



Do you want to see the Washington Capitals up close? The Daytripper will tell you how. See Page 5.



Falcon Media news anchors Priscilla Kaakyire and Billy Lewis deliver the news to PHS students daily. Read more about the media crew on Page 16.



A Falcon at the Pro Bowl? In Hawaii? See Tidbits on Page 8.



Once every four years the partisan bickering stops, for a moment. At least in Barnesville. More pictures are in Family Album on Page 2.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 6, 2009

Volume V, Number 19.

Water Concerns at Forefront of Town Meeting

By Rande Davis and Kristen Milton

With more and more residents expressing concerns about the number of cancer cases in town, state and federal agencies have agreed to step in to examine the possibility of a cancer cluster in Poolesville, a packed crowd was told at a recent town meeting. Clifford Mitchell, the state's director of Environmental/Health Coordination, and Ulder Tillman, the county's Chief of Public Health Services, appeared before the Poolesville commissioners January 26



Dr. Clifford S. Mitchell from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Dr. Ulder J. Tillman, a health officer from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, at a public hearing at the Poolesville Town Hall.

to discuss the highly-publicized question as to whether an unusually high number of Upcounty residents are dealing with cancer.

The state has requested the assistance of the Center of Disease Control (CDC) to assist the state and county in an

Those wishing to report a cancer diagnosis since 2006, or with other questions and concerns, should call the county health department at 240-777-1245.

For more information on the town's water supply, visit www.ci.poolesville.md.us

analysis as to whether a "cancer cluster" exists and should such a study confirm this, to research possible causes. County spokeswoman Mary Anderson, who was present at the meeting, said that help could take the form of an epidemiologist or Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer. "We still have not determined if there is anything out of the ordinary," she said, "but the people at HHS and the

-Continued on Page 13.

Pastor Merritt Ednie Of Boyds Presbyterian Church Giving Definition To the Term "Long Standing"

By Rande Davis

For Pastor Merritt Ednie of Boyds Presbyterian Church, changing the world for the better has been a lifelong vision, but it never meant having to reach out very far. For him, it all starts at home. This year marks his fortieth year as pastor in Boyds's historical church and his forty-second year of marriage to his wife, SueAnn Silvis. This man knows something about the value of staying put. For Boyds Presbyterian Church, staying put is something they value in their clergy. Since the founding of the church in 1876, there have

been only four installed ministers presiding over services.

For the congregation and its minister, this is a perfect match for a town and community where time and development have seemingly stood still—to the delight of the residents and parishioners. The church (located at 19901 White Ground Road) serenely overlooks pastures peacefully embracing a lovingly manicured cemetery which proudly flies Old Glory in its midst and offers a campus-like setting prominently featuring



Rev. Merritt Ednie of Boyds Presbyterian Church appreciates the value of staying put.

an historic sanctuary, renovated parish hall, and a modern two-story educational facility. This bucolic setting is a significant reason why Pastor Merritt and the congregation love their church so much.

-Continued on Page 12.

Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by
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After twenty-four years, Jon's Video is closing. John and employee Jamie Larkin will be on hand to assist customers during their liquidation sale that ends on February 8.



The Falcons took on Churchill High School in the final regular meet of the season.

Photograph by Dave Wade.

For More Local Sports Updates
Go to these Sites

- www.pbahoops.com
 - www.digitalsports.com
 - www.phsboosterclub.com
 - www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/clarksburghs/
- Then navigate to "Athletics" and to "Boosters"

The Knights of Columbus held a Free Throw Championship for youth on January 31 at the Poolesville Baptist Church. Tim McIntyre prepares to make a shot (he swished the first one). Pictured are Jeff McIntyre and Knights of Columbus members Tim McCartin, Don Patti, and Ben Snouffer.



Aspiring musician Josh Euler watches his great uncle Bill Euler entertain at Cugini's.

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In the Garden Making the Right Choices

By Maureen O'Connell

If you are short on time and energy for a flower garden but still would like to have one, be selective about your plant choices. Avoid labor intensive varieties. My regular readers know that I love roses and have over one hundred bushes, but I will not lie to you: they do need a bit of attention. Plants that are native species require less care. Over the years, they have adapted to their area's climatic conditions. The website of the University of Maryland's Extension Service lists our native plants. Several that come to my mind are Echinacea (cone flower), coreopsis, and asters.

I have said many times that all gardens live in a state of evolution; nothing remains the same. If you have a plant that is not working in a particular bed, dig it up and discard it or move it somewhere else where it will be happier. I have a medium-sized bed in my middle garden area. When I planted it many years ago, everyone got along very well. The back row was home to Shasta daisies, 'David' phlox, and Casa Blanca lilies. The middle area was anchored with the hybrid tea rose 'Peter Mayle,' the landscape rose 'The Fairy,' and a yellow hybrid tea 'Marco Polo.' In the front there was the sedum 'Autumn Joy,' Alchemilla mollis (Lady's Mantle), Tradescantia, Stachys byzantina 'Big Ears' (Lamb's Ear), and Physostegia virginiana. They lived in peace because they all knew their boundaries. Then, several years ago, everything changed. Squirrels, moles, or deer ate all of the lily bulbs. The other plants started to become quite pushy; they coveted their neighbors' space. The daisies slowly strangled 'Peter Mayle.' The phlox 'David' took over the back row,

but then he developed a nasty case of powdery mildew and turned very ugly. 'Marco Polo' became a favorite treat for Mr. Japanese Beetle. In the front row, Lamb's Ear fought with 'Lady's Mantle.' 'The Fairy' grew too big for his britches; weeds loved to grow up his thorny stems. Tradescantia and Physostegia invaded the entire front row and half the middle row. Sedum 'Autumn Joy' waited until late August to wreak havoc. He grew two feet tall and proceeded to flop on top of all of his neighbors in all four directions. This bed needed drastic changes. As much as I love each individual plant, they were not working well together. As soon as new growth starts in early April, I am going to apply Round-up to most of the garden. I shall keep the roses, but everything else is going. It needs a new look with plants that know and respect their boundaries.

Vegetable and Fruit Gardens

Here again, think small. Many people give up this type of gardening because they plant a garden that is too big for them to handle. You would be surprised at how much produce you can harvest from a small ten- by twenty-foot garden. It is quite adequate for a family of four to six. I used to plant a very large vegetable garden. It is easy to be enthusiastic in May when the weather is cool and the bugs are not out and about, but come July, as your interest and energy wane, weeds often get the upper hand, and your garden is more weeds than vegetables. It is easy to throw in the trowel and buy your vegetables at local farm stands. For several years, I did not have a vegetable garden, but I missed being able to pick fresh, juicy, sun-ripened tomatoes from my own garden, so I compromised and scaled back the size of my garden. Now I plant three to four tomato plants, a couple peppers, some onions, and a few squash. It is more than enough for more my needs.

There are many labor-saving products on the market for your gardens. I think that the best one is the fabric ground cover that stops weeds from growing. It really works very well. Preen is also good for killing weeds before they seed.

If you don't have room for a separate vegetable garden, there are several other ways to grow vegetables and fruits. Many varieties of tomatoes, peppers, squash, and herbs grow very well in containers. You can also plant some compact vegetables and herbs in your annual and perennial gardens. Last year, I grew lettuce, cilantro, Italian parsley, rosemary, peppers, and basil amongst my flowers. It was the best crop I ever had.

Don't overlook growing your own fruit. With the escalating price of fruit in the grocery stores, it makes good economic sense to grow your own. Once established, many fruit plants require only a little maintenance such as prun-

ing and feeding. The payback is the pleasure of going into your garden on a summer's day to pick fresh raspberries or a bowl of dark blue, juicy blueberries. With Lewis and Kingsbury Orchards in our area with a wide variety of excellent peaches, apples, and pears, I don't grow these fruits. I stick with blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries.

Spend a few nights this winter and plan a garden that you and your family can easily care for. Give your children a specific fruit or vegetable that is their responsibility to maintain. You can save some money at the grocery store this summer and have fun doing it.

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Commentary

Treat the Water

By Rande Davis

All the publicity about Poolesville water fosters more questions than answers. The newly-initiated study to determine if we have a cancer cluster is a very welcome development and one, which will, hopefully, enlighten all of us. The initial review by the Maryland Cancer Registry did not find a pattern of cancer in our area that was out of the ordinary; however, citizens proactively sought a more comprehensive analysis, and their voices have been heard. Results from the study are expected to be complete within six months. One cause for the delay is the need for the most current cancer patient records of 2004 through 2006.

Adding to public concern is that the town has been monitoring three wells for the past couple of years for alpha emitting radionuclides. The monitoring is due to early data which suggested that the radionuclide concentrations were close to the maximum contaminant level for safe drinking water as defined by the EPA. The wells have been studied in detail and two of the three wells appear to be in the clear. The remaining well was taken off line as a precaution and additional studies are underway. Additionally, \$650,000 has already been put aside should treatment become the final recommendation.

In a previous commentary, I called for the return of the money to taxpayers should treatment not be recommended by the state and/or county health departments. I did not want that money used for other purposes since it

was promised to be used solely for alpha emitter treatment.

Times do change. Even if the Maryland Department of the Environment does not recommend treatment, the publicity has overcome our options. Treating the water supply is the only action that will provide peace of mind for most citizens. From my personal point of view, I consider the water safe to drink. I have been drinking town water for the better part of thirty years. I also understand that we know less about commercial bottled water than we know about Poolesville water and turning to bottled water does nothing to ensure more safety. Having said that, removing alpha emitter concerns is one thing we can do to restore public confidence. We already have the money in the budget and in the bank. There are almost 1700 homes in Poolesville which means each household has already paid between \$200 and \$400 toward the cost of radionuclide treatment. In this case, removing suspicion alone is worth the cost.

Who's a Wimp?

By John Clayton

As I look out over the first significant wintry precipitation of the year, I think of global warming and climate change. No, this is not the usual facile idiocy of "it's freezing (for more than one day)—so much for global warming." This is a different idiocy entirely. My intention is not to raise the hackles of those who resist the notion that tons of man-made carbon dioxide, among other things, in the atmosphere are having an effect on the temperature of the planet. So keep your hackles down. In turn, I will acknowledge that there are also many other things beyond the reach of mankind that affect the temperature of our globe as well—so there. Isn't this new era of mutual understanding and tolerance wonderful?

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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My concern is that, for whatever reason, we are not getting snow anymore, or at least not like we used to. We are getting ice. Ice is a totally different matter from snow. I lived in North Carolina for most of my youth, and back in that particular century, we could count on a few decent snows per year—good, modest but usable snows, with sledding and some pathetic attempts at snow forts. However, it was snow, and more snow than we get here on a regular basis. What we are now getting here in Maryland, in the Washington D.C. area, is what I am told they always got in Atlanta—ice storms. The fact that global climate change is changing Washington, D.C. into Atlanta is not a welcome development. There is nothing about Atlanta that I want us to be, no offense intended, and this especially concerns the weather. Our summers are already about as bad as they could be. We don't need the winters any more unsavory than they already are.

This brings me to my primary issue, and that is the common perception of our ability, here in the Washington area, to drive in wintry weather. For years, it has been said that people in the Washington area can't drive in snow. After living here for many years, I have to admit, with some caveats, that this is true. We do not drive particularly well in our wintry weather, but there are significant mitigating factors. The primary one is the nature of our winter weather. We do not get nice fluffy snow under sustained subfreezing temperatures, as they do in the Midwest (more on that later). What we have always received is snow or ice right around the freezing mark. The temperature goes below freezing, then back above freezing, then back down, creating a freeze-thaw cycle that creates massive potholes, dirty slush, and ice. Driving, one really can't get any purchase on this stuff. I admit that superior winter driving skills

-Continued on Page 11.

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Daytripper Kettler Capitals Iceplex

By Jack Toomey

Next week, take the Metro downtown to the Verizon Center and ask the guy at the front door if you can watch the Wizards practice. Then, next October, try driving over to Ashburn to get into the Redskins complex to attend a weekday practice. What do you think your chances would be? Most likely, you would be politely asked to leave and never come back—but there is one major league team that welcomes fans and spectators to all of its practices.

The Washington Capitals, currently one of the best teams in the National Hockey League, practice at the Kettler Capitals Iceplex in Arlington, Virginia. Spectators are welcomed into the huge complex, and there is seating for about five hundred peo-

ple. Admission is free. Practices usually begin at 10:30 or 11:00 a.m. The Iceplex is located on the top of an eight-story parking garage in downtown Arlington. It contains a public skating rink, a snack bar, a souvenir shop, and the Capitals training facility.

On practice days, usually held on days when the team is not scheduled to play a game, the players come onto the ice about a half hour before practice begins. They exercise, warm up by skating, and then begin shooting pucks at the goals. While they do not wear their names on their jerseys, the star players are easily recognizable. The players do wear their assigned numbers on their helmets, so it would be advisable to bring a roster. Some fans prefer to sit in the stands while others stand behind the goals to get a closer look at their favorite players. Be sure to dress warmly. The temperature inside the rink is kept at about 45 degrees. The entire rink is surrounded by Plexiglas and netting, so there is no danger of injury.

When practice begins, Coach Bruce Boudreau summons his players into a circle, sometimes near the stands, and advises the players about the plans for practice. Then the players begin a series of lightning-fast drills. Fans who do not attend many games or sit in the higher level seats at Verizon Center will be amazed at the speed of the game and the size of the players. Sometimes scrimmages are held. During breaks, some players prefer to rest while others engage in playful games or shooting contests. Practices last only about an hour, so don't be late. It would be advisable to arrive thirty minutes before the advertised practice time. To determine the starting time for practice, access the Kettler Iceplex website: Kettlercapitalsiceplex.com. Then look for "Capitals" at the top of the page. On game days, the team has an optional practice called morning skate. At this practice, players simply skate in laps around the ice and try a few practice shots on goal and then leave to rest for that night's game.

As mentioned, there is a snack bar with a luncheon-type menu and a proshop where jerseys, souvenir pucks, and other memorabilia can be purchased. After practice, the players leave by an adjacent door and fans often gather there for autographs and photos.

Fans of the Washington Capitals should find this experience enjoyable, and it is a great place to take children and other young fans.

Directions: Take Interstate 49 towards Virginia. Cross into Virginia and then continue on 495 about five miles to Route 66 (this is an exit from the left lane). Go east on Route 66 towards Washington and then look for Exit 71/Fairfax Drive/Glebe Road. Go a short distance on Fairfax Drive and turn right on Glebe Road. The entrance to the parking garage is on the left at the second stoplight (Carlin Springs Road). Enter the parking garage and drive to the eighth floor. The address of the building is 627 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia. Call 703-243-8855 for other questions.

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Local History

Fonotone: The Cadillac Records Of Frederick

By Curtis A. Osborne

Cadillac Records is a new movie starring Beyoncé Knowles of pop group Destiny's Child fame. It is a film that depicts the early days of Chess Records, a blues record label that had a who's who of fabulous musicians on their roster back in their hey day. The importance of Chess cannot be understated. Rock and roll and country music were derived from the blues.

Chess was to blues music what Motown was to rhythm and blues, what Stax was to gut-bucket southern fried soul, what Blue Note was to jazz, what Sun Records was to rock and roll; and what Victor Records was to the development of country music. Most music lovers who grew up during the early days of rock and roll (and rhythm and blues) can claim allegiance to one

record company or another, as the songs and artists helped shape their youth. Chess was one of them.

Chess was home to some of the most colorful and under appreciated artists of all time. In the movie, Beyoncé portrays Etta James, a blues chanteuse on Chess Records who wore her life story on her sleeves when she sang. She lived a rugged life full of pain, self destruction and heartache, the requisite for a great blues song. Chess was also home to Muddy Waters and Howlin Wolf, seminal musicians in the history of rock and roll. This was during the golden days of blues music.

Unfortunately, today; the blues is almost a forgotten art form. It makes a small blip on the scales as far as record sales and is not worthy of mention when it comes to sales of downloads or iTunes. Radio play is almost nonexistent on commercial airwaves, though it can be found on internet and satellite radio. It is not even a category for the American Music Awards. Even though scant attention is paid to it, attendance at summer blues festivals and concerts is very robust.

The annual Frederick Blues Festival always has an enthusiastic and appreciative audience with fantastic artists performing every year.

A little-known fact is that once upon a time, Frederick was home to an independent record label called Fonotone, run and owned by music collector and producer Joe Bussard from 1956 to 1969. Not only did Joe produce music, but he was a musician as well. He played mandolin, guitar, jug, and banjo. For Fonotone, he recorded a lot of local bands and musicians from the Frederick area as well as several of his friends. He also recorded a lot of folk musicians. This all started out of his parents' basement. When he put a studio in his basement, he started recording bluegrass artists like John Duffey and Buzz Busby on 78s as well. He recorded and pressed the records himself, on vinyl. When word spread about Joe cutting records in his basement, musicians started showing up at his door for jam sessions and to get recorded.

Joe was also a collector of rare and fine 78s (anyone older than thirty-five knows what those

are), particularly those from the 1920s and 30s. He collected a large number of original recordings. He scoured near and far and in the mountains of Virginia to collect old time country records, as well as blues and jazz. He especially searched for rare, out of print "race" records, those that sold records to a black audience.

To most musicologists, he was a collector of Americana. Because of his compilations, Fonotone is more in line with the old K-Tel Records and the current Rhino Records instead of Motown. Joe sold a lot of compilations on his label that had eclectic forms of homegrown music on his label. Unlike a lot of present day music execs who are fired, or squeezed out by mergers, he just up and quit when it was no longer fun for him. Though Fonotone never grew to the stature of Chess Records, did not have artists on the scale of Etta James, and probably won't have a movie made about them, it is still a very important footnote to the history of recorded music. Joe's love for American music cannot be denied.

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- Feb. 07: Entertainment Night: Cindy Miller
- Feb. 10: Fundraiser for PHS Music Boosters
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- Feb. 14: Valentines Day. Don't forget your
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- Feb. 15: NASCAR Special at the Bar
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- Feb. 16: Presidents Day - Open for Lunch at 11
- Feb. 17: Fundraiser: Thanksgiving in February
Benefit for WUMCO
10% food donated to Interfaith Works
and to WUMCO
- February 21: Entertainment Night
Entertainer: Chris Compton

Local News

Barnesville Bipartisan Inaugural Ball Big Success

By Rande Davis

The 2008 Bipartisan Inaugural Ball at St. Mary's Pavilion was hailed by both Democrats and Republicans alike as a wonderful success with the guest list reaching 148 attendees. The evening was filled with friendship, libations, dancing, and entertainment provided Charlene Cochran and the 5th Avenue Band.

This traditional celebration was the inspiration of Father George Reid (Republican) and Lib Tolbert (Democrat) in 1969. The original organizing committee included Father Reid, Lib Tolbert, Ann Sturm, Rex Sturm, and Garvin and Kathy Tankersley. Inspired to bring the community together at the time of the swearing in of a new president, it often

served to raise donations for good causes. This year's proceeds resulted in a donation to WUMCO of \$1,500.

This year's ball, while much like the original one, still had some differences that time and change have brought to the occasion.

It is recalled that the first ball was before the current pavilion had indoor plumbing. Guests were required to walk down to the old rectory near the church for necessary relief—which led one woman visiting from down county to wonder "if you people up here have bladders." Another difference from the first ball is the degree of formality. While there were plenty of tuxedos and other formal styles in 2008, many guests this year came more informally. In 1969, the attire was strictly dressing to the



Frank Jamison, chairman for the 2009 Bipartisan Inaugural Ball listens as Barnesville Mayor Emeritus Lib Tolbert welcomes the revelers.



Audrey and Walt Prichard trip the light fantastic. Photographs by Peter Gallo

hilt with women in full gowns and many of the men in tuxedos. One tradition that hasn't changed is the toast to the new president presented by a member of the losing party. Representing the Rural Women's Republican Club, Barbara Davidson concluded her presidential toast by saying, "As we celebrate the excitement of so many dreams fulfilled, let us pray that the change Mr. Obama and his beautiful and talented family bring to Washington will turn out to be every

bit as fabulous as those dreams. Much of the theme of the day was around the word love. I must tell you that I can't think of a place I'd rather be celebrating this evening than right here in Barnesville with so many good and long-standing friends. On this very special night, let us join together in tribute to our new president and resolve that this community will work together as family to do everything in our power to keep our country strong and great."

The chairman of this year's event, Frank Jamison, thanked everyone for coming and congratulated all for the bipartisanship evident and invited Mayor Emeritus of Barnesville, Lib Tolbert, to address the crowd. Ms. Tolbert expressed her deep love for the community especially as it was expressed through this kind of neighborly event. The other members of the Ball Committee for 2008 were Audrey Prichard, William Price, Cherry Barr, Ben and Nancy Daughtry, Ann Sturm, Libby Lawbaugh, Patty Menke, Patty Dillingham, Bob Wojciechowski, and Roy Selby.

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Tidbits

PYSO Entertains Town

Prior to the start of the January 26 town meeting, a quartet from the Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra performed for the gathering. Under the direction of Mr. Robert Fogleman,



A quartet from the Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra performed the national anthem prior to a recent commissioners' meeting. The performers are: Emma Stevens (cello), Dylan Tomares (piano), Gentrice Caruso DiPaolo (clarinet), and Mack Brenholtz (violin). PYSO is under the direction of Mr. Robert Fogleman.

the PYSO was started two years ago and is open to all area youth within the Poolesville cluster. Performers for the evening were Mack Brenholtz (violin), Gentrice Caruso DiPaolo (clarinet), Dylan Tomares (piano), and Emma Stevens (cello).

PYSO resources are provided by the generous support of the Sandra Cameron Music Benefit Fund. Donations are welcome and are directed by the Montgomery County Community Foundation (MCCF - www.cfncr.org) for exclusive use of the general music programs of the Poolesville cluster schools and by the PYSO. Anyone wishing to support these music opportunities for students may make payments to MCCF. Musicians wishing to join the PYSO may contact Mr. Fogleman at foglehorn@comcast.net.

Author Lisa Genova Chats with the Women's Nest

Lisa Genova, author of *Still Alice*, will be joining the Women's Nest for a member-exclusive discussion on March 30 at 8:00 p.m. — mark your calendars. In the planning stages still, TWN is preparing a huge charity event via ebay where all proceeds will be donated to breast cancer research. Developed for women by women, TWN is the place to escape the chaos of life and discuss women's issues: www.thewomensnest.com.

Town Holiday Lighting Contest Winners

The Poolesville Commissioners have announced the winners of the 2008 Holiday Light contest: Mildred Bell, 19909 Westerly Avenue (south side - traditional); Peter and Katherine Brockdorff, 16919 Hillard Road (south side-modern); Louis and Brenda Prince, 19712 Wootton Avenue (south side-townhouse); Stephen and Kim Kelly, 17908 Elgin Road

(north side-traditional); Stephen and Sandra Austin, 19304 Hempstone Avenue (north side-modern); Jeffrey and Candi Fisher, 17682 Kohlhoss Road (north side-townhouse); and Pike and Valega, DDS (business).

Stefanelli to Cheer at NFL Pro Bowl

Abi Stefanelli, a junior at Poolesville High School and a Frederick All Star Fusion cheerleader, is off to cheer at the 2009 NFL Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii on Sunday, February 1, 2009.

Abi was chosen to participate in the All-American Cheer and Dance 2009 NFL Pro Bowl Scholarship and Performance Tour at the AACD Cheer Camp this past summer at UMBC. She will be cheering at the game and participating in the halftime entertainment. She will also be competing for college scholarship money during her week in Hawaii. Abi is the daughter of Albert and Chrissy Stefanelli of Dickerson, Maryland.

Youth Sports

Clarksburg Wrestlers Hope to Turn Up the Heat

By Jeff Stuart

"There are guys that wrestled varsity last year that are JV this year," said Clarksburg 127-pounder Jared Weaver, a sophomore. "That's a sign of a competitive team," said Coyote Head Coach Josh Munsey. "They have to win. The wrestle-offs have been pretty spirited."

With a 5-4 record after the dual meet part of the season, the Coyotes competed in the Grapple at the Brook tournament at Springbrook on January 16 and 17. Junior Chris Williamson (15-4) led the Coyote effort with a come-from-behind victory over Tyler Tockman of Sherwood in the 135 pound final. Chris, an honors student, had never placed in two previous appearances

in the Grapple. Williamson got a takedown to tie in the final twenty seconds of his final match and then won in overtime, 7-5.

Answering a coach's challenge, 103-pound freshman Mac Raum (15-3) pulled off the biggest upset of the weekend, downing previously unbeaten Josh Knox (21-0) of Reservoir, the overall team champion, in the semi-finals before losing to Eleanor Roosevelt freshman Tito Onyekweli in the finals, 12-4. "Mac lost to Knox at the Tuscarora Tournament [on December 12], 9-2," said Munsey. "I knew Reservoir would be at the Grapple, and I challenged Mac to work hard enough to know that he could beat him if he got the chance," he continued. "We worked on some technique, and in the semis, Mac got his chance. He took him down to his back in the first period, jumping out to a 5-0 lead. Knox is tough and stormed back and tied it up at 5-5, forcing overtime. Mac took him down in overtime, to his

-Continued on Page 18.

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Things to Do

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The Poolesville Library offers AARP Tax Preparation Assistance for seniors each Friday through April 10, 2009. Call 240-277-2577 for an appointment.

Clarksburg Sports Association Spring Baseball and Lacrosse Registrations

Join CSA Baseball in celebrating another great season of baseball serving the greater Clarksburg Community. Registration is currently open and teams are filling quickly. There are three programs:

Boys and girls T-ball, coach, machine, and player pitch teams ages four to twelve.

Select teams for 13U and 11U. Challenger Little League for boys and girls up to and including age twenty-one.

All experience levels are welcome. Register on-line at CSAsports.org. Take advantage of our limited time registration discount offer. Bring your friends. For more information contact Baseball@CSAsports.org

CSA lacrosse teams are now forming in the greater Clarksburg community. The last day for seasonal registration is February 15. Multiple discounts apply. Late registrations with a \$30 late fee will be accepted February 16 through February 28. There are two programs for boys and girls from kindergarten to the eighth grade:

Scoopers for boys and girls in kindergarten to First Grade. Three teams for Boys and Girls by age groups at U-9, U-11 and U-13.

All experience levels are welcome! Register on-line at CSAsports.org. For more information

Summer Sports Camps

Clarksburg Sports Camps are offering twelve different sports in the Upcounty area for youth ages six to eighteen for summer 2009. Specific camp dates, descriptions, and registration are available at www.CSAsports.org for baseball, basketball, conditioning, field hockey, football, lacrosse, poms, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball and wrestling. Most camps offer before and after hour camp options. Register now to receive a ten percent early bird discount. Additional family registration discounts also apply.

February 6

Valentine Family Fun Night
Gaithersburg Activity Center
506 S. Frederick Avenue
Valentine Creative Arts
\$5.00/ \$12.00 per family
7:00 p.m.

Movie Night

Poolesville Elementary School
7:00 p.m.

Beyond the Rocks (1922)

Love and marriage (but not in that order) are the focus of the re-released version of this silent soap-opera romance, starring Rudolph Valentino and Gloria Swanson. Featuring the mighty Wurlitzer at the Weinberg Center

for the Arts at 8:00 p.m.

February 7

Murder Mystery Dinner

At 6:30 p.m., St. Peter's Church in Poolesville will hold a Celebrity Celebrations Murder Mystery Dinner to benefit the St. Peter's High School Youth Group. Tickets are \$15.00 per person, for adults and children twelve years and older. Appetizers and dinner will be served. One hundred celebrity roles are available for those who want to take part in the search for the murderer, or guests can just enjoy the show and try to solve the mystery. For more details, email stpeterssenior-youth@gmail.com.

Esperanza Spalding

"Esperanza" is the Spanish word for hope—and there could be no more fitting name for this amazing young prodigy-turned-pro who may well be the hope for the future of jazz and instrumental music. Blessed with uncanny instrumental chops, a siren voice that spans three languages, and composing and arranging skills that blend the old-school with progressive, this mesmerizing twenty-three-year-old artist is redefining jazz. Every so often a truly phenomenal artist comes along—and Esperanza is the one! She will be performing at the Weinberg at 8:00 p.m. February 9

Beginners Band Concert

Poolesville Elementary School
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall
7:30 p.m.

February 10

Fundraising Event for PHS Music Boosters

Bassett's Restaurant
10% of proceeds on food for day

College Night

Poolesville High School
6:30 p.m.

February 11

Planning Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Now in its fifth decade, this Grammy-winning a cappella group from South Africa is still singing strong. Ladysmith Black Mambazo thrills audiences with the heartfelt yet powerful harmonies of Isicathamiya, traditional music born in the mines of South Africa. From their groundbreaking work with Paul Simon on *Graceland* to *Ilembe*, their most recent release, founder Joseph Shabala and his ensemble remain committed to sharing their music and message of harmony and peace with audiences around the world. They will be performing at the Weinberg at 8:00 p.m.

February 13

The Hoop of Life

How can a performance be both fun and educational? When it features Kevin Locke, the most famous of American Indian performers, in a dazzling display of dancing with twenty-eight hoops, virtuosic native flute, inspirational stories, song, and humor. Plus it's interactive — children learn hoop dancing and American Indian sign language at the Weinberg Center for the Arts at 5:00 p.m.

February 14

101 Years of Broadway

At 8:00 p.m., at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, bring the one you love to the show everyone loves. Spend Valentine's Day with Broadway's top talents and an all-star band as they celebrate the best musicals of the past 101 years. Award-winning composer and lyricist Neil Berg presents this first-class tribute, featuring the actual stars of Broadway shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Aida*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*. You'll hear the classics as well as the latest and greatest from Broadway's hit

-Continue on Page 19.

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Local News

Poolesville Town Meeting— January 26, 2009

By Rande Davis

Poolesville town engineer John Strong of Huron Engineering reported to the commissioners the estimated cost for mitigating the degree of sloping of swales along Westerly Avenue. Grassed swales are graded channels which convey storm water at slow, controlled rates which act to filter pollutants while providing storm water infiltration. Some swales along Westerly Avenue have slopes exceeding current ordinance presenting significant problems and potential danger for some of the homeowners who have to mow and maintain the swales.

The commissioners previous-



Guess Poolesville needs to build a bigger town hall.

ly requested a study to determine the engineering recommendation and the cost estimates to reconstruct the swales to mitigate the problem. About a half dozen of the homes have deep-cut swales, but correcting the problem would entail re-grading in

front of over thirty homes. This would include removing then restoring parts of driveways along the roadway. The total estimated cost to the town was \$500,000.

Commissioner Link Hoewing queried if there were any environmental problems resulting from the current swale configuration or if the purpose of the alteration was only for improving the ability to mow the swales. With confirmation that the purpose was to improve the mowing process and that there are no other environmental issues regarding the current swales, the commissioners decided not to move forward on the plan as presented. Rather, they requested an additional review which could include: having the town assume the responsibility for mowing the deep swales, changing the swales to landscape ground cover, or reconstructing only those areas with the most egregious swales.

Under new business, David Cahoon of Budd Road, in a four-page written statement, appealed to the commissioners to

accept and honor an agreement he reports having between his family and the town but lacking signed copies of that agreement by both parties to the contract. The agreement protected his ability to build an additional home on his property. At the time, the Cahoons filed two agreements with one contract covering an empty lot and the other for adjacent property on which his home is built. The agreement was made in negotiation with the now-deceased town attorney, Dick McKernon. While the signed agreements regarding the empty lot are available, the one covering his household property is missing.

Mr. Cahoon said in his statement supporting his contention that there were two agreements, "If I was concerned enough to modify the agreement for a possibly worthless lot, how much more would I be to protect the interest of my primary residence." This nearly two-decade-old agreement has not previously been an urgent matter to the Cahoons as it is only recently that they have made plans to construct a second home on their property. The new home would be for Mr. Cahoon's father-in-law so as to care for him in the coming years.

Hoping to avoid further legal entanglements, Mr. Cahoon asked the commissioners to consider his request which had previously been refused on the basis of not having a properly-signed agreement with the town.

The commissioners said they would review his request but cautioned that without the signed document, they may not be able to agree to his request. Speculation as to the missing documents centered on the possibility that the Cahoon family delivered two nearly identical agreements for each lot to the town and that, inadvertently, one was discarded, believing it was simply a duplicate of the first.

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School News

Four Area Educators Gain National Board Certification

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) announced that one hundred teachers in the county achieved National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards in 2008. National Board Certification was created so that educators, like professionals in other fields, can achieve distinction by demonstrating that they meet high standards. To achieve certification, candidates must complete a series of rigorous assessments that include teaching portfolios, student work samples, and videotapes and analyses

"Who's a Wimp" Continued from Page 4.

would mitigate many of our problems in most storms, but this is also a matter of experience. We don't get enough practice. I remember several years ago, in this century, when we had a manly snow that came and stayed for a while, and we had to drive on it. Then, in what would be a shock today, we had another considerable snow. I recall I was not the only one who noted that people seemed to handle the roads with significantly more dexterity. We're not bozos—we can figure it out with half a chance. An additional popular explanation is that we can't handle snow because we have so many people from all over the world. This is also a canard. As any longtime Washington-area dweller knows, the bad driving that permeates the area in any season is from the effects of Virginia drivers. Thus it has always been, and thus it shall always be. Everyone knows that.

This issue was brought to the forefront a few days ago by our new president, backed up by

of their classroom teaching and student learning. Candidates also complete a series of written exercises on their subject-matter knowledge and their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students.

The four teachers in the Monocacy area achieving this high honor are: Samantha Baker (Germantown Elementary School), Mark R. Estep (Poolesville High School), Mary E. Thorne (Poolesville High School), and Pamela M. Scoot (Clarksburg High School). MCPS continues to lead the state in the number of educators awarded this prestigious recognition of their proficiency. With the new hundred, a total of 478 MCPS educators have achieved National Board Certification while teaching in MCPS; 455 of those are currently active MCPS employees.

at least one of his daughters, who scoffed at the closing of schools. Sir, my admiration for you and my support for your endeavors take a back seat to no one, but you should have walked down a few icy driveways before you popped off on this one. Up there in Chicago, where I believe you live in the middle of a well-traveled portion of a large city, the typical Chicago storm, and they are indeed considerable, dumps snow. The snow compacts nicely, and with the proper tires and a little practice, pretty much anyone can drive on it. I know you get ice up there occasionally—I've seen the news footage. When there's ice in the Midwest, the cars and trucks go sliding sideways down the interstate just like they do here. There's no difference. I wouldn't be surprised if they might even close the schools occasionally, or at least not let the kids out for recess.

Mr. President, don't get me wrong, I'm still on your side. Just lay off the cracks about closing schools on ice days.

Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

January 2, 1925 The annual meeting of the Past Masters Association was held at Poolesville. Virtually all of the past masters of the various Masonic Lodges were in attendance.

January 5, 1925 The first wild turkey to be killed in Montgomery County in many years was shot at Seneca. A young man named Burroughs was hunting along the shore of the Potomac when he came upon the bird that weighed twenty-seven pounds.

January 9, 1919 Three more residents died of influenza. Oscar Burdette of near Boyds, Jennie Loy of Clarksburg, and Earnest Padgett of Dickerson all died of the disease.

January 14, 1928 Twelve members of the Rockville auction pitch group traveled to Poolesville to take on the town team. Dr. Byron Walling, captain of the Poolesville team, picked players from the surrounding area. After a three-hour match (this was a card game), Poolesville won 42 games to 40.

January 14, 1917 Miss Anna Mary McCullough of Gaithersburg traveled to Poolesville where she was temporarily employed as a substitute teacher at the Briarley Hall Academy.

January 19, 1923 A delightful wedding was held at Ellerslie, the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace Poole, near Poolesville. Their daughter, Nannie Dickerson Poole, was united in matrimony to Mr. Harvey Jones White of Poolesville. Mr. and Mrs. White then motored to Washington where they boarded a train for a tour of the southern states.

January 22, 1923 After being closed for several months for extensive improvements, St. Mary's Catholic Church at Barnesville was reopened. Father Michael Riordan, formerly the pastor of the church, delivered the sermon and the choir of St. Martin's

Church at Gaithersburg sang several hymns.

January 25, 1924 Mr. E. K. Ruble of Poolesville was appointed as forest ranger for the Poolesville district.

January 26, 1921 The will of the late Captain Anderson, a Confederate veteran and former clerk of the Montgomery County court, was submitted for probate. His estate was valued at \$50,000.

January 27, 1927 Takoma and Poolesville met on the basketball court. Takoma prevailed 20-9. Beall and Bell played well for the Poolesville team.



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"Pastor Merritt Ednie" Continued
From Page 1.

The original sanctuary still stands, having had its steeple built in the 1920s and a fellowship hall added in 1923. In 1962, their contemporary two-story educational and community hall was constructed.

The congregation has its own remarkable and unique style of reaching out to the community, nurturing the residents within and outside the church. Its way of doing things is still a rural way. For example, when they needed to raise funds to build a new building, they used twelve acres of their land to raise corn which they sold to Safeway, providing the funds for a down payment on a loan; or by housing the Boyds Community Federal Credit Union, chartered in the 1960s, to provide low-cost loans so neighbors could borrow money to attend Montgomery College or purchase a car since employment in Boyds is almost always "out of town." Pastor Ednie points out that neighbors are using other neighbors' funds which results in a very low level of default rate. He states that the credit union serves the community similar to the now-popular practice in developing countries of using micro-loans to assist upstart entrepreneurs. Typically, when payments fall behind, it is not unusual to have another family member in the Credit Union call and check on the situation. Over the decades, the financial institution has loaned nearly \$9,000,000—money going directly back into the community—to help those in Boyds improve their quality of life.

Merritt Ednie was born in Vandergrift, a small town in western Pennsylvania, to a father who was an accountant for a steel company and a mother who taught elementary school. As he left high school, his dreams for the future focused on the issues of the times during the early 1960s. He was influenced by the Civil Rights Movement. He chose to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania to study history and sociology, thinking that law

school might be on his horizon. In those days of personal inquiry, Martin Luther King's book, *Strength to Love*, highly influenced him. After witnessing an African-American friend being ignored and not served in a restaurant, his personal philosophy of "if you don't like something, get involved to make a change" took root. When a similar event occurred within his own church, he began to become even more strengthened in his desire to find ways to "make a difference—to foster tolerance." His soul-searching finally resulted in deciding to attend seminary. He was accepted to two theological colleges. Although raised a Baptist, he chose the Presbyterian Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for a reason that proved sound, very practical, and downright romantic. It was closer to where his wife-to-be, SueAnn, lived while she worked as a bank teller.

Reverend Ednie points to a distinguished professorial lineup at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as having a major influence on his career. "When I asked my professor if he was related to the author of the textbook we were using," Rev. Ednie relates, "he fired back that he was the author of the book. I decided right then and there that it was one book I really had to read." After seven years of higher education under leading theologians, it still came down to some very simple and practical advice from some faculty members that resonated so strongly and has been most useful to him over the years. "Love Jesus, love others" was a mantra he has relied on throughout the years. Another professor held up two books: "This one (the Bible) you use on Sunday, this one (Book of Order) you use Monday through Saturday."

The Ednies married in Merritt's second year of seminary. After completing the three-year divinity study program at a remarkably young age of twenty-four, Pastor Merritt Ednie accepted the pastoral position at Boyds Presbyterian Church. Like Saint Timothy long before him, Merritt did not let youth become a hindrance to his mission of serving his church and the community. The church

only had about sixty members at that time when the population of Germantown was only around a thousand. He was so young yet facing such serious personal situations. He vividly remembers a young couple between seventeen and eighteen years of age coming to him for the funeral of their child. They were poor and lacking funds, he recalls how he and the father dug the grave themselves.

Merritt and SueAnn started out in this mission church on a salary of only \$5,200.00, part of which was subsidized by the Presbytery. Living in the brick parsonage across the street from the church for thirty-two years, raising their son, Paul (today, an accountant in Arlington), and working hard with many others in the community on important quality of life issues like land preservation, his goal of becoming a whole-community pastor was established. Pastor Ednie is truly the pastor of Boyds, not solely of the Presbyterian Church.

He has a long history of working very closely with the other churches and pastors in Boyds. His closeness in worship and friendship with St. Mark's United Methodist Church, an African-American congregation, has been, for him, a most spiritually-rewarding experience. The churches have shared worship, and, when the need for larger space was required, St. Mark's has used the facilities of the Boyds Presbyterian Church.

Today, this once rural mission church is a thriving congregation of about two hundred

members. They hold two worship services on Sunday (9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.), with a Sunday school for three-year-olds to adult (9:30 a.m.) During the week, they host two Boy Scout troops, the American Legion Post #247, a monthly fellowship Lunch Bunch, a writer's group, mission and meriment group, ELF Pre-School, and they have an annual Vacation Bible School.

The groups work on various missionary programs throughout the year. For example, on Super Bowl Sunday, the youth have what they call the "Souper Bowl for Caring," using soup bowls to collect change and donations that will go to the Germantown Meals-on-Wheels program.

In asking what advice he might give to new, young pastors starting out, Pastor Ednie emphasizes the importance of learning from the congregation. "The parishioners trained me well, it took ten to fifteen years, but they trained me well. Step back and allow yourself to be trained. You should appreciate the history of the church and need to get to know the church before making changes. Remember to not take things like criticism personally and understand you cannot win every battle—and, most of all, have a sense of humor." Sounds like sound advice for anyone, not just pastors.

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Sunday : February 8	12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"Cancer Cluster" Continued From Page 1.

state decided it was prudent to seek additional help."

Officials emphasized that the analysis was triggered by the number of phone calls made to county and state health departments in the weeks since the matter began to be publicized and is not directly related to reports on radionuclide levels in Poolsville's water supply. The town provides water to its residents and businesses from a series of nine wells. The water "meets and/or exceeds federal and state requirements," according to the most recent water quality report, but the town has been undergoing additional monitoring by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in recent years due to the levels of gross alpha radionuclides in some wells.

A posting about the water issues was recently added to the town's website. It also asks for the public's input on how to spend \$650,000 set aside for water supply remediation.

At the town meeting, Commissioner Eddie Kuhlman said he hoped "the town understands that the commissioners take the issue very seriously and have been proactive. Well #10, the well of greatest concern, was shut down even though MDE did not require this." Both Kuhlman and the town's notice expressed the determination to help the study in any way possible.

According to the statements made January 26, the county's first objective will be to determine the validity of concern regarding a cancer cluster. Officials will examine data from the Maryland Cancer Registry (MCR), which collects information on cancers directly from physicians, hospitals, and laboratories rather than individuals. Currently, MCR has records from 1999 to 2003 available for analysis. Tillman said data from 2004 to 2006 will be available in coming weeks and would also be used in the study. Residents with more recent cancer cases should report their cases directly to the county health department

(240-777-1245). Dr. Tillman suggested in the meeting that the study would entail the distribution of town water and not just zip codes. Tillman said the most common cancers—lung, breast, colon, and prostate—would not be a primary target of the analysis. Anderson said this is because these four cancers are not typically environmentally-related. However, those diagnosed with such cancers may still report them to the county for inclusion in the study, she said.

Tillman emphasized at the meeting that all information gathered will be held to the strictest level of private patient confidentiality restrictions. While privacy concerns prevented open discussion of some individual cases during the public meeting, residents did pose questions. Liliya Robinson of Poolesville, a mother of two small children, wondered if she would find out in fifteen to twenty years that they got cancer from living in the town. Anderson said it was too early to tell if such concerns were warranted. While individuals may choose to use bottled water or make other lifestyle changes, she said, "The question of whether these cases would have an environmental cause is not something I think this [initial] study would answer... We're a long way from establishing a link environmentally."

Anderson said the county will keep in touch with the Poolesville government as the study progresses. At a minimum, she said, officials will appear at another meeting in six months to give an update. If there is news sooner, the town will also be informed.

Fred Kelly of Poolesville, whose call to the county about his wife's October renal cancer diagnosis was the first step leading to the study, said he was

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glad others had stepped forward. "My biggest concern was being seen as one person," he said. Kelly called the study "huge" and "scary" but said he believed that whatever the analysis revealed, it would lead to more study and attention to factors that may be carcinogenic, whether that be the water or Dickerson's Neutron

Products or the county's nearby trash incinerator.

"I'm very happy that they're doing something," Kelly said in a phone interview after the meeting. "I'm just glad for the safety of everyone in the town and especially the kids."

High School Varsity Home Games
Winter Sports
February 6 to February 20

Poolesville High School Varsity Home Games

Boys' Basketball:		Girls' Basketball
2/10 Brunswick 7:00 p.m.		2/11 Liberty 7:00 p.m.
2/13 Model School/Deaf 7:00 p.m.		2/20 Einstein 7:00 p.m.

Clarksburg High School Varsity Home Games

Boys' Basketball:		Girls' Basketball
2/10 B-CC 7:00 p.m.		2/13 Kennedy 7:00 p.m.
		2/20 Wheaton 7:00 p.m.

For more local sports updates go to these sites:
www.pbahoops.com; www.digitalsports.com; www.phsboosterclub.com;
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/clarksburghs/ (then Athletics to "Boosters")

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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County detectives are investigating the theft of a trailer containing much of the soccer equipment owned by Montgomery County Soccer, Inc (MSI). Police said that the trailer containing soccer goals and other equipment was stolen from a location in Derwood. Later, a man went to a recycling company in Howard County and sold much of the equipment. A tipster called the police which led to the issuance of a warrant for Mark L. Cecil, age 38, whose last known address was in College Park. He is thought to be driving a white Ford van with Florida license plate number MTS88. Anyone who might know the location of the suspect or know the location of his vehicle is asked to call the police at 301-279-8000.

Past

January 27, 1957 A transient lumber mill worker was killed in a fire that broke out in a Buckeystown rooming house.

February 2, 1933 The general store at Boyds was destroyed by fire causing \$5000 in damage. The store was owned by Roland Day and had been built to replace the store that had been destroyed two years before.

February 6, 1897 Mr. and Mrs. Mikesell, the owners of the Araby toll gate on the Frederick Road, were robbed at gunpoint. Four masked men broke into their house and bound the couple and then removed a considerable amount of money. (Historical note: during that time period, the Frederick Road, now Route 355, was a toll road. A traveler had to pay a fee every few miles to proceed on the road)

February 9, 1955 A B-57 Air Force bomber crashed on the farm of Sam Clemmer at Beallsville. The plane had taken off from a field near Baltimore just minutes before and then crashed onto the ground nearly hitting several buildings on the farm. The pilot was killed and the co-pilot parachuted from the plane just before the crash. He was found in a tree on Peachtree Road. Because of the crash, several of Mr. Clemmer's cows gave birth and were said to be in a nervous state a week after the incident.

Present

January 12 18700 block of Wasche Road, Dickerson. Theft from a vehicle.

January 13 Tom Fox Court, Poolesville. Theft from a vehicle.

Police responded to the following locations in Poolesville for the report of disorderly persons: 19500 and 19800 blocks of Fisher Avenue; 17500 block of Hoskinson Avenue; and 19800 block of Spurrier Avenue.

February 13, 1899 The B&O Railroad was completely blocked west of Washington because of the massive snowstorm that had affected the area. Snow drifts up to twenty feet were blocking the mainline. The train to St. Louis was reported to be snowbound near Boyds, and a rescue party was trying to reach the train.

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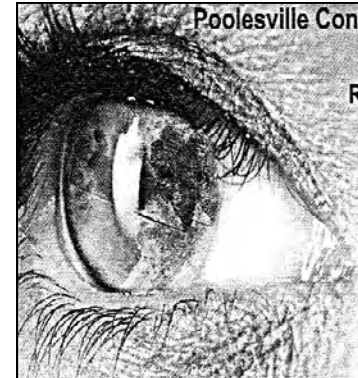
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School News

Falcon Media: Morning News You Can Use

By Katherine Connor

The Poolesville High School building itself was not the only part of the school that got a tune-up this year. The already-informative and entertaining student-run Falcon Media morning announcement production also got spruced up a bit. Poolesville television production teacher and advisor Mr. Kevin Lee explains that he and the students involved in the class were happy with their work from last year, but decided to make some changes to make the program even better.

The students and Lee had a meeting last year to discuss ideas to improve the production and make it an even more student-run show. Their brainstorming session resulted in projecting a more professional look while still catering to the high school audience, incorporating more regular segments on the show, and providing music better suited to

the viewers. Over the summer, Lee met with Mr. Jeff Goodman, a Poolesville High School parent who works for NBC news, with the object of redesigning the set and obtaining better equipment. This year's program is entirely digital, with all of the work done on MAC computers and digital cameras.

The students expanded the ever-popular Falcon Eye segment, which shows Poolesville sports highlights and interviews with some of our own student sports stars. They also created a world news edition of the show once a week that keeps students informed of local, national, and international news. The Live Rock Thursday segment, which opens the show each Thursday with live music from a talented Poolesville student or group of students, is also popular.

Lee said that the show took on a much more professional tone this year thanks to the hard work and dedication of the many students that are in the On-air Television Production class. Junior Daniel Szwerc is the main student producer of the show, and Bobby Gifford, Brian McNeilly, Brittany Miller, Christy Wyne,

Olivia Durr, Nathan Roser, and Dylan Haas are only several of the students involved with the class and production.

Lee's hopes for next year are to "make even more use of what [they] have," focus more "on what is going on in school," meaning possible filming on field trips, and, of course, a little bit longer show time, even though he realizes this will be difficult to

achieve since it would be taking away from instructional time.

Lee and the Falcon Media students have put much effort into creating the show that entertains and informs Poolesville High School's students every day, and the school community is duly impressed.

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Youth Sports

PHS Wrestling It Takes a Team

By Dominique Agnew

It has only been three years since Coaches Kevin Dorsey and Mark Agnew took over the struggling Poolesville High School wrestling team, and in that short time period, the turnaround has been nothing short of remarkable, causing coaches and wrestlers across the county and region to sit up and take notice.

The coaching partnership began in 2002, however, when Dorsey and Agnew were part of an incredible group of coaches building a strong youth team through the Poolesville Athletic Association's wrestling program. Many of PHS's wrestlers were trained by Coaches Dorsey and Agnew when they were in elementary and middle schools and were excited that they would be coaching at the high school level.

The success Poolesville

wrestlers have seen comes from an unbeatable combination of team effort and hard work, demanding coaching, and community support. "When we took over there was not much of a team mentality at the high school level," says assistant coach Mark Agnew. Head Coach Dorsey agrees, "When we took over, we had four wrestlers that were good enough to make it to regions. This year, I have a team. Instead of trying to get a few kids to states, now we're trying to get a team to states."

That first year, the team overall was still competitive, managing to go 5-9 despite giving up forfeits at four or five weight classes. The county tournament was a rude awakening for the team, having only one wrestler win more than one match. "We were like deer in the headlights," says Agnew. "We knew we had some pretty good wrestlers, but they all seemed to wilt under the pressure of the county tournament."

The second year, there was a lot of optimism from everyone



The 2009 Poolesville High School Wrestling Team

about the prospects for the season. The team won third place at the Rocket Launch dual meet tournament early in the season, and the team mentality began to set in. "Wrestling is the toughest sport I have ever done both physically and mentally," says Agnew. "It's just you and the other guy, but if you know that the team is counting on you for a win, and they are all screaming for you on the side of the mat, it gives you the strength of ten men." The team reversed their record from the previous season to go 9-5 and tied for the fourth and final place in the 1A/2A Regional dual meet championship, losing their place to a coin toss.

This year started with high expectations since the team was returning nine starters from the previous year's lineup. Most of the wrestlers returning moved up in weight class and with the insertion of a number of talented JV wrestlers, the team was able to fill all the weight classes ably. The team has had a great season so far with a regular season dual meet record of 8-3, as of this writing. The team is in control of its own destiny because if they win their last three matches they will earn at least a fourth place finish in their 1A/2A South Regional dual meet championship. In addition, they finished 8-0 at the Walter Johnson Big Train Dual Meet tournament to win the first place trophy. "They're incredible," says Coach Dorsey of the wrestlers. "They're doing incredibly well. I think the biggest part of it is that the boys are mature; they're growing up. They're taking responsi-

bility, and they're showing it on the mat."

The Falcons also have seven wrestlers who have won at least twenty matches this season: sophomore Cody Savage, sophomore Billy Coombs, senior Jeff Tallia, junior Logan Wilson, junior Kyle Flick, junior Ryan Florczyk, and senior Dan Bosnick. "They're good wrestlers," adds Coach Dorsey, "but there's a big support group behind them. They wouldn't be as good as they are, it takes a whole team."

With a month left in the season, the expectations are high, and the team is poised to have their best season in a long time. This anticipation has spread from the team to the school to the parents and Poolesville community. "People want to come out, [they] want to watch the matches," says Dorsey. "[Wrestling is] not a glorious sport, but kids are coming to watch. We're doing something."

When you have a team, you can set goals," explains Coach Dorsey. "Coaching this year has drastically changed. We have to try to win as a team—to get the kids to wrestle as a team. They're doing it. We handed the ball to them, and they're carrying it well."

Coach Dorsey also can't say enough about the community cheering the wrestlers on. "The support of the parents and the coaches is incredible," he says. "I can't do everything. I can't do anything without Mark, on top of everything all the way around. The Poolesville community," he continues, "once they get behind something, they just keep on helping."

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“CHS Wrestling” Continued From Page 8.

back again, and won the match, 10-5.”

There has no longer been any looking back at these post-inaugural practices as Coach Munsey exhorts his team and challenges them with the upcoming county and state tourneys. The coach told them, “There are no more freebies. If someone is going to beat you, they have to earn it. If they want to beat someone from Clarksburg, it had better take every ounce of everything they have to do it. If you go down, you go down fighting.”

“Coach Munsey is pushing us hard all the time,” said sophomore Wesley Hutto, 140 (10-7). “He’s trying to get us to a higher level. Some of our wrestlers, including myself, did not do so well in the Springbrook tournament. It’s the end of the year. He wants us to pick it up.” Looking back over his first season as a varsity wrestler, Hutto is proudest of his early season efforts against Whitman and Northwest. Against Whitman, in a match largely dominated by the Vikings (51-27), Hutto beat his guy, Jordan Tritell, 11-4. “I was the underdog,” says Wes. “I went out there, wanting to win, but we weren’t expected to win.” Against Northwest, Hutto got pinned by Northwest senior Tyler Lucket. “It was my second or third match and I did really well until the third period,” he says. Lucket has won two tournament titles this season. The Northwest match featured several lead changes and six pins by each team, but the Jaguars prevailed, 43-36. Wes also plays varsity football and lacrosse and feels wrestling is his toughest sport.

Denzel Macrae, a sophomore, at 125 pounds, also plays football and lacrosse, but he does not feel wrestling practices are the toughest. “It’s easy for me,” he says. He thinks his toughest match was against Michael Henning of Northwest, who finished second in last year’s county and 4A-3A West Regional. Denzel lost by fall in the third period. He

feels his best match was against Poolesville’s Tommy Coombs in December. He won 14-9. That win sealed the Coyote win with four bouts left. The Coyotes beat the Falcons, 39-24, getting pins from Tanner Wrublik, 160, Jonathan Ko, 171, Camillo Amaya, 215, and Jerrail Barnes, 285. Justin Cox, 152, Raum, 103, and Ben Asadi, 112, had major decisions. “Poolesville is a very tough team that has done really well under the current coaching staff,” said Munsey. “They have a ton of guys, and they have a ton of experience. They beat Quince Orchard and Damascus, who both beat us. Beating them was a huge win for us.” Sophomore Justin Cox (11-8), 145, thinks wrestling practice is the toughest, “by far.” Justin also plays baseball. Cox says his toughest match came against Bruce Steinel of Atholton in the semi-finals of the Grapple at the Brook. He is looking forward to the county and state tournaments. “I’ve learned to never be surprised when one of our sophomores beats somebody,” says Munsey. “Cox, Hutto, Weaver, and Macrae, are very tough, hardworking kids, and I’ve seen throughout the season that every one of them is never out of a match.”

In dual meets, Clarksburg also beat Seneca Valley 64-15, Northwood, 64-13, Einstein, 54-24, and Gaithersburg, 67-0. They lost to Quince Orchard, 35-32, and to Damascus, 40-33. The coach is looking forward to strong tournament performances from Rohm, Williamson, Stephenson, Asadi (junior) who is 15-4, and Barnes (junior) who is 13-6.



The 2009 Clarksburg High School Wrestling Team

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"Things To Do" Continued From Page 9.

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Local News

**Police Report
No Problems on
Inauguration
Day**

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County officials were faced with some estimates of up to three million people who were planning to visit the Washington metropolitan area for the inauguration of President Barack Obama. A week before, County Executive Isiah Leggett had charged the police department with coordinating various county agencies to ensure that the day ran smoothly and that visitors and travelers had a pleasant experience while in Montgomery County. In addition to the various law enforcement agencies in the county, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Fire and Rescue, and the Health Department were mobilized.

Over six hundred Montgomery County officers worked on Inauguration Day. Some officers were assigned to Metro stations and three heavily-used MARC stations. Others were stationed at major intersections to make sure that traffic flowed smoothly. A few officers rode Metro trains. Ninety civilian crossing guards

worked that day at places with significant pedestrian activity. About ninety police officers, including those from the Montgomery County Police Department, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and the Rockville City Department, traveled to Washington to complement the Metropolitan Police. The Montgomery County officers were sworn in early in the day so as to have authority in the District of Columbia and later provided security along the inauguration parade route. Montgomery County Officers have provided this service in the past at other inaugurations and at large demonstrations and events on the National Mall.

Police Chief Thomas Manger, who had been selected to lead the task force, said, "Our goal [was] to assist the public in getting downtown safely and efficiently. In addition, we wanted to ensure that our residents could traverse the county."

Police spokesperson Sgt. Paul Starks said that officers encountered no problems and made no arrests. He added that traffic was heavy around Metro stations, but vehicular traffic elsewhere in the county was less than expected. He added that the public had planned their day, were not surprised about waiting times at Metro stations, and cooperated with the police officers.

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