

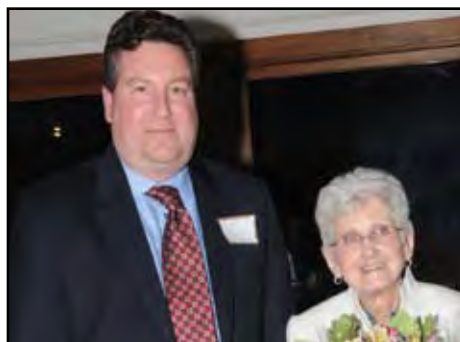
The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 7, 2008

Volume IV, Number 22.



The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce extended their heartfelt thanks to their executive secretary, Maggie Nightingale, at their annual dinner. Focus on Business is on Page 7.



It was quite a day at MUDO USA. See Business Briefs on Page 3.



A marker at Balls Bluff where a famous soldier and legislator was killed. See Local History on Page 10.



Two collaborators at work. Does the location look familiar? See Center Stage on Page 3.

So You Wanna Be a? When You Grow Up?

By Rande Davis

The eighth graders at John Poole Middle School were encouraged to fill in the blank as they considered their future during the annual Career Day event. This year, the school had forty-three area residents who volunteered their time to talk to the students about their career choices and the path that led to them. In many cases, the process is more important than the result. After all, for a vast majority of the students, the career choice decisions made this early will change many times over in the years to come. What will matter is how soon the students choose to focus on the importance of preparing themselves to meet that future.

The event began with a motivational presentation by Mark Crutch-

field. A professional personal trainer, Mr. Crutchfield has been the head men's basketball coach at Montgomery College and has assisted many sports professionals in reaching their fitness goals. Included among his clients are Alvin Williams (Toronto Raptors), Eddie Chambers (USBA heavyweight champion), and Randy Foyer (Minnesota Timberwolves). His talk included thoughts on: struggles before success, peer pressure, dreaming big, family first, importance of education, and having fun.

The students got to select five presentations from ten breakout seminars which included presentations on careers in environmental occupations, sports (other than being athletes), business world, engineer and technology, law and politics, military and government,



Allen Stypeck, a local book appraiser, presented a 1400-page religious book published in 1570 at the John Poole Middle School Career Day.

first responders, working with animals, and education.

After hearing from principal Richard Bishop about the "need to be

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A Long Way From Africa

By Maureen O'Connell

Last week, I met a small equine named Zipper, a three-year-old plains zebra. Before I tell you his story, allow me to do a little backtracking.

When I was in Kenya last October, one of my favorite animals to observe was the zebra. He is of the Equidae family, *Equus* genus, and one of three species: Grevy's, mountain, and plains. The first two are endangered, and the last, the plains zebra, is not endangered, but its population is declining. Most of the ones that I saw out in the vast savannas of the bush were plains zebra, but I did manage to see four Grevy's in the Masai Mara. They have large distinctive ears that almost look like those of Mickey Mouse. A zebra's body structure looks like a horse and he walks like a horse, but there are several dissimilarities. Their manes are made of short, erect hair, their tails are tufted at the tip, their coats are striped, and their

skin is very thick and tough. Zebras communicate with one another using facial expressions and sounds. They make loud braying or barking sounds and soft snorting sounds.

One of the most-asked questions about zebras concerns his stripes—white with black stripes or black with white stripes? Zebras are generally thought to have white coats with black (brown when they are young) stripes. That's because if you look at most zebras, the stripes end on their bellies and toward the insides of their legs, and the rest is all white. However, some zebras are born with genetic variations that make them all black with white stripes. They actually have black skin underneath their hair. So it kind of depends on how you look at it. Another question that has been debated for many, many years is why didn't the zebra become Africa's domestic horse? They can exist on the coarsest of grasses that are inedible to many other animals. They are resistant to Africa's dreaded tsetse fly. They are fleet footed, very powerful, and very courageous. For many, the answer is that the zebra could not be domesticated and was virtually untrainable. They are bad-tempered.



Apprentice trainer Maria Anselmo is astride Zipper the Zebra, with trainer Tony Eyler and owner Tricia Tripp.

They grow increasingly antisocial with age, and once they bite with their two incisors, they tend not to let go. A kick from a zebra can kill. According to evolutionary biologist Jared Diamond in his thought-provoking book *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, American zookeepers suffer more wounds from zebras than tigers.

Why is it so hard to train a zebra?

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Sponsored by: Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



Despite the cold morning, local girl scouts were at Selby's Market kicking off the annual cookie sale. Rachel Harris-Trefal, Jenny Haller, and Bryn Whitney-Blum.



Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscape leads Poolesville High School ninth grade Global Ecology Studies students through plans for landscaping the new town hall. The program serves as both an environmental and civic lesson as the students will help develop the plans as well as assist in the planting of the selected trees, shrubs, etc.

Dr. Peter Eeg, DVM, his wife Cindy and his daughter Jaime, pitched with Land and Nature Discoveries to clean up Fisher Avenue. For more information about environmental projects go to www.landandnature.org.



Music Director Daryl Clark conducted the PHS jazz band at the annual Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce dinner.



Hardworking reporters from the Poolesville Elementary School newspaper, Tiger Tales, quiz the Poolesville town commissioners prior to the March 3 meeting. : Jessica Martinez, Hannah Wills, Lilli Pedersen, and Kathy Jankowski.

Business Briefs

By Rande Davis

And the Winner is: Fine Earth Landscape, Inc. was the proud recipient of six Excellence in Landscaping awards given by the Landscape Contractors Association DC/MD/VA. Fine Earth, founded in 1977, has been located in Poolesville for the last twenty-four years. Fine Earth has won over forty awards in just the last four years. Only one other D.C.-area firm has won as many awards during the same time.

The awards were given for outstanding design, superior planting, and excellent craftsmanship in masonry walls and terraces.

The Macomb Street residence, located in Northwest Washington, was cited for the transformation of the front. The award-winning designer, Judith Peterson, created a private oasis using woodland plantings and terraces. Shasta Daisies, spreading yew, and Japanese anemone were just some of the woodland plants that blended with a curved retaining wall.

Business Sector Busy Helping Youth

Last week showed how the private sector can uniquely serve youth and the community. Smaller communities are fully aware of the importance of the financial donations given by local businesses to help the various civic and service organizations. This past week was an excellent demonstration of how so many go beyond the economic help to giving something even more important: their time and expertise.

This issue of the *Monocle* reports on the Career Day at John Poole Middle School, where many business owners spent time helping to educate and motivate middle school students to consider the future seriously at this critical juncture in their lives.

Dennis Conni of M&T Bank spent one morning teaching Mrs. Sparrow's third grade class at Poolesville Elementary School about the world of business. His class was part of a national program called Junior Achievement, and its mission is to expose young students to the various elements of running a successful business which has as an underlying theme: the importance of education, hard work, and personal dedication to a goal. Through various games, models, and prizes, many of the students are introduced to the business world for the first time. While one result was a new awareness and appreciation for business operators by the students, the other was unintended. Mr. Conni comes from these classes with a new appreciation for our teachers. "This only takes a morning and



The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors a Junior Achievement program to help educate middle school students about the business world. Dennis Conni of M&T Bank recently held a session for Mrs. Sparrow's third grade class at Poolesville Elementary School.

is really quite fun, but I have to tell you, teaching can really exhaust you."

Self Defense Can Be a Family Affair

Fans of Chuck Norris or Bruce Lee films would have enjoyed the demonstration of martial arts at MUDDO USA during its recent open house. Seven recently-tested black belt students impressed the audience with their self-defense skills. Attendees saw young girls break boards with bare hands, a young boy leaping through the air to break a board with his foot, and an adult female ward off an attack by flipping the larger male instructor onto his back. They also marveled at multi-organ recipient, Mike Garrett, demonstrating his agility and obvious health.

MUDDO USA has family classes in Tae Kwon Do which helps to develop discipline in body, mind, and spirit. Students improve their strength and flexibility, balance and coordination, and confidence.

The Coming, Going, and in Between

Poolesville is about to get a new antique retailer. Dominique's French Attic (no, not our Dominique) is setting up shop between Pro-Tech Safe and Lock, and Tinker's Taxidermy and Wild Life Art Studio at the corner of Fisher and West Willard Roads. A welcome article will be in the next issue of the *Monocle*.

Asia Dynasty has closed its doors, and since we cannot reach the owners, it is somewhat uncertain whether this will be permanent or temporary. If there is any change, we will let you know.

Dr. Leonard Sax has become world renowned for his writing and lectures in the area of gender-separate education. With demands on him in this field, he and wife, Katie, and daughter, Sarah, will be moving to Chester County, Pennsylvania. He will leave the practice on May 28, but the Poolesville Family Practice will continue through the services of Amar Duggirala and the current staff.

Center Stage

The Call of the Mountain

By Dominique Agnew

To some, Sugarloaf Mountain may be an interesting bump on the horizon as they drive to and from destinations in the larger Monocacy area. To others, it may be a landmark to take visitors for a scenic tour. For author, Melanie Choukas-Bradley, and artist, Tina Thieme Brown, Sugarloaf feeds a hunger that only true naturalists and lovers of the outdoors could understand. They both lived down-county when they met in the 1990s, but since then, Tina has moved to Barnesville and has a view of Sugarloaf from her home and backyard, and Melanie (who's on the verge of making the move from Chevy Chase), owns property near the base of the mountain in Comus.

Melanie and Tina have taken this love of nature and the outdoors, more specifically, as they are represented by Sugarloaf Mountain, into two beautiful complementary books on the history and the plant life of the mountain. The first book, published in 2003, entitled *Sugarloaf: The Mountain's History, Geology, and Natural Lore*, is now in its third edition. The second, *An Illustrated Guide*

to Eastern Woodland Wildflowers and Trees: 350 Plants Observed at Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland, was published in 2004. Both are published by the University of Virginia Press. Both should be in the homes of anyone who lives near, commutes near, visits, or has visited Sugarloaf Mountain—not only for the astounding artwork and exquisite renditions of the plant life of the mountain, or for the elegant descriptive writing that does justice to the grandeur of Sugarloaf, but because they are an amazing reference to the greater Monocacy region.

These labors of love began not too long after Melanie and Tina met and have been the focal point of a deep and abiding friendship. They spend much of their interview time chatting and laughing, and, according to them, they're like that on the mountain, as well—excited when they find something important: a leaf, a twig, a bloom. Melanie and Tina met almost fifteen years ago when they both attended a field class through the Audubon Naturalist Society. "We had so much in common," says Tina, "a love of being out in the woods, a love of distinguishing wildflowers."

Melanie had been hiking Sugarloaf for a number of years and had observed that many families would return again

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Commentary

Things I Worry About

By John Clayton

I have a concern for the end of the world. This isn't a political concern (I have those, too) but more of an interplanetary concern. I worry that we (Earth—all of us) might get hit by an asteroid. I think this comes from my fondness for reading about outer space, astronomy, cosmology, relativity, and that whole time-space continuum thing. I've stumbled through most of Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* a couple of times, actually finishing it once, and I believe I have achieved a comfort level with his topics similar to the comfort level I have with the Infield Fly Rule. That is, I sort of understand it, but I don't think I could safely explain it to someone else. Last summer, I read an excellent book, *Death by Black Hole*, actually a collection of essays, by Neil De-Grasse Tyson, the current director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City. It's about quite a bit more than black holes and death, but, as one can see, the title feeds my annihilation concerns.

I have also read two books that deal with similar circumstances from different perspectives. One was called *The World without Us* by Alan Weisman, which discusses how the planet would recover if all people, including Will Smith, suddenly disappeared. It is a fascinating book, as he covers all sorts of different areas of human, animal, and plant existence and discusses how it has been affected by man's development over the ages, and how the planet would progress without us. As you have probably guessed, when we disappear, we will have left a number of regrettable messes, and precious few of the remaining life forms will miss us, but in deference to the author, there is a good deal more to the book than that. The book is a self-described "thought experiment," in part because there really aren't many plausible scenarios in which we disappear and everything else hangs around, but it is an engaging experiment. The other book involves all the animals disappearing with just a few of us left. This is *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, who is now better known for writing the novel *No Country for Old Men* which led to the Oscar-winning movie. *The Road*

is a well-written and haunting book, and I highly recommend it for any number of reasons. The reason most relevant to this column would be that if you are just slightly disturbed by the thought of being one of the last few surviving animal life forms on the planet, and would like to progress to the next level of concern, this would be a good place to start.

I have always been comforted by the fact that our military, fortified with most of our precious tax dollars and years of avid support by prescient Republicans (they do have their moments), has the ability to launch missiles with any number of warheads of sufficient concussive capacity to obliterate—or at least divert—any asteroid with the temerity to threaten our homeland. I have come to believe that both the asteroid threat and the missile response are both quite seriously credible. I hold the latter belief without a lot of support or encouragement from the scientific community, because the task is actually rather complicated and not your usual slam dunk. As with many other matters of faith, one must often go it alone. There was even a movie about this some years ago that I believe involved launching Bruce Willis onto such an asteroid. If I remember correctly, the plot required the suspension of the laws of gravity (Dr. Tyson would not go along with this one bit!) so that Bruce could walk around on the asteroid doing what needed to be done. However, this is not the sort of nonsense I am talking about—I am talking about other nonsense entirely. I am talking about loading up a missile and waiting calmly for the asteroid to wheel into range like an Up-County nine-point buck, until just the right moment, when a steely-eyed missile man (or woman) would let fly and save the planet. It may not be credible at all, but I am not averse to putting Bruce Willis on the asteroid first if it will improve our chances.

So with all this in mind, I was quite pleased when the U.S. Navy took aim and knocked out that pesky satellite that was threatening to shower us with dangerous fuel. I was more than a little disappointed at first when they postponed the shot because the water was too choppy and the sky was too cloudy. Excuse me? This is not encouraging at all. When the future of the Earth is in the balance, I do not think we can call the game on account of weather.

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301-349-0071

yclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301-349-0070

rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dagneu@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
dagneu@intairnet.com
Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com

Curtis Osborne
cptoz@aol.com

Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com

Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com

Contributing Photographer
Hilary Schwab

hilary@hschwabphotography.com
Graphics

WhipSmart Graphics

Karie@WhipSmartGraphics.com

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Some more work is needed here if my fading semblance of security is going to be rescued.

I realize knocking down a satellite just entering our atmosphere might be a little different from knocking out an asteroid somewhere out there in space, but that doesn't make it easy. It was still quite encouraging to me, and I would have been devastated had we tried repeatedly and missed. This would have opened up many new avenues of worry, to say nothing of the cost—and of course, I won't say

anything about the cost. We don't seem to worry about that much anymore with regard to anything, so why start here? After all, if we can't shoot it down, there isn't much more to do. I suppose we could try to invoke the Infield Fly Rule before it hit us, but there probably wouldn't be enough time to explain it.

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Garden Yesterday's Flowers

By Maureen O'Connell

For the past several years, I have noticed that some garden centers and seed catalogs offer plants and seeds called heirlooms. I have planted heirloom flowers and vegetables, but I didn't know what distinguished them from others. What is an heirloom plant? True to definition, it is a cultivar that has been nurtured, selected, and handed down from one family member to another for many generations. The placement of an age or date point on the cultivars is highly debated. Some say that the seeds must be over one hundred years old, others fifty years, and others use the date of 1945, which marks the beginning of widespread use of hybrid plants by growers and seed companies. Wherever you draw the line, heirloom plants offer a living connection with gardeners of the past—from the time of the pioneers, Thomas Jefferson, medieval European monks, or your grandmother.

Most botanists, however, agree that heirlooms must be open-pollinated. What does that mean? To answer that question, let's look at seed types.

One kind of seed, called first-generation hybrids (F1 hybrids), has been hand-pollinated, is patented, is often sterile, and is genetically similar within food types. A second type of seed is genetically engineered. Bioengineered seeds can contaminate the purity of seeds everywhere. With this practice, we are changing the DNA of a plant, and this can carry some disturbing consequences. One example I read about recently involved a coldwater fish gene being spliced into a tomato to make it more resistant to frost. The third type of seed is called heirloom. It is pollinated by insects, birds, wind, or other natural mechanisms. Open-pollinated varieties are the traditional ones that have been grown and selected for their desirable traits for millennia. For commercial breeders, one of the incentives to produce new hybrid varieties each year is purely profit. Seeds taken from a hybrid may either be sterile, or more commonly fail to breed true, not showing the desired traits of the parent.

Farmers were persuaded by big agricultural companies to buy new hybrid seed each season. They turned away from the traditional old farm ways of saving seeds from season to

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Humble Chef

Beyond the Potato

By Marueen O'Connell

In a week or so, we shall celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Many people will host parties and serve corned beef and cabbage, believing it is the national Irish dish. This is a myth. While this is a traditional Easter dish in rural Ireland, bacon and cabbage was historically more common fare for poor households. Beef was a delicacy and reserved for kings and nobility. Many Irish feel that corned beef and cabbage is about as Irish as spaghetti and meatballs. It is far more popular in Irish-American homes.

The history of Irish cuisine reflects to a great degree the history of the Irish people. In the very early days of Ireland, stone-age inhabitants lived in a land of abundance: seafood of the coast, wild greens, berries, nuts, and game in the forests. Later, around 4500 B.C., the cultivation of wheat, oats, and barley was introduced from Britain and the continent. Domesticated animals—sheep, goats, and cattle—provided a varied diet with milk, butter, cheese, and meat. The mid-twelfth century brought the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, and the Irish nation came into a long, slowly darkening period of history. With British domination, the Irish peasants were pushed off the best of their land into the south and the harsh northwest. The Irish farmer, who once owned land and had a cottage garden and one or two cattle, became a tenant farmer. His diet became simpler, starker, and bleaker. The Great Irish Potato Famine of 1845 to 1849 changed Ireland forever.

Ireland was plagued by poverty and emigration until the 1960s and again in the 1970s and 1980s.

In 1981, when I was District Commissioner of the Potomac Pony Club, I took twelve Pony Clubbers ranging in age from nine years old (my daughter) to fourteen years old to Ireland for a two-week exchange visit with an Irish pony club. We all stayed at different farms in and around the small town of Enniscorthy in County Wexford. This was a real learning experience for the Americans, for at that time Ireland was a very poor country. There were no mega-malls and big, garish development houses. Entertainment on the weekends consisted of listening to old, scratchy rock-and-roll records at the local youth center. But what my kids

remembered the most was how warm and welcoming the Irish people were to them. At the end of the two weeks, I brought fifteen Irish children back to Maryland, and they stayed with Pony Club families in Potomac. They were awed by the standard of living they saw in the United States. Back home, many of their older brothers, sisters, and friends were looking forward to immigrating to the United States for job opportunities.

Ireland joined the European Commission in 1973, but it was not until the 1990s that its inclusion into the now-renamed European Union started to pay dividends. This beginning of unprecedented economic success became a phenomenon called the Celtic Tiger. Thanks to the availability of a highly-educated work force and a low corporate tax rate, the economy boomed, bringing in foreign investors, especially pharmaceutical and computers companies. With this exposure to international interests, Ireland's cuisine became less parochial and more global. Travelers went to Ireland for the food, rather than despite it.

I returned to Ireland two years ago, and the changes everywhere were phenomenal. While this newly-found prosperity is welcomed by the Irish, there is a down side. There is a danger of Ireland losing its native charm. Travelers, while enjoying the new contemporary cuisine, do not travel there to see Potomac-style McMansions, of which there are many around the big cities. They still want to see the thatched roof cottages with peat fires roaring in the parlor, sheep crossing narrow country lanes, and dark and smoky pubs crowded with old salts with their pints of Guinness.

In the northwestern part of Ireland, one can still find vestiges of the old simple Irish ways and their simple food. You can take a step back in time when you visit the small island of Inishbofin, situated in the fierce Atlantic Ocean—about a forty-five-minute boat ride from the small fishing village of Cleggan. There you can find some of the typical old Irish dishes—Guinness beef stew, black pudding (blood sausages), boiled crubeens (braised pork shanks), scallop pie, soused mackerel, champ (mashed potatoes with scallions), colcannon (potatoes mashed with kale or cabbage), and rutabaga pudding.

Going back to my visit in 1981 to Enniscorthy with my Pony Club kids, I remember our last night there. The

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Focus on Business

Hollander Completes Year as Chamber President

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet at the Izaak Walton League in Poolesville on February 21. The Chamber has had a challenging year after the past president, Jacob Perkins, passed away last February. Then-vice president, Scott Hollander (Merrill Lynch), assumed the responsibilities of president, and, despite the difficulties at the start, the organization completed the year with a number of positive achievements. Chief among the successes was the expansion of membership to 110 members.

The chamber makes many contributions to the community including sponsorship of the annual 5K race on Poolesville Day, donations to WUMCO, a variety of donations to other area non-profits, and it awards three \$1,400-scholarships to graduating seniors at Poolesville High School. (The deadline for seniors to apply for the scholarships is April 28. Forms and instructions can be obtained through the guidance office.)

Just as the year began on a challenging note, the evening festivities brought their own challenge: the loss of lights. Fortuitously, the club opted for candles on the tables rather than flowers, and the evening continued with an unplanned softer ambience enhanced by the smooth sounds of the Poolesville High School jazz band under the direction of Mr. Daryl Clark. The meal was provided by Stone Soup Catering.

The featured guest speaker was Montgomery County Council President, Michael Knapp. Although he had to leave a bit early, he still took the time to answer a few questions from the guests after his comments. Due to the loss of lights, the usual evening program had to be a bit abbreviated, but President Scott Hollander managed to get by using candlelight.

A major highlight of the annual dinner is the announcement of Chamber Member of the Year. The selected firm is recognized for its contributions to the community, and this year, the honors went to Roy and Betty Jean



Each year the PACC recognizes a member for contributions made to the community. The winner this year, Betty Jean and Roy Selby, receive their award from chamber president Scott Hollander.

Selby of Selby's Market.

Four members agreed to extend their service to the Board of Directors for another term. The returning directors are: J. D. Slage (J.D's Beer and Wine), Laura Kittleman Yeatts (Mary Charters and Associates Real Estate), Ray Hoewing (Poolesville Online), and Dennis Conni (M&T Bank). Two new members were elected to the board. They were Hilary Schwab Shapiro (Hilary Schwab Photography) and Rande Davis (*Monocacy Monocle*).



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EPISCOPAL

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
20100 Fisher Avenue
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-349-2073
E-mail: stpeters387@verizon.net

March 16: Palm Sunday

8:15 am Palm Sunday Liturgy
10:30 am Palm Sunday Liturgy with choir, organ, youth band and orchestra

March 20: Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy

March 21: Good Friday

12:15 pm The Way of the Cross
4:00 pm The Way of the Cross for Children
7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy

March 22: Holy Saturday

9:00 am Holy Saturday Liturgy

March 23: Easter Sunday

8:00 am Easter Day Liturgy
9:15 am Easter Day Liturgy followed by Easter Egg Hunt
11:15 am Easter Day Liturgy

www.stpeterspoolesville.org

METHODIST

Memorial United Methodist Church
17821 Elgin Road
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-349-2010
E-mail: pmumcmail@aol.com

March 16: Palm Sunday

11:00 am Palm Procession and continuing the series on the Last Week of Jesus' life from Mark's gospel
12:00 pm Lenten Children's Walk (pre K - 5th grade)

March 20: Holy Thursday

7:30 pm Continuing the series from Mark's gospel and celebration of the Eucharist

March 21: Good Friday

7:30 pm Chancel Choir's cantata Song of the Shadows

March 23: Easter Sunday*

8:30 am & 11:00 am Festival Celebration of the Resurrection with the Eucharist

*Memorial United Methodist Church and Poolesville Presbyterian Church participate in the Ecumenical Sunrise Service at the East Overlook of Sugarloaf Mountain at 6:45 am on Easter Sunday (sunrise is at 7:08 am).

www.pmumc.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Poolesville Presbyterian Church
17800 Elgin Road
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-972-7452

For more information, please see our ad in this issue.

March 16: Palm Sunday

11:00 am Palm/Passion Sunday worship service, Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn preaching

March 20: Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday, Seder Passover Meal & Agape Feast including potluck

March 21: Good Friday

8:00 pm Joint service at Boyds Presbyterian Church

March 22: Holy Saturday

10:00 am Egg Hunt/Easter Movie for ages 8 and under, older children help hide eggs

March 23: Easter Sunday*

9:30 am Easter Potluck Breakfast, all welcome
11:00 am Easter Sunday worship service, Jessica McClure-Archer preaching

*Memorial United Methodist Church and Poolesville Presbyterian Church participate in the Ecumenical Sunrise Service at the East Overlook of Sugarloaf Mountain at 6:45 am on Easter Sunday (sunrise is at 7:08 am).

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March 16: Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 15
5:30 pm Vigil
Sunday, March 16
8:00 am & 10:45 am Mass

March 19

6:30-8:00 pm Confessions

March 20: Holy Thursday

8:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

March 21: Good Friday

12 noon Stations of the Cross
8:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

March 22: Holy Saturday

11:00 am Blessing of Food for the First Meal of Easter (Chapel)
4:00-4:45 pm Confessions
8:00 pm Easter Vigil

March 23: Easter Sunday

8:00 am, 9:30 am & 10:45 am Mass

www.ol-presentation-md.org

...so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.

Romans 12: 5



Tidbits

Ms. Catterton Goes to Annapolis

Kelly Catterton, daughter of Tom Yeatts and Laura Kittleman Yeatts of Poolesville, is stepping into some pretty big footsteps by serving as legislative page in the Maryland General Assembly. Kelly's granddad was former State Senator and minority leader Robert Kittleman of Howard County. Within the first two weeks, she has discovered that her job is not necessarily all work and no play. In fact, the PHS senior achieved a politician's dream by getting her picture plastered on the front page of the "Politics" section of The Baltimore Sun on Thursday, February 28. Kelly met famed singer and member of the doo wop Drifters, Charlie Thomas, and was pictured getting an autograph. Mr. Thomas was in Annapolis fighting for legislation outlawing fraudulent imposter bands.



Kelly Catterton of Poolesville made the front page of the Politics section of the Baltimore Sun.

District 15 Town Hall Meetings

Senator Rob Garagiola, Delegate Kathleen Dumais, Delegate Brian Feldman, and Delegate Craig Rice, all of District 15, are hosting two Town Hall Meetings on Saturday, March 15. The first will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Upcounty Regional Service Center, in Conference Room A. The second meeting will be at the Potomac Community Library from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

All are invited to attend and discuss issues of importance to Montgomery County and Maryland, as well as the current 2008 Maryland General As-

sembly Session.

Attention PHS Class of 1998

The ten-year reunion for the PHS class of 1998 is this year. Kate (Minor) Guglielmini has put a shout-out for fellow classmates or their family and friends to spread the word that contact information on many of the 1998 graduates is not available, and the reunion committee could use help in locating them. More useful would be current email addresses and also mailing addresses. If you are a 1998 graduate or can help locate someone who is, please call Kate at 301-834-7203 or email pool-essvillereunion@yahoo.com.

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Holy Week Services
March 16-23

Palm Sunday, 11am – Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn

Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm – Seder Service/
 Potluck Dinner – Jessica McClure-Archer

Good Friday, 8pm -- @ Boyds Presbyterian

Saturday, 10am – Easter Movie & Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday, 6:45am – Sunrise @ Sugarloaf Mtn.
 9:30am – Potluck Breakfast
 11am – Resurrection Celebration
 with Jessica McClure- Archer



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"Beyond the Potato" Continued From Page 6.

farm where my daughter was staying hosted the dinner. The father was the local distributor for Guinness, and he set up the dinner in the courtyard around the horse stables. I am surprised that I remember it so vividly. The main course was Irish stew, with a little bit of Guinness to wash it down, for the adults. To my best recollection, the following recipe is a close adaptation.

Irish Stew - serves 6-8

Irish stew is laid down in five layers—potato, onion, lamb pieces, onion, and to top it off, another layer of potato. It can be put together in about two hours, or simmered all day in a slow cooker. It is a good stew for a cold day.

My Irish stew is cooked in a heavy Dutch oven. In Ireland, I have watched cooks suspend a big iron pot over a turf fire in the fireplace while the glowing embers were put on the lid to give extra heat from above.

The original Irish stew was not made from mutton or lamb, but kid. Sheep were too valuable to put into the pot for a poor man's family dinner. The young male kids had little value except for their skins, which were sold for a few pence. The flesh went into the stewpot.

- 6 medium potatoes, peeled, sliced ½-inch thick
- 4 large onions, peeled, sliced ¼-inch thick
- 3 pounds lean, boneless, lamb, neck or shoulder, trimmed, cut into 1-inch cubes
- Salt to taste
- Black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon thyme
- Cold water to cover, about 5 cups

In a pot, arrange half the potatoes in a layer over the bottom. Add half the onions in a layer, and then all the lamb pieces. Season with salt, pepper, and thyme. Cover the lamb with the remaining onions and the rest of the potatoes. Pour in cold water to cover the last layer of potatoes, about 5 cups. Bring the stew to a boil; cover and simmer over low heat for about 1½ hours or until the vegetables and meat are tender. Check the stew and add more water if it becomes too dry. Serve in heated bowls with a crusty peasant loaf of bread. Serve with a full-bodied beer. Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

Local History

Colonel Baker's Wake

By Jack Toomey

Soldiers with muddy boots, wet clothing, and some with blood-stained uniforms filed into the house. A reporter from a New York newspaper who had been sent to the town joined the small procession. Townsfolk gathered outside after they had heard the news. A carpenter had been pressed into service and had been asked to make a rudimentary casket. The solemn procession of mourners passed by the hastily-made casket and peered down at the face of the man who had just hours before been slain in battle. Some of the soldiers wept, and town residents bowed their heads in respect to the man whom they had heard about, but few had met. The next morning, the casket was taken to Edwards's Ferry and placed on a canal boat and, with an honor guard, made its slow trip to Washington.

Edward Dickinson Baker was born in England and came to the United States in 1816. As a young man, he joined the army and participated in the war against the Blackhawk Indians. After earning a degree in law, he was elected to both the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate where he met a man whose life became intertwined with his for the rest of his days. Baker again joined the army at the outbreak of the Mexican-American War and distinguished himself during battles in Mexico and Texas. In 1847, he left the army and returned to politics where, instead of running against his friend, Abraham Lincoln, he moved to a nearby town where he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. Lincoln named a son, Edward Baker Lincoln, after him. After moving to the west coast Baker was elected again to the U.S. Senate, this time in Oregon. When hostilities broke out between the Union and the Confederacy, Baker used his influence to gain a commission in the army while maintaining his position as a U.S. Senator.



U.S. Representative,
U.S. Senator and Col.
Edward Dickinson

In 1861, Baker went to Pennsylvania and recruited a regiment of soldiers who were eventually sent to the outskirts of Washington. One morning in early October 1861, a courier brought orders for the regiment to march to Poolesville. None of the soldiers had ever heard of the town and had to find a dog-eared copy of a newspaper that contained a military map to determine the location of the town. After a march past Rockville, then through Darnestown, the regiment eventually reached Poolesville which reminded some of the soldiers of the small towns where they had lived before the war. One soldier was quoted as observing several dry goods stores, "a sort of a hotel," a post office, and several people standing next to a hitching post and pump. He said, "The dry goods stores are old, the hotel is old, the post office is old, the few inhabitants are old, the pump and hitching post is old, and it is a hard-looking town." The regiment was assigned to guard the numerous shallow areas of the Potomac River between Darnestown and the Monocacy River where it was possible, during certain months of the year, to ford the river.

President Lincoln and his cabinet believed the threat of a Confederate invasion to be real, and these suspicions were later proven true in the war when the Confederate Army crossed the Potomac River just north of Poolesville on two occasions. Baker arrived at Camp Observation, a name given to a large base camp that was located about halfway between Poolesville and the Monocacy River, and reported to his superior, General Charles Stone. As was the custom of the time, Baker looked for a private residence for an occasional headquarters. Colonel Baker selected the home of Frederick Poole, which was a large and impressive home in Poolesville. Poole, who had purchased the house

in 1833 and had been the postmaster for fifteen years, lived in the two-story house on Poolesville's main street. Today, this home still stands on the south side of Fisher Avenue next to Bassett's Restaurant and presently houses Brown's Gallery and other businesses.

On October 20, 1861, Baker was in Washington on business and stopped by the White House to see his old friend. President Lincoln and Baker went out onto the lawn, which in those days was accessible to the public, and Lincoln sat down and propped himself against a tree while Baker lay in the grass. The two friends swapped stories, had a picnic lunch, and talked about the progress of the war which was then only a few months old while Lincoln's son Willie romped about the grounds throwing leaves into the air. After a few hours, Baker bade his friend goodbye, and Lincoln watched him ride off up Pennsylvania Avenue never imagining that he would not see him again.

On the morning of October 21, 1861, Colonel Baker's regiment was assigned to march from Poolesville to Conrad's Ferry (now called White's Ferry) because intelligence had suggested that a Confederate force was encamped on the Virginia side of the river. Many studies have been made about the movements and strategy of the Union Army on that morning, but apparently, it was decided to make a small incursion into Virginia via Harrison Island using small boats. Harrison Island is located in the Potomac River just below White's Ferry. In 1861, Harrison Island was smaller than it is today, but the logistics of using the island as a launching place was about the same as if an individual tried to cross the river today. A large channel runs between the Maryland shore and the island with a normally slow current. However, upon reaching the island, a boater faces a fast-moving channel of

-Continued on Page 24.

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Youth Sports

Falcons Indoor Track Team Wins Seventh Consecutive Title

By Jeff Stuart

The quote atop the web page for the Poolesville indoor track team states, "We are what we continually do... excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." It should come as no surprise, then, that under first-year coach, Mike Trumbull, the Poolesville indoor track girls' squad won its seventh consecutive 1A West Region title, scoring 127 points Monday, February 11, at Hagerstown Community College, and then advanced to win the 1A state title with 53 points, beating second place Williamsport (51), on February 18 at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex. Junior Jenny Reid won the state gold medal in the 1600-meter race. At the region, she finished first in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter races for the second year in a row, and anchored the Falcons' winning 4x800 relay team. In the region 3,200 meters, she defeated Williamsport's Tracey Forsythe by just .04 seconds.

The Falcons qualified twenty-two athletes for the state meet, including eighteen girls.

At states, both the 4x400 meter relay team (junior Olivia Durr, freshman Katie Duncan, senior Jen Fink, and sophomore Karissa Harris) and 4x800 relay team (Reid, junior Chelsea Glowacki, sophomore Ellie Lalonde, and senior Jen Fink) each won gold. The 4x200 meter relay team (sophomore Karissa Harris, senior Holly Defnet, freshman Caryn Thompson, and freshman Katie Duncan) finished sixth. Durr took third place in both the girls' 55m hurdles and the girls' high jump. Holly Defnet was third in



The PHS Girls' Track Team

the shot put. Reid finished sixth in the 3200 meters and Glowacki was sixth in the 800 meter. Junior Katherine Conner placed fifth in the 1600-meter run. Ashleigh Nesselts finished seventh in the shot put.

For the boys, at the region meet, freshman Eric Holmstead, the lone individual event entry for the boys, qualified in the 800 meters. "He ran a very gutsy race," said Coach Trumbull. "I don't think anyone expected him to earn a spot in the state championships." The boys' 4x400 meter relay team, senior Zach Etheridge, junior Cody Platt, and sophomores Sam Widmayer and Sean Duncan,

also qualified for the state. The assistant coaches of the Poolesville track squad are Andrew Bortz and Richard Waters. The Falcons finished fifth at the Montgomery County Championships on January 22, at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex. They were the only division 1A school in the competition.

School News

John Poole Middle School Wins Award

John Poole Middle School is proud to announce that it received a \$2,000 Teach Award from Best Buy, Inc. for integrating technology into its curriculum. The school received the grant for Contemporary Communications' Thinking Locally Project which will include the creation of a documentary film about a local power company undergoing renovations to improve its facility and decrease emissions. Students will be involved and responsible for all phases of the project from storyboarding and scriptwriting to contacting plant managers and conducting interviews to filming and post-production. The Best Buy grant will enable the class to purchase filmmaking equipment for the project.

This year, Best Buy Teach Awards of \$2,000 were given to 1,300 schools to sustain or enhance existing educational programs. Since 2003, the Best Buy Teach Award Program has rewarded schools that creatively integrate interactive technology into their curricula. This year, JPMS was one of only four schools in Montgomery County to receive the award.

Police Blotter: Past

By Jack Toomey

Present

February 8 Aggravated assault, Clarksburg High School. A fourteen-year-old girl was arrested after assaulting another student. The defendant was armed with a knife and a pair of scissors.

February 12 to 15 Police responded to three complaints of disorderly conduct in the 19600 block of Fisher Avenue during this time period.

February 13 Assault, 20100 block of Westerly Avenue, Poolesville.

February 20 Theft from auto, 19600 block of Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.

Past

March 7, 1933 A high-powered sedan loaded with 175 gallons of alcohol was stopped by the police on Ridgeville Road near Damascus. Two men were arrested; one was armed with a .38 caliber pistol that was tucked in his waistband.

March 10, 1929 A fire broke out at

Woodward's Dixie Tavern in Rockville causing diners to flee into the street. Dense smoke was discovered by an employee, and the fire was believed to have started in a linen closet. Damage was estimated to be about \$300.

March 10, 1929 Dennis Hartman, the associate editor of the *Montgomery Independent*, was fined \$37.50 for speeding on Rockville Pike. Police Officer Poole testified that he could not keep up with Hartman's car because his police car could not go over fifty miles an hour. He had to telephone the Bethesda station to have an officer stop Hartman's auto.

March 11, 1966 Three calves, six hogs, a bull, and a bird dog died in a barn fire on a dairy farm near Adamstown.

March 15, 1931 Former police officer Lawrence Claggett was killed during the explosion of his mother's home in Poolesville. Claggett and a friend had returned to the house and had just lit a stove when it exploded, killing Claggett and severely injuring the friend who later died of his injuries.

Youth Sports

Special Delivery to CMAA

By Curtis A. Osborne

On Saturday, March 8, the Carroll Manor Athletic Association will be having a fundraiser for its basketball program from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Saint Thomas More Academy in Buckeystown. The event is an adults-only party—an opportunity for parents to get out, let their hair down, and party like its 1999. The music will be performed by the Special Delivery Band, led by drummer extraordinaire and CMAA basketball coach Greg Shipman.

This will be a banner night for CMAA's basketball program as this is the first season for new commissioner Randy Cole. Randy has brought his wit, enthusiasm, and hard work to the program, incorporating new ideas to give the program a new energy and direction. One of his key initiatives has been to aggressively seek out sponsorships for the program to al-

leviate some of the costs being pushed into the registration fees. Though the organization has always had outstanding basketball coaches and the prior commissioners were fantastic, the organization is growing substantially in the number of participants, largely due to the new communities popping up in Adamstown and Buckeystown. As with most volunteer organizations, there was a shortage of volunteers and those willing to step forward. A lot of the same coaches and board members had served for many years.

When CMAA had an opening for basketball commissioner and no one volunteered to fill the position, Randy stepped up to the plate and saved the season for the basketball program. Little did he know what he was going to be in for. Since he was a last-minute addition, he had to scramble to get everything in place, including practice times, rosters, and uniforms. Then he had to oversee the dissolution of one popular coach's team because he was selected to be one of the head coaches of the U-12 division one select team. With the advent of the new

-Continued on Page 23.

Local News

Thunderbolts Wrap Up Last Season of Rec Ball

The Montgomery County Recreation League Thunderbolts, eighth grade girls, just finished up their last season. The Thunderbolts began in 2003, and three girls: Namrata Mohanty, Brittani Mason, and Anna Clayton played for all six years. The 2003/2004 Team Mom was Kathy Giovanetti, and Patti Mason was Team Mom for their last four years. Ms. Mason was also team photographer, assistant coach, and on more than one occasion the head coach. Other co-coaches over the years included Garth Dahlen, Bill Purdy, Mark Ziner, and Brice Halbrook. Other Thunderbolts over the years not pictured included Morgan Howard, Kendall Ziner, Crystal Clauser, Danielle Purdy, Amy Defnet, and Kimberly Thompson.



The 2003 Third-Grade Thunderbolts: Back row: Kaitlyn Bredice, Shannon Foy, Allyson Dahlen, Anna Clayton, and Bonnie Giovannetti. Front row: Nitsa Skenderis, Brittani Mason, Meredith Jones, Namrata Mohanty and Julia Halbrook.



The 2008 Thunderbolts: Carmen Maita, Ashley Banana, Namrata Mohanty, Sophie Styypeck, Dina Maita, Amber Smith, Brittani Mason, Anna Clayton, and Stephanie Hall, and coach John Clayton.

School News

Miss Poolesville 2008

By Alicia Agnew

On Wednesday, February 27, ten seniors from Poolesville High School sashayed their way through competitions to win the coveted title of Miss Poolesville: Michele Abbaticchio, Jess Brown, Holly Defnet, Jen Fink, Allison Gost, Megan Guise, Ashley Gunsteens, Cori Rosenberg, Rachel Stream, and Lisa Trope. In their opening movie, a camera crew tracked the girls through Poolesville as they raced to complete strenuous tasks. Included among these tasks were feats such as: ordering a sandwich from McDonald's and panning for gold in a creek. Then after a treasure hunt in Selby's, the girls raced to PHS to strut their stuff.

The first competition was casual wear where each girl dressed up in her favorite everyday outfit while Masters of Ceremony described her goals in life. Most of the girls plan to travel the world, have a great career, and raise a family. Next came activity wear, where the girls showed off, believe it or not, their activity wear. The audience definitely knows why these girls were chosen for Miss Poolesville, it is for their ability to

juggle three or more sports plus various other activities, all while smiling at the same time. And then, the moment we've all been waiting for: talent! This year there was dancing, singing, puppet shows, skits, and lip syncing. The audience was held spellbound by this year's talent, or was laughing at their antics. Fired babysitters, singing "puppets," and superman all kept the audience in stitches.

After a short break in which the judges deliberated at length, the girls shone in formal wear. The field was narrowed down to five: Jess Brown, Jen Fink, Megan Guise, Cori Rosenberg, and Rachel Stream. The remaining five then had to answer the final question, "Which person has had the greatest impact on your life and why?" The judges then deliberated once more and Miss Poolesville 2008 was crowned, drum rolls please: Rachel Stream. Congratulations, Miss Poolesville Rachel Stream.



The contestants in the Miss Poolesville competition ham it up.

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Big Board

Have You Noticed the Difference?

Thanks to over forty volunteers, more than seven miles of local roadways have been cleaned up in the area—and it's not even springtime yet. Landscape and Nature Discoveries, Inc. (LAND) has spearheaded this roadside cleanup that thus far has gathered 125 bags of nasty trash that was not only ugly but environmentally threatening.

The bad news is that there is so much more to do. The good news is that this energetic crew is motivated to finish the job they started. While the help has been strong so far, there is always a need for more since not everyone can be available to help out on any given Saturday.

With lofty goals and a positive attitude, LAND will extend the roadside cleanup through March meeting each time at 1:00 p.m. and working until 3:00 p.m. The meeting place for March 15 is Poolesville Elementary, and on March 29 at Henley Hall (Sugar Ridge Terrace).

Just two hours of your time can do so much for the benefit of all. You can contact garth@landandnature.org or visit www.landandnature.org for more information.

The Freshman (1925)...

and other selected shorts. Enjoy the antics of one of the silent screen's greatest stars, accompanied by the mighty Wurlitzer, on March 7 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students and seniors. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828. Bookworm Heaven

This is a reminder that the St. Peter's Church and the Poolesville Library have their used book sale the weekend of March 7 to March 8. Both will have paperbacks and hardbacks and also tapes, cds, and DVDs. The sale at St. Peter's begins on Friday, March 7 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., then starts again on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Poolesville Library sale is Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information on the St. Peter's Sale, call 301-349-2073.

Gone with the Wind (1939)

Margaret Mitchell's epic love story in all its splendor on the big screen—a must-see event!—at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on March 9 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students and

seniors. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

Concerned about Your Kids and the Internet?

The Barnesville Parent Connection will host a free informative discussion on children and the internet. Debbie Kovalsky, Internet Safety Consultant, will explain and expose the ins and outs of IM (Instant Messenger), chat, blogging, MySpace, Facebook, and more. She will also provide parents with the tools they need to protect their children from online dangers. This event is open to the public and not limited to Barnesville School parents. The seminar will be on March 11 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Barnesville School gymnasium, 21830 Peach Tree Road, Barnesville. Please RSVP to rsvp@barnesvilleschool.org.

PHS Band Wants to Go to the Big Apple

The PHS Music Boosters wants to help the school band attend a competition in New York City and Bassett's Restaurant will help out on March 11 by donating ten percent of the day's food sales to the cause. This includes dine in or carry out so put the date on your calendar. Remember, kids: If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere.

Fight Cancer with Belly Dancing

Middle-Eastern dance, commonly known as Belly Dancing is the oldest form of dance, having roots in all ancient cultures from the Orient to India to the mid-East. Come learn the techniques of this artistic form of expression at a special class taught by sisters, Nadine and

Rola Alameh, who were trained in their native Lebanon, on March 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Poolesville. Dress to work out (you will sweat!). Bring a scarf to tie around your waist. Prepare to have a blast! The suggested donation is \$10.00 per person, ages thirteen to ninety-nine. All proceeds go to the National Cancer Society Relay for Life; sponsored by the Relay for Life team Jammin' Jazzers. For more information, contact Jennifer Sambataro at 301-916-3533.

Fast Times at Ridgemont High (1982)

Party on, dude, with Sean Penn and Jennifer Jason Leigh, and celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of this coming-of-age teen comedy at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on March 14 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students and seniors. For more information, visit

www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

The Tony Fleming Band

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day two days early with "the voice of Ireland." A native of County Sligo, Tommy Fleming is the top-selling artist for live concerts in Ireland, widely hailed as one of his country's greatest male vocalists. The popular balladeer and his six-piece orchestra never fail to captivate audiences of all ages and musical interests and will be at the Weinberg Center for the Arts March 15 at 8:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$10.00 to \$25.00. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

Get Your Kilt Out

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyards will celebrate St. Patrick's Day from Friday, March 14 until Sunday, March 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The festivities will include tasting wine crafted by Irish vintners/owners, tours of the winery, Celtic music, and a special St. Patrick's Day thirty percent off sale of selected cases of wines. Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyards is at 18125 Comus Road in Dickerson. For more information, visit www.smvwinery.com or call 301-605-0130.

Battle of the Bands

The Montgomery County Youth Advisory Committee and Students Against Destructive Decisions will present Battle of the Bands on Saturday, March 15 from 7:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. This great teen party will be at the Executive Office Building, terrace level at 101 Monroe Street in Rockville. There will be \$5.00 entrance fee or \$4.00 with a canned food donation. This event will require student IDs and is open only to middle and high school students.

CHS Spring Gala and Howlin' Hoedown

Mark your calendar for the CHS Booster Club Spring Gala scheduled for March 15. This year, the Athletic Booster Club and the Post Prom Committee will be working together to present the "Howlin' Hoedown." That's right, they're going Country this year. So put on your boots, grab your cowboy hat, and get ready to do your best line dancing. There will not only be a silent auction this year, but a live auctioneer will add to the fun!

The event will be in the Coyote Cafe from 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with dinner served by Outback Restaurant from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20.00 per adult. For more information, contact: Sue Apple 301-651-2348

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Local News

Commissioners Vote to Send Proposed FY 09 Budget to Public Hearing

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville town commissioners voted to schedule a public hearing on their proposed fiscal year 2009 budget for March 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall.

The highlights of the proposed \$2,681,705 budget include the following:

There will be a reduction in the assessed tax rate from the FY 08 tax rate of \$0.18 per \$100 to the proposed \$0.16 per \$100 for FY 09. While a public hearing is not required since this reduction keeps the revenue within constant yield, the commissioners chose to hear from the public prior to a final vote.

This budget has a slight surplus while securing the financial stability of the town with cash assets of \$2,096,812. These assets include an Unrestricted Reserve Fund (URF) of \$1,069,100 and \$273,000 unspent from FY 08. The URF is to the town what

a savings account is to an individual. The amount budgeted is approximately four months of operating expenses of both General Fund and Water/Wastewater management. Earmarked for possible emergencies, this fund is unrestricted and may be used for non-emergency purposes without a requirement of public hearings.

The budget anticipates salary increases of up to 4.1% and an expanded role for the town's event coordinator to thirty hours per week.

The budget proposes purchasing the six hundred streetlights and sixty-five overhead lights from Allegheny Power. Previously, the town spent \$170,000 for electricity and lighting. By purchasing the streetlights for \$400,000 (\$300,000 from the FY 08 budget), the town reduces its cost per light from \$21.00 per light to \$5.00 per light and the expenditure has a payback within four years.

Due to housing market conditions, the commissioners reduced the amount from developer impact fees from thirty new homes to fifteen homes providing the town with \$256,995 for FY 09.

Within the budget, Town Manager Wade Yost provided a breakdown of the total cost for the new town hall now under construction at Whalen

Commons. The total cost comes to \$1,671,741 and is broken down as follows: land purchase (\$155,000), engineering and design (\$246,000), total construction (\$1,079,000), construction oversight (\$30,000), equipment and new furnishings (\$60,000), and construction on Fyfe Road which leads to the town hall (\$100,000).

While the Fyfe Road improvements are included in the town hall figures, these improvements would have been done with or without the building of the town hall.

Funds to pay for the town hall project come from \$1,181,741 which have been set aside for over ten years (by five separate commissions) and earmarked only for constructing a town hall: the \$150,000 sale of the 1908 bank, Maryland State grant of \$150,000, and \$190,000 from impact fees.

The complete budget proposal may be reviewed by visiting the town website at www.ci.poolesville.md.us.

Commissioner Link Hoewing presented a draft of the town's new application for non-profit community grants. Grant requests greater than \$2,500 must be submitted prior to January 31 to be considered for inclusion within the budget. Grants less than \$2,500 can be considered on an

ongoing basis until funds for community outreach are depleted. The application form will be posted on the town website.

The commission approved a grant to Eagle Scout Henry Giovannetti of \$2,700 to assist in his project to build four exercise stations on the paths surrounding Halmos Park. Chontelle Hockenberry made a formal request for grant support for Poolesville Relay for Life, and Carl Hobbs presented a request for funds to assist the annual picnic and fishing day for soldiers from Walter Reed Medical Center. A decision on those requests will be made at a future town meeting.

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"Heirloom Plants" Continued
From Page 5.

to season. While promising higher yields, these seeds require fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and lots of water to achieve these high yields. Agribusinesses and chemical companies recognized a large cash cow in these hybrid seeds. Heirloom seeds are dynamic, that is they mutate and adapt to the local ecosystem. Vegetables from these seeds usually have better flavor and are hardier than hybrid varieties. Breeders cannot manipulate complex characteristics such as flavor as easily as they can size and shape.

Why does it matter to buy heirloom seeds and plants? Shouldn't we all be more interested in new hybrid vegetables and plants? They probably have bigger blooms, more unusual colors, longer blooming and harvesting times, higher yields, more fancy-curved petals, or freaky frills. While I began this article by mentioning seeing heirloom seeds and plants in garden centers and catalogs, they are in the minority. You might say that they have been superseded. True species grow wild in some parts of the world. They are tough and vigorous; they are survivors. It is not just in the rainforest that unique, valuable plants are being lost forever. Once a species disappears, the gene pool declines. Do the antiques have a place in modern gardens? They probably don't for some people who want the newest plants on the block in their gardens. As you know from my past articles, I am not against new and improved (maybe) flowers and vegetables. Some old timers are not necessarily better garden plants, but in many cases they will be around long after many Johnny-come-lately varieties are long forgotten. There is a certain pleasure in growing the same plants as our forbears.

With the decline of heirloom plants, we face the loss of genetic seed diversity, which carries with it multiple

implications. Hybrids are genetically identical within food types. Genetic variations help protect against the loss of an entire crop by pests, diseases, or climate conditions. Nothing illustrates this better than the Irish Potato Famine of the 1840s, when more than one million Irish people died. True, it had many complex causes: economic and political factors, environmental conditions, and questionable agricultural practices. But, one very important factor was the poor Irish farmers' dependence on the potato as their only significant source of food. At the time of the famine, the Irish had grown potatoes for over two hundred years. In these early years, they also grew barley, oats, rye, beans, and green vegetables. As I mentioned earlier, the Potato Famine was not simply a natural disaster; it was a product also of social causes. As the British took over Irish farmers' land for cattle grazing and raising food for export, the poor farmers, who owned little, if any, of their own land, relied heavily on one variety of potato, the lumpers. While it was the worst-tasting variety, it was remarkably fertile, with higher per-acre yield than other types. The famine began mysteriously in September 1845 as leaves on the potato plants suddenly turned black and curled, and then rotted. People formulated many unscientific theories on the cause of the blight from static electricity in the air from the newly-arrived locomotive trains to divine punishment for the sins of the people. The cause was actually an airborne fungus (*Phytophthora infestans*) originally transported in the holds of ships traveling from North America to England. The blight wiped out the single potato type that came from deep in the Andes Mountains. It did not have any resistance. Maybe if the Irish had planted different varieties, one might have survived the blight.

A very common old-time plant is the tawny daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*).

-Continued on Page 17.

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*"Heirloom Plants" Continued
From Page 16.*

It has little danger of dying out, since it seems to grow everywhere. There are thousands of them growing alongside many of our Monocacy country roads. This remarkable perennial came from Asia to American shores via England and Europe in America's colonial days. This plant does not set seeds; it is spread by vegetative means. Floods, chipmunks, raccoons, other animals, and people break off little pieces of the rhizome in passing, which take root almost anywhere.

This spring, add some heirloom flowering plants and vegetables to your garden. Some varieties of flowers are: Love-in-a-Mist (first appeared in England about 1570), Four O'Clocks (discovered by the Conquistadors in the sixteenth century), American Sweet Pea, Jolly Jester Marigold, Giant Imperial Larkspur, Tall Russell Lupine, Gibsonii Castor Bean (sixteenth century England), Kiss-Me-Over-the-Garden-Gate, Cactus-Flowered Zinnia, and the viola Johnny Jump-Up (you will be amazed at its durability and vigorousness).

There are many heirloom vegetables, but there seems to be more varieties in tomatoes. Some proven winners to look for are: Big Rainbow, Blaby Special, Black Krim, Brandywine,

Cherokee Purple, Hillbilly, Yellow Pear, Druzba, Giant Pink Belgium, Mortgage Lifter (very apropos for this time in the housing market), and Traveler.

Gardens exist within the boundaries of time. How long is a garden good for? Some master gardeners give the average sort about twenty-five years. My gardens are now reaching twenty-eight, but, as I have said before, gardens are in a constant state of evolution. Some years you add, and some years you take away. Tree branches fall and open up more areas to sunlight; trees and shrubs grow and create new shady areas; plants run their course and plants over-run their course and boundaries; and a gardener's energy wanes.

What does the future hold for the plant world? Every spring, new varieties of flowers and vegetables will entice us. Breeders and seed companies will dazzle us with their new colors, sizes, shapes, and fragrances. The Mayan word "gene" means "spiral of life." The genes in heirloom seeds can carry on for future generations. Yesterday's plants can remain for tomorrow.

A Monocacy Moment

Dennis Ferguson raises the flag in front of Amish Direct.



Photograph by Jack Toomey



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**"The Call of the Mountain" Continued
From Page 3.**

and again. The idea slowly began forming in her mind to write a book about the mountain—the geology, the animals, the plant life, the history—something to teach these visitors about the mountain they love. Then she saw Tina's artwork. "I was blown away by her artwork," she says. Naturally, Melanie asked Tina, "Would you like to work on a book?" They laugh now because Melanie had said the book would take a year, maybe eighteen months, three years tops. Well, it took ten years—and the one book became two, the first on much of the history of the mountain and of Gordon Strong who acquired the land on the mountain and surrounding it, and the second, an amazingly detailed companion guide to any and all plants of the mountain.

In the end, the decade spent on the books enriched them in ways Melanie and Tina had not foreseen. Through the years, they were able to observe the plant life during droughts and during rainy seasons. "Ten years of observing went into the [books]," says Melanie. "We were constantly revising." Also included is information on the medicinal uses of the plants—herbal lore from Europe, the American Indians, so many sources are cited, it's incredible. Over three hundred species are meticulously depicted through

word and drawings in the second book.

One of the very unique aspects in the creation of the books is that the bulk of the writing and drawing was done on the mountain. "We worked together in the field to best tell the story," explains Tina. "[The guide] is a good synthesis of word and image." In retrospect, it would have been very difficult to have been thorough without spending a number of years observing, drawing, documenting, and describing. It would take more than one sitting to properly capture a plant through its myriad stages. Then, of course, says Melanie, "Everything would bloom at once." Very frequently, an outing meant hiking to meet at a specific plant—"let's meet at the lady's slipper."

Ultimately, Melanie and Tina's love for Sugarloaf Mountain has spread to a love of and fierce desire to protect the Agricultural Reserve. They both actively endeavor to keep the Ag Reserve rural as much as possible. They recognize that part of the allure of Sugarloaf Mountain is the view. All around the mountain, a warm patchwork blanket of farms, fields, river, streams, and woods spreads to comfortingly cover the surrounding landscape. Their involvement is visible through For a Rural Montgomery (F.A.R.M.), both on its website (www.ruralmontgomery.org), where their work is featured, and in the activities F.A.R.M.



Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Tina Thieme Brown.

Photograph by Susan A. Roth.

plans to raise awareness about the Ag Reserve. They also both lead walks to Sugarloaf, sometimes together, sometimes separately. Melanie is a noted author and regular contributing writer to the *Washington Post*, and Tina's artwork (she is part of the Countryside Artisans Studio Tours) frequently has a strong Sugarloaf theme. These contributions are just the tip of the iceberg.

Melanie and Tina hope that not only will the *Illustrated Guide* help people enjoy Sugarloaf Mountain better, but that also it will develop a sense of the necessity to conserve something precious whether they visit the mountain or not. The guide certainly stands as an educational tool for the flora of the whole area. "Learning what's in your own backyard to foster a sense of protection," says Tina, can be part of the solution to preserving the won-

drous resource that is Sugarloaf Mountain and its environs.

Recently, in February, Melanie and Tina had a well-attended book signing for the 2007 publication of the *Illustrated Guide* in paperback form hosted by the Audubon Naturalist Society, and they were astounded by the number of guests who had special stories to tell about Sugarloaf Mountain, a site reserved for moments of significance in ordinary lives—things like marriage proposals—that really showed an "interconnection between people and place," says Tina. "Conservation starts with a love of place," adds Melanie. Melanie and Tina hope to share their love for Sugarloaf Mountain through their books. As Melanie put it, "A lot of love went into this book."

Their next guided walk, Spring Hike on Sugarloaf Mountain, sponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society, will take place on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.audubonnaturalist.org or call 301-652-9188.

Editor's Note: The previous Center Stage articles on Melanie Choukas-Bradley, "Passion for Pictures and Pastures" (Monocacy Monocle March 7, 2007,) and Tina Thieme Brown ("Sugarloaf Forever," Monocacy Monocle October 8, 2004 individually can be found on the Monocle website: www.monocacymonocle.com.

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Youth Sports

PHS Seniors Sign with Division I Teams

By Rande Davis

In a rare double signing, Poolesville High School had two seniors sign letters of commitment for scholarships to play with Division I colleges. Rachel Stream signed to play field hockey with Old Dominion University, and Stephanie Hilton will be playing lacrosse with Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Stream, who has also been an outstanding player in basketball and softball, has been a scholar athlete all four years of high school making the honor roll all four years. She was the team captain in 2007 in field hockey and softball. Rachel received many honors including being selected player of the year by the *Washington Post*, *Montgomery Gazette*, *Washington Examiner*, and *Frederick Post* in 2007. In helping to lead the girls' field hockey team in 2007 to the regional championships, Stream was the top scorer with twenty-six goals, and seven assists as she went on to break the school scoring records with fifty-five goals in four years.

Assistant athletic director, Gina Grubb, recognizes Rachel as "someone who has developed into a great athlete. She has a special competitive nature that is really hard to find in female athletes. She pushes herself to do the best she can in everything that she does. She will be a huge asset for the ODU field hockey program."

Rachel decided on Old Dominion after meeting many of her future teammates and the team coach. "I really liked everyone I met so much that I knew I wanted ODU." Rachel told the *Monocle* that she was especially appreciative of Coach Regina Grubb and

Coach Jenna Reis for their guidance through the years.

Stephanie Hilton has also been a three-letter star in high school competing in indoor track, soccer, and lacrosse. Stephanie has played on regional traveling lacrosse teams throughout the mid-Atlantic states. This 2007 High School Academic All-American played varsity lacrosse all four years of high school. She was team leader in 2006 and 2007 for most forced turnovers and most ground balls in 2007. She was All-Gazette Lacrosse honorable mention in 2007. In addition to her performance on the athletic field, she was a leader in her area 4-H and on the National Honor Society 2006 through 2007.

In stating how pleased she was to have signed Stephanie, Mt. St. Mary's University lacrosse head coach, Denise Wescott, stated, "Stephanie has tremendous athleticism and foot skills. She has the ability to take players out of the game on defense and can create a lot of turnovers and ground balls."

Stephanie told the *Monocle* she chose Mt. St. Mary's since she "fell in love with the team on my official visit to the Mount. They are a great group of girls and I can't wait to join them. Coach Wescott made me feel very comfortable when I was on campus." She also stated that the location and academic reputation played a big part in choosing the Mount. Stephanie said that her soccer coach, Malcolm Lawrence, Betsy Tseronis, Champions of Tomorrow director of lacrosse, and Mike Haight, coach of the Jackels lacrosse club, "have impacted my life in so many ways. Each coach was a stepping stone in developing the athlete that I am today and showing me that I can go further than I ever dreamed."



PHS Seniors Rachel Stream (front - left) and Stephanie Hilton are congratulated and received flowers from assistant athletic director Regina Grubb and coach May Shlash on the occasion of their announcement they have accepted athletic scholarships from Division I colleges. Rachel is headed to Old Dominion University and Stephanie will go to Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg.

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"Career Day" Continued on Page 1.

prepared for change in life and the importance of developing an ability to adapt," the students attended thirty-minute presentations, most by neighbors from the area.

Each presenter was instructed to talk about the requirements for the job they have, their responsibilities, salary range, education and training needed, and to suggest habits and attitudes that would help the student succeed in that career.

In the area of politics and law, the students heard from Poolesville town commissioner, Jim Brown, County Councilman-at-large, Mark Erlich, and attorney, Stephen Seeger. Jim Brown held a brief "town meeting" encouraging the students to ask questions of him about the town. (The #1 issue? A Skateboard Park. The second most important topic concere 1.ned the new high school building). Mr. Brown told how his decision to seek public office was a natural extension of "his love for Poolesville and working with kids in sports and wanting to contribute to the community in a way even bigger than PAA."

Councilman Mark Erlich, who had been an involved activist and public school teacher, spoke about the value of holding elected office in wanting to make a difference. He let the students

know that they were not too young to make a difference and talked about an initiative by young people in Montgomery County to halt county business with others who trade with Sudan as a way to ameliorate the problems in Darfur. "The young people met one by one with the council members and right now they have at least five who support them, which is a majority." When the initiative passed, the students discovered it was young people who made the difference.

Among the highlights of the day were presentations by Chief Warrant Officer Patrick Stevens, a former elementary school teacher to many of the JPMS students. He spoke about his role as a helicopter pilot, and the display of his flight helmet and other equipment caught the immediate attention of the students.

When Allen Stypeck, an appraiser of books and other antiquarian items brought out a 1400-page religious book published in 1570, the students were so enthralled, they actually got out of their seats to circle around the table to get a closer look. Captain Rob Rutten of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue/Bomb Squad was a big hit—or, should we say, his dog, Mira, a Labrador retriever trained to sniff out liquid accelerants, was a big hit. Captain Rutten wasn't the only one upstaged by a dog.

Dr. Peter Eeg and Lisa Bailey talked about the joys of working with animals, but it was Mr. Andy, a dog rescued from a shelter, who stole the stage.

Some of the more intriguing careers presented were: Sports producer/filmmaker (Jumoke Davis), counter intelligence (Nick Psaltakis), airline pilot (Amy Mars). PHS student Michael Tibbs presented the students the options available if they choose to attend the Thomas Edison High School of Technology.

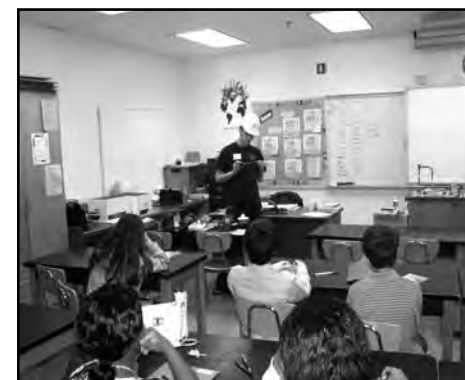
Others who presented their ca-

reers were Garth Seely, Dave Mowatt, Michael McAleer, Mike Tims, Suzanne Tallia, Mary Beth Dewey, Edgar Betancourt, Ron McKnight, Scott Dewey, Kirk Mettam, Rick Linton, Gerry Jansson, John Weber, Larry Hess, Lisa Couturier, Mary Ann Powell, Adam Auel, Rod Nubgaard, Todd Dahlen, Ty Stottlemeyer, Darryl Marshall, Tiziano DiPaolo, Mike Defnet, Jeff Price, Paula Brooks, William McDonald, and Lou Ann Elerick.

Career Day



Chief Warrant Officer Patrick Stevens taught many of these JPMS students when they were at Poolesville Elementary. The Black Hawk helicopter aviator pointed to the contribution of serving in the National Guard and how that helped to pay for college.



Poolesville's Michael Tibbs talked to the students about the trade and training opportunities available at the Thomas Edison magnet school.



County Councilman-at-large Mark Erlich, a former teacher, relished being back in the classroom and used his time to encourage the students to become politically active.



Captain Bob Rutter of the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue/Bomb Squad, enjoyed being upstaged by his black Labrador, Mira, who is trained to find liquid accelerants used in arson.



Jim Brown presented the purpose and role of a town commissioner and held an impromptu town meeting. The students asked many good questions.



PHS teacher Mary Ann Powell talked about the challenges of publishing her first book, Emerson, and the development of the sequel.

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...so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.

Romans 12: 5

2008 Holy Week Schedule

March 16

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

5:30 pm (Saturday) – Vigil
8:00, 10:45 am (Sunday) – Mass

March 19

Wednesday of Holy Week

6:30-8:00 pm – Confessions

March 20

Holy Thursday

8:00 pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper

March 21

Good Friday

12 noon – Stations of the Cross
8:00 pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion

March 22

Holy Saturday

11:00 am – Blessing of Food for the First Meal of Easter (Chapel)

4:00-4:45 pm – Confessions

8:00 pm – Easter Vigil

March 23

Easter Sunday

8:00, 9:30, 10:45 am – Mass



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Local News

Johnson – Choinski Engagement Announced

Roy and Carol Johnson of Poolesville have announced the engagement of their daughter, Valerie Elizabeth, to Mr. William Henry Choinski, son of Gerald and Lucille Choinski of Grand Island, Florida. The family is originally from Cheektowaga, New York, a suburb of Buffalo.

Valerie is a 1990 graduate of Niagara University where she majored in Criminal Justice. She is currently working as a legal assistant to one of the partners at Miles & Stockbridge, a law firm in Rockville. Bill graduated from Erie Community College in 1986 and holds the position of field supervisor for Neilsen TV Ratings in its Washington office.

The couple is planning an August wedding.



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Things to Do

March 7
Basket Bingo
UMCVFD Auxiliary
Beallsville Fire Hall
\$20.00
Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.
Games: 7:00 p.m.
The Freshman (1925)
Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.
March 7 and 8
Used Book/CD/DVD Sale
St. Peter's Poolesville
Fri. - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sat. - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
March 8
Used Book/CD/DVD Sale
Poolesville Library
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
CMAA/St. Thomas More Academy
Joint Fundraiser
Music by Special Delivery Band
St. Thomas More Academy – Buckey-
stown
\$20.00 – must be 21 years of age or
older
7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
March 9
Gone with the Wind (1939)

Weinberg Center for the Arts
2:00 p.m.
March 11
Seminar on Parental Control over
Internet
Barnesville School
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Staff/Student Basketball Game
PHS
Fundraiser for Music Dept.
7:00 p.m.
Bassett's Restaurant
Fundraiser for PHS Music Dept.
All day – 10% of food sales donated
March 12
Meet the Coaches Night
Poolesville High School
7:00 p.m.
English Conversation Club
By Poolesville Presbyterian Church
Poolesville Library
Improving English skills
Registration through Library required
7:00 p.m.
March 13
Cuddleup/Storytime
Stories/finger plays/music
Under 23 months
Poolesville Library
10:30 a.m.
Advanced Band Festival Concert
JPMS

All Purpose Room
7:00 p.m.
Meet the Coaches Night
Clarksburg High School
7:00 p.m.
March 14
PES PTA Family Movie Night
Benefit for Relay for Life
\$5.00 - Popcorn/drinks/candy
(Not a drop off event)
7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.
Basket Bingo
Adamstown Fire Station
Benefit Carroll Manor FCA
Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.
Games: 7:00 p.m.
Belly Dancing
Learn to Belly Dance
Benefit for Relay for Life
Memorial United Methodist Church
7:30 p.m.
Fast Times at Ridgmont High (1982)
Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.
AARP Seniors Income Tax Assistance
Poolesville Library
Reservations by phone: 240-777-2577
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
March 14 to 16
St. Patrick's Festival
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CHS Coyote Café
Country Line Dancing/Auction
\$20.00
4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Dinner: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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"CMAA" Continued From Page 11.

county facility fee, he was under pressure to find alternative locations for the teams that were more cost effective than Carroll Manor Elementary School while only passing on a marginal increase to the kids. Meanwhile, he had to undergo a life-threatening ordeal with a blood clot in his arm, due to complications from rotator cuff surgery. Then, all of a sudden, he had to reshuffle games, practices, and the U-5 basketball clinic due to work being done on the roof at the school.

Not only did he take the problems to task and overcome them, he is even planning to return next season with some new wrinkles in mind. When asked how he was able to handle all of this, his humble response was "adapt, improvise, and overcome."

This fundraiser will be a season-ending celebration, an opportunity to kick back and to celebrate the great season and the exciting new direction in which the organization is headed. The Special Delivery Band is definitely special, with a heavy CMAA theme with Coach Greg Shipman on drums and John Grimes of Grimes Graphics, a

key uniform supplier to CMAA, on guitar.

There has always been a crossover from sports to music, with most being total disasters. The music-loving public had to stomach the musical stylings of Shaq, Allen Iverson, Ron Artest and oh, let's not forget that little chestnut from Mister Nickname himself, "Neon" Deion "Prime Time" Sanders. Others, though, have shown great talent and are actually very good as musicians such as recently-retired Doug and Darren Flutie with their Flutie Brothers Band, pitcher/singer Bronson Arroyo, and pitcher/guitar wizard Barry Zito. Some sports guys who are great musicians but not athletes themselves include Hall of Fame baseball writer Peter Gammons and Boston Red Sox exec Theo Epstein. Some have gone on to great success in their new careers such as former NBA power-forward-turned-bassist Waymon Tisdale who has put out seven critically-acclaimed jazz albums as well as former New York Yankee outfielder Bernie Williams who put out an outstanding jazz/Latin-tinged album that showcased his great guitar fretwork. Greg and the boys definitely fall in the latter

category as they play a funky style of blues, rock, and boogie. They cover a lot of different musical territory with the song catalogue ranging from the Allman Brothers to Simply Red.

As expected, sports are also a big passion in Greg's life. "I've coached football and basketball for the past seven years, and my basic coaching philosophy is for all of the kids to learn lots of life lessons and enjoy the sport they are playing," he says. "I'm trying to prepare them more for life in general than anything else." Greg is a very successful coach and, in basketball, he plays a very high intensity, up tempo running style that is very

Youth Sports

CHS Indoor Track: Second Season Finds Success

By Jeff Stuart

Clarksburg High School Coach Scott Mathias brought significant improvement to the Coyote indoor track team this season guiding the boys' team to a surprising second place finish in the 2A Division state meet at the Prince George's County Sportsplex.

In their first season, the Coyotes did not have any boys qualifying for the state competition, but after having a strong third place finish in the West Region meet at Hagerstown Community College, the 2007-2008 boys had five athletes qualify for state competition events.

One of this year's standouts was junior Avery Graham who proved to be very versatile. Despite still recovering from an injury sustained in December, he won the gold medal in both the shot put and 55-meter dash. In the 55 meter, he set a 2A state meet record with a time of 6.49 seconds placing him in second. He went on to win the shot put with a throw of 50 feet, 8 inches.

After placing third in the region meets, Robert Thompson finished fourth in the shot put in the state competition. Another outstanding performance was by senior Petros Bein who won the state silver medal in the 55-meter high hurdles with a time of 7.86 seconds. He had previously won the regional competition with a time of 8.02 seconds.

The boys' 4x800 meter relay team, consisting of Michael Leaman, Tony Wu, Naseem Zietoon, and Bentsi

rewarding to the kids—and he is very successful as his accomplishments with the Ballenger Creek Rec Council, and coaching the Wiz Kids and other teams have shown.

As with most true artists, when asked if he had to choose between being elected to a sports hall of fame or the rock-and-roll hall of fame, he said, "Tough question, but I think I'd have to say rock-n-roll!"

Come on out and check out Special Delivery, and for more information on the band, visit their website www.specialdeliveryband.com.

Johnson, won silver at the states. Johnson, a senior, missed the region meet due to illness and was replaced on the relay team by sophomore Devon Moreno. The relay team finished fourth overall in the region and qualified for the state competition.

In regional competition, the girls' team finished seventh, but their 4x400 meter relay team finished fourth in their event. Other results included Elyse Lapham finishing fourth in the 500 meter, Jenna Smith was fourth in the 1600 meter, and Lauren Sumner came in third in the 800 meter. As a result, Lapham, Smith, Sumner, and Taylor Randall all qualified for and competed in the states. In just their second season, Clarksburg improved by qualifying eleven athletes overall for the state meet.

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**"Col. Baker's Wake" Continued From
Page 10.**

water between the island and the Virginia shore. It seems that military intelligence failed to mention that there was a steep cliff called Ball's Bluff that impeded the progress of the Union troops. In the cornfields above the cliff were elements of the Confederate Army. As soon as the first groups of Union troops arrived on Virginia soil, the battle began and reinforcements were called for. Unfortunately, a traffic jam developed on the island and the small boats that were being used could not keep up with the demand for soldiers. Eventually, Colonel Baker reached the Virginia shore, mounted the cliff, and tried to take charge of the chaotic battle. Witnesses saw a Confederate cavalry soldier ride out of the woods into a clearing and ride towards Baker. A Union soldier shot him off of his horse, but at the same time, a tall, red-headed Mississippi soldier approached Baker and shot him several times, killing him instantly. As sometimes happens during war, Confederate soldiers tried to steal Baker's personal equipment including his sword. Union soldiers shot them down. Then, members of Baker's regiment dragged his body to safety where it was eventually put on a boat and sent to the Maryland shoreline. It was then placed on a canal boat and sent to Edwards's Ferry where it was transferred to a wagon and sent to Poolesville. Over two hundred Union soldiers were either killed in action or drowned trying to cross the river. Several hundred Union soldiers were captured and taken prisoner. There were accounts of bodies being found as far south as Washington weeks after the battle.

When Baker's body arrived in Poolesville, it was carried to Frederick Poole's house where a carpenter, possibly Samuel Merchant, was asked to construct a casket. Baker's body was cleaned of the blood and grime that covered his uniform, and anecdotal evidence suggests that the casket was placed in the parlor of the house in what is now Brown's Gallery. It was here that troops and some residents were allowed to briefly view the body.

In the meantime, a telegraph message telling of the defeat at the hands of the Confederates and the death of Baker was sent to the War Department in Washington. Members of his cabinet decided not to show President Lincoln the last paragraph of the message which told of the death of Colonel Baker. Later, Lincoln was

prowling around the telegraph office where he found the telegram and read it. Lincoln staggered out into the street where passersby were startled to see the president of the United States walking back to the White House apparently in a state of shock.

Later, a congressional investigation revealed that poorly-trained soldiers and ineffective commanders contributed to the debacle at Ball's Bluff. Lincoln called for more professional leaders, better-equipped soldiers, and a general change in the course of the war.

The next day, several troops were selected as an honor guard, and Baker's body was taken back to Edwards's Ferry where it was placed on a canal boat and sent to Georgetown. There, an undertaker met the body, prepared it, and placed it in an ornate coffin and sent it to a private residence on 14th Street. President Lincoln had wanted his old friend's body to lie in state at the White House, but Mary Lincoln, concerned that the house was undergoing renovation, refused because of the condition of the White House.

Tad Lincoln, another of Lincoln's sons, at just ten years old, wrote a poem that was widely published. The first paragraph read:

There was no patriot like Baker,
So noble and so true,
He fell as a soldier on the field,
His face to the sky of blue.

After the funeral in Washington, Baker's body was taken to Congressional Cemetery where it was interred for a time. Then it was sent by train to a private cemetery in California where it was buried for about seventy years. After the cemetery was closed, Baker's remains were again moved, this time to Presidio, the federal installation in San Francisco. There is some talk that the Presidio is going to be closed in the near future, and if that happens, the body of Colonel Baker, whose death near Poolesville in 1861 changed the course of the war, would be moved for the fourth time.

Today the Ball's Bluff Battlefield is a national park. A small cemetery with fifty-four graves and fewer headstones, only one that is marked, is ringed by a stone wall. In the late 1890s, a stone marker was placed at the approximate spot where Colonel Baker was killed. Some visitors to the small national cemetery at Ball's Bluff are under the impression that he is buried there. In 1948, President Harry S Truman visited the site to

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pay respects and wandered over to Baker's marker at the edge of the bluff overlooking the Potomac River. He, like many others, asked why Colonel Baker was not buried among the other veterans, not realizing that the marker did not mark the site of a grave.

The Ball's Bluff Battlefield National Park can be accessed by taking White's Ferry to Virginia. After leaving the ferry, continue two miles on White's Ferry Road to Route 15. Turn left on 15, continue on the Route 15 bypass, and then turn left on Ball's Bluff Road to the park. The north end of Harrison Island can be seen from White's Ferry.

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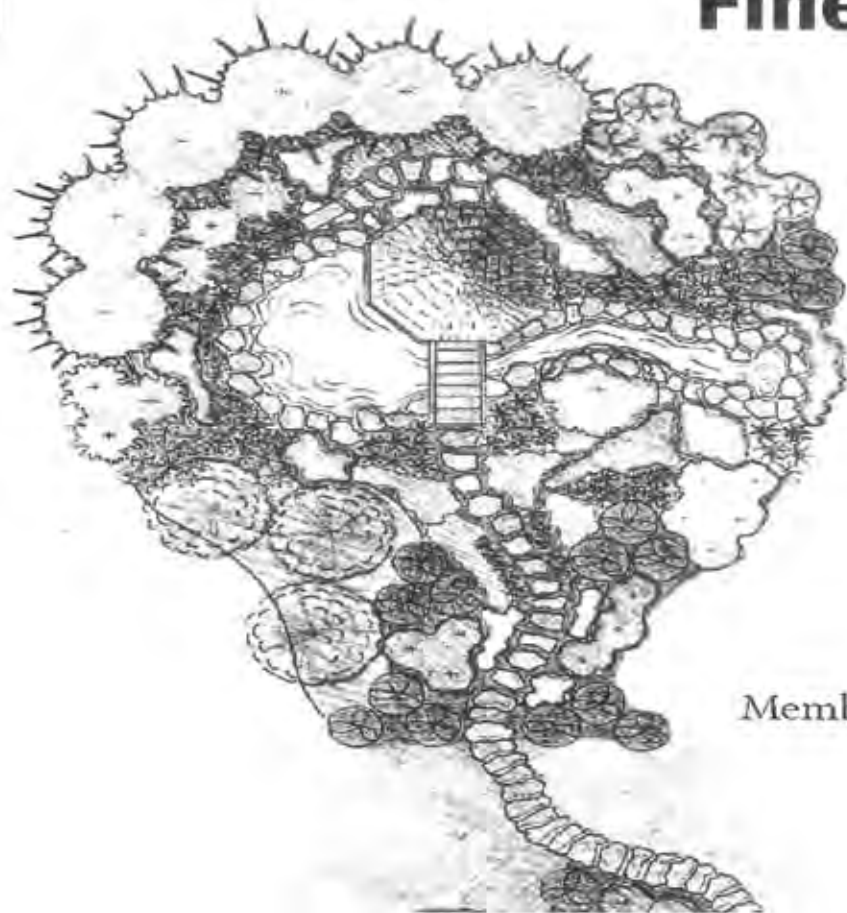
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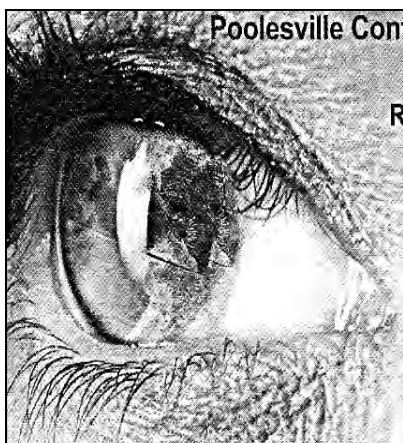
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"Long Way From Africa" Continued
From Page 1.

It comes down to survival of the fittest. Zebra and other African game evolved characteristics to help them survive the harsh environment in which they lived. They shared their habitat with some of the most dangerous predators on Earth, including lions, cheetahs, hyenas, and crocodiles. In order to live and breed, they had to evolve clever survival techniques. Throughout history, there have been scattered attempts to domesticate and train zebras. In 1894, Lord Walter Rothschild harnessed a team of four

zebras to pull his carriage through the streets of London. In 1907, a doctor in Nairobi made his house calls on a zebra. There was no continuity. Everyone usually gave up, saying they were wild animals and would never be controlled by man.

Recently, I was talking about zebras with my veterinarian. He told me there was a woman in Comus, Tricia Tripp, who was raising and training a young plains zebra named Zipper. Last week, I visited Tricia at her Fox Hollow farm, and I met Zipper. I brought my camera with the telephoto lens, as I didn't know how close I

could get to him. I soon learned—as I petted Zipper's head—that I didn't need it. Tricia introduced me to Zipper's trainer, Tony Eyler, an equine behavior specialist, and Maria Anselmo, Tony's apprentice and Zipper's rider. The three-year-old zebra was quietly standing in his stall, wearing his blue and green plaid Rhino blanket. Knowing what I thought I knew about zebras, I asked Tricia how she came to own a young zebra. She said that she had always loved them, and while on a recent trip to South Africa, she explored the idea of owning one. Originally, she had hoped to get one from a breeding farm, but she decided that she did not have the staff to take on such a project. Serendipitously, a friend told her about a zebra advertised on the internet. The seller had bought him from a wild animal farm with the intention of breeding him. She lost interest in this when she discovered that she could not breed him right away; zebras do not mature until three to six years old. Tricia bought him and brought him home to her farm, a little bit skeptical about what she was getting into.

Maria brought Zipper out of his stall and led him into the round pen in the indoor arena, where she saddled and bridled him. He stood quietly, suppressing his desire to take a good roll in the pen's footing. I was very impressed with this "dangerous equine." Tricia bought him in the latter part of September and training began in December. I asked Tony about Zipper's training program. He had spent thirty days working with him in the round pen, gaining his trust, training him to be handled, saddled, and to tolerate having a person on his back. Tony remarked that it took him two to three times longer to get to this level of training with Zipper as opposed to a horse. I was very impressed that he had achieved this much in just thirty days. It was critical, he said, not to start a battle with Zipper, for there would be no backing down on the young zebra's part. He was in for the long haul, so you had better be too. The more Tony worked with him, the more Zipper settled into a stable, positive attitude. His atavistic ways were still evident just below the surface, and he was "tough as nails," but every day he started to show more direction.

From the round pen, we went to the outdoor riding ring, where Zipper was going to show me his skills under saddle in walk, trot, and canter. Maria mounted him, and they proceeded around the ring. Zipper quietly and

obediently followed and listened to Maria's aids. I asked Tony how often he is ridden. He said that he had been in consistent training in December and January, but he had not been ridden now in a month. I wish that my horse was that consistent and manageable after a month off. I was extremely impressed at the level of training that Tony had reached with Zipper in such a short amount of time, especially with an animal with a reputation of being cantankerous, impossible to catch and train, and downright dangerous and mean. I complimented Tony on his good work, and he said that it was a special opportunity for him. He has trained hundreds of stubborn and dangerous horse all his life, but training Zipper was something else. With modesty you don't always see in horse trainers, he said, for him, Zipper was a great teacher. "I have learned as much from him as he has learned from me."

Zipper's training and riding is not confined to the outdoor ring. Tony is a firm believer in exposing his equine students to all different experiences. Zipper has been on trail rides on and off the farm. He has played in the farm's pond, and he has delighted and surprised motorists as he trots alongside the traffic on Comus Road.

Tricia, and Tony and Maria have made liars of the naysayer who said that zebras can't be tamed, trained, and ridden—but Tricia is quick to add that she could not have done this without the professional guidance of Tony. She also cautioned that as good as Zipper is, he still can be dangerous, if not handled properly. Zebras are not cute backyard pets. Professional help is mandatory if you want a relationship with a zebra. Tony's hours of patient training are showing now, but Zipper still has the wild instincts of all his forbears. The connecting ties to Africa are still in place.

What are Tricia's future plans for Zipper? She wants to continue his training and see where it might take him. She would like to see him attend some parades. Who knows, he might become a star for a small dressage diva. Go for it, Zipper.

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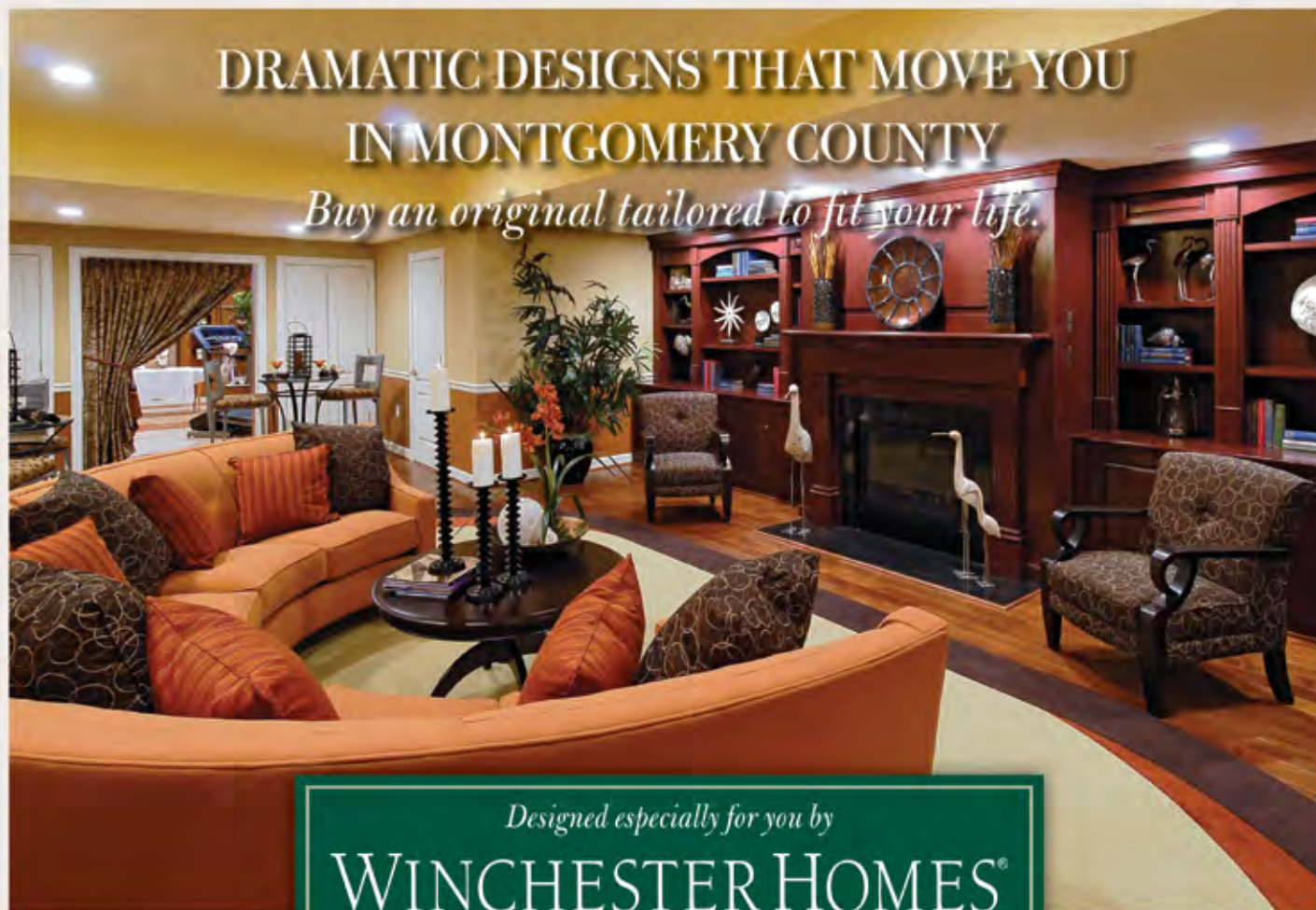
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