an adaptation of Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Kling adapted from Kevin Henke's humorous and heart-warming book that shows his wonderful approach to the way we view the world as kids – colors are brighter, noises louder, our concept of time is under construction. The real and imagined worlds are intertwined. Performances are at the Spanish Ballroom on weekends with shows starting at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. See www.adventure-theatre.org/weekends for more information.

It's Miss Poolesville!

It's time again to crown the most graceful, most accomplished, most talented, and most perfect senior girl at Poolesville High School. Come watch the girls perform their talents; demonstrate their runway savvy as they model evening gowns, casual wear, and active wear; and answer the Final Question as they vie for the sought-after crown on February 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Don Byron Plays Junior Walker

As clarinetist, saxophonist, composer, arranger, and social critic, Don

Matt Ulisney wrestles at 140 pounds, and his brother Rob was a State Champion for Peary High School. Matt Ulisney wrestled for three years in the junior league for Damascus and Seneca. Ulisney also plays football and thought wrestling would help him be a better football player. He praised Coach Munsey, and claimed, "There is history to be made here as the first team at Clarksburg. We have to make it." Coach Munsey said that Ulisney, also an honor roll student, "is never afraid to try a new move."

Roja Stephenson, a 130 pound wrestler, took second place at the Meade Invitational Tournament. He said his health teacher at Rocky Hill Middle School, Mr. Wilberding, encouraged him to go out for wrestling.

Paul Acedera, 125 pounds, ninth grade, wrestled for the Damascus junior team. "My teammate, Chris Williamson, encouraged me to go out for wrestling. I wanted to try something new." Coach Munsey offered that "Paul looks for the pin at all times."

Derek Hall, a 112-pound freshman and honor roll student, said "It's a tough sport. You need a lot of endur-

-Continued on Page 17.

Byron redefines every genre of music he plays, be it classical, salsa, hip-hop, funk, rhythm and blues, klezmer, or any jazz style from swing and bop to cutting-edge downtown improvisation. He has been consistently voted best clarinetist by critics and readers alike in leading international music journals since being named "Jazz Artist of the Year" by Down Beat in 1992. He will perform at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on February 16 at 8:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$20.00 to \$30.00. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

When We Were Kings

An award-winning documentary about the famous "Rumble in the Jungle," world heavyweight championship fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman that took place in Zaire in 1974 as well as a music festival (featuring B.B. King, The Pointer Sisters, and Miriam Makeba) organized by promoter Don King. See it on the big screen at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$4.00 for students, and \$6.00 for adults. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Managing Your Child's Moods: From Meltdowns to Cooperation

Loriann Oberlin, MS, NCC, LGPC is a Seneca Academy mom and graduate of Johns Hopkins University with a master's

degree in clinical counseling. She is the author of numerous books, including *Surviving Separation & Divorce* and *Writing for Quick Cash* as well as the co-author of *The Angry Child and Overcoming Passive-Aggression*, all about hidden anger in kids and adults. She'll present some common scenarios using different age groups as examples showing how parents can better manage difficult moments to create a happier home life, homework that gets accomplished, and success all the way around. She'll also have time for your questions and have books available for purchase as well as handouts during her remarks. Her presentation will be Thursday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Circle School/Seneca Academy. It is free and open to the public.

Basket Bingo for Playground Equipment

The PTA is sponsoring a basket bingo at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville on Saturday, March 10 to raise funds for new playground equipment. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., games will begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance, \$20.00 at the door. There will also be food and baked goods for sale. For more information, call Lisa Fedders at 301-349-5611.



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Health & Fitness

An Affair of the Heart

By Karen Fales

As we love and nurture a spouse, parent, child, or friend with care and support, we must care for our hearts in the same way. Why? To lower our risks of developing heart diseases and many other chronic illnesses that can be caused by obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and stress.

The key to loving your heart for a longer, better life is to give quality to your life now. You can do this through exercise, a healthy diet, reducing stress, and not smoking.

Exercise will build a strong heart and help to prevent obesity. Developing a heart-strengthening exercise routine is as simple as incorporating brisk walks, light jogs, or time in a fitness center thirty minutes a day three to four times a week. Strength training is also an important aspect of your fitness to improve your quality of life.

To control your weight and keep your heart strong, your diet also plays an important role. Concentrate on eating foods that are low in saturated fats, high in fiber, and low in sugar. Avoid

fried foods and foods with hydrogenated fats or trans fats. Enjoy fruits and vegetables, whole grains, smaller portions, and drink plenty of water.

Reduce the stresses in your life. Making lists, giving back to the community, talking, and laughing and crying are good ways to "de-stress." One of the best ways to relieve stress is to exercise, especially with someone you love!

"Reclaiming the Racehorse" Continued From Page 8.

beautiful, flowing canter. Nothing improves a canter like an uphill slope, but still, I was enchanted. She stopped just short of where I was standing, and regarded me with her large and liquid eye. She poked her nose into my jacket, and seemed to say, "Hey! I'm three. Whatcha got in your pocket? Can we be friends? Hey, can I follow you around?" My checkbook appeared in my hand, seemingly of its own volition. The owner admonished me to take some time and think it over, but it was too late: I was totally smitten with my new project horse.

("Reclaiming the Racehorse" will continue in a future issue.)

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Local History

Four Little Girls

by Jack Toomey

Lester and Caroline Norris married about 1921. They took up residence on a farm near Boyds and started a family; however, tragedy struck this young couple early in their marriage. They lost two children to natural causes shortly after their births. Then, within eight years, they were blessed with four healthy girls, Mary, Mrytle, Elise, and Helen.

On the morning of March 27, 1930, Lester and Caroline quarreled. Mrs. Shields later said that her husband had struck her with a club and had thrown rocks at her. Caroline decided to leave the farm for the time being, so she gathered her four girls and drove to Frederick hoping to take up residence with her sister until things calmed down. They arrived at the home of her sister on Trail Avenue near Hood College at about 10:00 a.m. Caroline found that the door was locked and no one was home. She obtained a key from a neighbor who said that her sister was at a church meeting. Caroline and her daughters



The scene of the tragedy. The 600 block of Trail Avenue, Frederick.

went inside the house to await the return of Elsie Bussard, her sister. Mrs. Bussard eventually came home, and they ate lunch together discussing Caroline's marital problems. Elsie Bussard then returned to her church. At about 1:30 p.m., Caroline decided to visit a neighbor on Trail Avenue. She locked the door and instructed the girls to stay in the kitchen because she feared that her husband might come to Frederick and take the girls back to the farm. She was gone about twenty minutes, and when she returned, she realized that something was terribly wrong. The entire house was filled with gas fumes, and she found her daughters unconscious on the kitchen floor. It was later determined that the girls, having been raised in a farmhouse with a wood cooking stove, were unfamiliar with

the gas stove and had turned the knobs releasing fumes into the air.

Mrs. Shields then screamed and started dragging her daughters onto the rear porch. A neighbor, hearing the screaming, ran across the street to Frederick Hospital and alerted the staff. Doctors Conley, Slusher, and Baer, and a handful of nurses immediately ran to the house and attempted to give first aid. A crew from the Potomac Edison power company was nearby and came quickly to the house. In those days, the company had a resuscitation crew on standby in case of electrocutions. The resuscitation crew used the oxygen that they carried until it ran out. They called Hagerstown and Williamsport for more oxygen, and it was sent to Frederick with a police escort. In the meantime, a huge crowd had gathered around the house to watch the life-saving attempts which were being carried out on the back lawn. There seemed to be little hope for the three younger girls, but the doctors and power company workers continued their attempts to revive Mary, age seven, until 6:10 p.m. when she was pronounced dead. As was the custom

of the time, the sheriff and the coroner held a brief inquest and ruled that the deaths of the four girls were accidental and that no criminal charges would be placed. Mr. Shields, who was at his farm in Boyds and had no telephone, was told of the tragedy by neighbors who had read about it in the Frederick newspaper.

The next day, a wake was held at the home of the Bussards on Trail Avenue. Thousands of people from both Montgomery County and Frederick attempted to enter the house to pay their respects, and it was necessary for the city police to prevent traffic from entering the block.

On March 29, 1930, the funeral of Mary, Myrtle, Elise, and Helen was held at the First Baptist Church. The Reverend William Royal presided over the ceremony that was attended by several thousand people. One casket containing the bodies of the four girls was carried to Mt. Olivet Cemetery. The four little girls were buried together, in an unmarked grave, next to their grandparents and the two infant siblings who had preceded them in death.

Pulse

Poolesville Relay for Life

By Rande Davis

In 2005, Chrissie Harney and Chontelle Hockenbery had been involved in the Damascus Relay for Life (DRFL) for very personal reasons. Their mother, Glenna Dorrrough, had been diagnosed with cancer and they had to find something—anything—to help. For the two women, sitting on the sidelines in the battle of cancer was no longer an option. Bob and Glenna Dorrrough raised both women in Poolesville, so when Mrs. Dorrrough died of cancer in August of 2005, they decided they wanted to initiate a RFL program in Poolesville in her honor.

As they began to spearhead this new program, they had many questions and concerns. Could the targeted \$50,000 be reached? With everyone always so busy, could they count on the people in the area to support a program just for Poolesville? They moved ahead if for no other reason than that the first year could get things rolling and set the stage for better success in the years to come. They didn't know their wildest dreams were about to be realized.

The co-chairs quickly learned that there is one thing you can really count on: the people in our area. From the "dare-we-dream" goal of \$50,000, Poolesville Relay for Life finalized their fundraising amount for 2006 at

-Continued on Page 13.

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Remembrances

Hon. George R. Gallagher, Retired Jurist

George R. Gallagher, 91, longtime judge on the D.C. Court of Appeals, died February 4 of pneumonia at his home, Ardara Farm, in Comus, Maryland. He is survived by his wife, Judith Kuertz Gallagher.

Judge Gallagher, born in New Haven, Connecticut on April 10, 1915, moved with his mother and four siblings to Washington in the 1920s, living in Tenleytown. He graduated from George Washington University and received his law degree from Catholic University.

Judge Gallagher was appointed to the D. C. Court of Appeals in 1968 by President Lyndon Johnson. He served as an active Associate Judge until 1981, when he assumed Senior Judge status, frequently participating in the court's cases until his full retirement in 2001. In September 1978, the D.C. Judicial Ten-

ure Commission submitted to President Jimmy Carter, as required by law, an evaluation of Judge Gallagher's first ten years on the bench. The commission's report noted, "He is an energetic judge and his opinions reflect a lively intellect. He is particularly sensitive in situations where the individual is a litigant pitted against the power of federal or local government." Further, the commission reported, "Judge Gallagher's opinions have been of a consistently high quality; some of them, indeed, most notable contributions to the growth of our law."

Prior to his appointment to the court, Judge Gallagher had served as an attorney in the U. S. Department of Justice, initially from 1938 to 1941, and again from 1946 to 1948. In 1948, he became a Special Assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, in which capacity he participated in the prosecution of Harry Bridges, the California longshoreman union leader, for perjury, and of Edward Prichard, a Kentucky congressman, for political corruption. From 1952 to 1959, Judge Gallagher served as General Counsel of the Subversive Activities Control Board. He was then in private



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practice in Washington until 1968. During that period, he served in the campaigns of President John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson as an advance man for their campaign tours.

During World War II, Judge Gallagher joined the U. S. Army in 1941, initially serving in the Aleutian Islands under arduous conditions. Later, he rose to the rank of captain in the 9th Infantry Division, where he served in intelligence under then Colonel Wil-

liam Westmoreland. He was at the crucial Remagen Bridgehead Battle on the Rhine River and was awarded the Bronze Star. In 1945, he left the army and returned to the Department of Justice.

Surviving besides his wife are his children, Christopher R. Gallagher and Mary Elizabeth Gallagher, all of Comus, Maryland, and several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, P.O. Box 67, Barnesville, MD 20838.

"Poolesville Relay" Continued From Page 12.

\$165,000. Starting in the hearts of just two women, PRFL ultimately grew to more than six hundred area volunteers comprised of residents and business people.

PRFL celebrated its astounding success at their annual 2007 Kick-Off Dinner held January 25. With over 150 people in attendance at the dinner hosted by the Poolesville Baptist Church, the event brought neighbors, friends, business-owners, and community leaders together again with the goal to exceed even the bold success of last year.

Often thought of as a single fundraising event, Relay for Life actually includes a series of fund-

raising events leading up to the main "walkathon" event in June. As volunteers come aboard, most join teams with each team's goal to raise a minimum of \$1,000. A fun and good-spirited competition develops, with each team working to achieve its goal and see if they can surpass the others. Each team seeks its own walking and event sponsors and will devise ideas to raise funds prior to the actual Relay for Life in June. One example is the recently completed "Thanksgiving in February" dining out night where two local restaurants, Cugini's and Bassett's, participated by having ten percent of the evening proceeds go to PRFL. Teams will have other dining-out nights scheduled, and there will also be a "Bowling for a Cure" night on

March 25.

Of course, the highlight is the weekend event, which this year will be held June 9 to June 10. On that weekend, the athletic field at Poolesville High School will become a bit of a campsite. After a reception in the late morning for cancer survivors, the various teams will begin to set up their "camps" at noon in preparation for the opening ceremonies at 2:00 p.m. At that time, the relay begins with the attending cancer survivors taking the first lap. While the event has serious goals, the weekend then emerges as a gala of fun and fellowship with music, food, and games as friends and families share in the all-day and -night march to help find a cure and support those who bravely face their battle with cancer.

With large field tents set up, and security of the area entrusted to local police, all in attendance can be sure of their safety throughout the evening and early morning hours of Sunday. As the darkness of the evening comes, the track field will be illuminated its full length with candle-lit bags marked with the name of sponsors and persons they wish to honor. Sponsoring one of the candles for just \$10.00 is one of the easiest ways for all to participate.

Last year there were fifty-eight teams that gathered, and this year

the hope is to do even better. Perhaps you may be wondering if you should start or join a team. As you read this article, RFL challenges you with these thoughts: If you know of someone in your life personally who has died of cancer, stand up; if you have been diagnosed with cancer, stand up; if you know of someone who has survived cancer, stand up; finally, if you know of someone who has been diagnosed with cancer, stand up. At this point, virtually all readers of the Monocle should be standing. Cancer truly affects us all. Joining a team or walking in the relay is just two of many ways you can help. If you would like to find a way to help out, you can call or contact Christina Harney (301-407-2252 or Chrissie.Harney@verizon.net), Chontelle Hockenbery (301-972-7867 or c.hockenbery@verizon.net), or you can visit the group's website, www.PoolesvilleRelayforlife.org. The Monocle will keep you posted in our Big Board and Things-to-Do section of events throughout the year leading up to the June relay.

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-“Perkins” Continued From Page 1.

always seemed driven by two passions: the law and helping people.

His community service list is impressive. He had been Poolesville Day Committee Co-Chairman with his fourth year coming up. He was on the Board of Directors of the PHS Booster Club, President of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, and on the Board of Directors of the Monocacy Lions Club. Over the years, we came to expect to hear his raspy voice announcing the varsity football games at the PHS athletic field. Whether it involved school sports or the Poolesville Athletic Association, Jake has always been involved in youth sports in one way or another.

In the last few weeks, while he continued to experience severe pain without complaining, he helped out with the Monocacy Lions Club auction, he presided over the PACC annual banquet, and continued in leading the Poolesville Day Committee. On the last day of his life, I called Jake because I needed information from him about the Chamber. I heard his voice and remember think-

ing just how terrible he sounded and that he was not doing well at all. It was the worst I had ever heard him. Without saying a word and without complaining at all, he responded to my request, and this last call was ended as so many, many other calls ended over the years by my simply saying, “Thanks, Jake.”

There are so many ways to describe Jake. These past years as we have gotten to know him, watching him battle the cards dealt him, witnessing his hope for a renewal from a kidney transplant, and being awestruck by his courage in facing such personal tribulation, there is one word that comes to mind: warrior. We think Jake always knew time was running out, but he battled on with determined courage. He was a warrior—a brave heart—in every sense of the word. In the end, the health issues claimed his life, but he claimed a piece of all our lives forever for the warrior he became. He did so much, and we could say so much more, but in the end it comes down to three simple words: “Thank you, Jake.”

Local News

Florida Tornado Destroys Home of Former Poolesville Couple

By Jack Toomey

Fred and Vicki Dimisa spent most of their lives saving for the opportunity to retire and move to Florida. Fred was a twenty-five-year veteran of the Montgomery County Police Department and then worked at Seneca Valley High School as security director. In 2006, they sold their home on Spurrier Avenue and moved to a retirement community near Orlando, Florida.

At about 3:00 a.m. on February 2, Vikki was awakened by one of their dogs who was whimpering and who then suddenly grabbed her wrist pulling her to the floor. Their other dog then landed on top of her and the house shook. Fred, who was asleep in the bedroom, was thrown out of bed and hurled onto the floor. At the time, they did not know that

their house had been struck by one of the tornadoes that struck central Florida killing over twenty people. When the storm passed, they began taking an assessment and realized that their home had been destroyed and one of the dogs was missing. Two days later, the dog was found on a golf course over several miles away.

As of the publication date, the Dimisas were living in a rental home having lost almost everything they own. Fred suffered cuts and abrasions from flying glass, and Vikki was treated for an injured hand. The Montgomery County Police Alumni Association has established a relief fund to help them in this terrible time in their lives. Contributions can be sent to MCP Alumni Association, P.O. Box 431, Damascus, MD, 20872, attention “Dimisa relief.”

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School News

The Poolesville Pulse

By Dominique Agnew

At Poolesville High School, it's the beginning of a new semester, and, for the students of Ms. Stephanie Gomer's journalism class, it's the beginning of the third issue of the *Poolesville Pulse* for this school year. The first news about the school newspaper is good news. For the first time in nearly a decade, there is a journalism class that prepares the paper as opposed to a newspaper club that meets after school. This keeps the whole process of creating and publishing the school paper much more organized says senior Engin Ege, one of the three editors. Also, it will allow the students to put out more issues. This year, there will be five papers, but the class hopes to publish more next year. Where, last year, it was difficult to track people down to get articles or to keep them to their promise of writing an article, the students are not only assigned beats, but they have to write because the class is for a grade; and there are vast improvements in the layout and the editing. "The layout has improved one hundred percent from last year," says Ms. Gomer.

At the beginning of the school year, the students came up with a mission: "To creatively inform our readers about the critical issues relevant to the Poolesville community." While this may sound like a noble mission, the students have actually found that it provides them with some challenges. In previous years, the paper had articles that were slightly more frivolously entertaining, and there were things like crossword puzzles. How is a crossword puzzle a critical issue? Also, the Poolesville community is so small that many state or county events



The PHS Newspaper Club

are not relevant to Poolesville High School.

Another challenge faced by the students is the old money question. Busi-

ness manager, junior Tommy Klein, is in charge of getting ads to fund the paper. The difficulty is two-pronged: the *Pulse* is a small paper and not well-known, and the town is small, "There are only so many businesses in the community," he says.

The eight-page publication has come up with a list of beats: athletics, technology, clubs, magnet, editorials, drama, science, music, and county news. Once the writers decide on their stories, they submit their ideas to the editors, seniors Amy Dobrzynski, Engin Ege, and Chelsea Lewis. The editors add their input to the stories, and the writers have a few weeks to do their interviews and write their stories. Sometimes, it's difficult to interview potential subjects because of the time of the class (for example the coaches of the wrestling team are not in the school), then the journalists have after-school activities, as well. The writers also have limited time in the computer lab, and the classroom doesn't have adequate computer equipment to allow them more computer time.

There also the editorials in which two writers present opposing viewpoints (Does this sound familiar, John Clayton and Rande Davis?). For the *Poolesville Pulse*, Andy Kotch and Sarah Knight offer the dueling articles. Interest-

ingly, it's this column that inspires the most debate amongst readers. "People are always the most vocal about the things they disagree with," says Andy. "I love getting...feedback." It shows someone read the article.

For most of the students, they are in the class either because they want to become writers or because they already love writing. Andy Kotch plans on majoring in journalism, and his dream is to be a novelist. Sophomore Katrina van Werkhoven does one better, "My dream is to be a best-selling novelist." Sophomore Elliot Croft always liked writing and enjoyed being involved in his school newspaper when he attended Montgomery Village Middle School. Senior Amy Van Meter says, "I like expressing my opinion. I like writing about topics I feel strong on." Junior Ursa Remondi says it more succinctly, "I just like it. It's a fun class."

Does the PHS newspaper have anything to say to the community at large? "Our paper is free, read us!" Andy, you forgot one thing, you should have said, "Advertise in our paper, we're the best high school newspaper in Poolesville!"

The *Poolesville Pulse* can be found in the front office of PHS, at Cugini's, at McDonald's, and other businesses in the area.



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Local News

Hearing on Water Rate Increases Completed

The Town of Poolesville's public hearing on proposed changes in the water rate schedule resulted in statements by five citizens: Robert Roit, Rudy Gole, Tom Kettler, Conrad Potemra, and Stan Janet. Commission president, Eddie Kuhlman, opened the meeting by stating that "nothing is written in stone" as to whether the (proposed) rate change would be adopted or not.

Mr. Gole did not object to the proposal on its own merits, but did not want the use of data from other towns used in making that decision. "The comparison to other towns has too many variables as to be useful." Mr. Kettler suggested that the fee increases should be more spread out and extended to include the largest users of water (the current proposal does not change large user rates). Mr. Potemra questioned the projection for needed tax increases based on the projected increase of electrical rates since flows from the plant are currently only one-third of those of March 2003. With these reduced flows, he questioned how any increase in electrical costs would be so great as to truly justify any tax increase. He repeated his request for the commissioners to consider subsistence assistance to the

smallest water users.

Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Roy Johnson had placed on a table at the entrance to the meeting room a chart comparing a second plan that he prefers over the proposed water rate increases. Mr. Johnson hopes that this second plan will be discussed and considered by his fellow commissioners prior to any final action on the proposed rate changes.

While some speakers wanted to make comments regarding Mr. Johnson's plan, Mr. Kuhlman disallowed those statements since the public hearing scheduled was just for comments on the proposed plan. Comments on the other plan would have to wait pending the commissioners agreeing to discuss and consider it or any other proposal. When pressed to state when such a hearing might occur, Mr. Kuhlman pointed out that any prospective hearing would have to await a decision by the commissioners to consider Johnson's plan. Since consideration of Johnson's plan is speculative, setting a date for a public hearing is premature.

Mr. Johnson's plan would separate water costs from wastewater costs, so that revenue from water usage would pay the costs of water, and the revenue used to pay for wastewater costs would come from the general fund. This would reportedly end the current use of general funds as a subsidy (using general tax funds to pay for water used by non-taxpayers) to cover water use.

Mr. Johnson believes that his plan would keep water rates the same, maintain the same tax rates for FY08, and establish a stand-alone water budget that could better itemize actual costs. In the town's January 2007 newsletter, Straight Talk, town management presents their answers to many of the most often asked questions concerning the water rate issue. A Monocle report on Johnson's proposal in detail will be provided should the commissioners move to consider it for discussion.

Streetscape Concept Plan

Moves Forward

After hearing a report from town manager Wade Yost regarding recommendations from the planning commission on various aspects of the Town's Streetscape Plan, the commissioners voted to move to the next phase of concept development. This phase will provide modeling and further details of proposed changes to Fisher Avenue in the town. The commissioners chose to limit the plan from the intersection of Wootton and Fisher Avenues to Fisher and West Willard.

One of the primary objectives of the commissioners is to find street designs that will result in safer driving through the town and to reduce excess speeding. To that objective, the streetscape will consider using raised asphalt pedestrian cross-walks, narrowing of the street width at various points, using techniques such as use of bike lanes, plant boxes, etc. A previous suggestion of using an intersection traffic circle at Wootton and Fisher is not considered possible due to lack of support from the state.

Brand Logo for Poolesville

The Community Economic and Development Committee has submitted a new logo for the town to be used in establishing an identifiable brand image for promoting new businesses and economic development in the town. The theme of the new logo is "Timeless Charm" which incorporates the town flag colors of green and gold illustrating countryside roads beneath Sugarloaf Mountain.

Additionally, the CEDC, under the new chairmanship of Brian Hundertmark, will look for ways to improve the town's Holiday Lighting Festival that could include more lights and better seating for seniors. Commissioner Tom Yeatts reported that the committee has selected a new website developer. The CEDC would like to expand the site to include more information, such as retail location contact information that can help facilitate retail and business expansion in the town. The CEDC is also considering additional town events such as Whalen Commons Movie Night, and they welcome other ideas put forward by the public.

"Wrestling" Continued From Page 10.

ance. This is a new program, still developing. We will just keep getting better and better."

Max Borchardt, a 112-pound ninth grader, never wrestled before except in middle school intramurals. "This is a new school and a new opportunity. I used to wrestle with my brother when I was young. He used to beat me up. This is for payback." Max won the gold medal in his first JV tournament at Fort Meade before Christmas, becoming the first Coyote wrestler ever to win an individual tournament championship. He is also on the honor roll.

Farhan Qaisar, 130 pounds, is the left linebacker on Clarksburg's football team. He echoed a familiar theme. "I wanted to get in better shape and to be tougher for football. I was encouraged to go out by the football coach." His brother, 215-pounder Mohammed Faisal, is also a wrestler and on the football team.

As for Coach Munsey, "I went to Wheaton High School, where I graduated in 1996. I took second place in the state tournament that year. I won a scholarship to Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. After three years

I transferred to the University of Maryland where I wrestled for two more years. In 2001, my old coach at Wheaton, Dave Mequon, hired me as assistant coach. I was also a Special Education Assistant. After I got my master's degree from Johns Hopkins, and a teaching position at Wheaton in 2004, Mr. Moquin retired from coaching and I became the head coach. Clarksburg is the only school I would have left Wheaton for. I figured that the opportunity to be on the opening staff of a new school would be too good to pass up." Coach Munsey has the help of three assistant coaches by his side: Scott Munsey, three-time state champion, national high school All-American, and decorated Greco-Roman wrestler; Francis Jeffrey-Idun; and Steve Kachedorian.

Watching practice at Clarksburg I could not help but notice the camaraderie. The Coyotes are young end enthusiastic, and with Coach Munsey, you can sense that they are building something special.



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**"Girl Falcons" Continued From
Page 4.**

a classy three-sport athlete, has been credited with not only displaying exceptional leadership but often doing the dirty work on the court, such as taking a charge and diving for loose balls.

Junior Co-Captain Guard Jess Brown, now in her third year on varsity, continues to be a spark on offense and defense. A dangerous outside shooting threat, Brown seems to rise to the competition level and matches the intensity of her opponents. With seven underclassmen on the team, Brown states, "As an upperclassman, we don't see them as underclassmen. We all have equal status on this team." This is probably another key to the

Tidbits

Family of Townhouse Fire Needs Help

The King-Carr family suffered the loss of their home in the Meadow Valley townhouse community in Poolesville on January 30 and has since been residing in a local motel. The family with seven children greatly appreciated the quick response in clothing assistance in the days immediately following the tragedy. Now, however, the need for gift cards, either generic or retailer specific, would be most useful as they begin to piece their life together again. Area churches and the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department are contact places for persons wanting to make a donation or find ways to assist the family.

Conlon Baby Girl

PHS graduate class of 1999, Scott Conlon, and his wife, Kara, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Sophia Elizabeth. She was born at Shady Grove Hospital on February 2 at 3:34 a.m. weighing in at 8 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring twenty-one inches long. She is the first grandchild of Poolesville's Tom and Mary Conlon and the great-granddaughter of Dots Elgin. Scott Conlon, a graduate of University of Maryland in government and politics, is an equipment service coordinator for the Montgomery County bus Ride-On program. Mr. Conlon is in the Marine Corps reserves having a tour in Iraq.

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Izaak Walton League

Sophomore Nick Eames, a life

-Continued on Page 19.

success of the Lady Falcons.

Another junior and three-sport athlete is the gifted guard Rachael Stream. Like Brown, Stream has played at the varsity level for three years. Stream, an all-county field hockey forward, is as tough a defender as there is in the county and currently leads the Lady Falcons in scoring. With this nucleus, it is little wonder that Berger is able to go eight to nine deep on his bench on any given night.

When sophomore center Jess Chitenden went down early in the season, freshman Lori Defnet filled in admirably by picking up the scoring slack and was tenacious under the boards. Junior forward Cori Rosenberg and sophomores Jenn Bateman and Christy Lowe have each been solid off the bench or in their roles as starters. Karissa Harris, another talented freshman, has logged considerable time in relief at point guard.

With all of these interchangeable parts working so successfully as a team, it is little wonder that as Swick now watches from the stands, he is enormously proud of the program he has created and the coach he has chosen to lead it.

Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

Montgomery County Police announced that they will continue to enforce laws that pertain to tethered dogs in this time of record cold. The law, which was enacted in June of 2002, states that a dog cannot be left tethered and unattended during the time of a weather emergency.

January 30, 9:30 p.m. Frederick County deputies were called to the Carroll Manor Fire Department in Adamstown for a report of men armed with knives and a pool stick threatening a firefighter. Deputies arrested Donald Wayne Kolpack, Jr., 21, and charged him with first and second degree assault and reckless endangerment.

February 1, 11:00 a.m. Bank robbery, M&T Bank, 12914 Middlebrook Road, Germantown. Two men wearing masks, hard hats, and jackets entered the bank and robbed employees of an undetermined amount of cash.

Past

February 17, 1931. Officer Merson of the county police was patrolling in downtown Rockville when he saw an unfamiliar man driving the automobile of Albert Bouic, the former States Attorney. When Merson attempted to stop the car, the driver sped off leading him in a twelve-mile pursuit before Merson arrested him.

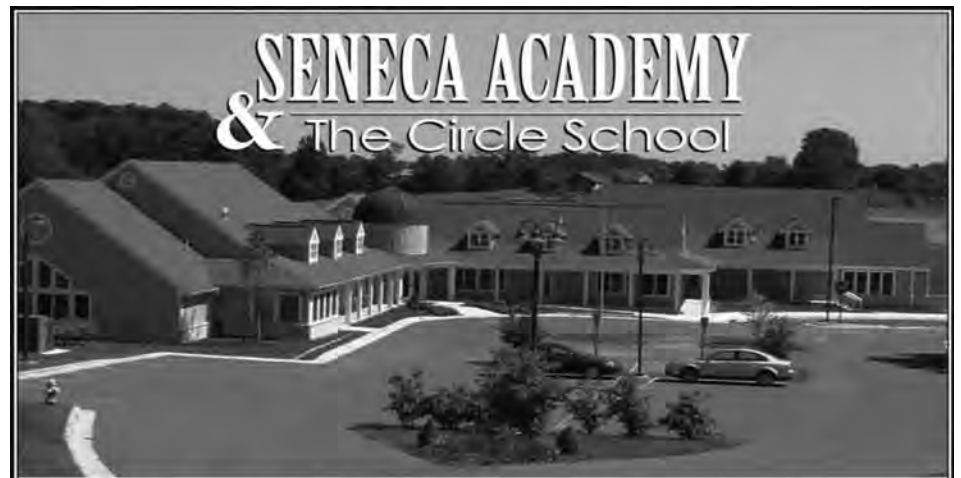
February 17, 1944. Two naval officers were killed and four others injured in the crash of a navy transport plane on a farm between Travilah and Seneca. Witnesses said that the plane suddenly flew low over the farm of William Poole and then crashed into a thicket on the farm of Buck Thrift. Two employees of the power company, who were working on power poles, helped pull the injured persons from the wreckage.

February 21, 1985. Montgomery County Police arrested twenty people and charged them in connection with conspiring to distribute the illegal drug, PCP. Police said that officers had been making undercover buys of PCP in Poolesville, Rockville, and Gaithersburg for four months before making the arrests.

February 23, 1906. The general merchandise store of Mr. Padgett and Kessler, at Adamstown, was destroyed by a fire that was discovered in the early morning hours. After the fire was extinguished, only the brick walls were left standing.

February 23, 1934. Gustavus Gray, of Poolesville, a salesperson dealing in rubber shoes and other footwear, parked his car near North Capitol Street in Washington, D.C. and returned shortly afterwards to find that thieves had broken into his car stealing his wares.

February 25, 1923. A man named Hamilton was arrested for selling liquor to high school boys who attended the Dickerson High School. Hamilton said that he had merely taken part in the transaction to get a drink "of corn" and named another man as the supplier of the liquor.



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“Gracie Jones” Continued From Page 1.

this year, she also began studying voice with Carol de Santis—“I’m hitting notes I’ve never hit before.” Under Carol de Santis’s tutelage, Gracie has performed at select competitions at Shepherd University which gave her good opportunities to perform selections from her repertoire of classical arias.

Her sophomore year found the Midnight Players performing “Jane Eyre” and “Brigadoon.” Gracie took a back seat during this year in the performing arts as she found it an academically challenging year in the Global Ecology Program at the high school. “Studies took over,” she laughs; although her academics didn’t keep her from winning the talent show with her performance of “Honey Bun” accompanied by the antics of then-senior Alex Kreiser. Her junior year found her back in fine form. She had principal roles in the two performances of the Midnight Players, “Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight” and “Oklahoma!” Of her role as Ado Annie and acting opposite good friends A.J. Lempert and Mike Vliet, she says, “That was awesome.” She again took first place at the talent show with her rendition of “Get over It.” She was also asked by the Sandy Cameron Concert Committee to perform at the sponsor reception.

Her senior year has been busier than ever. She was a Maryland Distinguished Scholar in the Arts which gives her a scholarship of \$3000 per year to any Maryland two- or three-year institution of higher learning. At the recognition ceremony for the scholars, she was asked to sing. She was a semi-finalist for the Washington Post Music and Dance Scholarship, and, again, she performed at the ceremony (at the Warner Theater). Back at the high school, she took a small role in “Boys and Ghouls Together” so she could play tennis in the fall. “I wanted to do tennis badly,” she confides, but this spring’s performances of “Hello Dolly” will see her in the lead role of

Dolly, the matchmaker who sets her sights on “a well-known half a millionaire.”

This year has also found her singing in the high school chorus for the second year, and taking a leadership role there—thanks to Mr. Laster, the new music director at PHS. “He’s been a big help to me,” she says. After Mr. Schreiber, the former music director, laid the foundation for a great music program, Mr. Laster has begun to build on the foundation.

If Gracie seems busy with music, the performing arts, and academics, that’s not the half of it. For her senior project in the Global Ecology Program, she is doing an internship at Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Gaithersburg. “It’s a great internship,” she says. “I’ve learned so many neat things.” The internship will tie in well with her plan to major in natural resources management with a wildlife concentration. She plans to attend Montgomery College—she has two younger siblings and wants to stay close—then transfer to the University of Maryland. Her involvement with the Midnight Players does not involve simply showing her face on the stage through singing and acting. She has also been involved with publicity, head shots, set design, and other aspects behind the scenes.

You haven’t seen her onstage? Then you’ve probably seen her in front of Selby’s manning the table at a bake sale on behalf of the Leos Club. She is the president of the Leos Club, sponsored by the Monocacy Lions Club. Her involvement with the Leos Club began in the sixth grade. She took a two-year hiatus while she was home-schooled for middle school, then she rejoined her freshman year. The Leos Club has been involved in many service projects, “everything from drives to going to parks to pick up stuff.” There is no specific agenda. “If you’re doing something to help, and we can make it happen,” she says, “we do it.” The Leos have been involved in

collecting potable liquids for the victims of the tsunami. They raised over \$2600 for Hurricane Katrina victims; and they have done those bake sales on the front step of Selby’s to raise money for so many things from the tragedy in Darfur to other natural disasters.

Although Gracie plans on majoring in an environmental science, she plans on continuing performing and singing. Why? “Because I love it.” Why

else? Of course, there’s something she hasn’t done that she would like to try: opera—it’s better than you think, it has to be. In the upcoming months, there will be a few opportunities for the adoring public to catch Gracie on the stage. The performances of “Hello Dolly” by the Midnight Players will take place at the PHS auditorium on March 22, 23, and 24, and Gracie has been invited to sing at the Relay for Life in Poolesville.

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“Tidbits” Continued From Page 18.

scout, is working toward Eagle Scout and has chosen two projects to benefit the Izaak Walton League located off of West Willard Road. Assisted by ten other scouts, Nick supervised the replacement of a new sign at the gate to the outdoor conservation group’s property. Later this spring, he will initiate a riprap project for the pond on the league’s grounds. Riprap is a process to place rocks around the periphery of the pond to prevent erosion. Nick is the son of Seth and Sandra Eames of Poolesville.

Peruvian Exchange Student Visits Poolesville

Arturo Diaz, 14, of Lima, Peru stayed with Tim Pike and Margaret Valega as part of an exchange student program by the Barnesville School. The young man, who attends the Leonardo Da Vinci School in Lima, is the youngest of six children. The program at times has exchanged as many as six students. Arturo came with one big mission and that was to leave with a 30MB IPOD, and as he left on his birthday of February 11, all reports are that he reached his goal. Along with staying with the Pikes, he also stayed with various other families and made the usual tour of Washington, D.C.

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